



January 2019

ARCOver

A Community Service Organization Dedicated to Amateur Radio Since 1970

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*Wishing everyone a happy, healthy,
and prosperous new year!*

E-mail: W6SBA@arrl.net



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

New President: At the meeting on January 3rd meeting the new Council asked to appoint Scott-N6LEM as President. Motion to approved pending Scott becoming a member of the ARRL. Paperwork was provided and Secretary will process ASAP. In case you don't know who he is, Scott was president for 4 years 1982-1985. He is also the husband to Glenda-KF6QFE and joined the group in 1978 (he was still in high school). Congratulations Scott and thank you for stepping up.—Joe, WB6MYD

President's Message

Welcome to a new year of hamming it up! A few words about me. I started becoming interested in amateur radio in 1976, or maybe before. I had a neighbor around the corner, Wayne Fitzer N6WF. He was always in the garage doing some electronics project; or at least melting allot of solder. I had my experience with some CB gear and the noise on that band. Wayne introduced me to some VHF radio 2 Meter communications. It was very clear and I was impressed.

After that, my quest for getting my own gear and license was put into action. I obtained the ARRL license manual which was text covering the rules and theory. I didn't make real progress until Wayne agreed to teach a Novice class at Carson High School in 1977. During that time I joined the Carson Amateur Radio Club, which later turned into the South Bay Amateur Radio Club. A few months later I passed the technician test. In that day you had to go to the FCC office, which was at the Long Beach office for me. It was a little inconvenient and it felt like a lot more pressure to pass. Years later, I finally made it to Extra class, post code era. Much of my interest has been in VHF/UHF radios, repeaters, and related circuit design. I have a goal of putting up a low band vertical antenna at my home. I just need to find the time. At present I have a 10 meter dipole strung diagonally across the inside of my garage. Given the optimal conditions, I've been successful in reaching folks all the way in Tennessee.

Have you ever seen the movie groundhog day? Well, ham clubs can be kind of similar. I am going to try to introduce a few new ideas here and there. But, I would like the membership to tell us what you would like to hear about, technical topics, regulatory policies, converting commercial radios, related RF topics, and even public safety radio systems, how they work P25 digital or analog. We'll do our best to find the speakers that know the topics of interest. Remember it's your club, tell us what you want hear about.

I think the club has been on the right track offering the small projects. I hope to see more of those. It should be a goal to promote technical growth when possible. We don't want to be known as the "South Bay appliance operators" club.

Till next month,

Scott
N6LEM

< 2019 CLUB OFFICERS >

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ARRL Petitions FCC to Incorporate Parity Act Provisions into its Amateur Radio Rules

ARRL Letter, 12/20/2019

The ARRL has filed a Petition for Rulemaking (PRM) asking the FCC to amend its Part 97 Amateur Service rules to incorporate the provisions of the Amateur Radio Parity Act. The Petition has not yet been assigned a rule making (RM) number and is not yet open for public comment. In the past, the FCC has said that it would not take such action without guidance from the US Congress, but, as ARRL's Petition notes, Congress "has overwhelmingly and consistently" offered bipartisan support for the Amateur Radio Parity Act.



"Private land use regulations which either prohibit or which do not accommodate the installation and maintenance of an effective outdoor antenna in residences of Amateur Service licensees are unquestionably the most significant and damaging impediments to Amateur Radio Service communications that exist now," ARRL said in its Petition. "They are already precluding opportunities for young people to become active in the avocation and to conduct technical self-training and participate in STEM [science, technology, engineering, and mathematics] learning activities inherent in an active, experiential learning environment. Without the relief in this Petition, the future of Amateur Radio is bleak indeed." The proposed amendments would have no effect on the FCC's limited preemption policy in §97.15(b), which pertains to state and municipal governing bodies, ARRL said.

Specifically, ARRL is proposing that the FCC amend Part 97 by adding a new subsection under §97.15 that prohibits and ceases the enforcement of "any private land use restriction, including restrictive covenants and regulations imposed by a community association," that either fails to permit a licensee to install and maintain an effective outdoor antenna capable of operation on all Amateur Radio frequency bands; on property under the exclusive use or control of the licensee; precludes or fails to permit Amateur Service communications, or which does not constitute the minimum practicable restriction on such communications to accomplish the lawful purposes specifically articulated in the declaration of covenants of a community association seeking to enforce such restriction. ARRL's
(Continued on page 4, column 1)



CORNER

WITH ALAN, KG6ZPL

- 1) You are given 10 bags each containing 100 coins. One of the bags contains gold coins, the others are all counterfeit. A real coin weighs 1.1 ounce while a counterfeit coin weighs exactly 1.0 ounces. You are given a scale accurate to .1 ounce. In one weighing, find the bag containing the real gold coins.
- 2) Find the sum $1+2+3+ \dots +99+100$ (the sum of the first 100 integers) in less than three minutes without using a calculator or computer.
- 3) What can you stick between a 3 and a 4 so that the result is more than three but less than four?
- 4) You can find me in the Earth, Mercury, Mars, Saturn, and Jupiter but not in Venus and Neptune. What am I?

