



May 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,

Field Day is nearly upon us and the council has decided it would best to purchase new coax cables to ensure we have optimal success with the antennas. This purchase however would cost the club more than \$500, which means we need to get club approval before proceeding with the transaction. We want to buy five 50' LMR 400 flex cables for VHF/UHF antennas and the HF verticals, followed by two 100' RG8X cables for the 40/80m dipoles. Anticipated cost is approximately \$800. [We will be taking a vote at our upcoming meeting, May 18th.](#) I hope you will be able to attend for this important vote.



I want to send out special thanks to our guest speaker Orv Beach, W6BI for driving all the way from Simi Valley to share his knowledge on mesh networking with us. It was a fascinating presentation and has already sparked interest with several club members. I happened to be giving a talk to the Long Beach club last week and several members of their club have interest in setting up a mesh. We are currently evaluating the possibility of setting a link between PV and Signal Hill. If you're interested participating, please let me know!

Until next time, this is Alex saying 73.



CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2017

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mic72@sbcglobal.net

The GUEST SPEAKER for MAY

Don Minkoff – NK6A, was first licensed as a Novice in 1959 as WV6HYF. Don was drawn to chasing DX and contesting in the early 80's but found that operating with 5W was also a fun challenge plus a quick route to winning certificates for contesting. The Heathkit HW8 was his entry into low power and portable operation in 1980. Taking a radio on camping vacations was as natural as packing a fishing rod in the Sierras or up in the Canadian Rockies. Smaller and lighter radios were built and taken on many hiking trips and even a cruise down the St. Lawrence Seaway. Don continues to be active in contesting and chasing DX but is drawn to the great outdoors, taking small, lightweight radios and antennas to mountain tops for Summits on the Air. The chance to be DX and operate in Europe plus climb a summit has resulted in a further addiction. Don will tell us how you too can become addicted to Summits on the Air.



Don Minkoff, NK6A, will give a presentation on one of the fastest growing special interests in amateur radio today.

Please join us at **7:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 18, 2017 in room 2 of the Health Conference Center at Torrance Memorial Medical Center** as Don gives his presentation on field portable QRP Ham Radio with stealth antennas.



CORNER

WITH ALAN, KG6ZPL

- 1) Mr. and Mrs. Qster had four daughters. Each married and had four children. How many are there in the family?
- 2) Danny, Elvis, and Tom are married to Heather, Rose, and Lily. Heather's sister is married to Tom. Danny has never met Lily, who is an only child. Who is married to whom?
- 3) What weighs three tons and has a stick through it.
- 4) What was the elephant doing on Route 66?

Answers to April's Quiz

- 1) If you have a three minute timer and a five minute timer, can you time a four minute egg? If so, how?
Start both timers. When three minute timer quits, start it again. There is now two minutes left on the five minute timer. When five minute timer runs out, start it again. There is now one minute left on the three minute timer. When three minute timer runs out, start the egg. There is now four minutes left on the five minute timer. When five minute timer quits, the egg is ready.
- 2) I have coins in my pocket that can pay for any item selling from one cent up to and including one dollar. What is the fewest coins I can have and what are they?
Four pennies, one nickel, two dimes, one quarter, and one half dollar.
- 3) What is purple and stomps out forest fires?
Smokey the grape..
- 4) What is Alexander the Great's middle name?
"the".

Please send answers, comment, complaints, etc. to Alan at thermic72@sbcglobal.net

ISS Packet System Returns to VHF

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) packet digipeater system is again operating on VHF -- 145.825 MHz. The failure of an Ericsson handheld VHF transceiver on board the ISS last fall had caused ARISS to shift packet operation to 70 centimeters. In February, a cargo re-supply mission delivered a new Ericsson 2-meter handheld to replace the one that had failed, which had been used in the Columbus module for school group contacts and for Amateur Radio packet.



While the VHF transceiver was offline, ARISS shifted school contacts from NA1SS to the Kenwood TM-D710 transceiver in the Russian Service Module. NASA ISS Ham Project Coordinator Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO, said the VHF capability now back in Columbus can be used in conjunction with passes involving the HamTV digital amateur television (DATV) system, which operates on 2.4 GHz.

ARISS International Chair Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, said recently that ARISS continues to make progress on the development of the new interoperable radio system on the ISS "that we hope to use to replace our aging radio infrastructure in the Columbus module and the Service module."

Packets digipeated in a valid APRS format via the ISS system and picked up by an internet gateway station are documented on the "Amateur Radio Stations heard via ISS" page. -- Thanks to Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO, ISS Ham Project Coordinator.

Visalia DX Convention 2017



The 2017 Annual DX Convention was another outstanding success. More than 645 registrants, 48 vendors and several dozen speakers were present for the April 21-23 event.

Very substantial drawing prizes included Flex Radio 670 and IC 7300 transceivers and a Elecraft KPA 1500 watt amplifier among many other high end items.

