



August 2014

# ARCOver

A Community Service Organization Dedicated to Amateur Radio Since 1970

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## Hamming It Up At the Beach

E-mail: [W6SBA@arrl.net](mailto:W6SBA@arrl.net)



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

Hello W6SBA,

*UPCOMING SUMMER BBQ:*

We will have our summer BBQ at our favorite park location, DePortola Park, 25615 Lazy Meadow Drive

Torrance, CA 90505. We will have burgers and hot dogs, munchies and some refreshments. We will also have the quiet emergency generator and try and do some PSK and Phone contacts on the portable Buddipole antenna. Please join us Saturday, August 23rd from 11-2pm and have some fun socializing with your club members and getting on the air. Looking forward to seeing you there!

*JOTA:*

Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) is around the corner, and we need your help! JOTA is an annual event that encourages scouts to get on the air and learn about Amateur Radio. It's a great way to outreach to our youth and show them what Amateur Radio can do. Last year we set up our antennas as the Cabrillo Scout Center in San Pedro and made many contacts. Plans are in the works to host JOTA at the same place on October 18th. We will need support from our club to set up the antennas, operate, and coordinate this event with the scouts. If you can help, please contact Joe WB6MYD and let him know.

*ANNUAL PROJECT CONTEST COMING UP IN NOVEMBER!*

As a reminder, our annual project contest is coming up in November and I can't wait to see all the innovative entries for this year's submissions. You can build antennas, electronic project of some type, or even software. The rule is that it has to pertain to Amateur Radio. Those in attendance will vote on the best entries and the winners for each category will win a \$25 gift card. Our Past President Alan - KG6ZPL will be running the event. If you have any questions, please contact him.

*NEW CLUB PURCHASES:*

Last Thursday, your council talked about Field Day and some of the challenges we had getting the 40 and 80 meter dipoles working. Our antenna captains reported high SWR readings (8:1) and we believe this was the result of a short in the cable - which would explain why we weren't getting out on those bands. As a result, the council decided to buy replacement dipoles for both bands at an approximate cost of \$100-\$125.

*SWAP MEET:*

We need more bodies to support the swap meet at the end of the month. Joe has been doing it by himself most of the time and needs help loading/unloading equipment each month and additional people to man our booth. The swap meet is a great way to meet new people and share the club newsletter with potential newcomers. If you can help even once, it would be appreciated. Our current swap meet permit expires next month, September 2014. Before we renew for next year, we need to make sure we have adequate support to continue this event. Please contact Joe - WB6MYD if you can help!

That's all for now. Until next time, this is Alex saying 73!



Our Speaker for the August SBARC meeting will be **Marty Woll-N6VI**. Marty is the ARRL Vice Director for the Southwestern Division. His subject is the "**Future of Amateur Radio**".

Marty has been a long time Ham and has a special interest in Amateur Radio. Please join us Thursday August 21, 2014 at 7:30pm (please be early so we can all enjoy the presentation).

## Satellite Antenna Project

Tom - Ki6RC has agreed to oversee this project and will assist in producing this amazing Satellite antenna.

This is the hand held dual band satellite antenna with which he has so much luck working the satellite.



He is offering you the opportunity to own this homebrew antenna at a fraction of the cost of commercial models. So here is the deal - if you want one prepay Joe 25 dollars and Tom will supply all the parts, tools, help and expertise to put it together. This is such a deal folks please take him up on this.

The building location, date and time will be Emailed to you once payment has been received.  
Joe-WB6MYD



1) What English word is invariably pronounced wrong by every radio operator at ARRL?

2) Rearrange the letters in "new door" to make one word.

3) An Extra class operator bought nine donuts and ate all but four. How many were left?

### Answers to last month's quiz:

1) A tired radio operator went to bed at 11:00 one night and set his wind up alarm clock for noon the following day. When the alarm went off, how many hours had he slept?

He had slept for one hour. He set the alarm for 12:00 and it went off at midnight. A wind up clock does not differentiate between AM and PM.

2) What is the exact opposite of "not in"? "IN"

3) A triangle has sides of length 10, 11, and 21 inches. What is its area?

Its area is 0. The sum of the first two sides is 21 inches so they lie on top of the side of length 21 inches. Try drawing it.

