



March 2017

ARCOver

A Community Service Organization Dedicated to Amateur Radio Since 1970

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E-mail: W6SBA@arrl.net



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

Hello W6SBA,

Last month, we had to cancel our coax party due to rain. [We are rescheduling the event for Saturday, March 11 at Joe's QTH @9am.](#) As a reminder, the purpose of this exercise is to test the health of our coax cables, and label the good ones vs. the bad ones. If we do find bad cables, we will try to troubleshoot the issue and determine if it has one or more bad connectors, or if there's a short somewhere in the cable. Obviously we'll need working cables for Field Day and other events throughout the year – so it's important for us to figure out what's working now before we get close to Field Day. The club will provide pizza at Joe's house around lunch time. We realize that this date conflicts with our usual Hof's Hut luncheon – but this was the only weekend available in March to get this done.

[Speaking of Field Day, we will be planning a Field Day test party April 8.](#) We need to test out the cables, set up our vertical antennas and make sure we have a workable solution before the main event. FYI - we will no longer be using the gigantic A3 antennas – there's just too big and bulky and a bit dangerous to set up. So we're sticking to simple verticals and dipoles for FD (with the exception of VHF/UHF). At the last council meeting, it was suggested we operate as a 2A. That seems to make the most sense since we will be supporting CW, Phone and PSK modes. As always, we'll be operating in the West Tower parking garage at the Torrance Memorial Hospital.

Paul Avery KK6BY and his son Brian have been working very hard to re-design the club web site. Some of the ideas we have so far are to create a “members only” section where you can access the elmer's list, club roster and the club bylaws/constitution. The other major enhancement will allow us to quickly post pictures of events throughout the year and have some light commentary to go with it. If you have additional ideas for improving the club web site, please contact any council member.

Until next time, this is Alex saying 73.



CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2017

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The GUEST SPEAKER

Richard Fowell, KJ6CBA will be presenting his work with "Operation On Target" at our March meeting on Thursday March 16th at 7:30pm in Room 1 of the Health Conference Center at Torrance Memorial Hospital.

This is the Boy Scout mountaintop-mountaintop mirror signaling event that he presented at JOTA in October. He gave a fascinating demonstration of how to use ham radio and solar mirrors to signal from mountain peaks across Southern California, He uses 2m radio to coordinate between the mountaintops, which are often too remote for cell phones to work.

He notes that he also provides radio support for community events, together with his wife, who got her license before him.

His sole ham station is a Yaesu dualband handheld transceiver. He has multiple heliographs, and hopes someday to learn Morse and communicate with Morse at TeraHertz (optical) wavelengths.

We had a delightful chats about how to engage scouting age kids in outdoor activities in active teamwork participation and am looking forward to a great evenings presentation

For reference he suggests:

"Operation On-Target" event description on Wikipedia
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_On-Target
 Playlist of YouTube videos related to Operation On-Target

http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLWXuWY51_o4XD4mIOhXiymlWRLEb0gL



CORNER

WITH ALAN, KG6ZPL

- 1) I throw a nickel and a dime in the air. If I am told that at least one of them land as a head, what is the probability that the nickel landed as a head?
- 2) How many ways can four people be seated at a table with two people facing the other two people?
- 3) What is yellow, weighs 8000 pounds, and goes "chirp, chirp"?
- 4) What weighs three tons and has a stick through it?

Answers to February's Quiz

1) In front of you are three boxes labeled "red poker chips", "green poker chips", and "red and green poker chips". You are told that all of the boxes are labeled incorrectly. You may draw one poker chip at a time from any box. What is the minimum number of draws you can make and the procedure for relabeling all of the boxes correctly.

Draw one chip from the box labeled "red and green poker chips". If it is green then label that box green as it is not the "red and green" box so it must be the green box. Then the box labeled green must be the "red and green" box since it is not labeled correctly and the remaining box must be the "red" box.

