



September 2013

ARCO *ver*

A Community Service Organization Dedicated to Amateur Radio Since 1970

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September is...

National Preparedness Month

Get a Kit, Make a Plan, Be Informed and Get Involved



E-mail: W6SBA@arrl.net



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

President's Message

Hello W6SBA,

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 19th! JOTA (Jamboree On The Air) is coming and we need your help! JOTA is an annual event that enables scouts to communicate with each other via amateur radio. In 2010, the World Scout Bureau reported more than 700,000 scout participants from roughly 6,000 amateur radio stations. This year we will be operating at the Cabrillo Youth Center (San Pedro Area). Right now, it looks like the scouts are only asking us to be available for radio activity from 3:30-5:30pm. But we will still need help setting everything up and of course tear down afterwards.

Joe and I went down to the Cabrillo Youth Center last weekend to survey the site. I really liked it! Parking was a snap and the building is fairly new. We will be using the cafeteria room to set up our radios. It has plenty of tables and chairs, along with a nice view of the beach! The room is adjacent to a large outdoor patio, which is where we plan to mount the antennas. We're thinking about a VHF/UHF antenna on the balcony, and an end fed dipole for HF. Restrooms are a stone's throw down the hall. All in all, it's a great site and I'm excited to be operating from this venue!

At this time, it doesn't look like there will be any fees for parking or admission to the building. Specific details are still coming in, and I'll update you with the latest information at our September club meeting.

I hope you can make it to this important event! This is a great opportunity for us to reach out to youths and show them the hobby of amateur radio.

COUNCIL APPROVED PURCHASES:

In September, the council voted to make two new purchases: 1) a new Powerwerx Power Supply for our newly purchased Yaesu FT-450 radio, and 2) an MFJ 1910 telescoping pole for use at the upcoming JOTA event. The cost for both items was under \$200. Not too bad!

ELECTIONS!!!

I can't believe it's September already! That means club elections aren't far away. If your interested in joining the council, please let us know! New people with new ideas are always welcome. For example, we want to re-invent how we set up the antennas for Field Day next year. I believe there always better ways to do things, and that's part of our hobby - experimentation and trying new things! If you have some creative ideas, please consider running for the council. The election will take place at our November club meeting.

Until next time, this is Alex saying 73!

CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2013

President

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

Vice-President

Ray Grace - WA6OWM
wa6owm@arrl.net - 310-370-1913

Secretary/Treasurer

Joe Lanphen - WB6MYD
jlanphen@ca.rr.com or w6sba@arrl.net
(310) 328-0817

Activities Council Member

James Murakami - KI6UPL
katsu442@yahoo.com - 310-480-7794

Events Council Member

Paul Avery - KK6BY
pravery@pacbell.net - 310-676-0212

Information Council Member

Bruce Jackson - KK6BJ
bjackson@ucla.edu - 310-372-1156

Past President

Alan Parks - KG6ZPL
thermic72@sbcglobal.net - 310-558-8718

Power outage in South Bay affects 100,000 customers, cause still under investigation

By [Brenda Gazzar](#), Los Angeles Daily News and [Sandy Mazza](#), Daily Breeze (Posted: 09/15/13)

Wildflower Cafe in Redondo Beach was especially busy Sunday morning as customers searched for a restaurant that had electricity because of a widespread power outage that affected some 100,000 customers just after sunrise.

The outage, which began at about 7:05 a.m., hit much of Torrance, the Palos Verdes Peninsula, and parts of San Pedro, Gardena, Lomita and Redondo Beach, according to Southern California Edison officials.

The lights were back on at all but a few places by 1:25 p.m., after crews were sent to manually switch power on across the South Bay, said Edison spokesman David Song.

At 4:15 p.m., he said all power had been restored.

Officials know that the outage was caused by downed lines at 190th Street near Crenshaw Boulevard in Torrance, but they are still trying to determine why the lines went down. The outage was so widespread because a critical sub-transition line was affected, Song said.

Edison turned off the power at substations as a safety measure, which increased the number of people affected by the outage.

Torrance police Lt. Devin Chase said that, in addition to power lines being down, a transformer was also out.

“We still don’t know what caused it — whether a power line fell and that caused the transformer to blow, or a transformer blew and that caused the lines to fall,” Chase said early in the day.

Police said the downed lines were not caused by a traffic collision.

Affected South Bay electric customers suffered varying impacts, with some reporting temporary outages and others going without power for hours.

“It was super packed here first thing in the morning,” Wildflower Cafe owner Saemi Yook said. “I live in Palos Verdes, and we lost power there for about 20 minutes but it stayed on here.”