Please send answers and comments to Alan at [thermic72@sbcglobal.net](mailto:thermic72@sbcglobal.net)

### President

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## CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2014

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## FEMA & ARRL Sign Agreement; FEMA Administrator Calls Ham Radio "Resilient"

FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate, KK4INZ (left) and ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, sign a Memorandum of Agreement. [Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, photo]



The ARRL and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have announced a *Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)* that will enhance cooperation between the League and FEMA in the area of disaster communication. FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate, KK4INZ, and ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, signed the agreement July 18 during the ARRL National Centennial Convention in Hartford, Connecticut.

"Radio is one of the most resilient communications technologies we have," Fugate said. "When the power is out and telecommunications are down, the Amateur Radio community can serve as a vital resource in support of emergency responders and survivors during a disaster. This *MOA* will strengthen FEMA's partnership with ARRL and build upon our work to expand emergency communications capabilities and the use of Amateur Radio in emergency management."

The new agreement will allow FEMA and ARRL to work together to provide resources, services and personnel, as available, in order to strengthen capacity in areas of emergency communications, mass care and emergency assistance, disaster preparedness, response and recovery, while also raising public awareness about the use of Amateur Radio as a public safety resource. The pact also outlines the ways in which FEMA and ARRL will cooperate to carry out their respective responsibilities, with respect to disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery operations in the event of a natural or manmade disaster. \*ARRL Letter, 7/24/14) Submitted by Alan, KG6ZPL

## Grassroots Campaign Underway to Promote Co-Sponsorship of "Amateur Radio Parity Act"

A grassroots effort is underway to encourage radio amateurs to promote co-sponsorship of HR4969, the Amateur Radio Parity Act. The measure, introduced in the US House with bipartisan support on June 25, calls on the FCC to apply the "reasonable accommodation" three-part test of the PRB-1 federal pre-emption policy to private land-use restrictions regarding antennas. The bill's primary sponsor is Rep Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), and it has initial co-sponsorship from Rep Joe Courtney (D-CT). With Congress going on its August recess in a few weeks, the campaign is focusing on contacting Members of Congress or their staffers at or through their district offices during the break. Getting additional lawmakers to sign on as HR.4969 co-sponsors is considered essential to the bill's success.

"This is the ideal time for you to develop small teams of constituents to approach members of Congress in their district offices," said ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, a principal proponent of HR.4969. "Ideally, you'd want no more than three members to go to a meeting with a Member of Congress or top staff members. These need to be active, articulate individuals who present themselves well." Individual radio amateurs or clubs also may wish to e-mail or write their representatives to urge them to cosponsor the bill.

The primary point to convey is that the greatest threat to Amateur Radio volunteer emergency and public service communication is restrictions that prohibit the installation of outdoor antenna systems. Nearly 30 years ago the FCC, in adopting its PRB-1 policy, acknowledged a "strong federal interest" in supporting effective Amateur Radio communication. In the intervening years, PRB-1 has helped many amateurs to overcome zoning ordinances that unreasonably restricted Amateur Radio antennas in residential areas. The 11-page PRB-1 FCC Memorandum Opinion and Order is codified at § 97.15(b) in the FCC Amateur Service rules, giving the regulation the same effect as a federal statute. (ARRL Letter 7/10/14)

### 57th JOTA: October 17-19, 2014

Jamboree on the Air provides the opportunity for millions of Scouts around the world to meet on the air via Amateur Radio. Get ready for the 57th year of this annual on-the-air event!



## What is JOTA?

When Scouts want to meet young people from another country, they usually think of attending a World Jamboree. But few people realize that each year more than half a million Scouts and Guides "get together" over the airwaves for the annual Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA). The World Scout Bureau reported that the 2010 JOTA had just over 700,000 Scout participants from nearly 6,000 amateur radio stations! Modern technology offers Scouts the exciting opportunity to make friends in other countries without leaving home. JOTA is an annual event in which Boy and Girl Scouts and Guides from all over the world speak to each other by means of Amateur (ham) Radio. Scouting experiences are exchanged and ideas are shared via radio waves. Since 1958 when the first Jamboree-on-the-Air was held, millions of Scouts have met each other through this event. Many contacts made during JOTA have resulted in pen pals and links between Scout troops that have lasted many years. With no restrictions on age or on the number of participants, and at little or no expense, JOTA allows Scouts to contact each other by ham radio. The radio stations are operated by licensed amateur radio operators. Many Scouts and leaders hold licenses and have their own stations, but the majority participate in JOTA through stations operated by local radio clubs and individual radio amateurs. Some operators use television or computer-linked communications

Additional information can be found on the ARRL website: <http://www.arrl.org/jamboree-on-the-air-jota>

On October 18th the SBARC is again asked to participate in with the Boy Scouts of America Jamboree On The Air activity from the Cabrillo Beach Youth Center in San Pedro (just like last year).