2) A man is in a prison cell that is 12 feet by 12 feet by 12 feet room. The floor is dirt and the walls are concrete. The only openings are a locked door and a skylight. He has a small shovel. He knows that he cannot tunnel out of the cell. What does he do? ***He digs a hole and piles up the dirt until he can reach the skylight. He then opens it and escapes through it.***

3) How do you shoot a blue elephant?
With a blue elephant gun.

4) How do you shoot a white elephant?
Hold his nose until he turns blue and then use a blue elephant gun.

Please send answers and comments to Alan at thermic72@sbcglobal.net

ARISS to Swap Out Handheld VHF Transceivers on Space Station

The 10th SpaceX International Space Station cargo resupply mission delivered investigations to study human health, Earth science, and weather patterns last Thursday. It also carried a new Ericsson 2-meter handheld radio to replace one that failed a few months ago, disrupting the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program. The VHF radio



ESA Astronaut Samantha Cristoforetti, Z0U0DF, using the Ericsson VHF transceiver before it failed last fall.

in the Columbus module was used for school group contacts and for Amateur Radio packet, temporarily relocated to UHF after the VHF radio failure. ARISS International Chair Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, said the new Ericsson radio will, at some point, be installed in Columbus, replacing the Ericsson UHF radio now supporting APRS packet and some school contacts. Bauer made it clear that the new Ericsson transceiver is an interim measure for ARISS.

"ARISS is making great progress on the development of the new interoperable radio system that we hope to use to replace our aging radio infrastructure in the Columbus module and the Service module," he said. "The hard -- and expensive -- part of this effort is just beginning, with testing and human [spaceflight] certification on the horizon." ARISS was able to shift school contacts from NAISS to the Kenwood TM-D710 transceiver in the Russian Service Module. Cosmonauts use that radio to carry out their ARISS school contacts from RS0ISS.



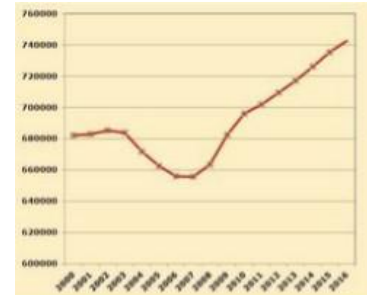
Bauer thanked all of ARISS's partners, which include ARRL and AMSAT, as well as individuals and entities that have donated to the program. In December, ARISS announced a "notable contribution" from the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) to help support development and certification of new ISS radio hardware.

The Ericsson MP-A VHF handheld transceiver that ISS crew members had used to speak via Amateur Radio with students and educational groups around the world for more than 16 years began displaying an error message last fall, rendering it unusable. ARISS has said ARISS's new JVC Kenwood TM-D710GA-based radio system, once on station and installed, will improve communication capability for students scheduled to participate in educational contacts and related activities. The new system also will allow greater interoperability between the Columbus module and the Russian Service Module. ARRL Letter, 3/2/2017

Another Outstanding Year for Amateur Radio Licensing!

Last year -- 2016 -- was another outstanding one for Amateur Radio licensing, says ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM.

"New Amateur Radio licenses issued were up by 1% over 2015, and this is the third year in a row that the total number of new licenses has exceeded 30,000," Somma reported. She said 32,552 were granted in 2016, 32,077 in 2015, and 33,241 in 2014.



Total Amateur Radio licenses in the US from 2000 until 2016. [Per statistics compiled by Joe Speroni, AH0A]

Somma said that while 2014 was a record-setting year for new licenses issued, ARRL VEC "continues to see an elevated interest in obtaining an Amateur Radio license."

The overall trend continues to be up, up, up! The total number of US Amateur Radio licensees has continued to grow each year since the FCC eliminated the Morse code exam requirement in 2007. Over the past decade, the net number of Amateur Radio licensees has risen by nearly 87,000, according to statistics compiled by ARRL Pacific Section Manager Joe Speroni, AH0A.

As of December 31, 2016, the total number of licensees in the FCC database was 742,787, topping the 2015 total of 735,405, but down just slightly from the all-time high of 743,003 reached last November.



ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM. [Rick Lindquist, WVV1ME, photo]

Somma said license upgrades were down by 5% compared to 2015 -- 10,617 versus 11,224. "A new Amateur Extra class [question] pool took effect on July 1, 2016, which may have impacted upgrade totals in the second half of the year," she speculated.

As of December 31, according to figures compiled by Speroni, there were 143,337 Amateur Extra licensees, 45,071 Advanced licensees, 172,807 General licensees, 371,560 Technician licensees, and 10,012 Novice licensees. The FCC no longer issues Advanced and Novice class licenses. The General and Technician licensee totals at the end of last year were all-time highs, and the Amateur Extra total was nearly so. ARRL Letter, 2/2/2017

RST-Suffix Special Event is Back

Members of the North Country DX Association (NCDXA) are on the air for the entire month of March from locations in Alaska, Yukon Territory, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and Greenland using RST-suffix fixed-station call signs. Expected to be active are KL7RST, VY1RST, VE8RST, VY0RST, and OX7RST. The goal is to promote Amateur Radio in northern North America.

The 2017 event, the second annual RST operation, features the addition of OX7RST, as well as more rovers and fixed stations, new



QSL cards, and certificates. Plans call for operation from a Canadian research station near the North Pole on Ellesmere

Island, a diamond mine in Northwest Territories, an Alaskan bush school, and many other locations. Activity will be on all modes, 160 through 6 meters, including 30, 17, and 12 meters. SWLs may participate too.

The object is to work or log as many NCDXA RST stations as possible from their various locations. NCDXA RST stations will send a signal report and location. Receiving stations should send signal report and state, province, or DXCC entity. Logs will be uploaded to Logbook of The World (LoTW). More information is available on K7ICE's QRZ.com profile page. NCDXA is also on Facebook. ARRL Letter, 3/2/2017

**THURSDAY
NIGHT
NET**

Please join us on W6SBA 224.38 minus offset and the PLat 192.8 hz
You can share your experiences or just say hello!

FCC Invites Comments on ARRL Petition to Allocate New 5 MHz Band

The FCC has invited comments on the ARRL's January 12 Petition for Rule Making to allocate a new, secondary contiguous band at 5 MHz to the Amateur Service. The League also asked the Commission to keep four of the current



five 60-meter channels -- one would be within the new band -- as well as the current operating rules, including the 100 W PEP effective radiated power (ERP) limit. The federal government is the primary user of the 5 MHz spectrum. The FCC has designated the League's Petition as RM-11785 and put it on public notice. Comments are due Monday, March 20. ARRL plans to file comments in support of its petition.

The proposed ARRL action would implement a portion of the Final Acts of World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 (WRC-15) that provided for a secondary international allocation of 5,351.5 to 5,366.5 kHz to the Amateur Service; that band includes 5,358.5 KHz, one of the existing 5 MHz channels in the US. The FCC has not yet acted to implement other portions of the WRC-15 Final Acts.

"Such implementation will allow radio amateurs engaged in emergency and disaster relief communications, and especially those between the United States and the Caribbean basin, to more reliably, more flexibly and more capably conduct those communications [and preparedness exercises], before the next hurricane season in the summer of 2017," ARRL said in its petition.

The League said that 14 years of Amateur Radio experience using the five discrete 5-MHz channels have shown that hams can get along well with primary users at 5 MHz, while complying with the regulations established for their use. "Neither ARRL, nor, apparently, NTIA is aware of a single reported instance of interference to a federal user by a radio amateur operating at 5 MHz to date," ARRL said in its petition. NTIA -- the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, which regulates federal spectrum -- initially proposed the five channels for Amateur Radio use. In recent years, Amateur Radio has cooperated with federal users such as FEMA in conducting communication interoperability exercises. ARRL Letter, 2/9/2017

Amateur Radio Emergency Service Posts its 2016 Annual Report

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) has posted its 2016 annual report. The 2016 ARES Annual Report focuses on documenting the value that ARES provides to the nation, states, and localities in collaboration with partners at all levels. The report features basic data drawn from Section Emergency Coordinators' reports, a breakdown of ARES figures by state and FEMA region, and a challenge for 2017. According to the report, ARES membership in 2016 was 27,754 -- up from 17,756 in 2015 -- and the Service was active in 42 states and US territories. ARES volunteers responded to 33,136 events last year.