Among the 36 speakers and topics were Bob WR7Q who presented the most timely "Learning Morse Code after puberty" David AA6YQ with his Swiss Army Knife FREE program "DX lab suite for DXers" and Ward Silver N0AX who gave us a witty and cautionary discussion of radio politeness and ethics in "Don't be that guy"

My hotel was next to the airport and hosted 3 weddings that weekend.

In the mornings, thru my open windows I could hear the early roosters, mooing cows and get the fine aromas of heifer dust.

Visalia is the gateway to the Sequoias and has some of the friendliest people in the state. Save the third weekend in April for the 2018 convention

Bruce, KK6BJ

ARRL Entry-Level License Committee Digs in to Study Survey Results

As its April 7 online survey deadline approaches, the ARRL Board of Directors' Entry Level License Committee is preparing for a deep dive into what turned out to be an overwhelming response. Committee Chair and New England Division Director Tom Frenaye, K1KI, said the survey's 8,000 responses, when perhaps 1,500 were anticipated, reflects the high degree of interest in the overall topic. Established by the Board in 2016, the Committee has been gathering input from the Amateur Radio community with an eye toward recommending either a makeover of the Technician license or an altogether new entry-level Amateur Radio license class.

"I think it's our job to come up with the two best proposals," said Frenaye, conceding that the committee's work is fraught with details that include reaching a consensus both within the Amateur Radio community and at the FCC, which pays little attention to Amateur Radio generally. For his part, Frenaye started out thinking that a new entry-level license would be the answer, but now he's leaning more toward changing up the Technician license, in part because he thinks the FCC may be reluctant to create a fourth license class after whittling the number to three in 1999.

It's not just about numbers, but Amateur Radio's future. Amateur Radio growth, at approximately 1% a year, is "pretty good," Frenaye conceded, and in tune with US population growth, but he thinks it could be better, and a big step in that direction is to take a hard look at ham radio's entry gate. He suggested a new pool of prospective radio amateurs might be more drawn to the hobby from the Maker movement, for example, or from among those who tinker with computer technology or experiment with electronics -- areas with high appeal to some young people.

Frenaye said a lot of young newcomers don't seem to find the current license manual very enticing, possibly due to the Amateur Radio terminology and the manual's 12th-grade reading level, which he believes should be lower. One interesting statistic plucked from the survey: Just 23% of recently licensed Technicians went through a club, while 65% studied on their own.

The current Technician license is mainly a VHF/UHF license, Frenaye pointed out, with limited privileges on HF, where he believes a lot of newcomers would prefer to operate. "Either the test covers material that's not needed for a newcomer, or the privileges don't match well enough with what a newcomer needs to see in ham radio in order to decide whether to continue," he said. Technician licensees have only CW privileges on HF. below 10 meters, "and CW isn't even a requirement anymore," Frenaye pointed out. He suggested some HF digital privileges may provide one incentive. ARRL Letter, 4/6/2017



ARRL New England Division Director Tom Frenaye, K1KI, at the January 2017 Board of Directors meeting. New England Division Vice Director Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF, is seated behind him. [Steve Ford, WB8IMY, photo]

Happy  Mother's Day

Revised Memorandum of Understanding between ARRL and FCC Still a Work in Progress

The ARRL Executive Committee (EC) has directed that work begin on finalizing the language of a revised memorandum of understanding between ARRL and the FCC regarding the Amateur Auxiliary (Official Observer) program. The EC met on March 25 in Aurora, Colorado. The panel, which acts on behalf of the ARRL Board of Directors between its regular meetings, heard an update on the Official Observer Program Revitalization Study from ARRL Second Vice President and committee chair Brian Milesosky, N5ZGT, who said his committee plans to present final recommendations later this year on revamping the Amateur Auxiliary, for ultimate consideration by the full Board.



ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD. [Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, photo]

In his remarks, General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, was complimentary of new FCC Chairman Ajit Pai and told the EC he thinks enforcement efforts may be more successful in the future, due to the new chairman's interest in the issue. Imlay also said the new chief of the Enforcement Bureau, Michael Carowitz, is reported to be "amateur friendly." He told the EC that he foresees a potential window of opportunity for improved spectrum enforcement work, as well as the opportunity to build a stronger working relationship with the FCC on all issues. ARRL Letter, 4/6/2017

Sean O' Brian 50-50 Ultra Endurance Races

On the 6th of February 442 well trained and intrepid endurance athletes dared show up and participate in the annual Sean O'Brian races. They could choose the 50 mile, 50km (31.1 mile), or traditional 26.3 mile marathon event, held in the most remote parts of the Santa Monica Mountains. It had been raining heavily several days before and the early morning of the event, giving challenging conditions indeed.



There is only limited and often no cell phone reception in much of the race area and thus a consortium of Ham Radio operators from Santa Barbara, Ventura and the Hughes and South Bay Amateur radio clubs joined together in a support net to cover the race.. 12

volunteers, organized by Dale Birmingham, WB6MMQ included SBARC members, Jerry KJ6JJ, his son Brian KJ6YKB, and Bruce KK6BJ. There were no major injuries this year and only 3 runners required transport due to hypothermia.