Police in Gardena said numerous traffic signals were out, and crews were placing temporary stop signs at the affected intersections. They reminded drivers that a dark signal means all vehicles must stop, and drivers should consider those intersections “all-way stops.”

Chase said Torrance police responded to a couple of minor traffic collisions as a result of the outages Sunday, but there were no injuries.

Police in Gardena also said numerous traffic signals were out, and that crews placed temporary stop signs at the affected intersections.

Though the downed power lines were across the street from the ExxonMobil refinery, plant officials indicated to the Police Department that their operations were not affected by the outage, Chase said.



Sunday’s outage almost certainly will exacerbate Southern California’s Edison’s tattered image in the South Bay.

Residents and public officials in Manhattan Beach, Torrance, Palos Verdes Estates and Rancho Palos

Verdes have publicly criticized Edison for repeated outages, which in the latter city reached more than 100 in the four years ending in 2011.

State Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi, D-Torrance, has sponsored a bill to require electric utilities to report on the frequency and length of power outages. If the governor signs Assembly Bill 66 into law, it would give the state Public Utilities Commission the authority to require companies to fix problems causing repeated outages.

“This bill is an important step to solve the recurring power outages in the South Bay and across California,” Muratsuchi said in a statement, adding the law will give ratepayers “a more reliable electrical grid.”

Whether that will occur as a result of the bill is unclear, however.

Utilities rarely volunteer information about outages to their customers or the media. Outages are usually reported to the media by customers without power. Muratsuchi’s bill would require utilities to report on power outages annually.

The governor has until Oct. 13 to sign the bill.

Being into amateur radio we might think we are ready for a disaster but how ready are we?

Sundays experienced power outage was a reminder to many of us to be prepared for loss of power and other basic necessities for possible extended periods of time. Whether your power was off for an hour or three (like the Simpson family) it was interesting to see how people handled the situation.

Many neighbors came outside to see who had power to help determine the extent of the power outage. For us, the neighbors right across the street had power back for an hour before we did.

Do you have items in place that you might need? I took a shower in the dark while our daughter placed a flashlight on the top ledge of the shower door (okay, this one time I’ll agree she was smarter than me; I’ll blame it on no morning coffee).

Do you have a plan to deal with unexpected emergencies? Here’s the link to a useful checklist provided by the Red Cross. (http://www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA_CustomProductCatalog/m9440096_EmergencyPreparednessChecklist.pdf)



Echolink for SBARC

Echolink ties ham radio and computers together over the internet. We are experimenting with it in the club to allow club members to talk over the SBARC repeater using just a computer. The computer can be a desktop, a laptop, or even an iPhone or Android device. So far, KI6RC talked to us from China, WA6OWM checked in from Germany, and others out of range or without 220 MHz equipment have used it to keep in touch with the club. I plan to attend our Thursday net from a hotel room in Virginia while away. So how do you use it? Here are some steps and pointers:

Go to www.echolink.org for basic information.

Start with a Windows internet-connected computer for registration. You need a soundcard, speakers/earphones, and a microphone.

Download, install, and run the Windows software to register your call sign with the system.

After you run the software, validate your call sign at www.echolink.org/validation

Test your setup by connecting to the test server in the Echolink program dropdowns: "Station" -> "Connect to Test Server". Most people have to boost the microphone as much as possible in the sound interface to get a decent audio output.

Hint: transmit by toggling the lightning bolt icon or space bar. Note that you have to click to stop!!!!!!

Email me at jcookggca@aol.com and I will put you on the club access list. (Otherwise the node will not let you on.)

Connect to KJ6JJ-R and you will be on the air at 224.38 MHz! Standard repeater rules and courtesy apply.

You will be connected to the club repeater through my radio. I will leave it on as much as possible, but if you cannot find KJ6JJ-R, I may have shut it down for some reason. The -R, meaning repeater, is important. You might find KJ6JJ without the -R, but that is not the repeater, just me on another computer. There's more! You can connect to thousands of other repeaters around the world. Thanks to the Echolink folks for setting up the system and allowing me to use of their icon for this note. Email me if you have problems.

KJ6JJ - Jerry

Question of the Month

What can we do to help you join us on fcho link???

The basic requirements are: A. you need a computer (desk top or lap top); B. Internet connection; C. A program loaded on your computer and; D. you must be a member in good standing. It is as simple as all that. Let's talk about this and ask questions for a few moments if you will. This is all about getting you to join us on the repeater. Questions such as well I can't get into the repeater from here? I have no transceiver on 220? Is there a cost involved? How do I do this? Also, who should be using it and when? Etc, etc. If you wish to know more about this and are unable to attend the meeting well let us know your questions and we will try to help you.

