



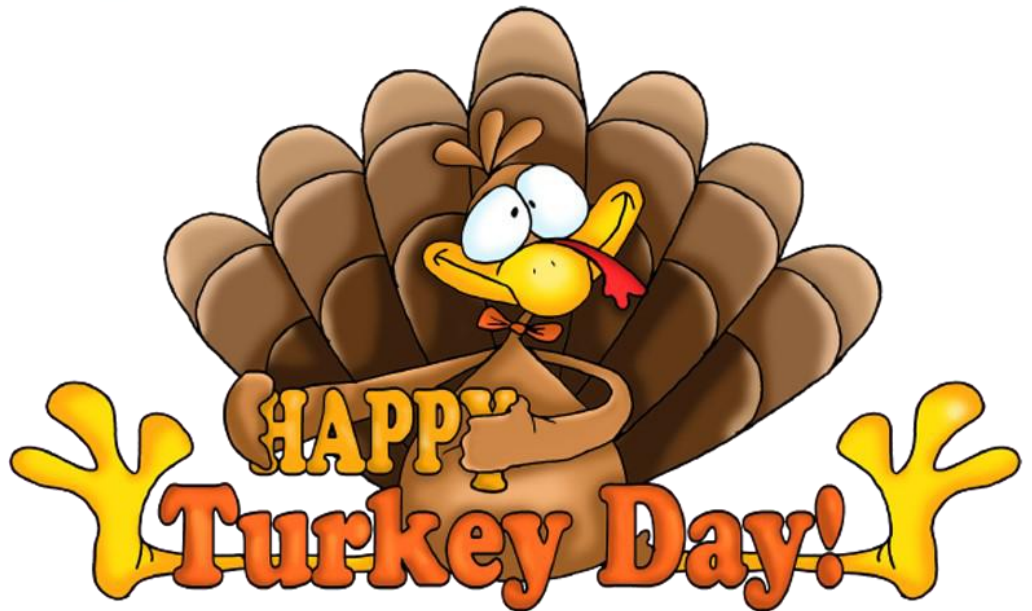
November 2016

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>

Hi all:

Our JOTA event was a success. More members showed up than had signed up for the event so thanks to all. Particular thanks go to Joe, WB6MYD, who, as always, provided equipment and with Chuck's, K6CSH, help loaded the truck with gear on the Friday before the event. Chuck was in charge of the event this year and deserves our thanks for a smoothly run project. Extra thanks go to Jerry, KJ6JJ, who spent the day glued to his radio talking to scouts and managing our Echolink. I'm not sure we even gave him bathroom breaks. Thanks also to our other members who talked to scouts from home. Via the Echolink we had scouts talking to scouts from as far away as South Africa and Australia. Check out this edition of the Arcover for an article and pictures of this year's event. Everyone who took part had a good time so we are already looking forward to next year's event.

This month we have our Pixie transceiver building project. Thanks go to Bruce, KK6BJ, and to Paul, KK6BY, for helping with the step-by-step instruction manual. Paul's pictures of the assembly steps were a big help. The building sessions are taking place on November 5th and 12th. Sixteen members have signed up for the project. Since all of the six Council members also have Pixies, there will be at least twenty-two of them in the club once the building sessions are over. It is hoped that these will help to motivate some members into learning and using the Morse Code! Perhaps we can have a club Pixie net.

This month's meeting is our annual show and tell display of our building projects for the year. If you have built anything related to Ham Radio in the past year bring it to the meeting and you may go home with one of the two \$25 prizes for the best projects of the year. If there are enough projects we will have two divisions: kit built and scratch built. If not we will just have one. Remember that anything related to amateur radio is eligible. It could be software, a radio, test equipment, or ????. This is always a fun meeting so do plan on attending. If you have built something that is not radio related but is interesting, bring it in as well. It won't be eligible for a prize but we always like seeing what you have been up to.