Plans are underway again for us to set up some stations to provide an opportunity to have the Boys Scouts talk using our radio's to other scouts. **PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR for the weekend of October 18th** since our involvement might be over a 2 day period.. As always we do appreciate your support and participation. Thanks  
Joe-WB6MYD

## MORSE CODE METHODS

A member asks about the different methods used to teach Morse code.

People learning Morse code using the "Farnsworth method" are taught to send and receive letters and other symbols at their full target speed, that is with normal relative timing of the dots, dashes and spaces within each symbol for that speed. The Farnsworth method is named for Donald R. "Russ" Farnsworth, W6TTB. However, initially exaggerated spaces between symbols and words are used, to give "thinking time" to make the sound "shape" of the letters and symbols easier to learn. The spacing can then be reduced with practice and familiarity.



Another popular teaching method is the "Koch method", named after German psychologist Ludwig Koch, which uses the full target speed from the outset, but begins with just two characters. Once strings containing those two characters can be copied with 90% accuracy, an additional character is added, and so on until the full character set is mastered.

In North America, many thousands of individuals have increased their code recognition speed (after initial memorization of the characters) by listening to the regularly scheduled code practice transmissions broadcast by W1AW, the American Radio Relay League's headquarters station.

In the United Kingdom many people learned the Morse code by means of a series of words or phrases that have the same rhythm as a Morse character. For instance, "Q" in Morse is dah-dah-di-dah, which can be memorized by the phrase "God save the Queen", and the Morse for "F" is di-di-dah-dit, which can be memorized as "Did she like it."

The teaching environment has changed through the years. For a long time, the code was taught via listening to it on the radio or in a class room, a method popularized by the US Army. Code teaching machines were in use by the 1940's. I first tried learning the code using a huge, black, boat anchor type machine filled with tubes and using reels of punched tape for the practice. Speed was varied by how fast the tape ran across an optical reader. This was around 1956 and I assume that the machine was army surplus. Once cassette tapes were available they were popular, followed by CDs. The internet now has many resources for learning the code. One fellow writes: "Do a Google search for "Just Learn Morse Code" "Morse Machine" and "RufzX". The "Just Learn Morse Code" application is probably the best for starting out. There are many, many other programs. Another valuable resource is the directory of MP3 files of the W1AW code practice transmissions, again Google it. Part of learning the code is to practice sending Morse code. Find a Code Practice Oscillator and key and use it."

In my opinion, the easiest way to do it if the cost doesn't hurt is to use Gordon West's set of cassettes or CDs (available from W5YI.org or from Amazon, among many) and listen to them as you drive. IPODs, etc., may make the ARRL's MP3 files attractive. Whatever method you choose, DO NOT LISTEN TO IT AS DOTS and DASHES. Learn the code by sound. Each of the characters have a different sound just as different English words have different sounds. You didn't learn mama as M-A-M-A spelled out.

Please send questions and comments to Alan at [thermic72@sbglobal.net](mailto:thermic72@sbglobal.net)

## Ham Musings From Bruce, KK6BJ

### 1. Lightning

I just plugged my two roof antenna back in after checking with NOAA and googling lightning strikes.

Several loud thunder peals followed some bright sky flashes prompting my attention. One golfer was struck on Catalina Island and was attended to by paramedics, including Fire Chief Gary Black, my brother in law. 14 more were struck in and about the Venice Pier, 8 miles north of my beach house.

All of our outdoor antennas need lightning arrestors and should be disconnected during those rare So Cal T-storms.

### 2. Satellite stuff

No satellite QSOs during field day despite several attempts from several of our members.

SO-50 is the only reliable FM bird and all most of us could hear was a wall of carrier signals due to the great interest of many FD stations, and doubtlessly the desire to snag a quick 100 QSO points.

Ray WA6OWM had loaned me his superb Yaesu FT 847 Seattleite Transceiver-appropriately titled Earth Station but I did not have enough time to set it up and make it work. There are several SSB satellites that require some extra work and that will be my next goal for next year, one of them anyway.

