



June 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
- ◆ Field Day FAQs
- ◆ How I Got Into Ballooning



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President's Message

SBARC members,

Looks like the community is slowly moving to open up. I was able to get a haircut for the first time in about three months. How we take for granted to basic things we have grown accustomed to. But as far as us getting together for lunch, I think we are still too much at risk. Let's hope that this reopening does not contribute to additional virus spreading. We'll keep you posted when we can meet up again at lunch. So for now let's just keep on checking in with each other on 224.38MHz!

I want to thank and congratulate Joanne KM6BWB for all the academic ballooning work. Over the past few years, Joanne has led several balloon launches. Joanne is one of our members and has brought the ham radio ballooning aspect of our hobby to middle schoolers. The last event was a bit competitive with a contest consisting of four launches from different states. This effort made it into the ARRL website and can be found by searching: KN6EQU Balloon Wins Cross-Country Educational Challenge Race

The TMMC location seems to be on a month by month approval check for returning to the health conference center meeting room. For June we are staying with the Zoom format for club meetings. The club leadership will send out a Zoom invite. Click on the link, enter the password, and you should be good to go. You probably should download the Zoom program. That seems to make it a lot easier to get started. The Zoom meeting have been working out fairly well for a new meeting concept for our group. I would like to request your input on meeting topics and I would like to see our club members present at our meetings. Present something you are interested in or have done in that secret ham workshop.

Upcoming monthly club activities should include, the club meeting on June 18th and will be on Zoom, and at the time of writing this time the TRW/NGC swap meet on Saturday June 27th remains cancelled. After the swap meet a few of us headed over to Denney's and this has been cancelled until after the COVID shutdown. 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 virtual meet up in June!

73's...
Scott-N6LEM



Thursday, **June 18th 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

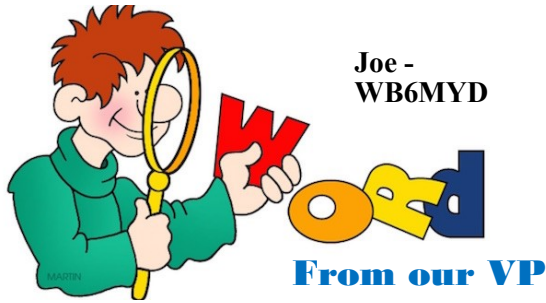


MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

- ◆ 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

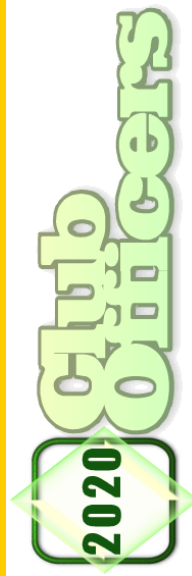


1. Our **May 21 meeting** via Zoom was a good success, good turn out and a very interesting topic. Kevin-KI6DHQ from Bioenno Power, Santa Ana presented the information for their product being manufactured right here in Southern California. Their line of products is very interesting for the amateur radio market. Especially the Solar Controllers and Panels and of course battery charges to go with them. Very interesting and lots of questions from our members. This Zoom meeting turned out well. I made sure he did get one of our mugs which I mailed to him with our club patch. Thank you all for attending this meeting via Zoom. We had 28 members in attendance.

2. **The Amendment failed.** The Constitutional amendment as presented by Betty-N6VZF failed and was requested to be tabled for now. A rewrite is in the works. This seems to have opened up quite a can worms since this is the 2nd time. You all know where I stand on this and don't want to belabor this any further since it is not needed. As we well know from our walks of life – no matter how something like this is written someone will find fault with it. What we all need to do stop and think why this was put in there and use proper judgment by looking beyond the basic concept. The basic concept is to safe guard the Constitution and Bylaws and trust common sense to support this. We did have 3 other volunteers step up to the plate from which 2 have been appointed now. All it did was take a little work and ask those we thought would make a good fit to step up to the plate (I did originally talk to a lot of people last year October-November and this time again).

