



May 2020

# ARCOver

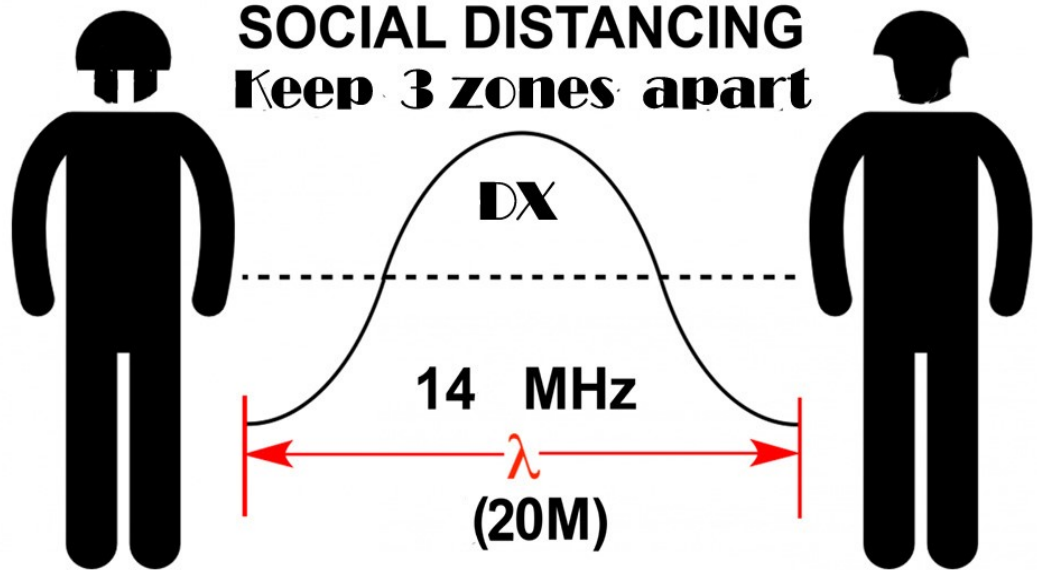
A Community Service Organization Dedicated to Amateur Radio Since 1970

## In this issue:

- ◆ President's Message
- ◆ Meeting Info
- ◆ Membership Renewal
- ◆ Word from VP
- ◆ 2020 Club Officers
- ◆ Club Constitutional Amendment
- ◆ FCC Providing Flexibility
- ◆ Radio Amateur Finds
- ◆ Kenwood SP-430
- ◆ Field Day 2020

Amateur radio enthusiast guide to

**SOCIAL DISTANCING**  
**Keep 3 zones apart**



## **Social Distancing the Amateur Radio Way!**



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



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

## President's Message

SBARC members,

Are we all ready to get back to normal? May not happen for some time. At least we have the option of retreating to the amateur radio hobby by checking in with our extended radio family. And, the SBARC members have been doing just that. So whether you can get on the air or do a related radio project now is a good time to do them.

Nothing new to report on any club gathering plans since we have no place to go. The council is keeping an eye on when things may change. For now its wait and see.

We have moved to Zoom for the club online meeting delivery method. April was the first use of Zoom for a general club meeting. I think we now have a handle on successfully delivering club meeting content on the Zoom system. You will need to install the Zoom program on your PC. The process is: The club will send out a meeting invite that contains a meeting ID number and password. Enter each where indicated on the Zoom program. The meeting host will then invite you into the meeting. I am hoping we only need a short run of Zoom meetings.

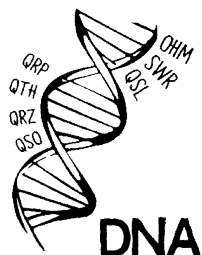
The council is still looking to identify topics/presenters that are presentable in the on line format. If you have something you would like to present in this format, please let us know. As we may be out of our TMMC meeting location for some time to come.

Upcoming monthly club activities should include, the club meeting on the 21th but will now likely be on line, and at this time the TRW/NGC swap meet on Saturday May 30th is cancelled. After the swap meet a few of us headed over to Denney's and this has been cancelled until after the lockdown. Then we may be able to head back over to the Denny's at 3060 Sepulveda Blvd in Torrance.

Stay healthy, stay in touch, and see you at the next SBARC meet up in May!

73's...  
Scott-N6LEM

## HAM RADIO



Thursday, May 21st at 7:30 p.m.  
on Zoom

Expect an email with the invite to the meeting. Click the link in the email and Zoom software launches and you join.