We are very fortunate to have our member Jerry-KJ6JJ having provided this for us all for which are very grateful and thank him. Joe-WB6MYD

California QSO Party



The 47th running of the California QSO party "CQP" will be on October 5th and 6th, 2013.

The California QSO Party (CQP) is the premier state QSO party held every year on the first weekend of October. The Northern California Contest Club (NCCC) has sponsored CQP since 1974. CQP has traditionally opened the annual contest season by providing an opportunity for contesters to prepare for the ARRL November Sweepstakes since the format is similar.

CQP is perhaps the largest US State QSO party. The objective of the QCP is to work as many stations in California as you can on both CW and Phone. Stations may be worked once per mode/band combination for points with California Counties (58 of them) as individual multipliers. California stations get credit for working stations inside and outside of the state with US States and Canadian provinces as their multipliers.

The contest runs from 1600Z October 5th, 2013 to 2200Z on October 6th, 2013.

The full rules for the QCP can be found at: <http://www.cqp.org/Rules.html>



PACIFICON 2013

Amateur Radio Convention

The ARRL Pacific Division and the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club Present:

PACIFICON 2013- October 11-13, 2013



- **The Great West Coast Ham Radio Convention!**
- **Largest West Coast Vendor Show of Amateur Radio Gear!**
- **More Than 75 Outstanding Technical Forums!**
- **Great Swap Meet!**
- and...much, much more!*

Returning to the Magnificent Santa Clara Venue

Marriott Santa Clara Hotel
2700 Mission College Blvd.
Santa Clara, California



For Events, Latest Updates and Registration go to:

www.PACIFICON.org

If Hotel lodging is needed:

Make reservations before September 26, 2013, to qualify for the special Pacificon rate of \$109/night. To make reservations on-line with special Pacificon Group Code rate already entered, [CLICK HERE](#). Or, call the Marriott Hotel Reservations Desk at 1-800-228-9290 and ask for the Pacificon rate.



PACIFICON 2013 Events, Forum Topics, and Exhibits Include:

- Friday All-Day Antenna Seminar • Friday Evening New Media Elmers and Podcasters • Saturday Morning Kickoff with Speaker Gordon West • More Than 75 Outstanding Technical Forums • Largest West Coast Vendor Show of Amateur Radio Gear • Saturday Amateur Radio and the Law Seminar
- Great Saturday Swap Meet • Ham License Exams • Daily Radio Prize Drawings • Direction Finding/Fox-Hunting, Beginner and Advanced • Great QRP Programs • Amateur Television (ATV/DATV) • HFpack Activities • Saturday All-Day Technician License Class • Working Satellites • DXpeditions • Contesting
- A Full Slate of Youth Projects and Activities • Kit Building • Emergency Communications • Saturday Evening Banquet with Guest Speaker • Annual ARRL Pacific Division Director's Forum • Understanding the Physics of Radio • Moon Bounce - EME • Antenna Theory & Construction



**Come and Experience
the Many Facets of Ham Radio!**

Pacificon Committee - pacificoninfo@pacificon.org
www.pacificon.org - (925) 945-8007

**** Pacificon is looking for volunteers to assist with the convention ****
Contact AF6PU@arrl.net for information or to volunteer

Amateur Radio Provides Critical Communication in Colorado Flooding Response

09/13/2013 ARRL Article

About five dozen Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) volunteers have deployed in and around flood-stricken counties of Colorado, providing critical communication for Red Cross



shelters and state and local emergency operation centers. Recent heavy rains have caused veritable mountainside tsunamis that have caused rivers and streams to overflow their banks, ravaged roads and property and displaced an undetermined number of residents. At least three people are known to have died. ARRL Colorado Section Manager Jack Ciaccia, WMØG, says that with power cut off to affected communities and many cell telephone towers along the Thompson River toppled by the flooding, ham radio is providing medical and health-and-welfare traffic between evacuation centers and the EOCs.

“Every EOC is being staffed by ARES people,” Ciaccia told ARRL. “Almost every evacuation center has an ARES communicator, doing either voice or packet communications between EOCs and shelters.”

The isolated towns of Estes Park, Lyons, and Jamestown were or still are relying solely on ham radio for contact with the outside. Jamestown has since been evacuated. “Everybody was huddled into the high school there,” Ciaccia told ARRL. He was in contact with the mayor there and trying to get the community needed resources as soon as possible. Hams in Estes Park have been working out of the EOC in the Town Hall, which is on high ground. “There’s no place to go. Everything’s flooded,” Ciaccia said. “The only ham in Lyons was working out of an evacuation center at the local elementary school.” He said the National Guard has been relocating some evacuees, as the shelter has become overcrowded.

