



January 2021

ARCOver

A Community Service Organization Dedicated to Amateur Radio Since 1970

In this issue:

- ◆ President's Message
- ◆ 2021 Club Officers
- ◆ Meeting Info
- ◆ Parachute Mobile
- ◆ SSTV Event to Help ARISS
- ◆ New Amateur Record Set
- ◆ QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo
- ◆ New Year's Resolutions
- ◆ FCC to Require
- ◆ Extra Class Question Pool
- ◆ FCC Reduces Fee



E-mail: W6SBA@arrl.net



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

President's Message

SBARC members,

The start of a new year... I have heard many say they are glad to have 2020 behind them. Let's hope that truly is the case. I am thinking we need to set some personal amateur radio goals. Now is the time to think about that project to build or something new to learn. I have an idea as to how we may be able to help each other out finding that knowledge they need. More on that in a future edition.

We are still on the side lines socially. I know that socializing has been a reason for this club to exist. Often exchanging technical ideas connected with food. I am counting on these vaccines to restore health and normalcy. Would like go back to meeting up with you at one of our favorite dining spots. Stay positive and optimistic. Got to be better times soon ahead.

I am hearing that Greg's N6RRY's balloon is still in orbit, I think?? I heard it has set a record of four circumnavigations around the earth. Pretty amazing survival time. They are thinking it was north of Latitude 50 with very little sunshine to recharge the special capacitor/battery cell. A very neat technical accomplishment.

This club has a diverse membership of capabilities. I encourage more activities to grow our knowledge and to share with other members. What you do could seem trivial but it may be something others would enjoy learning about. Think about presenting something to the group on a Zoom meeting from the comfort of your own home.

For the January meeting, Rob Fenn, KC6TYD, will be presenting parachute mobile. I came across a write up about Rob's parachute amateur radio activity on the web and then discovered a write up in QST. So I thought what a unique activity and was able to get him to give us a Zoom presentation of how they operate parachute mobile from 20,000 feet! Line of sight must be pretty good. The one advantage of Zoom is getting unique talents presented from out of the area guest speakers. Join us on January 21st for this adventurous amateur radio talk.

Upcoming monthly club activities include, the SBARC club meeting on January 21th at 7:30PM on Zoom. What we use to do: The TRW/NGC swap meet remains cancelled. After the swap meet a few of us use to head over to Denney's. This has been suspended until after the COVID shutdown.

As always, it's your amateur radio club, lets us know what you would like to see happening with your club

73's...
Scott-N6LEM

CLUB OFFICERS

President:

Scott -N6LEM, 310-530-9889 scottsimpson126 at gmail dot com

Vice President:

Joe -WB6MYD, 310-328-0817 wb6myd at gmail dot com

Secretary:

Randy -N6BXP, 424-375-9530 hscisteacher at gmail dot com

Treasurer:

Betty -N6VZF, (310) 545-6422 n6vzf at arrl dot net

Council:

Jim - W6IVW, 310-378-4411 slimjimis at cox dot net

Council:

Greg-WQ9P , 310-702-9312 wq9p at arrl dot net

Council:

Tim -KI6BGE, 310-809-4007 ki6bge at gmail dot com

Council:

Mark—KA6ZTO, 714-642-1126 ka6zto at yahoo dot com

Past Pres: OPEN

JANUARY

Meeting

January 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 to join.



PARACHUTE MOBILE

Past-Present-Future
By Rob Fenn,
KC6TYD

So why do they jump out of a perfectly good airplane? Come and join us for an exciting and informative presentation where Rob will take you through nine years of Parachute Mobile. Using skydiving as a platform, discover the many unique projects that the members of Parachute Mobile have incorporated into each mission.

Rob has been in the EMS field since the mid 90's. He is currently working as a paramedic with AMR in Santa Clara County. When Parachute Mobile began Rob was recruited as the Safety Officer. When the Team Coordinator position opened up Rob grab it and has been handling all the coordinating, scheduling, and promoting ever since. Rob was not a skydiver when he started with the team. Being around and involved in the sport got him interested and in 2011 Rob took the course and soon there after was making his QSO jumps.