Topic: TBD

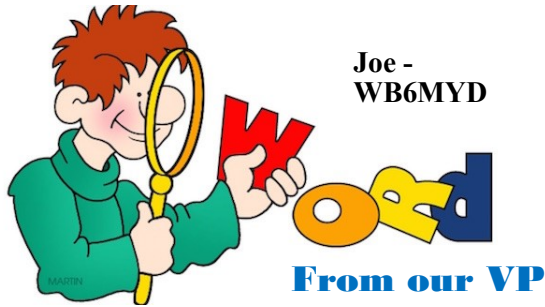


## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

- ◆ Members 65 and older will enjoy reduced dues, paying \$15.00 for a year.
- ◆ \$20.00 for single membership
- ◆ 2 members with the same address will continue at \$ 30.00 and family membership for 3 or more will also continue at \$30.00 for one year.

Please stay tuned for updates and other new items for us as a club to enjoy. As always, reach out to any of the officers with any of your suggestions or recommendations. We will listen. That isn't to say we cannot improve on things which we will with your help and support. Thank you.

Please give your membership dues to Betty. Checks can be mailed to South Bay Amateur Radio Club P.O. Box 536 Torrance, CA 90508



1. **Vice President Report:** I am sure we're all waiting for the day to start getting back to our normal routines and life generally. There sure is a lot of talk about it lately but nothing definite yet. So I hope and pray we can all stay calm and be patient. I don't know whether it is safe to say it will pass because I don't know. One thing we do not want to do is to be impatient. Anyway, in the mean stay safe and thank you for your support.

2. **The KM6BWB-8 update:** It reported back in from South of Japan yesterday (or was it the day before?) but was heading into the North Atlantic. Tom reported that the software predictions was for it to be heading for Mexico or Washington state or something maybe in between. We wish it a safe journey and for it to make another loop.

3. **Cancellations:** Social luncheon for the 2nd Saturday-cancelled. SBARC general meeting pretty well assured to be cancelled. The VE session for June 6, 2020 well that is still up in the air. ARRL has not come up with a definite way to conduct sessions on line as reported by Betty-N6VZF at this time. 2020 Field Day on June 27-28, 2020 looks like to be cancelled as well. We are still hoping that the ARRL will determine some safe way to do something for this annual event let's keep our fingers crossed. No word on the swap meet for Saturday 30th of course either

4. We do have our South Bay ARC **Thursday night net**. So let us all join in on Thursday May 7 or 12th on the W6SBA repeater. It sure would be nice to see or hear as many of you as possible. Thank you for joining us.

5. Every day Chuck-K6CSH will come on the repeater around 7:30PM and ask as to whether everybody is okay and such. Why not join him just to say hello. We certainly thank Chuck for doing this because it is great. We are hams and that is one thing we can do talk on our radios. Low bands while

6. **May 21, 2020 General meeting:** While I have not heard any confirmation on a presentation yet we will likely have to go with another Zoom meeting. We as usual will keep you updated. Needlessly to say, if you know someone or even yourself for a presentation that you might think to be a good one for everyone to hear or see please let us know. Even if it is something you maybe saw or heard about we would like to hear that as well. Any suggestion will as always be appreciated.

7. If there is anything you want to share with us by all means of course we would love to hear from one and all. These are difficult times for us all. While I share in your discomfort and uncertainties we do hope for this to end soon. In the meantime let us know how you and your loved ones are doing

8. I want to thank you all for bearing with us as I am sure you can appreciate as well. Summer is here and while having done some work in the back yard we're all waiting for the day we can appreciate everything to its fullest again. Still have a lot of other projects needing to be done but one thing at a time. Stay safe and hopefully soon to seeing as many of you as possible. Joe, WB6MYD



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**Council: OPEN and Past Pres: OPEN**

## SBARC Constitution Amendment Proposal

Fellow SBARC hams,

To help keep Council positions filled, the Council voted to amend the Constitution. The members must approve the change to make it final. The proposal is to amend Article II Section 2.

This issue came up because two candidates were elected to Council positions but aren't serving because they have a family member who is also on the Council. No other candidates have been found for these seats, so we have two empty seats on the Council. Enacting this amendment will help us avoid empty Council seats. (Proposed change are in red.)

Currently: "Section 2: Only **one member** of a household may be **a member** of the Council during the same calendar year."

Proposal: "Section 2: Only **two members** of a household may be **members** of the Council during the same calendar year."

We will vote on this at the May general meeting, to be held via zoom.