The organizers of this amazing race volunteer, organize and put on a great event. Last year I heard a bobcat take down a rabbit and watched a few vultures circle over the remains as the final runners passed under the birds on the way to the finish. This is a great way to be of service and enjoy our hobby in the Great Outdoors. Save the second Saturday in February 2018 for the next one. Bruce, KK6BJ

**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!



1. **2017 Attendance drawing:** Well we did. The name drawn was Rick-K6RTS and Rick was present and a member in good standing. I was able to give the cash and that was that. Such luck, the highest kitty ever. Congratulations Rick. The May drawing will be for 25 dollars starting all over again. Be present and luck to hear your ticket drawn.

2. **Dues:** Yes we have a few late comers. They are: Harlan KC6YBJ 3281924 Mark KA6ZTO 3181925 Mike KI6LJM 3281926 Al W3YRS 3181928 Steve KJ6VWN 3281929 John AF6DH 3281930 Bill AF7OO 3281931 Linda KJ6UMK 3281932 Jim KJ6RER 3281933 Chuck KG6RPN 3281935 Kathleen KG6RPM 3281936 Lowell W6QH 3281937 Martin KJ6TSK 3281938 Sarath KF6DBX 3281939 Thank you so much for your continued support and participation. We do really look forward in working and playing with you.

3. **Thank you:** Orv Beach-W6BI made the presentation on "Mesh Networking". What a presentation and so informative. If you were unable to hear firsthand I assure you to have missed one of the best presentations, if not the best, for us. While some may wonder what to do with this is another story. We like to present these kinds of topics to keep you up to date on what is going on in our own back yard. Amateur Radio is going through so many new ideas and applications at this time and has for a number of years now. Orv explained how this can be used at a local level and yes it is strictly line of site but the applications are numerous. All we would need some of us to say hey we can do this to. This is our purpose and Bruce is doing a great job in making the arrangements to have these new ideas and such shown to us. Thank you Orv for an excellent and informative presentation. Next time thank Bruce also for making this possible for us.

4. **New membership roster:** The intention is to hand out new membership rosters to those of you attending the May meeting (I am not going to be there to keep track of this unfortunately). If you are unable to attend and would like one of these confidential membership rosters please let me know and arrangements may be made. I'll be back at the end of May. Joe-WB6MYD

5. **Club activities:** I like to make a list of the activities scheduled for us this summer and later this year. Our big one of course is Field Day. The dates are 24-25 June, 2017. As you may know now is that we are planning to operate the full 24 hours from the top of the West Parking Structure at TMMC as in the past. We need all of us to work on this to make it successful as in the past. It is a great activity for us all and really we should feel obligated as hams to participate in this. This is Annual event and shows the world what we can do in case of an emergency. This is followed by the ARRL SW Division convention in September the dates are 15-17 September, 2017 right here in Torrance. The Torrance Marriott will once again host us in our own back yard. Great things are being planned as usual. The thing we are involved in with is the operation of W1AW/6 and the talk in station associated with this. We done this before and it does not take a whole lot of work but anyone wishing to participate should keep open dates for this on their calendar. In October of course we have JOTA. At this time we really should plan to do our participation as in the past. Plans are underway I think. This is usually a one day event right here from the San Pedro Youth Center in the Harbor area. More and updates on this to follow. Our DIY (Do it Yourself) event will again be held in November. Plan to present your inventions and or projects you've been working on for us all to see. So these are the major events for us. We also have some projects to do prior to all of this such as picnic's and of course our coax preparations. Both these events had been scheduled but due to improper selected supervisions did not work out like it needed to be. On the coax party front several made a gallant effort were unable to complete due to the late start etc etc. As was said, while it all appears to be a failure, valuable lessons were learned and so it could never be a failure. The picnic to was scheduled for a Sunday and most members are or have family functions to attend. So here we go again, we learned this the hard way. Bottom line is help is needed to make this successful regardless of what project we're talking about. So the next time can we count on you?

6. **Reminders:** I like to remind you that—A. please update your record information with me so we can stay in touch with you. B. Please renew your ARRL membership with the club. We get a small commission.

CALENDAR

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

Club Meeting - 3rd Thursday of the month
May 18, 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,
May 27, 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

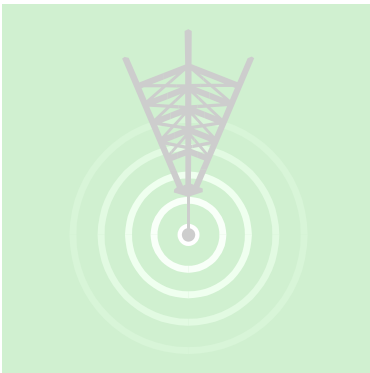
Awards Manager (HF/VHF)	Cliff - K6LH
Health & Welfare	Joe - WB6MYD
Swap Meet Chair	Tom-KI6RC, Chuck- K6CSH., Bill-KQ6Z
VE Test Liaison	Betty Barch-N6VZF
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South Bay Amateur Radio Club Repeater
224.38 MHz · PL - 192.8 Hz Offset -1.6 MHz
(See Calendar for Weekly Net Times)

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION

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