3. Appointment of 2 new Councilman. Please welcome Richard-KM6VME and Greg-WQ9P as our 2 new Councilmen. In case you're wondering, the President is allowed to appoint members and the Council votes to approve these new members. Their term will expire at the end of the year or next election at which time they may want to run for office again. Thank you very much for stepping up gentlemen. We hope you will find your positions rewarding and enjoyable as well. Just remember you are to serve the membership of your club in the best amateur radio tradition. This is your function for the remainder of this year.

4. **Presentation for the June meeting:** I've asked Scott to see if he could set up something about FD logging this year. As we all know due to the pandemic we are unable to meet as a group at whatever location if you wish. However, the ARRL has adjusted the rules for operation somewhat since it is now suggested we work from our own stations if you wish. You can go somewhere by yourself or friends if you wish. Even working FD from your drive way using alternative power, generator or battery. The classification is somewhat different at this time and I promise to get some or all information to you soon. What it is mainly trying to tell you in that the logging which you should do for every contact you make may be send in with your club call or not. That too I will make sure you have but since I am waiting to see at this time what the log in applet from ARRL requires is still being modified (at least that is what I heard). So we are on a bout 2 and ½ weeks away from FD and it is still being worked on. I will get it to you and of course what software to use. Do not let that stop you from working FD. write all the info down and get it to me and I will be turned in. That is what I used to do years ago as well. You do not have to work 24 hrs either, any time you feel comfortable with is fine.



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Past Pres:

OPEN

ARRL Contest Program Issues Field Day 2020 FAQ

ARRL.com 06/09/2020

The ARRL Contest Program has released some Frequently Asked Questions related to the **Field Day temporary rule waivers**. On May 28, the ARRL Programs and Services Committee (PSC) adopted these provisions only for the June 27 – 28, 2020, event: (1) Class D stations may work all other Field Day stations, including other Class D stations, for points, and (2) an aggregate club score will be published, which will be the sum of all individual entries that indicate a specific club. **Contact** the ARRL Contest Program with any questions related to Field Day 2020.



Q: Several of our club members are going to operate independently and wish to attribute their scores to the aggregate club score. What call sign should they use?

A: Participants should use their own call signs. Except for Class C (mobile) entries, all transmitters, receivers, and antennas must be located within a 1,000-foot-diameter circle may operate using a single call sign. This prohibits the use of a single call sign from more than one location. Under the 2020 waiver, those operating from home, including backyard operations, must use their own station call signs. Multiple home stations operating with a club call sign or modified club call sign, such as W1AW-1, W1AW-2, W1AW-3, etc, are not allowed.

Q: How does my club submit an aggregate club score? Does the club need to add up each participating member's scores and submit a club entry with the aggregate score under the club call sign?

A: Each participant will submit his or her own independent entry under his or her call sign. ARRL will calculate the aggregate score based upon the club name entered on the official Field Day **entry form via the web applet** (preferred method) or on the paper Field Day entry form. In order for results to be tabulated correctly, all club participants must enter the club's official name exactly the same, avoiding abbreviations or acronyms. This is important!

Q: Our group is still planning to operate at the usual Field Day site, but some members do not feel comfortable gathering in a large group this year. Can we still submit an entry using the club call sign, as well as have members operating from home using their own call signs?

A: Yes. If your club is still hosting a group Field Day effort, it will submit an entry as usual, using the club call sign. Club members operating at home will submit separate entries with their own call signs and will enter the club name on the entry form for club aggregate scoring.

Q: Can a club member operate from home using the club call sign?

A: Yes, but the call sign may only be used in one location. The member must receive permission from the trustee of the club call sign.

Q: Our club normally enters Field Day in Class A. If we operate from our home stations, in which class should individual members enter in order to be included in the aggregate club score?