"Sharing information about what ARES provides at all levels is critical to our work overall, as hard numbers provide better detail about our work," ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey, K1IU, said. "We all need to pitch in to ensure that our contributions are counted, and here at HQ, we will be sure to do our part."



ARES volunteers will see changes in some reporting forms in 2017; all forms, starting in January 2017, have been updated and renumbered. According to the report, 76% of ARRL sections filed reports for 2016, a significant improvement over past years. The report challenges ARRL Section Emergency Coordinators to raise that number to 85% in 2017.

In addition to the annual ARES report, ARRL Field Services staffers will produce their own monthly report, a link will appear in the ARES E-Letter, showing monthly data for ARES, as well as information about ARRL Headquarters emergency preparedness and Field Service activities. ARRL Letter, 2/16/2017

Nayif-1 CubeSat with Amateur Radio Transponder Launched from India

AMSAT-UK reports the Indian Space Agency (ISRO) on February 15 successfully launched the Nayif-1 Amateur Radio CubeSat, along with 103 other satellites -- a record for a single launch. The Nayif-1 1U CubeSat includes a full FUNcube communication package. Nayif-1 carries a U/V linear Amateur Radio transponder for SSB and CW and a telemetry transmitter. Nayif-1 started transmitting about 1 hour after launch, and radio amateurs on the west coast reported the first signals.

Nayif-1 is a joint project of the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) and American University of Sharjah (AUS). The United Arab Emirates' first nanosatellite, Nayif-1 was developed by Emirati engineering students from AUS under the supervision of a team of engineers and specialists from MBRSC. The partnership between the two entities was aimed at providing hands-on satellite-manufacturing experience to engineering students.



Telemetry is transmitted on 145.940 MHz, 1.2 kb BPSK (FUNcube standard). The SSB/CW transponder uplink passband is 435.045-435.015 MHz, and the downlink passband is 145.960-145.990 MHz. A mission-specific telemetry dashboard is available. In a manner similar to that of the FUNcube-1 dashboard, this one will be capable of uploading the telemetry received to a central data warehouse. More information on the telemetry dashboard is available, as is a test file.

Initial spacecraft operation will be in a low-power "safe" mode, with just the telemetry transmitter activated. ARRL Letter, 2/16/2017





1. **Attendance drawing:** The lucky winner for this month was Richard-KJ6CBA at the Feb meeting. Unfortunately Richard was not present and missed out on the \$ 40.00 kitty. The March meeting attendance drawing will now be \$ 45.00. This ought to bring every member. Please read. Remember you must be present to win.

2. **Thank you:** We wish to thank Ray-WA6OWM for the great presentation on the "Buddy Pole" antenna. The ideal, while somewhat compromised as far as antenna's go, for a solution to the no antenna possible situations. Let the record speak for itself, Ray has logged more contacts in whatever mode you might want or can use. If you missed it you might talk to him about if you are in that situation with no antenna. Thanks for the great presentation and for keeping it so we can all appreciate it.

3. **New members in good standing for 2017:** Last month I reported those having paid and here are the next members now having paid their dues: Ray WA6OWM 551994 Ken K6HRN 551995 Paul KK6TAC 551996 Rick K6RTS 551997 Chuck K6CHS 551998 Rob KB6KMX551999 Heidi KG0GGY 552000 Kirk KK6KC 3281899 Tom KM6ICU 3281900 Tom KB9ENS 3281901 Matt N6MDC 3281902 Hal KO6M 3281903 Mark KM6HQG 3281904 Robert N6QA 3281905 Jim W6JBN 3281906 Nancy NJ6S 3281907 Bill N6ES 3281908 Thank you so much for your continued support. We look so forward to working with you and participating in our projects. Without you we are nothing you might say. We all share this bond we have as hams and hopefully we can count on you to help us putting this out to as many of our fellow hams. Joe-WB6MYd