When you think of operating portable, the first images that come to mind are probably of working the bands from a car, or taking your gear along on a hike. That's not the case for the Parachute Mobile team. When they go portable, they do it from as high as 18,000 feet in the air — and all the way down to Earth.

In 2008, Mark Meltzer, AF6IM, and Michael Gregg, KF6WRW, were on the N6NFI 2 meter repeater and started talking about their mutual love of skydiving. Mark explained, "We chatted about ways to combine ham radio and skydiving, and that led to formation of the Parachute Mobile group. We were surprised and very pleased to see non-jumper hams express a strong interest in participating." Eventually they were meeting up for jumps, which they call "missions," with a team of on-the-ground support in addition to the jumpers.

The Mission of Parachute Mobile While some might think the appeal of Parachute Mobile lies in the adrenaline rush, the team keeps coming together for the sense of community they've built. "The best part of Parachute Mobile for me is our team camaraderie," Mark explained. "Many of our members do not jump, but we all share a strong interest in ham radio and get along wonderfully. Everybody has a job to do and every job is important. We are a diverse group in age, ethnicity, and tech savvy that unites into a cohesive team for every mission." The connection the team makes with hams on the ground is an unexpected bonus.

Team leader Rob Fenn said, "It's strange; the concept of making a QSO with a skydiver is simple, and I wondered why hams enjoyed participating so much. But the expression I once saw on the face of a young child after she made a QSO was priceless, and that explained it all. Our team soon realized that our missions were adding a little something new to ham radio." (excerpts from article in May 2016 QST)

SSTV Event to Help ARISS Mark 20 Years of Continuous Ham Radio Operation in Space

ARRL.com 12/17/2020

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (**ARISS**) will continue its year-long 20th anniversary celebration of continuous ham radio operation from the ISS this month, with a slow-scan television (SSTV) event over the holidays. The first

ARISS school contact took place in December 2000, not long after the first ISS crew arrived on station a month earlier and had made test contacts. The commemorative late-December SSTV event will be held December 24 through December 31, although dates are subject to change. The frequency will be 145.800 MHz, using SSTV PD-120 mode. Over its 20 years, ARISS has supported nearly 1,400 scheduled ham radio contacts with schools, student groups, and other education organizations.

“ARISS would not be the complex and growing program of education, operations, and hardware were it not for ARRL, AMSAT, NASA, and the ISS National Lab (INL),” said Rosalie White, K1STO, ARISS-US Delegate representing ARRL. “For these past 20 years and for the years to come, when we grow into lunar ham radio opportunities and more, the ARISS team will continue to be grateful to ARRL and all our sponsors. We could not do it without you!”

The ARISS ham radio gear, for what would become NA1SS on board the station, arrived ahead of the Expedition 1 crew, headed by Bill Shepherd, KD5GSL. Shepherd made the first ARISS school contact with students at Luther Burbank Elementary School in Illinois on December 21, 2000. NASA has marked the ARISS milestone with an infographic highlighting the educational contacts via amateur radio between astronaut crew members aboard the ISS and students.

ARISS will continue to sponsor various commemorative events through November 2021, including more of the very popular ARISS SSTV sessions. In celebration of the 20th anniversary of ham radio on the space station, ARISS took part in the ISS Research and Development Conference (ISSRDC) panel session, “20 Years of STEM Experiments on the ISS.” A video developed for the session describes the program, conveys some key lessons learned over the past 20 years, and describes the ARISS team’s vision for the future.



“Twenty years of continuous operations is a phenomenal accomplishment,” said ARISS-International Chair Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, who’s been with the program from the start. “But what makes it even more extraordinary is that ARISS has achieved this through hundreds of volunteers who are passionate in paying it forward to our youth and ham radio community. On behalf of the ARISS International team, I would like to express our heartfelt thanks to every volunteer who has made ARISS such an amazing success over the past 20 years. Your passion, drive, creativity, and spirit made it happen.”

In September, ARISS announced that the initial element of its next-generation Interoperable Radio System (IORS) had been installed in the ISS *Columbus* module, replacing outmoded and problematic station gear.