Betty Barch, N6VZF, Treasurer

### **Constitutional Amendment - Rebuttal. May 10, 2020 by Joseph M. Lanphen-WB6MYD Vice President**

I hope you all saw the email from Betty regarding the amendment to the South Bay ARC Constitution. This as you may recall was brought up starting at the November 2019 election. We elected 2 additional Council members which later was found to be unconstitutional due to the fact that they were family members of elected Council members. As is stated in Article II, Section 2 of the South Bay ARC Constitution "Only one member of a Household may be a member of the Council during the same calendar year".

The proposed Amendment would make that "2 members of the same Household". I had opposed that and still do. As I asked the membership the reason the one member of a household had been put in there to begin with. This as I explained was due to the fact that in the late 1970 to early

1980 we had members wanting to install a majority in the Council since being unhappy with our traditional Amateur Radio way of doing things.

While this is not the case at this time, however, think about next year or the year after that and so on. Right now it is a family member and due to the Constitutional makeup of the amended Constitution on August 1, 2014 which states. 2.1 The Council shall consist of President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and 2 Council members at Large from the general membership. In addition to this, there may be one additional Council member at large and the Past President. This would make 6 Council members at this time which we do have. 2.3 If there are 5 Council members, a quorum shall be three, if six or seven a quorum is four. 2.4 If there are three present at a council meeting, a majority shall be two, if four or five, a majority is three, and if six or seven, a majority is four.

I am sure you can all see what could happen here. Instead of saying the majority is 51% of the elected Council for a vote, we now could have 3 council members present at a council meeting and with 2 members of the same household be a majority vote. This is bad policy.

I would really recommend you think about this and ask yourselves "what will this accomplish?" You also might think about this "what harm would this do?" Plenty. We do not need this.

In other words dear members of the South Bay ARC it is not needed. This is not politics or whatever else of a title you want to hang onto this. We are an Amateur Radio club and this is your club. Do what you think is best for your club and because we have bigger problems I urge to reject this Amendment to our Constitution and By Laws.

## FCC Providing Flexibility to Volunteer Examiners in Developing Remote Testing Methods

ARRL.com 05/03/20

The FCC has clarified that nothing in its rules prohibits remote amateur radio testing, and no prior approval is needed to conduct remote exam sessions.



“The Commission provides flexibility to volunteer examiners and coordinators who wish to develop remote testing methods or to increase remote testing programs already in place,” the FCC said in an April 30 **news release**. “We recognize that some volunteer examiner coordinators may not have the immediate capacity for widespread remote testing. We expect those volunteer examiner coordinators with limited remote testing capacity to work closely with those requesting such testing to prioritize any available remote testing slots.”

ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, said she’s gratified to see that the FCC appreciates the need for remote testing. “Many of our VEs and VE Teams have been employing remotely proctored exam sessions with both video and in-person components, and following social-distancing protocols, where necessary” she said. “Some ARRL VE teams have **shown great promise** in administering exams remotely.” Somma also said that as states begin to lift restrictions, the possibility exists to restart in-person amateur radio exam opportunities.

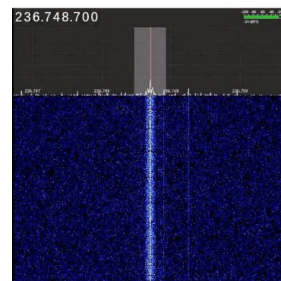
“We urge our VE teams to keep up to date so they can make informed decisions based on local community guidelines, as each community is unique,” she said. “Our volunteers should use their best judgement when deciding whether or not to begin conducting in-person exam sessions. It is important to us that you feel confident when choosing your course of action, because the health and safety of our VEs and the examinees is the top priority. VE teams that choose to conduct in-person sessions should re-start consistent with local restrictions and guidelines.”

To find amateur radio license exam sessions in your area, **visit** the ARRL website. Candidates should verify with their VE teams that the exam session *is* being held and if any special procedures are required to attend.

## Radio Amateur Finds Another “Zombie Satellite”

ARRL.com 04/27/20

British Columbia radio amateur Scott Tilley, VE7TIL, has found another “zombie satellite,” as he calls them. This time, he tracked and identified radio signals from the experimental UHF military communication satellite LES-5. Tilley says he found the satellite in what he called a geostationary “graveyard” orbit after noting a modulated carrier on 236.7487 MHz.



“Most zombie satellites are satellites that are no longer under human control, or have failed to some degree,” Tilley **told** National Public Radio (NPR) earlier this month. It’s not clear whether LES-5 is still capable of receiving commands.