This month is also our annual elections. If you are interested in helping to run your club it is not too late to volunteer to help. As many of us are getting on in our "Golden Years" the more help we can get the better. Even if you are not able to attend all of the Council meeting or devote a lot of time to the club, you can still help. Just let us know and we will put you to work.

Next month is our Holliday Party and Potluck. For those who are new to the club, it works like this. The club provides ham and turkey as well as beverages. Members bring salads, deserts, and side dishes based on the first letter of their last name. This year the assignments are: from A to G, bring a salad, from H to P, bring a side dish, and from Q to Z bring a desert. That's it for this month so 73 and I'll see you at this month's meeting,

Alan



CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2016

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Do It Yourself Project Night



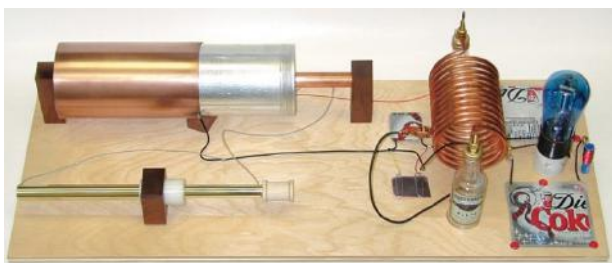
Please join us Thursday 17 November 2016 and bring your project for an evening of show and tell.

This meeting will complement the recent Pixie Transceiver buildathon held on Saturday the 5th and 12th of November and will give the members a chance to show off their handiwork



Two prizes of \$25 will be given for the best projects

The meeting will be held in Room 3 of the Health Conference Center at Torrance Memorial Medical Center



- 1) Returning from a vacation, we found that the refrigerator was turned off and the kitchen was very hot. Someone suggested turning on the refrigerator and leaving the fridge's door open. Will this cool the kitchen. Why?
- 2) Find six consecutive capital letters of the alphabet that look the same in a mirror as they do when looking directly at them.
- 3) What's purple and lights up?
- 4) How did Tarzan hurt his foot?

Answers to October's Quiz

- 1) Your friend flips two coins behind your back. He tells you that at least one of the coins came up tails. What is the probability that both coins show tails? *The possibilities for flipping two coins are HH, HT, TH, and TT. Three of these have a tail and one of the three has two tails. So, the probability is 1/3.*
- 2) A four foot chain is nailed to a wall with a nail through each end of the chain. Both nails are level with one another and parallel to the floor. The bottom of the chain is exactly two feet from the ends. How far apart are the two nails? *Essentially 0 feet apart. If the chain is four feet long and is hanging vertically a distance of four feet, then it must be hanging perfectly straight and both nails must go through the links at both ends of the chain.*
- 3) What did Tarzan buy at Von's that was handy, economical, and weighed 24,000 pounds? *An elephant 6-pack.*
- 4) What is grey, has four legs, big ears, and a trunk? *A mouse going on vacation.*

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



Thursday Night Net

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

JOTA Report October, 2016 By Chuck Hohn K6CSH

Saturday dawned bright with a slight cloud cover. It was predicted to have mild weather and that turns out to be a good thing as the JOTA activities are all outdoors. I had gone to Joe's QTH the day before and we had loaded the longer, bulkier equipment into my truck. I was ready to go directly from home to the Cabrillo Youth Center in San Pedro.

Upon arriving at the site I was greeted by several members already hard at work getting things set up. Joe was unloading the radio equipment and others were setting up tables and routing power cables. We got things unloaded and were assembling masts and antennas in short order. Bruce and Alex got the Buddy Pole HF antenna assembled on the upper deck and routed the coax down to the HF rig which was being setup on a table on the patio. They did encounter one issue with the system and located a bad coax cable at the antenna end of things. James had a complete spare Buddy pole and they borrowed the needed pieces from him to get things going. (Thanks, James) This rig was up and running shortly after that.