A helpful addition to the ARISS website is a “Current Status of ISS Stations,” which reports the present or coming operating mode of ARISS radios in the *Columbus* and *Service* modules. Click on General Contacts and then Current Status of ISS Stations on the drop-down menu of the ARISS website to access the reports.

New Amateur VLF Transatlantic Record Set

ARRL.com 01/11/2021

Very low frequency (VLF) enthusiast Joe Craig, VO1NA, reports that Stefan Schaefer, DK7FC, copied his 50-character message transmitted from Newfoundland on 8.271

kHz, with a radiated power of 10 mW.

“This is a new record for amateur transatlantic VLF,” Craig told ARRL. “The mode used was EbNaut by Paul Nicholson. EbNaut is a synchronous coherent BPSK mode for use at VLF and low LF. Craig’s tower supports a VLF RL (rotated L) 10-meter (33 feet) average height and 100 meters (328 feet) long. VLF is the ITU designation for radio spectrum in the range of 3 – 30 kHz, corresponding to wavelengths from 100 to 10 kilometers, respectively.

“Since VLF waves can penetrate at least 40 meters (131 feet) into saltwater, they are used for military communication with submarines,” Craig noted.



The VO1NA antenna support tower.

QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo Returning in March

ARRL.com 01/05/2021

The **QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo** will return March 13 – 14 for a full 48 hours, QSO Today host Eric Guth, 4Z1UG/WA6IGR, announced this week. ARRL is a QSO Today Expo Partner. Guth said the inaugural QSO Today Expo last August attracted more than 16,000 attendees, and he anticipates that the March 2021 event will be even more successful.



The upcoming QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo will feature new speakers and presenters, panel discussions, and kit-building workshops among other activities. Guth pointed out that attendees can log in from anywhere. While he anticipates a good turnout by those who typically attend such ham radio events, the virtual Expo also offers an opportunity for those concerned about pandemic travel restrictions as well as for those who don't typically attend in-person events.

"At our last Expo, we found that 60% of attendees don't go to in-person national conferences, and 40% don't attend state or local events," Guth said, noting that distance and the high cost of travel and lodging were the most oft-cited reasons.

Registration is required, and to help cover the costs of staging this event, there will be a charge to attend. Advance tickets are \$10 (\$12.50 at the "door") and include entry for the live, 2-day show as well to the 30-day on-demand period. At the Expo, visitors can:

Learn from a line-up of such well-known ham radio personalities as Bob Allphin, K4UEE, on "My Favorite DXpeditions to DXCC Top 10 Most Wanted;" Michael Foerster, W0IH, on "Using the Arduino in Your Shack," and Ron Jones, K7RJ, on "3D Printer Basics."

Take part in live virtual kit-building workshops. (Kits will be available for purchase and delivered to attendees in time for the Expo.)

Walk through the virtual exhibit hall to visit an array of amateur radio vendors and see live

demonstrations of the latest equipment. This show will leverage newer video technology to provide a better experience for attendees to engage with exhibitors.

Those planning to attend the Expo may take advantage of new speaker calendar technology to create their own calendar of presentations in their time zones, which can be saved to a Google or Outlook calendar.

Registrants may return over the 30 days following the live event to catch speakers and presentations missed during the live period, as well as to explore and re-engage exhibitor offerings.

"The QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo has all of the familiar hallmarks of an in-person hamfest, including opportunities to connect and learn," ARRL Product Development Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, said. "Expect to bump into friends and well-known experts and personalities from throughout our worldwide ham radio community!" He explained that attendees visiting an exhibit or virtual lounge will be able to interact with other attendees in those settings.

FlexRadio is the Expo's Platinum Sponsor. Gold sponsors as of this time include Elecraft, RFinder, and CSI.

New Year's Resolutions

New Year's Resolutions—Do you make them? Are they successful? Will you make any for 2021? What about resolutions geared specifically towards amateur radio?

Amateur radio specific resolutions could be anything from upgrading to a new license class, trying a new mode, learning CW, setting up a new radio or antenna, etc. How about tuning a friend onto joining South Bay Amateur Radio Club? What can you come up with?



FCC to Require Email Address on Applications Starting on June 29, 2021

ARRL.com 12/31/2020

Effective on June 29, 2021, amateur radio licensees and candidates must provide the FCC with an email address on all applications. If no email address is included, the FCC may dismiss the application as “defective.”



