



ARCOVER



South Bay Amateur Radio Club

W6SBA

E-mail: W6SBA@arrl.net

A Community Service Organization
Dedicated to Amateur Radio Since 1970

Website: <http://www.w6sba.org>

President - ALEX - KD6LPA

November 2008



**TORRANCE MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER
ROOM "B"
WEST TOWER, 2ND FLOOR**

3330 W. Lomita Blvd., Torrance, CA 90505
On Medical Center Drive

With parking in the structure behind the West Tower

THURSDAY, November 20, 2008

SPEAKER:

"DXexpition to St. Brandon (located in the Indian Ocean)"
Presented by Arnold Shatz, N6HC

ABOUT THE SPEAKER:

This month's meeting is a "don't miss", as the scheduled program will feature Arnold Shatz N6HC of the Southern California DX club presenting his adventures on the 3B7C DXpedition to St. Brandon Island, which is located in the Indian Ocean.

One of Arnie's ham radio goals was to be part of a Dxpediton team to an exotic locale. The opportunity presented itself in mid 2005 on the K7C operation to Kure Atoll in the far northwest Hawaiian Island chain. The adventure was addictive and in September, 2007, he was part of the 3B7C Dxpediton to St. Brandon Island in the Indian Ocean. On this trip he served as both operator and medical officer. See www.3B7C.com for more information .

**CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2009 WILL BE VOTED
IN AT OUR NOVEMBER CLUB MEETING**

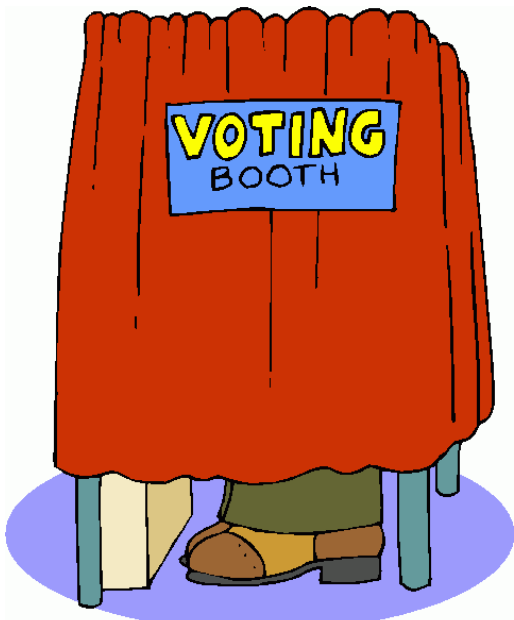
Current Nominees for 2009:

President - Alex Marko
Vice Pres - Rich Whited
Secretary - Joseph Lanphen

Council Members (vote for 2 of the following names:)

- Matthew Cruse - Nancy Klatskin
- Joy Matlack - John Wilson

If you're interested in running for any position, please contact Ed Hinz (310) 325-7944 or Ray Grace (310) 370-1913. You can also decide to run for any office at the club meeting.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**By Alex Marko, KD6LPA**

It's official, the club lunch is a smash! On Saturday, November 8, we decided to have a social lunch at Billy's Deli in Redondo Beach, and everyone seemed to have a really great time!

This was an experiment to try and find new activities for our club, and based on the turn out, I'd say it was a **BIG SUCCESS!**

Billy's Deli was a great choice because they had good food at a reasonable price, and even better — a special room we reserved in advance so we could all sit together and chat away, without having to compete with all the other conversations in the restaurant.

I look forward to our next luncheon, and thank you all for coming!!! — Alex

**SOUTH BAY ARC OFFICERS 2008**

President, Alex Marko - KD6LPA
kd6lpa@socal.rr.com 310-530-6614

Vice-President: Ed Hinz - KN6JN
kn6jn@aol.com - 310-325-7944

Secretary/Treasurer, Joe Lanphen - WB6MYD
jlanphen@ca.rr.com or w6sba@arrl.net - 310-328-0817

Council Member #1, Joy Matlack—KD6FJV
rbvcom1@b2v.org - 562-644-6850

Council Member #2, John Wilson - AE6LK
ae6lk@socal.rr.com - 310-370-1654

Past-President, Richard Whited - KG6JKJ
rbwhited@yahoo.com - 310-809-7151

Editor - Alex Marko - KD6LPA
kd6lpa@socal.rr.com 310-530-6614

W6TRW Swap Meet Space Manager -
Joe Lanphen - WB6MYD
jlanphen@ca.rr.com or w6sba@arrl.net - 310-328-0817