Joe and Heidi hooked up and mounted the UHF antenna and pointed it due East. We had visited the location a few weeks earlier and had assembled and mounted the UHF antenna for testing. We then aimed it towards Jerry's QTH and had a chance to fine-tune the heading and found the proper direction to assure a proper link to be used for the EchoLink hookup. This morning we knew right where to aim the Yagi, and Jerry came up immediately on our first attempt to reach him. Paul got the 2 meter antenna and rig assembled and dialed up the Long Beach repeater and checked the link out. This also came together without a hitch. All the planning and preparations paid off quite well, as we had no other surprises during setup and we were ready to go by the 9:00 AM start time.

The scouts were slow to arrive at first, as other activities were planned for them. The very first Scout I chatted with came by and starting talking about the radios. Before I could stop him, he had reached over and twisted the first few dials he could reach, thus knocking us off frequency. He wasn't ready to talk just yet, so I asked him to come back later when he could talk, which also gave me a chance to get back on frequency and put the settings into the memory. The day was not too hot and the scouts were not too demanding. We didn't seem to have the sudden peak of Scouts that we had last year, which make it easier to accommodate everyone when they came by. We had xxx scouts going for merit badges and some were just doing the JOTA introduction to radio. We also had quite a few Cub scouts who were just there for a short initial exposure to the HAM radio world. We got them all on the air and everyone seemed to enjoy the experience.



The EchoLink setup accommodated a majority of the QSOs with Jerry making most of them from his end of things. Thanks again Jerry for the hardware and software support as well as the time (all day) spent with the scouts. The day didn't end up being as long as we expected as we had all the scouts interested go through the JOTA activities by 5:30. We were able to begin breaking down the equipment earlier than expected and were leaving the camp by about 6:00 PM. All in all I would call the day a huge success. We managed to take care of all the youths interested in our hobby and give them an overview of our hardware and operations. Most of the boys were happy with the experience and a few asked very good questions, indicating clear understanding and perhaps an interest in furthering their involvement in amateur radio.

I know for my part, I had a great time. I totally enjoyed setting up and chatting with fellow club members throughout the day. The work load was not excessive during setup and breakdown. Operations with the kids went smoothly and were also quite enjoyable. The scouts are always interesting to talk to; some with very sharp minds and pointed interest in radio and electronics. They were all curious individuals with fresh minds headed off in new directions. All of them were great to chat with and that made for an interesting day.

We had setup help from: Jerry, Joe, Chuck, Paul, Bruce, Alex, Heidi, Alan, Bill, and others. When Bill, Yoshi, etc., showed up after lunch, a few members left for the rest of the day as planned. Several of us made a whole day of it and I personally enjoyed doing so.

ARISS Radio Failure Prompts Shift to ISS Russian Service Module Ham Gear

The International Space Station (ARISS) program has announced that the Ericsson MP-A VHF handheld transceiver that astronauts had been using to speak via Amateur Radio with students and educational groups around the world for more than 16 years recently began displaying an error message, rendering it unusable, at least for now.

While the ARISS technical team is looking into how to restore operation from the ISS Columbus module, it will support ARISS contacts from NA1SS using the 25 W Kenwood TM-D710 transceiver in the Russian Service Module. Cosmonauts have been using that radio to carry out their ARISS school contacts from RS0ISS. For the time being, the packet digipeater, which relied on the Ericsson transceiver, will be unavailable. Switching to the 70-centimeter capability in the Columbus module for some operations is being coordinated. New ISS ham gear is on the way, though.

"ARISS is actively working on a new Interoperable Hardware System for the ISS. The primary components are a modified JVC Kenwood D710GA radio and a custom ARISS-designed power supply," ARISS Operations Committee Chair Dave Taylor, W8AAS, said in an AMSAT Bulletin Board post. "The radio is complete except for final programming and NASA testing and certification. The power supply design is in final stages, and a hardware prototype has been built. It will power existing and anticipated ARISS equipment."