On September 16, the FCC adopted a *Report and Order* (R&O) in WT Docket 19-212 on “Completing the Transition to Electronic Filing, Licenses and Authorizations, and Correspondence in the Wireless Radio Services.”

The R&O was published on December 29 in the *Federal Register*. The FCC has already begun strongly encouraging applicants to provide an email address. Once an email address is provided, the FCC will email a link to an official electronic copy of the license grant. An official copy will also be available at any time by accessing the licensee’s password-protected Universal Licensing System (ULS) account.

Licensees can log into the ULS License Manager System with their FRN and password at any time and update anything in their FCC license record, including adding an email address. For questions or password issues, call the CORES/FRN Help Line, (877) 480-3201 (Monday – Friday, 1300 – 2300 UTC) or reset the password on the FCC website.

The only way to refrain from providing an email address on an application would be to submit a request to waive the new rule, providing justification for the request. (The FCC would not be obliged to grant such a request.)

Under Section 97.21 of the new rules, a person holding a valid amateur radio station license “must apply to the FCC for a modification of the license grant as necessary to show the correct mailing and email address, licensee name, club name, license trustee name, or license custodian name.” For a club or military recreation station license, the application must be presented in document form to a club station call sign administrator who must submit the information to the FCC in an electronic batch file.

Under new Section 97.23, each license must show the grantee’s correct name, mailing address, and email address. “The email address must be an address where the grantee can receive electronic correspondence,” the amended rule will state. “Revocation of the station license or suspension of the operator license may result when correspondence from the FCC is returned as undeliverable because the grantee failed to provide the correct email address.”

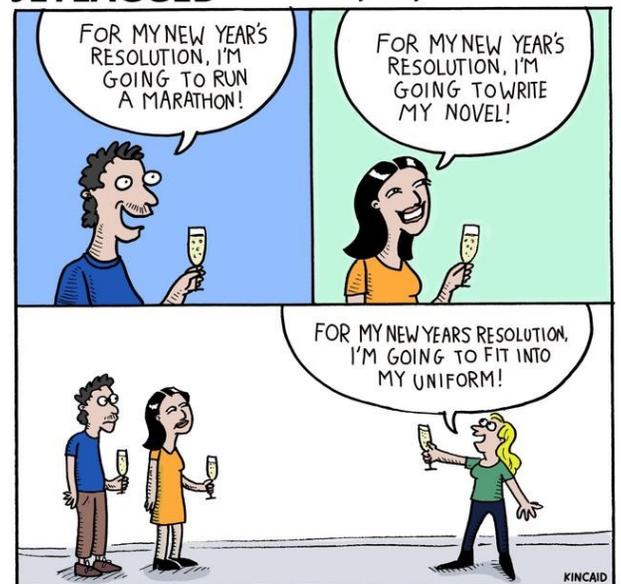
Extra Class Question Pool due to expire on June 30, 2020

From ARRL.com

In January 2020, the National Conference of Volunteer Coordinators* (NCVEC) introduced a new Amateur Extra-class license examination question pool which becomes effective **from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2024**. The new pool has 90 less questions, reducing the number of questions in the pool from 712 to 622. 139 questions were removed and 49 new questions were added to address outdated questions, new technology, and other subjects. 239 questions were modified for clarification and to improvement comprehension. ARRL is taking pre-orders for the new editions of its Extra Class study materials (for exams given on, or after, July 1, 2020) at www.arrl.org/shop. Any changes due to impact from the current health crisis will be posted to ARRL News and www.arrl.org/COVID-19.

* Note: The FCC has tasked the National Conference of Volunteer Coordinators (NCVEC) organization with amateur radio question pool oversight and maintenance. Question pool amendments or changes are regulated by this organization.

JETLAGGED comic.com by Kelly Kincaid



FCC Reduces Proposed Amateur Radio Application Fee to \$35

ARRL.com 12/30/2020



The FCC has agreed with ARRL and other commenters that its proposed \$50 fee for certain amateur radio applications was “too high to account for the minimal staff involvement in these applications.” In a *Report and Order* (R&O), released on December 29, the FCC scaled back to \$35 the fee for a new license application, a special temporary authority (STA) request, a rule waiver request, a license renewal application, and a vanity call sign application. All fees are per application. There will be no fee for administrative updates, such as a change of mailing or email address.