A: Each member will operate independently and will submit the entry using whatever class that applies to their operation. Typically, home stations running on commercial ac power are Class D, while home stations running on battery, solar, generator, or the like (i.e., not from ac mains) are Class E. When the results are published, each club member will be listed in the results under the class in which they operated. For 2020 only, aggregate club scores will be listed by the club name in a separate listing.

Q: Our club will have 10 members operating from home as Class D stations. Should they worry about working the same station on the same band and mode (duplicates)?

A: Because members are operating as separate entries using their own call signs, the contacts are not considered duplicates.

Q: Does the club need to be an ARRL-affiliated club to participate in Field Day?

A: No. All clubs and groups are welcome to participate in ARRL Field Day.

Q: How will bonus points be calculated for the aggregate club scores? Can individual club members still earn bonus points?

A: All individual scores, including bonus points, will be added together to determine the aggregate club score. Refer to the **complete rules** to determine eligibility for bonus points. — *Thanks to Paul Bourque, N1SFE, ARRL Contest Program Manager*

How I Got Into Ballooning

By Tom Ki6rc

Many years ago, when I was 15 years old, my family lived in a house on a hill overlooking a small town in West Virginia. Our next-door neighbor had two children, a boy and a girl (years later I married the girl), who like me, loved to build and experiment with anything that went “BANG”. This included fireworks, carbide and homemade rocket fuel to name just a few. One hot Saturday afternoon we took a thin-film dry cleaners bag, taped the top closed and filled it with natural gas, tied an M80 firecracker with a slow fuse to it with a piece of thread and let it float over the town. When the fuse lit the M80 there was a very satisfying “BANG” about 250 ft up. This was especially fun at night because it caught everyone’s attention, especially the local police. At that point our parents thought it was time for us to move on to other less dangerous experiments but I never forgot how much I enjoyed watching the balloons rise up into the night sky with the glow of a lit fuse just below the gas bag.

College, the military, marriage, kids and a career took up the next 50 or so years. In 1972 I became a Ham radio operator (KN6FFQ & later Ki6rc) and found I loved to experiment with anything to do with radios and antennas. In 2012 I joined the South Bay Amateur Radio Club in Torrance, CA and at one meeting I met Bruce KK6BJ. We talked in general about how and why we became Hams, what types of radios we had and what bands we liked to work. We then got on the subject of what we wanted to do next and I said “I’ve always wanted to launch a high-altitude balloon with a radio on it.” Bruce immediately said “I’ve always wanted to do that too!” and I immediately thought this guy is as weird as I am.

That one chance meeting started something and soon we were planning our first High Altitude Balloon attempt. We knew very little about what we were planning to do except that we needed a big balloon, some helium, a parachute, a camera and some way of tracking everything from launch to landing. The first four things were fairly easy but the tracking part was a different story. We were Hams so we had heard of APRS but knew almost nothing about how it worked so Google helped us quite a bit. We used a Chinese GPS unit, an interface board and a dual-band BaoFeng 4-watt HT and because Bruce wanted to make sure we were heard I built a ¼ wave wire ground plane antenna and it all eventually worked. In early May, 2015, we stuffed everything into a Styrofoam box and headed out into the desert near Primm, Nevada with a tank of helium and a very large latex balloon. Early the next morning we drove out to a flat spot near Interstate 15, filled the balloon with what we thought was the correct amount of helium, turned on the electronics and after a short countdown, let it go. It climbed very quickly and soon was on the APRS map. We were elated. What we didn’t know was that as it climbed through 50,000 feet the 4-watt transmitter and ¼ wave ground plane antenna was overloading the APRS system from mid Mexico to Northern California and due east to Arizona and beyond! The APRS gods were not happy with us to say the least.

After about an hour, the balloon had reached 84,000 feet and burst over Henderson, Nevada and was falling fast towards earth but as it passed through 54,000 feet it suddenly quit transmitting, probably due to a broken antenna, and we never did find it. We didn’t realize how big the desert was until we started looking for a 10-inch square Styrofoam box with no idea where it landed.