On October 21, the ARISS hardware team held a Technical Interchange Meeting (TIM) for the Interoperable Hardware System. In addition to domestic and international ARISS Technical Evaluation and Support (TES) Committee members, subject-matter experts

from NASA attended to provide advice. A retired NASA Space Communication and Navigation engineer was also on hand.

"With this milestone completed, we will move forward with the design process and finalize the design with a TIM in the next few months," ARISS International President Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, said in a news release over the weekend.

Bauer said ARISS has estimated that the cost of the 3-year development cycle for the new hardware is in the \$200,000 range. He encouraged donations to the ARISS Challenge Coin Donation Campaign, announced this year at Dayton Hamvention.

"The goal is to have this new system aboard ISS about 1 year from now," Taylor added in his post. "This assumes that ARISS can raise the remaining funds needed and that no delays occur in NASA testing and certification of the entire system." ARRL Letter 10/27/2016



Astronaut Tim Kopra, KE5UDN, uses the Ericsson VHF transceiver from NA1SS to speak to students on Earth during his ISS duty tour in early 2016.

LoTW Password Checking Change Causes Problems for Some Users

An upgrade to the password checking mechanism that authenticates Logbook of The World (LoTW) users has caused log-in problems for some clients. Under the system in place prior to approximately 2300 UTC on September 19, the LoTW log-in system ignored the case of any characters in a password when checking for a match, storing them all as lowercase. The new system is case-sensitive, however. While passwords once were randomly generated, the ARRL IT staff recently implemented a new LoTW password mechanism that lets users choose their own passwords. Under this new system, when users first log in, their passwords are encrypted.

Some users attempting to log in with mixed-case passwords were rejected, however, because the system had stored their passwords as all lowercase. A subsequent modification allows the system to accept a user's mixed-case password and changes the stored password to the user's mixed-case specification. The issue also can present problems for applications, such as logging programs, that employ a user's credentials to access a LoTW account.

Users who encounter trouble logging in to LoTW are being asked to enter their passwords in all lowercase. If that doesn't work, contact the LoTW Help Desk or explore other methods available for LoTW.

Any LoTW users who logged in before this modification was made -- at around 2300 UTC on September 19 -- had their passwords stored in lowercase, no matter which case they used in entering them. These passwords now must be entered as lowercase. Users who have changed to a new password with mixed-case letters must continue to enter their passwords in mixed-case letters. ARRL Letter 10/6/2016



Amateur Radio Technician License Class January 2017



The W6HA radio club will be teaching an amateur radio technician license class. See <http://mksummits.com/w6ha> for information. The class is open to anyone. Preregistration is desired. The class will cover what you need to know to earn your Technician Level license: math, electrical, rules, radio operation, antennas, and safety.

Class Time: Saturdays January 7th and 14th from 8AM to 5PM. License test will be at 4PM or earlier on the second Saturday

Cost: The class is Free; however, the license test is \$15

Location: 3621 Bell Ave Manhattan Beach, off Rosecrans Ave.

Lunch: Bring your own sack lunch and snacks for the day – we will have breaks, but not enough time to go out for lunch

Preparation: Get the ARRL Technician License Manual Edition 3 and read before the class. This covers all test questions. ISBN: 978-1-62595-013-0 (Amazon is a good source).

ARRL Gauging Impact of Revised California Distracted Driving Law

California has upped its game in cracking down on distracted driving, and radio amateurs there are concerned that a recent revision to the state's Motor Vehicle Code could affect Amateur Radio mobile operation. The old law, which included an Amateur Radio exemption, already prohibited motorists from using electronic wireless communication devices to write, send, or read a text-based communication while in motion, unless the device was configured for voice-operated and hands-free



