



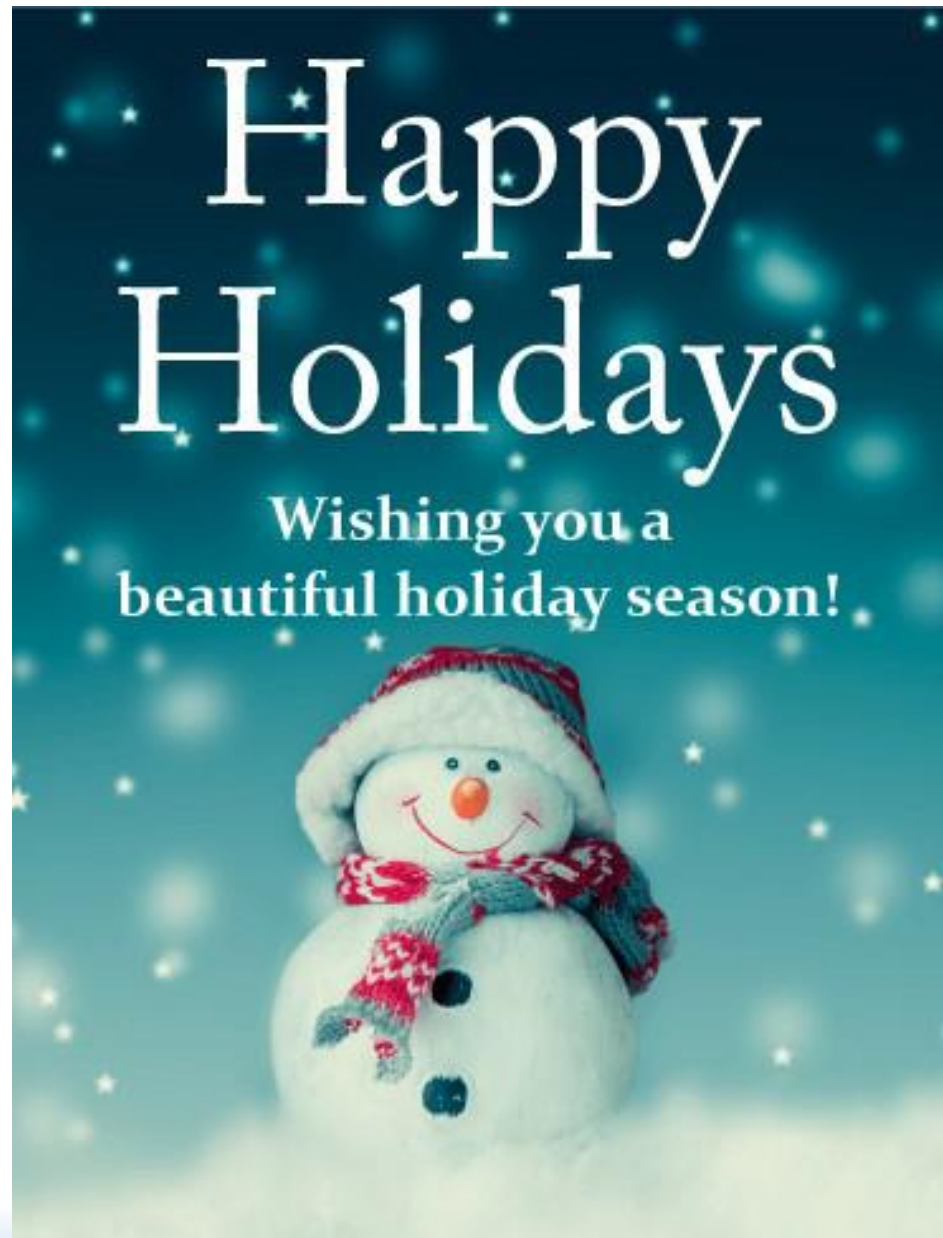
December 2017

ARCOver

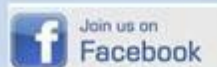
A Community Service Organization Dedicated to Amateur Radio Since 1970

In this issue:

- ◆ President's Message
- ◆ 2017 Club Officers
- ◆ Poinsettias for TMMC
- ◆ Quiz Corner
- ◆ FCC Dismisses Radio Petition
- ◆ Announcing: The ARRL International Grid Chase
- ◆ ARRL Board of Directors
- ◆ AO-91 Commissioned
- ◆ JOTA "Alive and Doing Well"
- ◆ FT8- the Newest Digital Mode
- ◆ Notes From Joe



E-mail: W6SBA@arrl.net



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

This is my last ARCOVER column for the year, having taken over for Alex, KD8LPA in September during his Toyota to Texas and back adventures. I am looking forward to another great year ahead as we welcome Ray, WA6OWM as our incoming president in January. I will resume my prior post as vice president and want to welcome the return of several old and some newer members to the SBARC council.

Chuck, K6CSH and Heidi WKG0GGY will return as activity and information directors, Joe WB6MYD will remain our treasurer and Bill AF7OO will be our new secretary. New council members will be Ed KN6JN and Steve KM6EMF who will be in charge of outreach and special assignments. Paul KK6BY will be taking a breather this year from his council position but will remain quite active as our event and Facebook photographer and with an Arduino project sometime this Spring .

We have had many great activities this year including 2 picnics, a CPR class, a Pixie Buildathon, Field Day, JOTA, Hamcom W1AW/6 station and talk in station, the Sean O'Brian Ultra Race, 6 VE sessions, 12 TRW swap meets, weekly club net sessions on the 220mHz repeater, 22 Hof's Hut Radiophilosophy and Nutrition Sessions, 10 great club speaker and demonstration sessions, a DIY night, an ARISS contact with the ISS, a few radio balloon flights, soon a Holiday Dinner at a real restraint, Hospital poinsettia presentations, great friendships and more.

Ahead we will have a special tour of JPL with emphasis on Ham Radio connections and possible tours of Edward AFB and other Space and Satellite projects, a monthly series of fascinating speakers, more picnics, show-tell-build projects and definitely more near space ballooning

This is your club. Please tell us what you want, bring a new member, pitch in and enjoy the fun. Get on the radio and check out all the new cool stuff and see how fun the old stuff still is.

73

Bruce—KK6BJ

CLUB OFFICERS AS OF AUGUST 2017

President: Bruce Jackson-KK6BJ 4020 The Strand, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 310-502-0071 bjackson@ucla.edu

Vice President:

Secretary/ Treasurer: Joe Lanphen-WB6MYD. 21125 Budlong Ave. Torrance, CA 90502 310-328-0817 jmlanphen@gmail.com

Council: Paul Avery-KK6BY. 15255 Lemoli, Gardena, CA 90249. 310-676-0212 Kk6by@att.net

Council: Chuck Hohn-K6CSH. 17203 Atkinson Ave. Torrance, CA 90504 310-941-5679 chuchohn@gmail.com

Council: Heidi Stromburg-KG0GGY. 20622 Vermont Ave #25, Torrance, CA 90502 310-505-8828 hylieunlike-ly@gmail.com

Immediate Past Pres.: Alex Marko-KD6LPA. 1843 W. 243rd Place, Torrance, CA 90501 310-530-6614 kd6lpa@socal.rr.com and Alan Parks-KG6ZPL. 10746 Francis Pl. #234, LA, CA 90034 310-558-8718 Thermic72@sbcglobal.net



This year's Holiday Party will be held the evening of **21 December at Hoff's Hut** (23635 Crenshaw Blvd, Torrance) at 6:30pm. Hopefully you already turned in your reservation as there are no late ones being accepted.

The club has held its annual Christmas dinner in the Torrance Memorial Medical Center (TMMC) meeting room for the last several years. It consisted of a pot luck dinner and an awards ceremony. At each of these dinners, we all brought a potted poinsettia plant to adorn the tables. When the evening was over, we would leave the plants with the hospital to brighten up the halls and nurses stations for the rest of the holiday season.

This year we are having our dinner in a local restaurant, and there were to be no poinsettias for the hospital. We decided to take up a collection for flowers so we could donate them to the hospital. We had an excellent response to this due to the generosity of our members (you). We collected enough to negotiate an excellent price from the local OSH store. This allowed us to purchase even more flowers - we nearly filled the back of my truck. We ended up with 30 beautiful large (6 inch pot) healthy plants.