Boulder County has deployed miniature drone aircraft carrying Amateur TV cameras to survey the affected, more remote regions, for now to spot individuals who may need to be rescued. “We’re still in a search-and-rescue mode,” Ciaccia said, “not really in a damage-assessment mode.”

Ciaccia said the drones — a fixed-wing aircraft and a hybrid gas/electric-powered helicopter — have been transmitting ATV video via UHF to the ground and simultaneously recording the video on a memory stick. The helicopter can remain in the air for more than 5 hours at a clip, recording images for officials at the EOC to evaluate. Ciaccia said Boulder County Emergency Coordinator Al Bishop, KØARK, owns Reference Technology, the company providing the drones.

Eyes and Ears

Ciaccia said that during the past year the Boulder County ARES team created the Mountain Emergency Radio Network on its own time and money and put up two repeaters — one at Allenspark and another in Gold Hill. “The intent was to start educating people in the mountain regions to become hams,” Ciaccia said. Some 65 individuals have gotten their licenses, and the team provided each with a radio. “Those radios and those people — they became the eyes and ears for their communities,” Ciaccia explained.

As power was lost, the only remaining means of communication were the two repeaters operating on propane-powered generators. “The system worked,” Ciaccia added, “and we were able to utilize it for emergency communication purposes.” Those communities have since been evacuated.

Threat Remains

News media accounts citing the state Office of Emergency Management say 19 Colorado counties remain under a high threat of flooding. These include Boulder, Arapahoe, Weld, Park, Jefferson, Larimer, Clear Creek, Adams, Douglas, Broomfield, Gilpin, Denver, Logan, Morgan, Washington, El Paso, Teller, Pueblo and Elbert.

State authorities are warning residents in the hard-hit counties to stay off the road. Interstate 25 from the Wyoming line to Denver has been closed, along with part of Interstate 70.

Two Free Amateur Radio Courses

FCC **“Technician”** course (entry level)

FCC **“General”** course (2nd level)

Each course is 2 sessions

The sessions are on 12 & 19 October 2013

Technician 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM both Saturdays (bring your lunch)

General 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM both Saturdays

The FCC tests will be 10:00 AM to noon 26 October 2013

The Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club will give a 30 minute presentation at 9:30 AM at the start of the 12 October Technician class on how to get further involved with amateur radio.

The location is the Fred Hesse Community Park,
29301 Hawthorne Blvd., Rancho Palos Verdes.

No pre-registration is required. There is **no fee** for either course.
Taking the FCC test is \$15.

Optional Material (sold at cost)

Gordon West books with all the FCC test questions,

\$22 for the Technician and \$26 for the General

- Copy of the Power Point charts,

\$20 for the Technician and \$20 for the General -

For courses sponsored by the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club, students thru grade 12 who pass their examination at a PVARC VE test session will, upon application to the Club, be eligible for reimbursement up to a maximum of \$50 to cover the cost of materials and the examination fee.

For more information contact Walt, K1DFO, at waltordway@juno.com

(Story continues at top right column)



NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY - JOE-WB6MYD

e-mail - jlaphen@ca.rr.com · 310-328-0817

1. Attendance Drawing: Our lucky winner at our August meeting was none other than Rob-KB6KMX. Unfortunately Rob was not present and therefore our September kitty will be 25 dollars. Remember you must be a member in good-standing and be present . Sorry Rob.
2. Speaker : Thank you Howard-KF6NOR for your excellent presentation on batteries. We take so many things for granted and often have to pay the price for our mistakes. Howard set us straight on so many misconceptions and all other aspects of battery life. You missed a good presentation if you was unable to join us. So again thank you Howard for helping us understand the research we all need to do to extend the battery life of so many things we use . Thank you.
3. JOTA: Yes it is that time of year again. We don't know just yet what our involvement will be with this year's JOTA. I've heard several different versions one being the USS Iowa and another the Scout Center here in San Pedro. Whatever happens will happen but it sure would be nice if we as the SBARC could also be part of this in one way or another.. We certainly will have more news on that front for you at the time of the meeting.
4. Social Luncheon: We will have used a different restaurant by the time you get to read this in our news letter. Both Ray and Alex decided to have lunch there a couple of weeks ago and liked it so well they decided to talk to the manager and asked if we perhaps could have our social out there. He is willing to accommodate us and so our first luncheon at Coco's on PCH (right there by Madison and PCH) will have come and gone here again when you get to read this. Let's talk about this at least to see if our future lunches will be there or someplace else.
Echo link: As you might remember we wanted to stimulate radio activity for our members and also on the W6SBA repeater. We've done a pretty good job with our centennial contest for members and we are very grateful for that. We often find ourselves out of the area or country for that matter making it impossible to check in. Come Echo link and we found ourselves talking to Tom-KI6RC while making a trip into Hong Kong. It was great to hear him reporting on the experiences he had during his trips out and about in China. This was actually followed by Ray-WA6OWM making a visit in Europe just a couple of months ago.. This we feel tops it all now since James-KI6UPL checked in from Japan and Joe-WB6MYD checked in from Philadelphia and Washington, DC just the end of August. To top it all off, Joe talked to James in Tokyo, Japan while he was on the East Coast in Philadelphia and Washington on a trip. This has got to be a record don't you think. Think about it from Japan it had to go to right here to the repeater to the other side of our country and the other way as well. Very interesting indeed and as always someone has to do the work to make this all possible. Jerry-KJ6JJ as a matter of fact runs the gateway from his location in Garden Grove and uses his computer to interface with the internet. He is working on several improvements with the present setup which will be hard to top of course because it seem so perfect. Anyway, thank you Jerry for making this possible. Remember all you have to have is your i phone or lap top to make this connection and you to will be available to check in with u on the Thursday night net. Of course you are able to check in with us on the Thursday night net as well. We encourage all our members to check in which is not just for members visiting back home or other countries but anyone unable to check in via regular radio (RF) from our local area. This is really so easy load the software onto your lap top and or i phone and a way you go. I did have to set up the proxy every time which are needed to hop from gateway to gateway (I think that is the right terminology) and a good internet connection. You know yourself the more modern motels all have wi fi and so it is real easy to connect to it. So everyone, join us on the W6SBA repeater every Thursday night net and experience the barrier of talking across all those miles. We wish to thank Jerry-KJ6JJ for making this possible for us to use. Jerry continues to improve on the way it is set up so it will make it a lot easier to use (it is real easy now) and some other improvements. Safety and Proper operation is his main concern which is why he is using every safe guard available for the system to perform properly. You need to have him enter your name and call into the system so you to can use it for example. Again, thank you Jerry for making this possible for SBARC members to use when away from home and others unable to use the W6SBA repeater for them get a good signal into the repeater.
5. Congratulations to the raffle winner: Yes that is right, the drawing for the Kenwood TS440AT was done at our August meeting as planned. The lucky winner was none other than James-KI6UPL who just happen to be on vacation in Japan. Yes we informed him that he was the lucky winner that same night and would have the radio waiting for him when he got back. So congratulations James.
6. Elections: Yes it is that time of year again. The Vice President is to form a special committee to present a slate of officers running for office at our October meeting. This committee will have to talk to members to see if any interest exists for members to run for office. We have 6 positions and one additional position for the immediate past President. Candidates should be aware that every officer is expected to attend the Council meetings which are held every first Wednesday of the month. Attend as many General meetings as possible and be willing to follow up on the duties assigned to each position. As always, talk to any present officer if you wish more information. Remember this is your club and its continuation depends on 6 members to carry on the proud tradition of the South Bay ARC. Please think about taking an special position as an officer in the SBARC for the year 2014.
7. Holiday Party: as is our custom to have our Social of the year at our December meeting. This is a pot luck type affair and has always been very well received. So I am asking you if you do have any suggestions and or idea's to let us know. We go through considerable effort to make this as social as possible but any suggestions are welcome to make things better or more enjoyable. This is also the time for the newly elected officers to take their place and even perhaps have the newly elected President to make his goals for the coming year. Please think about this and be sure to let us know what you think might be appropriate for us to do this year. Yes any suggestions and or idea might and will be greatly appreciated. Thank you Joe-WB6MYD

CALENDAR

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

Club Meeting - 3rd Thursday of the month
September 19, 2013 - 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,
September 28, 2013, 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
VE Test Sessions	Joe - WB6MYD
Webmaster	Alex - KD6LPA
Editor	Glenda - KF6QFE
Proofreader	Alex - KD6LPA

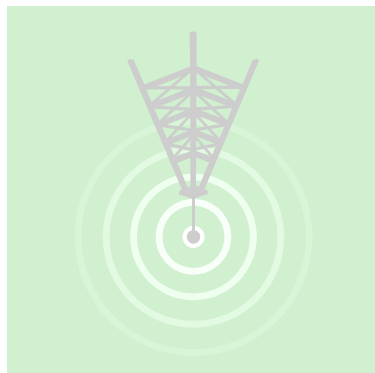
South Bay Amateur Radio Club Repeater

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

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Post Office Box 536
Torrance, CA 90508-0536