December 2018 Quiz Answers

- 1) Ray has three cubes made of modeling clay and having sides of 3, 4, and 5 inches respectively. He smooshes (a technical term) them together and makes one big cube of the resulting mess. How long are its sides? **6 inches = cuberoot ((3 x 3 x 3) + (4 x 4 x 4) + (5 x 5 x 5))**
- 2) A toy boat floats in a bathtub full of water. The boat contains a rock. A child removes the rock and drops it into the water where it sinks to the bottom. Is the water level in the tub now higher, lower, or the same as it was before the rock was removed and dropped into the water? **In the beginning the rock caused the water level to rise by an amount that exactly compensates for the weight of the rock. In the end the water level rises to compensate for the volume of the rock. The rock is heavier than water, so its weight displaces more water than its volume. The water level is lower after throwing the rock overboard.**
- 3) What ends everything always? **The alphabet 'g'!**
- 4) It is an insect, and the first part of its name is the name of another insect. What is it? **Beetle.**

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

proposed rule would not affect any existing antenna approved or installed before the effective date of a Report and Order resulting from ARRL's petition.

The proposed provisions reflect the accommodation reached in the ultimate version of the Parity Act bill at the urging of federal lawmakers between ARRL and the Community Associations Institute (CAI), the only organization representing homeowners' associations. "That legislation was passed unanimously by the House of Representatives four separate times and has the support of the Senate Commerce Committee and the current Administration," ARRL stressed.

"Private land use regulations are not 'contracts' in the sense that there is any meeting of the minds between the buyer and seller of land," ARRL said. "Rather, they are simply restrictions on the use of owned land, imposed by the developer of a subdivision... They bind all lots in the subdivision." ARRL noted in its Petition that an increasing number of homes available for purchase today are already subject to restrictive covenants prohibiting outdoor antennas. In addition, ARRL pointed out that the Telecommunications Act of 1996 gives the FCC jurisdiction "to preempt private land use regulations that conflict with federal policy..."

"It is now time for actual and functional parity in the Commission's regulations in order to protect the strong federal interest in Amateur Radio communications," ARRL said.



Unpacking, Installation on Space Station

New Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) packet equipment awaits unpacking and installation on board the station after arriving in November as part of the cargo transported via a Russian 71P Progress resupply vehicle. The new



packet module for NA1SS will replace the current packet gear, which has been intermittent over the past year.

"With the arrival of Progresscomplete, the crew has to find free time to unpack Progress, uninstall the intermittent module, and then set up and test the replacement packet module," explained Dan Barstow, KA1ARD, senior education manager of the ISS National Laboratory (CASIS), an ARISS sponsor.

The ISS packet system was reported to have gone down in July 2017, although it unexpectedly came back to life the following summer. At the time of the failure, NASA ISS Ham Radio Project Engineer Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO, said the revived system would fill the gap until the replacement packet module arrived. The packet system operates on 145.825 MHz. ARISS hardware team members on the ground were able to locate a functional duplicate of the ISS packet module that has been in use on the ISS for 17 years. ARISS said the subsequent installation will depend on the crew's busy schedule.

In an email to ARISS and other groups CASIS supports, Barstow pointed out that ARISS is an official backup system for astronauts to talk with Mission Control in the unlikely failure of the station's primary communication systems.

Bartow said that in 2017, hams relayed nearly 89,000 packet messages via the ISS -- an average of 243 every day. The statistic so intrigued and amazed Barstow that he decided to get his Amateur Radio license and gear to join in the activity. ARRL Letter, 12/20/2018



JANUARY Meeting

Bruce Jackson KK6BJ

January 17th @ 7:30pm

Robert MacHale, KE6BLR will be our January presenter. He is a software engineer with Cirrus Insight, and an amateur radio operator since the 1990s. He is interested in satellite communication with APRS and been involved with Boy Scouts as a merit badge counselor for radio and space exploration, thru the Space Communicator Club. He has a fascinating, detailed and complete website available through his call sign at QRZ.