Paul (KK6BY) and I picked them up this morning and delivered them to TMMC. When we dropped them off the volunteers were delighted to receive them.

I wish to pass on the very special thanks to all who chipped in on this. This will help brighten a hallway and hopefully put a few smiles on a few faces.

Merry Christmas to all!!!

Thanks again, all.
Chuck, K6CSH



WITH ALAN, KG6ZPL

- 1) There are 30 student's in a science class. At the end of the semester, each boy had completed two notebooks, one half of the girls had completed three notebooks and one half had completed one notebook. How many notebooks were completed in all?
- 2) Lakes are bodies of water not connected, except by rivers, to other lakes or to an ocean. What is the largest lake in the world? In North America? Wholely in the USA?

3) What is blue and goes "Ding Dong"?

4) What is black and white and hides in a cave?

November 2017 Quiz Answers

1) An astronomer wants to carry his 5 foot long telescope on a small airplane but is told that the longest item they can carry is 4 feet long. How does he fix the problem so that he can carry his telescope with him? **He puts it in a 3 x 4 foot box. The diagonal, using the Pythagorean theorem is 5 feet so his telescope just fits.**

2) Write down five four letter palindromes, that is, words which read the same when read forwards or backwards. **Deed, noon, peep, sees, toot. There are others.**

3) What is purple and 5000 miles long? **The grape wall of China.**

4) What is black and white and red all over? **A sunburned zebra.**

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



www.shutterstock.com - 23911

FCC Dismisses Radio Amateur's Petition to Revise Call Sign Rules

The FCC has dismissed a rule-making petition filed last May by Thomas J. Alessi, K1TA, of Stamford, Connecticut, that sought to amend the Part 97 rules regarding Amateur Radio Service call signs. The Commission action came in a November 28 letter from Scot Stone, Deputy Chief of the FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Mobility Division. Alessi had asked the FCC to make call signs consisting of one letter, followed by two digits, followed by one letter (1 × × 1 format) available to Amateur Extra-class licensees. Alessi asserted that the number of Amateur Extra-class licensees who desire short call signs exceeds the available supply of 1 × 2 and 2 × 1 call signs, and that his plan would make available an additional 7,800 four-character call signs.

"Approximately fifteen million call signs are presently available in the sequential call sign system, but it does not include every amateur call sign that has been allocated to the United States," Stone wrote in denying Alessi's petition. He also pointed out that the FCC had rejected a similar suggestion in 2010 that would have made certain additional call signs, including 1 × × 1 call signs, available to Amateur Extra-class licensees, but concluded at the time that enough call signs were already available for every Amateur Radio licensee to obtain an acceptable call sign. In addition, the FCC said in 2010 that it had no plans to revisit the issue.

"You have not demonstrated any changed circumstances or other reason that would warrant revisiting this decision," Stone's letter concluded. ARRL Letter 11/30/2017



Announcing: The ARRL International Grid Chase

A new and exciting operating event will kick off on January 1, 2018, at 0000 UTC (New Year's Eve in US time zones), when the ARRL International Grid Chase gets underway. The year-long event hopes to build on the success of the highly successful 2016 National Parks on the Air (NPOTA). The objective is to work stations on any band (except 60 meters) in as many different Maidenhead grid squares as possible, and then upload your log data to ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW). Registration in LoTW is free, and it costs nothing to participate



Many hams are familiar with grid squares from the VHF/UHF and satellite realms, and everyone lives in one. ARRL's VUCC is based on grid squares, and some contests on HF, VHF, and UHF also use them as a scoring factor. The Maidenhead grid square system divvies up the entire globe into 324 fields, each containing 100 grid squares 1° latitude × 2° longitude in size. With 32,400 potential grid squares, it's not likely that anyone will run out of challenges, even though some grid squares are surrounded entirely by water or are in areas that are uninhabited or difficult to access.