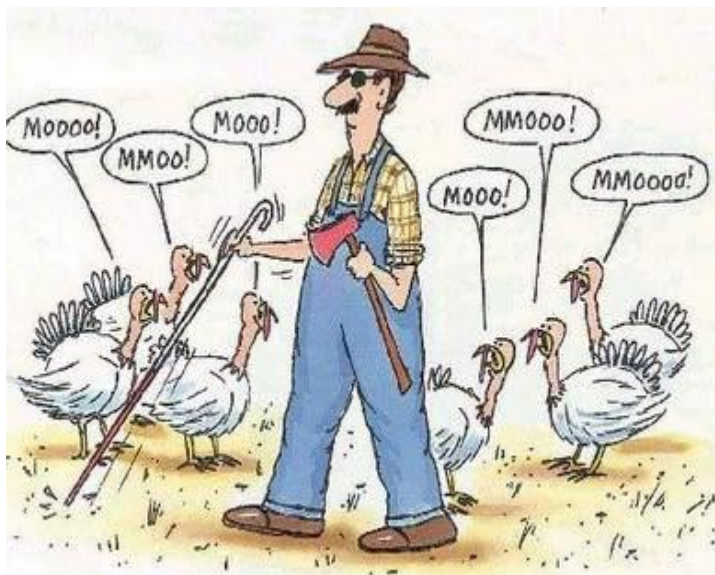
operation. The revised law does not exempt Amateur Radio. Assembly Bill 1785, signed into law on September 26 by Governor Jerry Brown, prohibits a motorist from driving "while holding and operating" a handheld wireless telephone or a wireless electronic communication device, as defined by the code. But it authorizes a driver to operate such devices mounted on a vehicle's windshield like a GPS or on the dashboard or center console "in a manner that does not hinder the driver's view of the road," if the driver can activate or deactivate a feature or function "with the motion of a single swipe or tap of the finger."

The language defining devices covered by the law does not accurately specify what activity is prohibited, leaving its application subject to misinterpretation by individual law enforcement officers, but it does not specifically proscribe use of mobile Amateur Radio equipment for voice communication. The list of covered devices includes, but is not limited to, "a broadband personal communication device, a specialized mobile radio device, a handheld device or laptop computer with mobile data access, a pager, or a two-way messaging device." A first offense would incur a \$20 base fine and \$50 for subsequent offenses.

Initial wording of the legislation was not considered to be a threat to Amateur Radio operation, but the measure's language changed substantially as it worked its way through the California General Assembly.

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, said there are two principal ways to protect Amateur Radio in this type of legislation. "One is by sufficiently narrowly defining prohibited activity so as to exclude Amateur Radio," he said. "The other is to create specific exemptions where the definitions are confusing. This new statute is an example of bad legislative draftsmanship. It creates a motor vehicle law with citations issued for certain activity that includes the words 'but is not limited to' in the language defining the violation."

In addition to scrutinizing the language of the revision, ARRL will be consulting with Field Organization officials in California to determine its next steps. ARRL Letter 10/6/2016





1. **Attendance drawing:** This time the name Linda-KJ6UMK name was drawn. I don't know how this works, last month we drew Jim-KJ6RER name and this time we drew Linda-KJ6UMK. This is husband and wife folks. Can anyone explain this to me? We never use the same person twice to pull a ticket in a row. Yet here we are 2 different month's and we pull husband and wife combination. Anyway, Linda wasn't here either and so we can see next month's meeting to have 30 dollars in the kitty. We would really like to have one of them present to give them the 30 dollars. Please join us November 17th.

2. **New Member:** Steve-KM6EMF has joined us at the October meeting. Tech class licensee and hails from Redondo Beach. He is an software engineer and we certainly can hopefully get to share some of his expertise in that field. He is interested in Computers and QRP operations. Activities he wishes to participate in are Field Day, Technical discussions and club meetings. He has no equipment listed yet so let's help him in picking some basic transceivers. Please welcome him and show him some of the many interests we have within the SBARC for him to enjoy. Welcome Steve-KM6EMF (what a call!).