CLUB SERVICES:

- a. ARRL Membership renewals will be handled by the Secretary/ Treasurer and of course new memberships will also be provided.
 - b. Name Badges can also be ordered for you by the Secretary/ Treasurer.
 - c. License upgrade and or new license testing is handled by Joe-WB6MYD.
 - d. All other problems, well let us know and we will see if we can help you including technical assistance with problems with your operation and much more. Someone may have experienced the very same problem, the question needs to be asked in order to see if we can help or not.
 - e. New member assistance is always available but must be asked as usual.
 - f. Swap meet Service to help you sell your old gear, just let us know.
 - g. Elmering is available to all members, ask any officer for your particular issue.
 - h. If anything not listed above, ask your officers to help with it.
 - i. e-mail notices regarding meetings and any other interest are yours for the asking. You must keep your e mail address updated with the Sec/ Tres.
 - k. Last but not least- Alex-KD6LPA has taken on the duty of Editor as well. Please let him know if you would like to make an announcement or something of interest for the whole group for posting in the Arc Over or on our Web site.
- We must remember you're a member of one of the best clubs in the area and so we want to help-ask us and we will work on it.

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY JOE-WB6MYD
e-mail address - jlanphen@ca.rr.com 310-328-0817



BAKER TO VEGAS (B2V): Next year's B2V date has been moved up one month, and is now scheduled for the weekend of **March 14-15th, 2009**. Normally this event takes place in April, but due to scheduling conflicts, the powers that be decided on an earlier date. If you're interested in joining us that weekend, please let me know ASAP.

For those unfamiliar with B2V, it's a relay race run on foot by various Law Enforcement organizations. They start in the city of Baker, CA and finish in Las Vegas, NV. The race is too long and grueling for any one individual to run, so the race is broken up into stages. Runners from each team are stationed at each stage, where they await the runner from the previous stage to pass them a baton. This baton has an RF signature that allows us to track the exact moment a runner crosses the stage line. Part of our job is to make sure the computer records the runners as they come in, make sure the race rules are enforced, but more importantly, use our radio skills in the event someone requires medical attention.

We usually man stage 13, which is about half way thru the race. Since runners come thru in the middle of the night, we stay the entire weekend and have some fun after the race is over. We typically stay at Whiskey Pete's, near state line, then go do our thing at our assigned stage that evening, and then return to our hotel early Sunday morning (March 15th). We sack out for a while, do a little sight seeing, and some serious relaxing, followed by our annual B2V dinner that night at one of the casinos. We leave for home the next morning Monday March 16th. We always have a great time.

ELECTIONS: As you know the elections will take place at our General meeting this month. Nominations from the floor will still be accepted by those wishing to run for office. If you want to nominate someone, make sure you contact him or her first, to make sure they will accept the position if elected. A ballot will be available to clarify the procedure since we have several candidates running for Council positions. Be sure to join us Thursday November 20th in this all important process for electing the officers for 2009.

HOLIDAY PARTY: Plans are moving forward for our annual holiday party. The holiday party will be on December 18th 2008, our regular December meeting night. The schedule for your contribution to the pot luck dinner will be posted soon. We also ask you to bring a poinsettia to add to the festivity which afterwards will be donated to the nurse's stations in the Hospital. The holiday party is open to all your family members and friends. We always look forward to meeting new faces! During the party, we have a tradition for thanking key members who have gone above and beyond the call of duty. We will also be handing out certificates for several new members. Please come join us!

PLEASE JOIN ME IN WELCOMING OUR CLUB'S NEWEST MEMBER:

Melody Colbert—KI6SPA

Melody is a new ham who just got her license a few months ago. She is anxious to learn more about amateur radio and is currently looking for a good HT.

Melody is also a member of the PV Horsemen's Association, which coincidentally meets at the same day & time as our monthly club meetings. So it may be a while before we actually see her at our club meetings. In the meantime, please feel free to drop her an email at: egstrmn@cox.net and make her feel welcome. If you have some good advice on buying an HT, I'm sure she'd love to hear from you! Thank you Melody for joining our club, and welcome!!! — Alex



Attendance drawing:

Attendance drawing: Our lucky member Mary Crocker - KE6BBK who was present at our October 16th meeting won the kitty. Congratulations Mary and thanks for being with us!