LES-5 was built by MIT’s Lincoln Laboratory and launched in 1967 as part of the military’s Tactical Satellite Communication Program. It was supposed to shut down in 1972, but it continues to operate as long as its solar panels are facing the sun. Tilley told NPR that he was inspired by a ham in Cornwall who, in 2016, found an earlier satellite — LES-1 — built by the same lab and launched in 1965. What intrigued Tilley about LES-5 was that it might be the oldest functioning geostationary satellite in space.

After British Columbia went on lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Tilley found himself with a lot of free time for such a search. He located LES-5 on March 24.

From his home in Roberts Creek, British Columbia, Tilley, an amateur astronomer, routinely scans the skies for radio signals from classified objects orbiting Earth. Since he started, he’s located dozens of secret or unlisted satellites.

In 2018, while hunting for an undisclosed US government spacecraft lost in a launch mishap, he spotted the signature of IMAGE (Imager for Magnetopause-to-Aurora Global Exploration), a NASA spacecraft believed to have died in December 2005.

The **discovery** delighted space scientists. NASA and another ham in the UK confirmed his finding. Launched in 2000 on a mission to monitor space weather, IMAGE mapped plasma patterns around Earth.

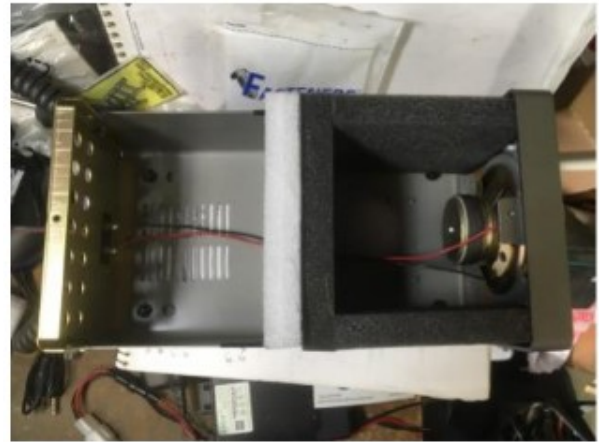
## Kenwood SP-430

By Scott—N6LEM

The Kenwood SP-430 was an external speaker designed in the 1980's to compliment the ts-430 and ts-440 transceivers. These are made from a rectangular metal box with a 3" inch speaker at one end. No internal amplification is provided. These speakers could well be in excess of \$100 new. I purchased a very clean one on eBay for use with my TS-440. At the time I didn't think much about the audio sound quality. But I soon learned that the hollow enclosure didn't do much to enhance the audio quality. The baffle or lack of it I think created some type of cancellations. The speaker lacked solid volume. I also thought the radio lacked high enough audio output and that still may need consideration. I also had some intermittent audio which I thought was a problem with the radio. More on that later.

Looking around the internet for information about similar audio experiences I found a company that makes baffle material for these speakers. A company call Phonema makes a kit for about \$40. What an opportunity to create my own. Nothing to lose right. And, a good use for discarded packing materials. This was my attempt to add a baffle to the housing. This was all for the most part an experiment based on a little reading about speaker baffles, some pictures of the commercial baffle kit, shipping foam, and a tape measure. From my before modification test allot of sound energy came out the back and the metal housing significantly vibrated. The after modification test revealed improved intelligibility and sound level. At least the appearance of more sound coming out the front rather than the rear. I still kind of think the radio needs more volume. The speaker housing has plenty of room to add an audio amplifier. So we will see where the need and my enthusiasm for that project meet.

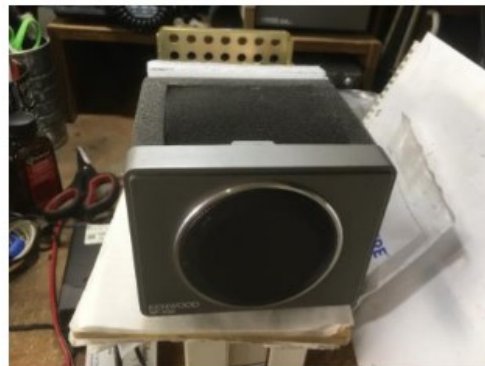
As for the intermittent audio, the speaker is in very good condition. I don't think it had ever been opened before based on the screw tightness. When I opened it up the second time, yeah the second time, I found one of the speaker wire attachments was never soldered. The wire was just wrapped around the eyelet. A little wiggle proved to me it was the intermittent audio problem. The sour note here is what happened with the quality control at Kenwood? The three other internal connections, two back terminals and the other speaker terminal, were properly soldered.



Inside view, added insulation to partition the rear speaker area.



Added soft insulation to dampen the sound back wave.



Insulation was added to the top and bottom to completely insulate the metal surfaces.