3. **Coffee pot:** Better to say 'No coffee pot' because we or I brought the thermos. It holds about 12 cups of 8oz drinks. It was all used, no waste. Why am I telling you this? Well I've been bringing this bucket with coffee pot and stuff to meetings for far too many years. We've been trying to find someone to do this to no avail. So at one of our recent meetings I asked to drop that. It was said to be OK but when told no more cookies it raised a lot of eye brows. So I thought I have this large pump type thermos which is a lot easier to bring of course. So that is what I did at our last meeting for the first time. I still pick up the cookies of course but that is ok. So this is what you can expect from now on. Joe-WB6MYD

4. **JOTA tally:** Yes I at long last finished the info provided to me during JOTA. I have always asked for each contact made by a scout to be logged and have provided log sheets. No contacts had been logged on the HF side of things. I know they had some problems. The VHF and UHF or Echolink logs provided me with enough to have kept me busy for a few nights. I've altered the logging somewhat

for next year which will make this easier I hope. Anyway, a total of 48 contacts were logged with in this case cub scouts. 9 of those where on the 2m set up we had and of course 39 on UHF (Echolink). Interestingly enough 9 of those where outside of the USA. Australia, South Africa and Canada. 2 came from Ohio and 15 from Florida. The remainder was from local contacts. Contacts were made as we provided the support to the cups scouts needed for them. 1 contact by K6CSH, 3 by KI6UPL, 9 by KG0GGY, 9 by KK6BY, 11 by KJ6JJ, 13 by WB6MYD and 2 were logged under W6B. Pretty impressive don't you think? This was a lot of fun and from the boys reaction for them as well. So thank you one and all for a job well done. Special thanks to Jerry-KJ6JJ for providing us with the Echolink connections. In case you aren't aware but we use an direct RF link via an 440 frequency link to Jerry in Garden Grove and that is how it comes back as well of course. We want the participants to hold a microphone and that they did. Joe-WB6MYD.

5. **PIXIE project:** By the time you read this it will all be history. The assembly dates were Nov 5th and 12th. More on this the next time.

6. **DIY event:** This is our annual showcase for members to show and tell their projects they have worked so on hard throughout the year. The date for that is November 17th at our regular meeting. Please join us in evaluating these projects for its merits to amateur radio. We will likely have 2 categories as in the past and reward for the winner in each. Alan will tell you more about this in his letter of course. Be sure to read the rest of the Arc Over to bring you all up to date.

7. **Elections:** Yes as is mandated by our Constitution and Bylaws we hold our annual election at our November meeting. It is still not too late for you to support your club with your support and participation at a little different level. Meaning as a Council member of course. So if you think you can contribute at that level please let us know, we would love to hear from you. The floor is as always open for nominations from the floor. You or someone else may put your hat in this. Remember this is your club. Make a difference and join the Council. Let one of the Council members know or announce yourself.

CALENDAR

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

Club Meeting - 3rd Thursday of the month
November 17, 2016 - 7:30 p.m.
Torrance Memorial Med Center
Health Conference Center, Room 3

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

TRW Swap Meet Saturday,
November 26, 2016, 7-11 a.m.

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

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

CLUB SERVICES

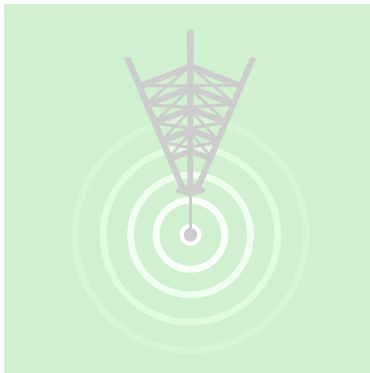
Awards Manager (HF/VHF)	Cliff - K6LH
Health & Welfare	Joe - WB6MYD
Swap Meet Chair	Tom-KI6RC & Chuck-K6CSH
VE Test Liaison	Joe - WB6MYD
VE Test Sessions	Joe - WB6MYD
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South Bay Amateur Radio Club Repeater
224.38 MHz · PL - 192.8 Hz Offset -1.6 MHz
(See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

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION

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