As many of you know, the Attendance drawing started at 15 dollars for many years. Recently, the council increased the starting amount to 20 dollars. Remember, the attendance drawing is for members in good standing, and that members must be present to collect the prize. If the kitty isn't won, it increases by 5 dollars until someone hits the jackpot.



“THE NEW KID IN TOWN” By Alex Marko, KD6LPA

It's always fun to check out the new ham equipment emerging on the market. This month, Yaesu is releasing their new HT, the all new VX-8R. This little radio has a ton of new features, including an optional GPS module for APRS, Bluetooth support (more about that later), wide range receive capability, and something you rarely see these days on multi-band radios, 220mhz support!

Yaesu's previous HT, the (VX-7R) could actually transmit on 220 as well, but the output power was so low (around 300milliwatts), it was almost impossible to hit a 220 repeater without an aftermarket antenna and line of sight communication. The VX-8R improves in this regard, by offering up to 1.5watts on 220mhz, and a full 5 watts of power on 2m, 440 and 6m.

Effective, July 1, 2008, cell phones are not allowed to be used while driving, unless you have a hands-free method of controlling the device. Ham radios were supposed to be exempt from this requirement, but are still a gray area in many eyes of the law. Enter Bluetooth. For those unfamiliar with Bluetooth, it is a communication protocol commonly used for supporting wireless devices, such as headsets. So if you pick up a VX-8R and add on the optional Bluetooth adapter and headset, you have a cordless solution that's guaranteed to be legal, but more importantly, convenient to operate, and devoid of annoying wires.



But Yaesu didn't stop there. They've also included a “frequency counter” mode in the radio, which allows you to sniff the frequency of a hidden transmitter close by. This feature is handy for tracking down the source of unwanted interference in your home. These days, spurious RF emissions can come from almost any electric appliance, so if you're hearing unexplained noise on your rig at home, this HT has help you track down those annoying RF anomalies.

There's also a built-in “CW trainer” mode that helps you learn morse code right from the HT. The training program is flexible in that you can instruct the radio to focus on numbers, alphabet characters, or even data symbols. As your skill improves, you can also configure how fast the radio sends morse code so you can gradually work your way up to the ridiculous speeds some of our club experts like Ray (WA6OWM) operate at during Field Day.

Another nice feature is the spectrum analyzer. If you're hunting for an active station, the spectrum analyzer gives you a visual indication of where RF activity is taking place on the airwaves, in relation to your current listening frequency. The spectrum analyzer also indicates the intensity level of the broadcast signal detected.

This tiny HT also has a built in AX.25 Data TNC modem in order to support APRS (Automatic Packet/Position Reporting system). APRS is a technology that allows you to transmit your physical location via GPS coordinates over the radio airwaves. Although there is an optional GPS module for this radio, it is NOT required in order to use this feature. If you already have a portable GPS receiver, you can type in your coordinates, and the radio will transmit your position periodically. The radio can also receive APRS signals from other hams as well. When it hears an APRS message, the radio tells you the callsign of the ham that's close to you, as well as the actual distance — right on the screen. Pretty cool!

If that wasn't enough, there's also a built-in weather station that tells you the temperature, barometric pressure, and altitude. Always handy for exchanging weather information during a QSO. As I look over all the amazing features built in to this little radio, I have to think this is the Swiss Army knife of portable HT's. This would be a great to have during hikes, and even better if you're into GeoCaching. Everything you could ever want from a radio, in one little box!

All-in-all, looks like an awesome piece of equipment. HRO tells me they expect to have them in stock by the end of November. The average price I've seen on-line is about \$399. — Alex



“Conventions”

By Joy Matlack, KD6FJV

There is always a lot of talk about the different conventions and what you can get out of them. Throughout my years of amateur radio I have participated in a myriad of them. I stay participated because I have been both an attendee and also a speaker at several conventions.

There are as many different reasons to go to a convention as there are radio operators. Personally, I started going to conventions when I first got my license to try to be able to integrate more with other amateurs. I found that I could only be partially successful because of the diversity in the nature of the conventions themselves. What I mean by that is that there seems to be 2 distinctly different types of conventions. The first is put on by people or groups that are trying to make a profit on the convention. The second is put on for, to quote Icom "the love of ham radio." I am sure that those in the second group could not afford to at least break even but the attitudes of those who exhibit, present, and attend are much different than those who have a very regimented schedule and agenda about making money off of the event.