A few months later I received a phone call from a teacher named Joanne who said she heard from a fellow club member that Bruce and I “knew all about” High Altitude Balloons and would we help her and her students launch one? She said she wanted to launch it from the South Bay area and I said there were strict Federal Aviation Rules and Regulations about that. Turns out she had already talked to the FAA at LAX and they were happy to help as long as she followed the rules. Next I wanted to know where exactly she wanted to launch the balloon from and she said she had talked to the Goodyear Airship Operations people and they had agreed to let her use the Goodyear Blimp Landing Field in Carson, CA. So that is exactly what we did and the balloon got up to 97,405 feet, burst and landed 13 miles offshore in the Pacific Ocean. Joanne talked an Oceanographic Research Company into going out and retrieving it two days later! The STEM kids LOVED it.

Continued on page 6

How I Got Into Ballooning Continued

After that a long series of adventures followed:

May 2016: Bruce and I launched a High Altitude Balloon to 106,577 ft. from Lancaster which landed VERY near Edwards AFB. Finding that payload and getting it back is an interesting story.

October 2016: Bruce and I launched a HAB to 113,212 ft. from Lancaster to Primm, NV.

March 2017: We helped Joanne launch a HAB to over 107,000 ft. which landed in the Salton Sea. Joanne had to wade out to retrieve it. Yuck....

March 2017: The day after Joanne's HAB adventure, Bruce and I experimented with a 36" Mylar floater balloon. This balloon was supposed to go up to 30,000 feet and cruise at that altitude across the United States but it burst prematurely and landed in the San Jacinto Mountains near the Salton Sea.

June 2017: Bruce and I launched a 36" Mylar floater balloon that went north up to Wyoming then south down past Houston, TX and finally ended up in the Gulf of Mexico.

February 2018: We launched a 36" Mylar balloon that was last heard from 200 miles out in the Atlantic south of Newfoundland, Canada. The longest flight so far.

June 2018: I helped the STEM students at Compton College launch a High Altitude Balloon that lost radio contact at 40,000 ft. but was recovered in the high desert by a team who then got stranded and had to be rescued by the Sheriff's Department.

June 2018: Bruce and I attempted our first earth circumnavigation flight with an SBS-13 helium filled float balloon which was supposed to cruise at 40,000 ft. but instead burst over Corona, CA.

September 2018: I helped Joanne launch a balloon for her school STEM students from Lake Elsinore which landed near Sage, CA. We got totally lost and cut up in the scrub brush retrieving the payload and had to be rescued by CAL FIRE. It's amazing how fast things can go downhill.

February 2019: Bruce and I tried another earth circumnavigation flight which leaked slowly and came down near Jeffers, Minnesota. It was retrieved and returned by a duck hunter 10 months later. We call it the Minnesota Miracle.

March 2019: We launched the first of Joanne's STEM class 36" Mylar floater balloon which was lost in the Grand Canyon, AZ due to a slow leak.

May 2019: We launched the second school 36" float balloon that was last heard from as night fell over the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico headed east toward the Atlantic.

June 2019: Third school 36" floater made it almost all the way across the country to Weaver, AL.

June 2019: I launched another High Altitude Balloon for the STEM students at Compton College. This one reached an altitude of 105,891 ft. and was recovered near Victorville, CA by the students. They got some great pictures of the balloon bursting.

October 2019: Another 36" float balloon for Joanne's STEM students that was last heard from over Tonawanda, NY.

Continued on page 7

How I Got Into Ballooning Continued

November 2019: Bruce and I launched the third circumnavigation balloon which leaked badly and landed near Hesperia, CA. The transmitter was retrieved the following day by a Ham on a motorcycle equipped with APRS and returned almost undamaged.

January 2020: With Chuck's (K6CSH) help, another STEM students 36" balloon flight was launched and made it to Ontario Canada.