If you don't know your grid square, David Levine, K2DSL, has an online calculator. Just enter a postal address, ZIP code, or even a call sign, and his site will tell you the grid square for that location. For example, enter "W1AW" and the site will return "FN31pr." For the purposes of the ARRL International Grid Chase, though, just the two initial letters and the two numbers that follow (e.g., FN31) are all you'll need to know. Once you get active in the chase and start uploading your log data, each new grid square contact confirmed through LoTW will count toward your monthly total. Getting started is simple. Turn on the radio and just call CQ or "CQ Grid Chase" or listen for others doing the same. Make a contact, exchange grid squares, log it, and move on to another. At the end of each month, your totals on the Grid Chase leader board will reset to zero, although the system retains these to determine top finishers in various categories at the end of the year.

ARRL Board of Directors Publicly Censures Southwestern Division Director

Acting on a recommendation of its Ethics and Elections Committee, the ARRL Board of Directors has publicly censured one of its own -- ARRL Southwestern Director Dick Norton, N6AA. On an 11-3 vote, with one member abstaining, the Board adopted a resolution to censure Norton for criticizing the ARRL Code of Conduct for Board members at an Amateur Radio gathering "by virtue of his characterizations thereof, thus criticizing publicly the collective action of the Board of Directors adopting said Code of Conduct and drawing the Board's collective decision making into disrepute." The Board admonished Norton that no further similar behavior would be tolerated. The resolution cited "multiple portions of the Code of Conduct" that Norton was found to have violated. The Board's action related to a complaint filed with the Ethics and Elections Committee by an ARRL member. The Board met in special session by teleconference on November 14 to consider the matter.



According to the resolution, fellow Board members had cautioned Norton that "his actions and his manner" in criticizing the Code of Conduct for Board members were "not acceptable and cannot continue, with no notable change in his behavior since that time."

Norton had been provided with a copy of the Ethics and Elections Committee resolution, dated September 7, 2017, and responded to it in writing, accompanied by statements of four ARRL members who supported his response.

The Board found that Norton's violation of the ARRL Code of Conduct had "caused harm to the League" and provided sufficient cause to publicly censure Norton for "unacceptable behavior as an ARRL Board member." ARRL Letter, 11/30/2017

AO-91 Commissioned, Declared Open for Amateur Use!

AMSAT-NA's latest Amateur Radio CubeSat, RadFxSat (Fox-1B), now known as AO-91, has been opened for general use. AMSAT Engineering officially announced that AO-91 was ready for use at 0650 UTC on Thanksgiving Day, November 23. AMSAT VP of Engineering, Jerry Buxton, N0JY, turned over operation to Mark Hammond, N8MH, and AMSAT Operations during a contact on the AO-91 repeater during the pass over the Eastern US, AMSAT said in a bulletin.



The latest CubeSat in the Fox series was launched on November 18 from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. Telemetry is downlinked via the DUV sub-audible telemetry stream, which can be decoded using FoxTelemsoftware.

A 1U CubeSat, RadFxSat (Fox-1B) is a joint mission of AMSAT and the Institute for Space and Defense Electronics (ISDE) at Vanderbilt University. AMSAT constructed the rest of the satellite, including the spaceframe, on-board computer, and power system. The Amateur Radio package is similar to that currently on orbit on AO-85, with an uplink on 435.250 MHz (67.0 Hz CTCSS) and a downlink on 145.960 MHz. -- Thanks to AMSAT News Service. ARRL Letter dated 11/23/17



JOTA "Alive and Doing Well," Although 2017 Participation Down from Last Year

Nearly 8,000 Scouts got on the air for the 60th Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) over the third weekend in October, National JOTA Coordinator Jim Wilson, K5ND, said. This week, Wilson released the 2017 JOTA report, which declared, "Radio Scouting and Jamboree on the Air are alive and doing well." Facilitating the October JOTA activity were more than 900 radio amateurs at 525 stations.



"Propagation wasn't our friend, but, even so, [radio amateurs in] almost 90 countries and all 50 states engaged in conversations with Scouts during the weekend," Wilson said. "In addition to HF, VHF, and UHF, many Amateur Radio digital modes were in use, as well as online Jamboree on the Internet channels." The tally for JOTA 2017 was 7,872 Scouts on the air, which, Wilson pointed out, was down from the 10,761 who took part in JOTA 2016, but more in line with 2015's participation. Reports were filed by 226 JOTA locations.

