



June 2021

ARCOver

A Community Service Organization Dedicated to Amateur Radio Since 1970

In this issue:

- ◆ President's Message
- ◆ 2021 Club Officers
- ◆ What's an "Elmer"?
- ◆ Meeting Info
- ◆ WSJT-X Version 2.4.0
- ◆ RA Vintage Home Movie
- ◆ FCC Seeks Comment
- ◆ International Space Station
- ◆ Interactive LightCube Satellite
- ◆ "ELMER" Inspiration
- ◆ IARU Continues



June 26th –27th

E-mail: W6SBA@arrl.net



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

President's Message

SBARC members,

Word is out that California will be moving toward normalcy (TBD on what that will really mean) June 15, 2021. We have been keeping in contact with our general meeting room coordinator at TMMC. Last word was we are still not invited back on their campus. The on-line meetings have provided the ability to allow out of the area, or in some cases far out of the area speakers. These are talents that would otherwise not have been available to us without the on-line hook up. So we are looking at keeping a mix of meeting options to facilitate speakers outside of the driving area. We are planning a club lunch in the park on July 17th at De Portola Park in Torrance from 10AM to 2PM. Start planning to join us and lend a hand. We have had a few members do an impromptu coffee gathering at El Prado Park. Stay tuned for more of those opportunities.

Field Day June 26 & 27 will be from your home or wherever you choose it to be. We are still following the ARRL's independent operator operating plan. For the club to receive points, you will need to submit your contacts under the same name "South Bay Amateur Radio Club W6SBA". Get on and operate. Keep those on air radio skills tuned up.

Another Balloon adventure started June 12 at 9:30AM. Tom KI6RC, Bruce, KK6BJ, and Chuck K6CSH took part in another launch from the TMMC parking structure top deck. Looking at the APRS.fi, shows the launch path slowly going north thru the beach cities then turning north east heading toward Las Vegas, then near Bryce Canyon, up over Denver, then heading east through Kansas, and presently curving south east through Oklahoma doing 32MPH at 44816ft. We have had some long haul balloon flights with multiple orbits. This could be another exceptional flight. The balloon is equipped with WISPR. So the tracking range on 20m is exceptionally good. This balloon is tagged as "KI6RC-1" on APRS.fi. Google up APRS.fi and follow along!

For our June club meeting, Bob Heil, K9EID will be our speaker. Bob has spent many years working toward better sounding amateur radio communications. I would describe Bob as being a real audio engineering expert when it comes to the transmission of microphone audio. Join the meeting to hear about Bob's unique sound enhancements to amateur radio. It should be very interesting and informative to hear from someone of Bob's unique amateur radio experience. Join us on Zoom on June 17th, 2021 at 7:30PM. If you need the Zoom invite, please let me know. Please see the inside column on page 3 for more details on this month's meeting speaker background.

Upcoming monthly club activities include, the SBARC virtual Zoom club meeting on June 17th at 7:30PM. And, the other things we use to do: The TRW/NGC swap meet remains cancelled until? (We are keeping an eye on this event to return.) After the swap meet a few of us use to head over to Denny's. These have all been suspended until after the COVID shutdown. Hopefully we are now inching closer to getting these activities to open back up.

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

73's...
Scott-N6LEM



CLUB OFFICERS

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Past Pres: OPEN

What's an Elmer?

By Glenda, KF6QFE

I heard this term used in something I read and had no clue what it meant. Was it referring to Elmer's glue or Elmer Fudd?



Many of you more savvy or experienced hams might already know the answer, however, for the terminology challenged folks, like myself, here's what I found out.

Elmers and more...

In amateur radio, the term "Elmer" refers to a mentor, or to the act of mentoring others. This is integral to the ham radio spirit of helping others. Many more-experienced hams will volunteer their time to answer questions, provide tutoring or teach classes to anyone wishing to enter amateur radio ranks, or who simply wishes to learn more about it. The amateur radio community is a diverse network of clubs and individuals with expertise in a variety of areas. For some, sharing or publishing practical information is their way of giving back to the ham radio community. There are many engineering and scientific professionals involved in ham radio as well as many celebrities. Journalist Walter Cronkite, baseball pitcher Ron Swobada, TV/radio personality Jean Shepherd, Senator Barry Goldwater, and musician Joe Walsh are among the thousands of famous personalities who are or were hams. Nobel Prize winner for Physics Joseph Taylor is an avid ham, and has developed several modulation formats that are suitable for extremely weak signal communications. (taken from <https://www.tek.com/blog/ham-radio-facts>)

I know some have shared problems their having with a radio or set-ups during Zoom meetings or on the net and others have provided troubleshooting ideas. This is one of the neat things about our club so if you're a newer ham or want to better understand a less familiar aspect of Amateur radio, reach out and utilize the knowledge and experiences of our members. Don't be shy, our members love helping other members We can all exhibit the spirit of being an ELMER to someone! Continued topic on page 7



June 17th 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.