February 2020: Bruce and I launched the fourth circumnavigation balloon which ruptured off Palos Verdes Peninsula. That's the fourth failure in a row.....

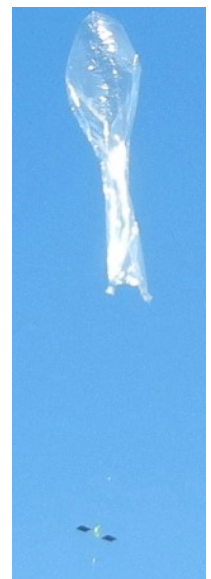
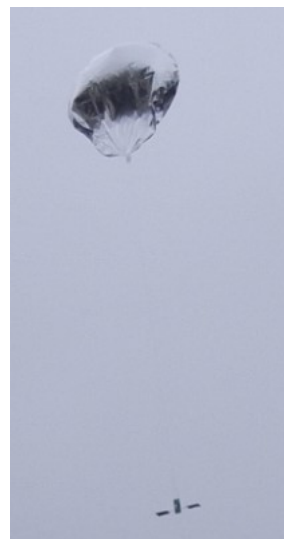
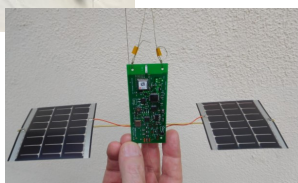
February 2020: We launched the fifth circumnavigation balloon with helium and used the transmitter that was recovered in November 2019. It turned out to have a problem we didn't know about but we received some location reports until it flew over Columbus, OH and then nothing. About 10 days later it reported in just off the east coast of Japan having flown $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way around the planet. We never heard from it again.

April 2020: Due to the COVID 19 pandemic my wife Sally helped me fill and seal one of Joanne's STEM students 36" balloons very carefully with hydrogen (our first hydrogen balloon). This balloon spent the night in a tree or on the ground in eastern West Virginia during a rain storm but dried off, then took off the next morning and returned to 30,000 ft to fly to Canada. We'd never seen anything like that before.

April 2020: Again during the COVID 19 pandemic Bruce and I, wearing face masks and gloves, filled up and heat sealed a large SBS-13 circumnavigation balloon with hydrogen for Joanne's STEM students and it crossed the US in 1 1/2 days, then crossed the Atlantic, checked in from Cairo, Egypt and was last heard from 200 miles off the east coast of Japan as it headed out over the Pacific on its way back to California.

May 11, 2020: As I write this Bruce and I have a hydrogen filled SBS-13 circumnavigation balloon crossing the Atlantic.

There have been a lot of highs and lows during this 5-year adventure. The lows taught us a great deal and made us think, and learn from, what went wrong. The high points, where everything went as planned, were more wonderful than you can imagine and left us wanting to do more difficult and challenging things. I want to thank my wife Sally for her understanding and forbearance. She knew I was a Balloonatic before she married me; Bruce for his partnership, help, support, ideas and perseverance; Joanne for her dedication to her students and willingness to give it everything she's got to make learning fun; Chuck for listening to my crazy ideas and not laughing too loud and for helping when help was sorely needed.



CALENDAR

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

Club Meeting - 3rd Thursday of the month
June 18, 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

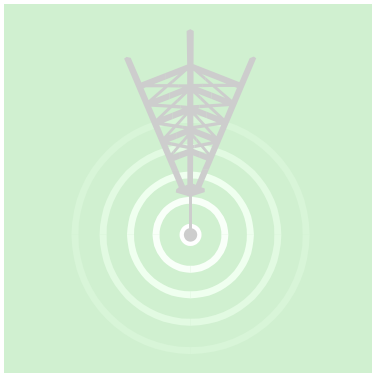
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South Bay Amateur Radio Club Repeater
224.38 MHz · PL - 192.8 Hz Offset -1.6 MHz
(See Calendar for Weekly Net Times)

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION

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