Share something you're working on with the club. Send a short write up and picture to [glenda.simpson@hotmail.com](mailto:glenda.simpson@hotmail.com)

## Field Day 2020 — A Time to Adapt

ARRL.com 03/27/20

Many individuals and groups organizing events for **Field Day 2020** have been contacting ARRL for guidance on how to adapt their planned activities in this unprecedented time of social distancing and uncertainty.



“Due to the unique situation presented this year, this can be an opportunity for you, your club, and/or group to try something new,” ARRL Contest Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE, said. “Field Day isn’t about doing things the same way year after year. Use this year to develop and employ a new approach that is in line with the current circumstances.”

Social distancing and state and local requirements very likely will impact just how — and even whether — you are able to participate in Field Day this year. ARRL continues monitoring the coronavirus situation, paying close attention to information and guidance offered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (**CDC**). If social distancing means that Class A with a 30-member team set up in a city park won’t work this year, then it’s time for a Plan B. Part of the Field Day concept has always been adapting your operation to the situation at hand. At its heart, Field Day is an emergency communication demonstration. Field Day rules are flexible enough to allow individuals and groups to adjust their participation and strategies in a way that still addresses their needs while being fun. Some possibilities:

Encourage club members to operate from their home stations on emergency power (Class E).

- Use the club’s repeater as a means for individual participants to keep in touch during the event.
- Family members interested in operating Field Day and unable to participate as part of a larger group may want to consider setting up a portable station in the backyard with a temporary antenna.

One big impact this year will be a decline in public visibility and any interaction with the visitors. Prudence may dictate dispensing with the ham radio PR table to attract passersby, should you set up in a more public location. It’s okay not to score all the bonus points you may have attempted in the past. Local and served agency officials

may be unwilling to visit, which is understandable under the circumstances. Do be sure to reach out to them as part of your preparations and remind them that you look forward to continuing your working relationship with them in the future.

The impact will differ from place to place, so ARRL recommends that all amateur radio clubs participating in Field Day stay in regular contact with local or state public health officials for their advice and guidance on hosting Field Day activities.

Demonstrating an understanding of the health crisis we all face and your willingness to adapt will show that you and your club or group are good working partners with local or served agencies.

“With any emergency preparedness exercise, it’s not about adapting the situation to your operation, it’s about adapting your operation to the situation that presents itself,” Bourque said. “Try something different. Learn something new about how you prepare. It may be a challenge, and you may have to ask yourself if you’re up to the challenge. We hope to hear you on the air over the June 27 – 28 weekend.” — *Thanks to Paul Bourque, N1SFE, and Dan Henderson, N1ND*

**Field Day Objective:** To contact as many stations as possible on the 160, 80, 40, 20,15 and 10 Meter HF bands, as well as all bands 50 MHz and above, and to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions.

Field Day is open to all amateurs in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations and countries within IARU Region 2. DX stations residing in other regions may be contacted for credit, but are not eligible to submit entries.

Each claimed contact must include contemporaneous direct initiation by the operator on both sides of the contact. Initiation of a contact may be either locally or by remote.

**Dates:** Field Day is always the fourth full weekend of June, beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday and running through 2059 UTC Sunday (**June 27-28**).

**Bands and modes:**

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20,15 and 10 Meter HF bands, as well as all bands 50 MHz and above. All modes.



## CALENDAR

**Council Meeting** - 4th Wednesday of the month  
Call Joe - WB6MYD (310) 328-0817

**Club Meeting** - 3rd Thursday of the month  
**May 21, 2020 - 7:30 p.m.**

**Via Zoom  
(look for email)**

**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** **Cancelled Until Further Notice**

**VE Sessions** - **Scheduled on Saturday of even months**  
Contact Betty, N6VZF, with questions  
(All VE sessions are scheduled for Room 4 in the Health  
Conference Center)

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

## CLUB SERVICES

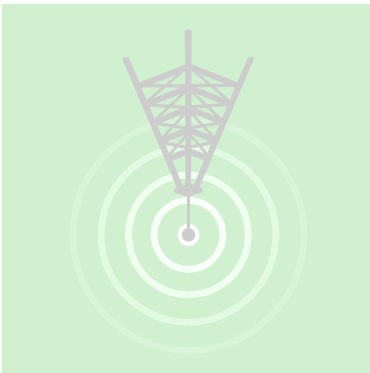
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**South Bay Amateur Radio Club Repeater**  
**224.38 MHz · PL - 192.8 Hz Offset -1.6 MHz**  
**(See Calendar for Weekly Net Times)**

## NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION

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Address Correction Requested

*A COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION*

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