I had an FT 817 and was given a second unit as an estate gift and had seen a demo of the two radio technique at Pacificon 2 years ago and have set about to try to duplicate this technique that seems like it should work with about and radio that will do SSB on 2m VHF and 70cm UHF. The software is SatPC32, free from AMSAT but the equally free HRD is reported to work well also. <see second picture>. The setting up of various compatible cables, drivers, PI tones, and antenna duplexers has been an ongoing education and occasional insane test of patience.

Tom KI6RC, former club member helped me make a handheld antenna which I hope will work even better than my commercial Arrow antenna. He has an amazing fund of knowledge on how to do this and how to make it work.

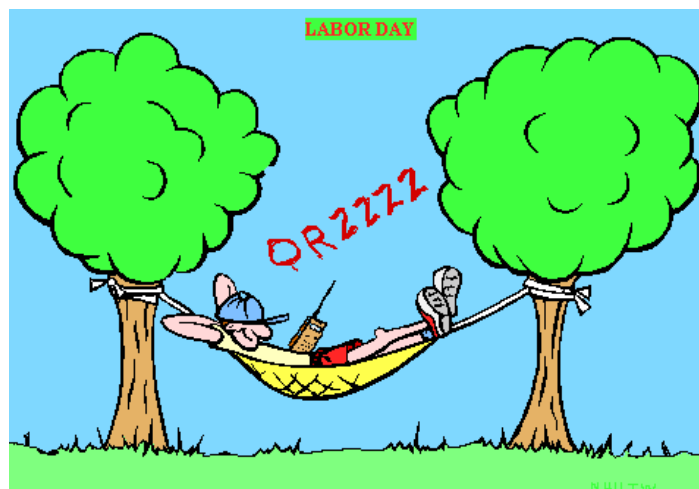
On a sad note VO-52, the Dutch-Indian satellite went silent this week after almost 50,000 orbits. The LiPo batteries would no longer charge and the solar cells were insufficient to power it on its mission. I feel old after only 69 trips around the sun!!



## Working the Satellite Record

Tom KI6RC worked four (4) stations all within a 6 minute window on his homebrew antenna. Check this out: #1 was VA7VW in Vernon, BC; #2 was AD5MT in Denver, CO; #3 was XE1SEW in Mexico City, MX; and to top it off #4 was K4CME in Holiday, FL. That is 3 countries and 4 contacts within a 6 minute max window. Better yet, he does this with his 4W HT right from his backyard. This has got to be some sort of record! Congratulations Tom on a job well done.

Joe-WB6MYD



## FCC Seeks to Raise Vanity Call Sign Fee to \$21.60

The FCC is requesting to raise the Amateur Service vanity call sign regulatory fee from its current \$16.10 to \$21.60 for the 10-year license term. The \$5.50 increase would be the largest vanity fee hike in many years. The proposal is contained in a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2014; Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2013; and Procedures for Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees," which appeared in *The Federal Register* on July 3.



The FCC reported there were 11,500 "payment units" in FY 2014. The Commission said the vanity program generated \$230,000 in FY 2013 revenue, and it estimated that it would collect nearly \$248,000 in FY 2014. (From ARRL Letter 7/3/14) Submitted by Alan, KG6ZPL

## From The Secretary



1. **Attendance drawing:** While Ed-Kn6JN had promised to be there to return an item to me he failed to do so. His name was drawn but not being present will see our kitty for our August meeting going to \$ 30.00. Be sure to join us on August 21st, hate to see you miss out on the August kitty.
2. **2014 FD score:** Yes we did get our 2014 FD activity in on time, everyone has 30 days to report their FD activity after FD. So how did we do? Well one of the biggest problems if comparing results over the years with this years. We missed our CW operator Ray-WA6OWM which as you know each contact is 2 points. So too is our digital mode worth 2 points for each contact but we only had 24 digital contacts. Anyway, this is how we did- 1 CW contact, 24 digital contacts and 264 phone contacts. This works up an 628 claimed QSO score. We did earn a good number of bonus points which was 1050 and are added by the ARRL. So thank all of you for making this possible and showing that we can still do this. After all that is what Field Day is all about. It is something we hope we will never have to put into practice in case of the real emergency.
3. **SBARC Equipment Loaning:** Yes we now are able to loan the club's equipment for a maximum of 30 days. The list of equipment available for loan is as follows:
  - Yaesu FT 450D
  - HF/50MHz Transceiver
  - Honda EU2000i Generator Buddy pole antenna
  - Antenna analyzer MFJ J-269
  - Comet antenna analyzer CAA-500
  - Buddy pole antenna
  - Multimedia Projector

Please see Joe-WB6MYD for further details and signing out for a max of 30 days of any of the above.