This fall, ARRL filed comments in firm opposition to the FCC proposal to impose a \$50 fee on amateur radio license and application fees and urged its members to follow suit.

As the FCC noted in its R&O, although some commenters supported the proposed \$50 fee as reasonable and fair, “ARRL and many individual commenters argued that there was no cost-based justification for application fees in the Amateur Radio Service.” The fee proposal was contained in a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* (NPRM) in MD Docket 20-270, which was adopted to implement portions of the “Repack Airwaves Yielding Better Access for Users of Modern Services Act” of 2018 — the so-called “Ray Baum’s Act.”

“After reviewing the record, including the extensive comments filed by amateur radio licensees and based on our revised analysis of the cost of processing mostly automated processes discussed in our methodology section, we adopt a \$35 application fee, a lower application fee than the Commission proposed in the NPRM for personal licenses, in recognition of the fact that the application process is mostly automated,” the FCC said in the R&O. “We adopt the proposal from the NPRM to assess no additional application fee for minor modifications or administrative updates, which also are highly automated.”

The FCC said it received more than 197,000 personal license applications in 2019, which includes not only ham radio license applications but commercial radio operator

licenses and General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) licenses.

The FCC turned away the arguments of some commenters that the FCC should exempt amateur radio licensees. The FCC stated that it has no authority to create an exemption “where none presently exists.”

The FCC also disagreed with those who argued that amateur radio licensees should be exempt from fees because of their public service contribution during emergencies and disasters.

“[W]e are very much aware of these laudable and important services amateur radio licensees provide to the American public,” the FCC said, but noted that specific exemptions provided under Section 8 of the so-called “Ray Baum’s Act” requiring the FCC to assess the fees do not apply to amateur radio personal licenses. “Emergency communications, for example, are voluntary and are not required by our rules,” the FCC noted. “As we have noted previously, [w]hile the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communications service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications, is one of the underlying principles of the amateur service, the amateur service is not an emergency radio service.”

The Act requires that the FCC switch from a Congressionally-mandated fee structure to a cost-based system of assessment. The FCC proposed application fees for a broad range of services that use the FCC’s Universal Licensing System (ULS), including the Amateur Radio Service, which had been excluded previously. The 2018 statute excludes the Amateur Service from annual *regulatory* fees, but not from *application* fees.

“While the Ray Baum’s Act amended Section 9 and retained the regulatory fee exemption for amateur radio station licensees, Congress did not include a comparable exemption among the amendments it made to Section 8 of the Act,” the FCC R&O explained.

The effective date of the fee schedule has not been established, but it will be announced at least 30 days in advance. The FCC has directed the Office of Managing Director, in consultation with relevant offices and bureaus, to draft a notice for publication in the *Federal Register* announcing when rule change(s) will become effective, “once the relevant databases, guides, and internal procedures have been updated.”

CALENDAR

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

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

Via Zoom

(look for email invite from
jmlanphen@gmail.com a few days before)

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

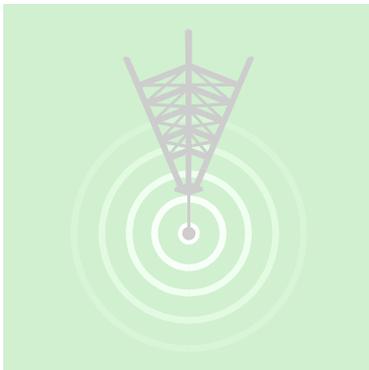
Awards Manager (HF/VHF)	Cliff - K6LH
Health & Welfare	Joe - WB6MYD
Swap Meet Chair	Tom-KI6RC, Chuck- K6CSH., Bill-KQ6Z
VE Test Liaison & Sessions	Betty Barch-N6VZF N6VZF@arrl.net (310) 545-6422
Webmaster	TBD
Editor	Glenda - KF6QFE Glenda.simpson@hotmail.com
Proofreader	Scott - N6LEM

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