I was privileged to attend his presentation at the annual DX convention in Visalia this last April. He demonstrated his robotic tracker during a convenient pass of a satellite transmitting packet data and became enchanted with his projects.



Two Free Amateur Radio Courses

FCC "**Technician**" course (entry level)
FCC "**General**" course (2nd level)

Each course is 2 sessions

The sessions will be on 2 and 9 February 2019

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

General 1:45 PM to 5:00 PM both Saturdays

The FCC tests will be 10:00 AM to noon on 16 February 2019

At the start of the 2 February Technician course, the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club will give a 30 minute presentation on how to get further involved with amateur radio.

The class location is at Fred Hesse Community Park,
29301 Hawthorne Blvd., Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

Confirm your attendance to Walt, K1DFO at waltordway@juno.com

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

Paper copy of Walt's Power Point charts,
\$22 for the Technician and \$18 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.

Everyone who obtains their first ham radio license through a PVARC VE test session, regardless of age, will receive a free membership in the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club for the remainder of the current calendar year.

First FT8 Roundup is a Huge Hit

The first FT8 Roundup over the December 1 - 2 weekend attracted some 1,300 logs from those taking advantage of the ever-more-popular digital protocol. This, despite its having been announced on fairly short notice and with other events such as the ARRL 160-Meter Contest on the same weekend. More than 400 of the logs were from US radio amateurs in the 48 contiguous states, plus the District of Columbia. Overall, some 131,200 contacts were recorded. Participants from 91 countries submitted logs, testifying to the fact that FT8 is not just a US phenomenon.



"The FT8 Roundup was the last shakedown for the WSJT-X 2.0-rc5 beta software," said well-known RTTY contesting enthusiast and expert Don Hill, AA5AU, an FT8 cosponsor with Ed Muns, W0YK. "It performed with no major complications." The general availability release of WSJT-X 2.0 is now out, and it's not backward compatible with WSJT-X 1.9 or earlier versions. Developer Joe Taylor, K1JT, has urged users to upgrade by January 1 to what now is the new world standard. Muns, who's NCJ "Digital Contesting" contributing editor, said FT8 Roundup participation compared favorably with that for the ARRL RTTY Roundup, which has averaged around 1,700 logs in recent years.

Announcing Trivia Night!!!

On February 7, we will use the weekly net to hold a Trivia contest on the club repeater. Net control will pose questions, and it will be up to the listeners to chime in with the right answers. We will take roll call at the beginning of the net and explain the rules of the game at that time. Hope you can make it!!!



Alex
KD6LPA

"Don and I expected the contest to be popular," Muns said, "but the participation far exceeded our expectations. I think it bodes well for future FT8 contesting. Don and I are pretty bullish about continuing the FT8 Roundup on the first full weekend of December each year." Nonetheless, Muns said he doesn't see FT8 to "really take off" and displace RTTY until the contact rate can be significantly increased through parallel QSO techniques.

Hill agreed on the event's popularity. "I have to say it was a huge success," he said. "Ed and I never dreamed it would be this popular. It didn't make sense to continue the Ten-Meter RTTY Contest during this part of the sunspot cycle. Replacing it with an all-FT8 HF contest was the logical choice." Hill and Muns have cosponsored the Ten-Meter RTTY Contest. ARRL Letter, 12/13/2018

Hill said final results of the inaugural FT8 Roundup should be out in a few days. "After the New Year, we hope to have downloadable online certificates available to all participants. We will definitely do it again next year," he said. The 2019 ARRL RTTY Roundup will permit the use of FT8. ARRL Letter, 12/13/2018



Don Hill, AA5AU, and second op Sophie (SK).

Fox-1Cliff/AO-95 Suffers Apparent Receiver Failure

The receiver on the newly launched Fox-1Cliff/AO-95 CubeSat seems to have suffered a receiver failure that could render the satellite unusable, AMSAT said over the weekend. Efforts continue by AMSAT Engineering to establish the cause of the problem and determine if a fix is possible. AMSAT Vice President-Engineering Jerry Buxton, N0JY, reported over the weekend that the issue cropped up during efforts to commission Fox-1Cliff/AO-95.



AMSAT Fox-1Cliff

"After a few days of tests, analysis, and discussion, it appears that Fox-1Cliff/AO-95 will not be commissioned as our fourth Fox-1 Amateur Radio satellite," Buxton said. Commissioning began on December 4, right after the CubeSat's successful launch a day earlier.