4. **Dues are due:** Yes, we look so forward to have your continued support and hopefully in all that we are trying to do. Attend the meetings and stay informed. The dues are due and have been since January 1, 2017. It is now time to provide your continued support by providing us with the dues. We have not raised our dues and we still meet at the same location at Torrance Memorial Medical Center. We are so grateful for the great location and more

importantly the great relationship. This year we are meeting in the Health Conference Center in Room 1 (Room nearest the stage). The dues are \$ 20.00 per person. If you are a husband and wife team the cost \$ 30.00. 2 or more members are also \$ 30.00 as long as the same mailing address can be used. You may pay by check made payable to the SBARC and mailed to the PO Box 536, Torrance, CA 90508-0536. You may also pay in person if you wish by joining us at our next meeting and or call me and we will work it out. We thank for your continued support and really like to see you. Thank you so much. Joe-WB6MYD.

5. **Repeater funding:** This was mentioned at our February meeting and seems to be a little misunderstood. The funding is needed since according to the FCC rules we have to have control over the repeater at all times. The controller being used requires a phone line and as you all know phone lines cost money. The monthly cost is \$ 22.88 which as you can see is roughly \$ 276.00/year. While this had been supported by the Autopatch fee from those wanting to utilize this we have a hard time to find membership for that. Everyone has a cell phone with unlimited calling etc etc. We can't provide that on this line and at the present time only 2 members pay totally 80 dollars for the year. We have asked the club to support this and it was agreed to do this at our January Council meeting. Case closed you say, the repeater provides a valuable service to the club this phone line cost is therefore taken by the club. However I was asked to explain this at our last meeting since it has never been explained as to where this cost for the control link is needed. So with this I am trying to clear the air sort of to speak. If you have any other questions please feel free to call me. Yes the repeater is owned by 2 long time members having paid for the equipment at the time we built it. No charges are made for that it is just for this control link required by the FCC to operate a repeater. The only other option is to get a frequency to do it over the air. On 220 there are frequencies available for that. It is not only that, we are restricted from putting up another antenna. The location of the repeater is no secret, however, you still have to abide by the local restrictions etc etc. Also, for safety you do not want the location publicly know. We are on Palos Verdes and let's leave at that. I hope this helps. Please feel free to talk to me about it if it has not. Your support would be greatly appreciated for possible upgrades as well. Thank you-Joe, WB6MYD

CALENDAR

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

Club Meeting - 3rd Thursday of the month
March 16, 2017- 7:30 p.m.
Torrance Memorial Med Center
Health Conference Center, Room 1

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,
March 25, 2017 , 7-11 a.m.

VE Session - Contact: Joe WB6MYD
Phone: (310) 328-0817
jmlanphen@gmail.com or w6sba@arrl.net
(All VE sessions are scheduled for Room 4 in the Health
Conference Center for 2017)

Social Event - Contact: Joe WB6MYD
Phone: (310) 328-0817
jmlanphen@gmail.com or w6sba@arrl.net

CLUB SERVICES

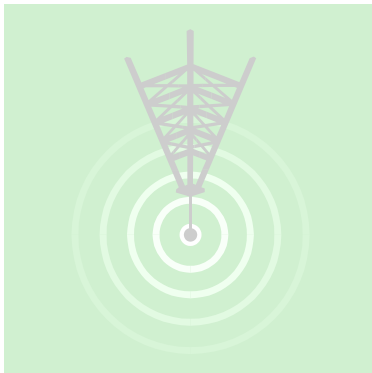
Awards Manager (HF/VHF)	Cliff - K6LH
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Swap Meet Chair	Tom-KI6RC, Chuck-
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South Bay Amateur Radio Club Repeater
224.38 MHz · PL - 192.8 Hz Offset -1.6 MHz
(See Calendar for Weekly Net Times)

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION

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