Pacificon has a great reputation as a "for the love of ham radio" convention. It doesn't cost a lot to attend, the infrastructure is kept to a minimum and everyone seems to be there only because they want to. From the vendors to the presenters there is a very open and friendly atmosphere. Among the attendees there is good natured ribbing about who gets in line first and that in itself is an opportunity to engage a fellow ham in conversation while you wait. I asked a couple of the vendors why they attend Pacificon and not some of the other conventions. The reply really made me open my eyes. I was told "because everyone wants to learn here." This creates for a much more relaxed atmosphere and one that promotes conversations between strangers whose only ties are the magic that radios can bring to your life. I am told that only 2 conventions come close to it in atmosphere, Dayton of course, and the ham convention held in Seaside, Oregon. I have not had the opportunity to attend either one, but some day I hope that I can.

That being said, I have never attended any convention that I considered a waste of time. Some of them I attend with a specific agenda in mind and a few I have attended simply to see what it is all about and enjoy whatever the show can bring. Either way there are plenty of opportunities to learn, whether it is about radios, groups and organizations that use radios, or the people, a convention provides a unique platform to further your radio experiences. I would encourage all of you to attend all the conventions you can and do your part to make them fun for newcomers and not simply a place to beat the next guy in line to get show special price.

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The U.S. Federal Communications Commission on Tuesday approved a plan sought by tech companies like Google Inc and Microsoft Inc to open soon-to-be-vacant television airwaves to new wireless devices. The five-member FCC voted to open unlicensed pockets of the spectrum known as white space that will become available when U.S. broadcasters are required to move to digital television next year. Companies like Google and Microsoft, as well as consumer groups, said access to the white space airwaves would encourage innovation in cellular telephones and wireless devices, much as WiFi did.

"Let's hope it's not just Wi-Fi on steroids but Wi-Fi on amphetamines," FCC Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein said.

FCC commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate dissented in part, saying she preferred a more formal process to deal with interference issues. Traditional broadcasters such as Walt Disney Inc's ABC, General Electric's NBC, CBS Corp and even country singer Dolly Parton opposed the plan. They said signals sent over that part of the spectrum could cause interference with broadcasts or wireless microphones at live productions. A broadcasters' group, Maximum Service Television, said the decision "imperils American's television reception in order to satisfy the "free" spectrum demands of Google and Microsoft."

The FCC sided with the tech companies and consumer groups after two rounds of testing the devices. An agency engineering report released several weeks ago said the spectrum could be used without causing harmful interference.

Harold Feld, senior vice president at the consumer group Media Access Project, said the vote will lead to expanded investment in broadband and other technologies.

CALENDAR

Council Meeting - 1st Wednesday of the month
Call Joe - WB6MYD (310) 328-0817

Club Meeting - 3rd Thursday of the month
November 20, 2008 7:30 p.m.
Torrance Memorial Medical Center
West Tower, 2nd Floor, Room "B"

Club Nets - **W6SBA WEEKLY NET**
Every Thursday @7:30pm
(except the night of club meetings)
PVUSD EMERGENCY NET
1st Tuesday of the month
09:30 Hours on the W6SBA repeater

TRW Swap Meet - Saturday, November 29, 2008
7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

VE Session - December 13, 2008
West Tower, 2nd Floor, Room "A"
Contact: Joe WB6MYD
Phone: (310) 328-0817
jlanphen@ca.rr.com or w6sba@arrl.net

Social Event - December 13, 2008, 12pm
Billy's Deli
5160 W. 190th Street, Torrance CA

CLUB SERVICES

Awards Manager (HF/VHF)	Cliff - K6LH
Health & Welfare	Donna Wilson
Swap Meet Chair	Joe - WB6MYD
VE Test Liaison	Joe - WB6MYD
VE Test Sessions	Joe - WB6MYD
Webmaster	Alex - KD6LPA
Editor	Alex—KD6LPA
Proofreader	Open Position

South Bay Amateur Radio Club Repeater

224.38 MHz ·PL - 192.8 Hz Offset -1.6 MHz
(See Calendar for Weekly Net Times)

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION

South Bay Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 536
Torrance, CA 90508
W6SBA@arrl.net
Website: <http://www.w6sba.org>

TO:

Address Correction Requested

A COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION

W6SBA

South Bay Amateur Radio Club
Post Office Box 536
Torrance, CA 90508-0536