"The Boy Scouts of America National Radio Scouting Committee will be exploring several improvement projects for 2018," Wilson said. These would include establishing a JOTA Frequency Task Force to explore updated frequency listing and operating recommendations, looking into new ways to alert participants in real time about other JOTA stations that are on the air. ARRL Letter, 11/30/201



FT8-the Newest Digital Mode

There is a new kid on the block of digital modes called FT8, named after Steven Franke, K9AN and Joe Taylor and stands for Franke-Taylor 8-FSK and is one of the several new digital modes.

This mode is much faster than its earlier cousins JT65 and JT9 K1JT. It uses only 15 second transmissions and like all JT modes requires a very accurate clock to work well. Tom KI6RC and I became interested in some of the newer JT modes to optimize our plans to setup a relatively portable and nimble EME station, which we are still putting together with various pieces which we are borrowing from other club members when we came upon this mode.

We have had QSOs with several club members and it works very well when the band is very quiet and apparently dead in other modes. The future of this and similar modes during the current and continuing lull in sunspot activity is obvious. I use about 15 watts into my roof vertical and am blessed with being about 300 feet from the Pacific Ocean. I have had contacts with South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago as well as 34 JA stations over two evenings.

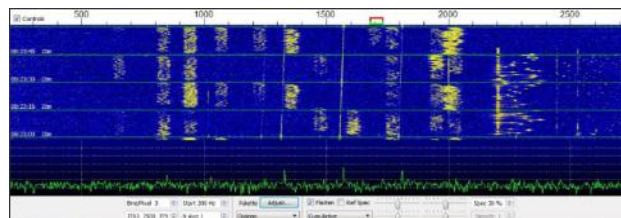
FT8, like all of its WSJ-X cousins allows uploading of spots to PSK Reporter and thus can be used like WSPR, another Joe Taylor invention to check out station, antenna and transmission data.

This mode allows decoding of signals down to and occasionally below -22dB and is not quite as robust as JT9 and JT65 and possible PSK31, Olivia or other modes in this aspect, but is much better than CW, SSB for pulling out very faint signals and very fast and fully automated with auto-sequencing and auto-reply (for better or worse)

There is an excellent two part series on all of the JT modes in the October and November QST.

Setup requires an interface-I use Signalink for this and Dimension 4 for clock accuracy. Google WSJT-X, install the latest 1.8.0 software and you will be up and going in no time. There is an more than 100 page clearly written support document if you require and additional information or are and insomnia sufferer

See you on the waterfall— 73 Bruce, KK6BJ





**News
From**

Joe

1. **Attendance drawing:** Bill-AF7OO was the lucky member to be present and have his name drawn. He was given the \$25.00 kitty to help him celebrate the holidays. Congratulations Bill and enjoy. No Attendance drawing during our Dec meeting. The next drawing will be in January 2018 and start off with the \$ 20.00 starting point.

2. **DIY project:** You may have seen the earlier email from me regarding the DIY project which was quite successful. 2 winners were chosen- Tom-KB9ENS was the lucky winner for his loop antenna project which he has been using quite successfully during little field trips or outing if you will. Congratulations Tom. The next winner was Tom-KI6RC for show and tell of the next balloon project with beacons and camera's hoping to launch soon. This time they hope to achieve a low orbit to circumnavigate the world. This is quite tricky if you can imagine because they have to look for the right atmospheric winds up above to accomplish that. We wish both Tom-KI6RC & Bruce-KK6BJ all the luck in the world. Please keep us updated when and where the launch will be. Congratulations Tom. Alan-KG6ZPL also showed a 30m cw transceiver which he had built from kit form. This was a working unit. The other project he had completed was an Halicrafter 80-10m transceiver. Great work Alan. Paul-KK6BY showed a hand held spectrum analyzer which was rather interesting to see. However, it had only a small screen which limited band width. Bruce-KK6BJ presented several small projects which he had built and showed us those. Thank you for taking the time to share this with us.