Bob Heil

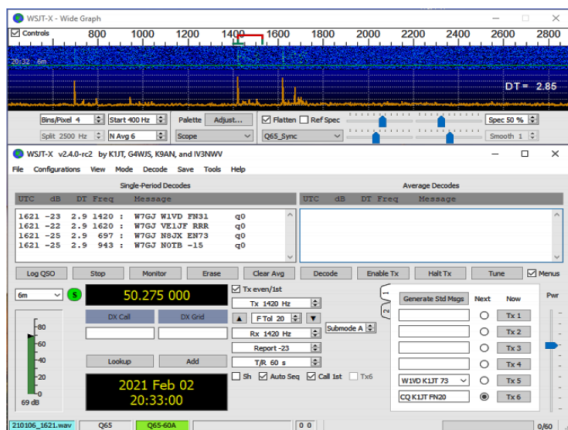
First licensed in 1956, Amateur Radio has been the foundation of my careers in the sound reinforcement industry as well as bringing high quality, articulate audio to Amateur Radio. Entering

this great hobby during the best sun spot cycle helped me to focus on designing and building one of the first VHF SSB KW stations. Throughout the years, I have enjoyed designing many antennas, from the 128 element two meter "J" Beam array in 1960 to the latest - phased arrays on 40 and 75 meters. I enjoy all of the bands from 160 meters through two meters working my many friends and especially newcomers to this great hobby.

JOIN US
ONLINE

WSJT-X version 2.4.0 Now Generally Available, Version 2.5.0 on the Horizon

ARRL.com 06/10/2021



WSJT-X version 2.4.0 now is available in general release. According to co-developer Joe Taylor, K1JT, WSJT-X version 2.4.0 includes a new digital mode, Q65. This protocol is designed for two-way contacts over especially difficult propagation paths, including ionospheric scatter, troposcatter, rain scatter, TEP, EME, and other types of fast-fading signals.

“On paths with Doppler spread more than a few Hertz, the weak-signal performance of Q65 is the best among all WSJT-X modes,” the **Quick Start Guide** asserts.

WSJT-X version 2.5.0-rc1 (beta) version has been released. According to the **Release Notes**, in version 2.5.0 “the Q65 decoder has been enhanced to measure and compensate for linear frequency drift in Q65 signals.”

Q65 uses 65-tone frequency-shift keying and builds on the demonstrated weak-signal strengths of QRA64, a mode introduced to WSJT-X in 2016. Q65 offers user message and sequencing identical to that in FST4, FT4, FT8, and MSK144. It includes a unique tone for time and frequency synchronization. As with JT65, this “sync tone” is readily visible on the waterfall spectral display. In addition, Q65 provides a sensitive “sync curve” near the bottom of the waterfall window.

Testing showed that Q65 will enable stations with a modest Yagi and 100 W or more and to work one another on 6 meters at distances up to

~2000 kilometers on most days of the year, in dead band conditions.

“An excellent example of targeted uses of Q65 is ionospheric scatter on the 6-meter band,” the documentation states. “Extensive tests on the 1,150-kilometer path between K1JT and K9AN have shown that with 300 W power output, nearly every Q65-30A transmission is copied correctly by the other station.” The 30A refers to the transmit-receive period and spacing width.

For the complete announcement and to download the latest version, visit the **WSJT-X website**.





Countdown Timer

The countdown is on!

Get ready to make some contacts.

Check your gear and setups so you don't have any last minute surprises.

Have fun and keep track of your contacts.

Radio Amateur's Vintage Home Movie Film Sheds Light on Hindenburg Disaster

ARRL.com 05/27/2021

Vintage home movie film provided by New Jersey radio amateur Bob Schenck, N2OO, was the highlight of a PBS documentary about the *Hindenburg* disaster. The film, shot by his uncle Harold Schenck, may provide clues as to what initiated the disastrous 1937 fire that destroyed the airship *Hindenburg* and claimed 35 lives as the German zeppelin was landing at Lakehurst, New Jersey. Harold Schenck tried to interest government investigators in his film, shot from a different angle than newsreel footage that begins only after the fire was well under way, but it was largely overlooked. "Nobody ever asked for it," Bob Schenck explains in the documentary.