4. **Thank you:** Yes we wish to thank both Alex-KD6LPA and James-KI6UPL for the excellent presentation each made at our July meeting. Alex talked about the Field Day outcome except for the confirmation of the numbers since all QSO's need to be confirmed for points by the info from the dupe sheets. That report had to wait for Ray-WA6OWM to come back from his vacation. Anyway, it all worked out and we can all look back on e job well done. James presentation was about power pole connectors and how to use them in our applications for providing multiple power needs to our mostly radio transceivers. Thank you both Alex and

5. **TRW swap meet:** We need some help from everyone on this. This is what this is all about folks. As you know the TRW swap meet is every last Saturday of the month come hell or high water you might say. I've been doing this now for some time and had some help from 2 of our other members. This is now possibly only by one other member making this 2 which means therefore at least 6 times a year for each one of us. For just one person to do this 12 times a year is a real burden, for 2 would be 6 times a year for each one. 3 would be better and doable this means we must find another member to support this swap meet team. So this is what we are looking another member to join us. O you say now why would I want to do this? Well for one thing you earn 10% of the money being earned by you at your session and 2 you get to meet a lot of people. Not many Ham club's are present at this swap meet it is now turned into a computer type swap meet which is probably a good thing to. But the exposure the club gets is worthwhile especially if you see all these people come by and ask you questions. So it has come to this now that unless we get some help we might have to give up on this. Please think about this and let us know if you would be willing to take this 4 month's out of the year which is what it will be with the 3 of us. Thank you so much.

6. **Thank you. Patrick-K6PDG** is continually posting some very interesting articles on our Facebook page. They are really interesting and I hope we can get you to take a look at it. It is usually amateur radio related and should be of interest to us all please check it out. Thank you Patrick it is really appreciated. If you are new to Facebook you might have to ask either Mike-KI6LJM or myself-WB6MYD for joining the South Bay Amateur Radio Club Facebook page.

7. **New member:** John Bacon III-KG6IMP has returned from an temporary assignment back East and has now rejoined the SBARC family. Thank you John for your return.



**Thursday Night Net**  
@ 7:30 p.m.

Please join us on W6SBA 224.38 minus offset and the PLat 198.2 hz you can share your experiences or just say hello!

## CALENDAR

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

**Club Meeting** - 3rd Thursday of the month  
**August 21, 2014 - 7:30 p.m.**  
Torrance Memorial Med Center  
West Tower, Room A

**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,  
**August 30, 2014**, 7-11 a.m.

**VE Session** - Contact: Joe WB6MYD  
Phone: (310) 328-0817  
jlanphen@ca.rr.com or w6sba@arrl.net

**Social Event** - Contact: Joe WB6MYD  
Phone: (310) 328-0817  
jlanphen@ca.rr.com or w6sba@arrl.net

Answers to Mr. Wave's face on page 5: Eyes = Amplitude modulation;  
Mouth = Frequency modulation

## CLUB SERVICES

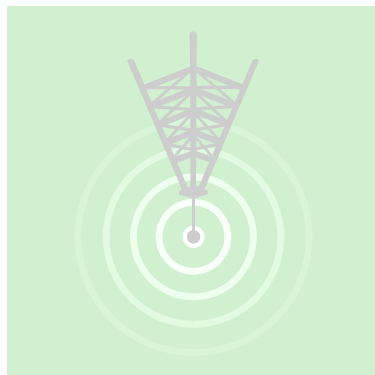
Awards Manager (HF/VHF)	Cliff - K6LH
Health & Welfare	Joe - WB6MYD
Swap Meet Chair	Joe - WB6MYD
VE Test Liaison	Joe - WB6MYD
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**South Bay Amateur Radio Club Repeater**  
224.38 MHz · PL - 192.8 Hz Offset -1.6 MHz  
(See Calendar for Weekly Net Times)

## NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION

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TO:



Address Correction Requested

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