"AMSAT Engineering will continue to evaluate and test Fox-1Cliff/AO-95 for solutions to the anomaly, and your continued help in providing telemetry is appreciated so that we can have data throughout her daily orbits, rather than limited data over our US stations," Buxton said. "The data, analysis, and testing could lead to a positive solution, but at the very least will be important to AMSAT's satellite programs in providing information that would help us and others avoid similar situations with future missions."

In a post to AMSAT-BB, Buxton mentioned one suggestion of employing a high-power station to see if AO-95 could hear its signal, but he added that AMSAT Engineering would not be offering a blow-by-blow narrative of its efforts to restore the satellite to operating condition, "unless it is something of merit or actionable."

Buxton noted that AMSAT's resources are limited, and all involved are volunteers. "Most -- if not all -- of our remaining Fox-1 engineers are also involved in the GOLF-TEE project, so I have asked them to give that first priority with their available volunteer time in order to keep the schedule," Buxton said. "AO-95 is in orbit now, and we can vary the amount of attention on her as resources allow in order to achieve both goals. If the results of our investigation point to a possibility of recovery, be it partial, full, or some workaround method, we would all like to see her working as much as the rest of you, and that is a driver for this investigation."

Buxton said he anticipates that AMSAT Engineering

FCC Tells LED Sign Marketers to Abide by Statutes and Rules

The FCC Enforcement Bureau has called on marketers of light-emitting diode (LED) signs to ensure that these lights comply with FCC rules. Since March of this year, the agency has entered into 21 settlement agreements with companies that marketed noncompliant LED signs in violation of the Communications Act and FCC rules. The settlements yielded approximately \$850,000 in penalties, and commitments to ensure compliance with the law going forward. Adherence to the FCC's equipment authorization and marketing rules is critical because radio frequency emissions from the signs may cause harmful interference to licensed communications, such as wireless services, the FCC said.



"In light of these recent settlements, we remind LED sign marketers of their obligations under the law," said Enforcement Bureau Chief Rosemary Harold. "The FCC takes seriously its responsibility in ensuring that energy-emitting devices like LED lights do not interfere with authorized transmissions."

LED lights are often used in digital billboards and other commercial and industrial applications, including billboards and large video displays in sports arenas. Given the electrical design of these lights, they may emit RF energy. Prior to being marketed in the US, LED sign models must be tested and comply with FCC technical standards and must include the proper labeling, identification, and user information disclosures. The FCC Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) oversees the equipment authorization process for RF devices, including LED signs.

The Enforcement Bureau investigated hundreds of indoor and outdoor LED sign models and discovered repeated FCC rule violations concerning the failure to market the models with the required equipment authorizations, labeling, and user information disclosures. ARRL Letter, 12/6/2018

will continue to seek the cause of the apparent receiver failure, "until we have results or reach a dead end, because of the inability to take the lid off and look inside AO-95."

"I will certainly be keeping everyone posted when we have something new to report," Buxton said. ARRL Letter, 12/13/2018



AMSAT Vice President-Engineering Jerry Buxton, N0JY, with a model of the Fox-1D CubeSat.

Secretary's Notes — Joe, WB6MYD

Holiday party: Attended by 47 members including guests. Plenty of food, drinks and all kinds of goodies for everyone. Thank you all for making this such a great event The evening presentation: Ray presented certificates to 3 of our 10 new members for 2018. The installation of officers took place next. Pres position-vacant; Vice Pres Tom-KB9ENS, Sec/Tress Joe-WB6MYD; Council members: Paul-KK6BY, Chuck-K6CSH, Mark -KM6HQG. REay-WA6OWM will take the past Pres position. Next the award was handed out to Glenda for her great work with the monthly Arc Over which was followed by the drawing of the 3 door prizes for the following: 1st prize to Chuck-KN6H, 2nd to Anita-XYL to Paul and 3rd to Cary-WD9DUI. The donated MFJ 40m CW receiver kit by Jerry-KI6RRD auction was held by Ray with the winning bid from Alan-KG6ZPL. Thank you Jerry for your donation. Poinsettias were loaded on 2 little carts for delivery to the Volunteer Office done by Craig-WD6AKX and his wife, thank you. Yes indeed this was a great evening with all the food, Ham prepared by Betty-N6VZF, Turkey ordered by Alex-KD6LPA and all drinks and utensils by Ed-KN6JN made for the great evening this was. All the arrangements had been made by Joe-WB6MYD for the lovely set up and scheduling. We thank all those making this possible for all of us to enjoy. 2 members were unable to join us and missed therefore-Bruce-KK6BJ our past Vice President was unable to join us and Glenda-KF6QFE had come down with a cold, hubby accepted the award for her. Thank you one and all!