3. **Elections:** The following were elected for our 2018 SBARC year. **President**-Ray-WA6OWM. **Vice President**-Bruce-KK6BJ. **Secretary**-Bill-AF7OO, **Treasurer**-Joe-WB6MYD. **Council members:** Chuck-K6CSH. Heidi-KG0GGY. Ed-KN6JN. Steve-KM6EMF. We thank all of you for stepping up to plate and wish you a good year and maybe more. Two points of interest 1. The Secretary and Treasurer were split since the Secretary work load had become too much for one person being both. We wish Bill-AF7OO the best of luck in his new position next year. I will help him as much as I can and hope all of you will support him in this new position. 2. I myself will handle the financial business of the club for at least the next year. I do hope to continue since having some medical issues and will hopefully continue to support the club as well. We also want to thank Paul-KK6BY for all his

hard work these past years. We've always enjoyed his projects with arduino for applications in our use in our radio shack and more. He has promised to stick around as well and will help all he can including showing his projects. Thanks Paul it's been a pleasure. We thank all those other officers having served in the past. Some only 1 year but others many years. We thank them all for their guidance those past year's, remember this club is as successful as its leaders and we've done well. One thing needing mention of course is that Alex-KD6LPA while having to quit due to work related issue of being relocated to Texas. Unfortunately has failed to let us know how he is doing (or at least me). We do thank him for his time from Jan to Sep. 2017 as President.

4. **Holiday party:** We have chosen to do things a little differently this year. Our Holiday party will be at Hoff's Hut December 21st, starting at 6:30 PM. At last count 49 of us will join us that evening for dinner. The cost is being shared by those attending by \$ 10.00/member with the club paying another \$ 10.00/person plus the tax and gratuity. This is the same location as we usually have our luncheons. Hoff's Hut is located at the corner of Crenshaw Blvd and 237th Street. If you need directions let us know. 4 different dishes are being served for this price which is why we had to provide a dead line which has now passed. During that evening we will install the newly elected officers, have some recognitions including new members certificates and of course some drawings. You may have also seen and heard that those of us attending this dinner have provided enough money to purchase 30 poinsettias which have been delivered to the TMMC Volunteer staff as in the past. We thank Paull-KK6BY and Chuck-K6CSH for taking care of this. We will miss the special dishes enjoyed in the past but since this is thought to be a nice solution to avoid everyone being overloaded so close to Christmas.

5. **Merry Christmas and a Happy blessed New Year:** It's been my pleasure and honor to have done this for as many years as I can remember. I want to wish you and yours a very Merry and Happy Christmas and all the very best for 2018. We are all members of this relatively small family of Amateur Radio operators. The South Bay ARC has always been honored to have you as a member of this family. We enjoy your company and look forward to your participation in the many things we do. Your contributions have made us what we are. We look forward to your continued support. Please allow me to express myself this way. I wish you all the very best. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Joe-WB6MYD

CALENDAR

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

Club Meeting - 3rd Thursday of the month
December 21, 2017- 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,
December 30, 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

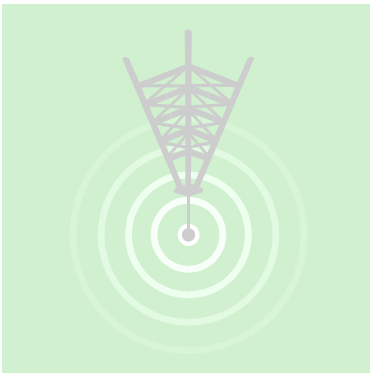
Awards Manager (HF/VHF)	Cliff - K6LH
Health & Welfare	Joe - WB6MYD
Swap Meet Chair	Tom-KI6RC, Chuck-K6CSH., Bill-KQ6Z
VE Test Liaison	Betty Barch-N6VZF
VE Test Sessions	Betty Barch-N6VZF
Webmaster	Heidi Stromburg - KJ6TLM
Editor	Glenda - KF6QFE Glenda.simpson@hotmail.com
Proofreader	Alex - KD6LPA

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

South Bay Amateur Radio Club
Post Office Box 536
Torrance, CA 90508-0536