Dues are due: Yes, it is that time again folks, dues are due. Dues are as usual \$ 20.00. Family membership is \$ 30.00 for 3 or more at the same address. Now seniors your dues are \$ 15.00 for 2019. To get that you must show up at a meeting and pay your renewal dues. If mailing in your dues which you can due you must give your birth year and the Membership renewal form. Thank you so much.

Rebate: Remember the building of the Field Strength meter kit last year. If you paid \$15.00 for the kit and successfully made it work ,which most or all of us did, we now have your rebate for you. We would like to apply this to your 2019 dues of course. So all you need to do is check with Joe and see if you're eligible for the rebate. Pay your \$5 at a meeting when Joe is present or check with him and he'll let you know whether you can use this rebate. Joe has the list.

Membership renewal: I'll be emailing everyone a short membership renewal form. We have not done this in a long time. Please help us out and provide the requested information. It will help us to gain a better picture what members we really do have and what you're interested in getting out of this club. We have new officers in the Council needing to be updated and the information you provide will be very helpful. Please fill out the form and include with your check to SBARC PO Box 536, Torrance, CA 90508. Checks must made payable to SBARC.

Equipment for use: We have equipment for you to borrow from the club. We have 3 HF transceivers and hope to add some VHF/UHF transceivers as well. All that you need to operate one of those is also available of course. Coax in varying length, pushup, antennas and power supply. You can really get on the air if you want to of course. You do have to sign a small form so we can keep track of it of course and it is as simple as that. You want to know what is available; 2 each Yaesu FT 450D all mode incl 6m. 1 ea Yaesu FT 991A all mode incl VHF and digital modes. Comet analyzer, MFJ analyzer, 2 ea Vert antenna's, switching power supplies and all the coax you would need. So let us help you. Make arrangements with Joe-WB6MYD and you're on your way.

Free membership: If you take the FCC license test with us (every 2nd Saturday of even month's) and successfully get a license (no upgrades) and live in our immediate area we will give you a free membership for a year. It is as simple as that. So get your friends or family members to take their test at our VE session and they will become an SBASRC member for FREE. Please keep this in mind and spread the word.

Looking for a few good members: If you have an expertise in publicity means and would like to help us out please let us know. Also, if you are familiar with setting up or maintaining websites even better. Steve our webmaster is busy enough and I might be in need of your help. We are really looking for a few good members so if you see something which would be a possible use of your expertise, let us know.

Repeater support: Parts on the repeater might need some replacement/repair. The budget for repeater repair is only a couple of hundred dollars. We used to get money from the Autopatch membership, however, with cell phones, use is limited. The W6SBA repeater serves a good purpose for our amateur radio community, so help us out and donate to repeater fund. Any amount will be appreciated.

CALENDAR

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

Club Meeting - 3rd Thursday of the month
January 17, 2019 - 7:30 p.m.
Room 1 in the Richard Hoffman
Educational Center at Torrance
Memorial Medical Center

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,
January 26, 2019, 7-11 a.m.

VE Session - Contact: Joe WB6MYD
Phone: (310) 328-0817
wb6myd@gmail.com
(All VE sessions are scheduled for Room 4 in the Health
Conference Center for 2018)

Social Event - Contact: Joe WB6MYD
Phone: (310) 328-0817
wb6myd@gmail.com

CLUB SERVICES

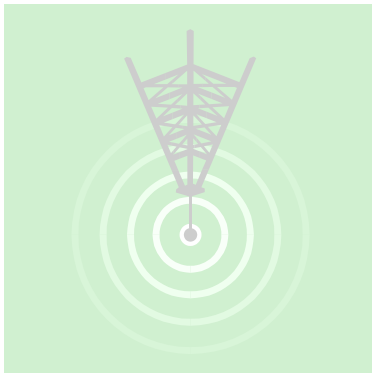
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South Bay Amateur Radio Club Repeater
224.38 MHz · PL - 192.8 Hz Offset -1.6 MHz
(See Calendar for Weekly Net Times)

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION

South Bay Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 536
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W6SBA@arrl.net
Website: <http://www.w6sba.org>

TO:



Address Correction Requested

A COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION

W6SBA

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