The Schenck film is the highlight of a PBS "NOVA" documentary, **Hindenburg: The New Evidence**, that investigates the issue in considerable depth in an effort to unlock the secrets of the cold case. The program aired on May 19 and remains available for streaming.

"My dad had bought this nifty Kodak camera — a wind-up movie camera, 8 millimeters — and he couldn't come [to the *Hindenburg* landing] because he worked," Bob Schenck recounted during the documentary. "So, he asked my uncle and my mom if they would take some shots and see the *Hindenburg* land."

Bob Schenck approached Dan Grossman, an expert on airships, including *Hindenburg*, in 2012 during a commemoration of the disaster that forever memorialized radio reporter Herbert Morrison's plaintive on-air reaction, "Oh, the humanity!" The NOVA documentary not only shares Schenck's footage, which provided new clues to re-examine the cause of the explosion. The documentary also reviews scientific experiments that helped investigators come to a fresh understanding of what set off the fire.

The original investigation concluded only that the fire resulted from leaking hydrogen ignited by a spark, but it was never determined just what caused the spark. Witness accounts suggested the fire started near the airship's tail, but supporting evidence was hard to find until the Schenck footage was examined.

"The *Hindenburg* remains vivid in our collective memories all these years later because of the searing images and film of the explosion," said NOVA co-executive producer Chris Schmidt in a *Manchester Patch* article. "We feel honored to share this new footage with the world and to bring the NOVA audience behind the scenes of this pivotal new investigation into the crash." — *Some information from Manchester Patch; thanks to Pete Varounis, NL7XM*

FCC Seeks Comment on Potential Impact of Global Semiconductor Shortage

ARRL.com 05/27/2021

The FCC is seeking comment on the impact of the continuing global shortage of semiconductors. The FCC's May



11 **Public Notice** stated its concern is focused on the impact the shortage could have on the communications industry, agency initiatives, and the nation's continued advancement in next-generation technologies.

FCC Acting Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel commented: "The communications sector is one of the fastest-growing segments of the semiconductor industry. These tiny pieces of technology are the basic building blocks of modern communications — including 5G, Wi-Fi, satellites, and more. That is why we are seeking to better understand the current shortage, its consequences for the communications sector, and steps we can take to ensure that FCC priorities and initiatives remain on track."

Interested parties may file comments online using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System. Initial comments are due on June 10, and reply comments are due on June 25.

International Space Station to be in Cross-Band Repeater Mode for Field Day

ARRL.com 06/09/2021



The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) cross-band repeater will be available for **ARRL Field Day**, June 26 – 27. Contacts will count toward Field Day bonus points as satellite contacts and Field

Day contacts.

Field Day rules limit stations to one contact on any single-channel FM satellite. Note that contacts made during Field Day by ISS crew would only count for contact credit, but not for satellite bonus points. ISS cross-band repeater contacts are also valid AMSAT Field Day satellite contacts.

The ARISS cross-band repeater uplink is 145.990 MHz (67 Hz tone), with a downlink of 437.800 MHz.

ARISS suggests that those unfamiliar with the ISS repeater may want to practice with it prior to Field Day. ARISS had planned to switch modes to the Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS) during the second week of June, but this won't happen until after the first ARISS school contact following ARRL Field Day.

The ARISS ham station will be off-air during spacewalks on June 16 and June 20. -- *Thanks to ARISS*



Please join us on W6SBA 224.38 minus offset and the PL 192.8 hz 7:30pm on Thursdays. You can share any info or just say hello!

Interactive LightCube Satellite Set to Launch in Late 2022

ARRL.com 06/04/2021

NASA has selected **LightCube** along with 13 other small research satellites to fly as auxiliary payloads aboard rockets launching between 2022 and 2025.

The launch opportunity is provided through NASA's CubeSat Launch Initiative (**CSLI**). Being designed, built, and tested by an interdisciplinary team of students, advisors, and engineers across multiple organizations, LightCube is a microsatellite educational mission that aims to produce a light visible to the naked eye on Earth. The spacecraft's two xenon flashtubes will be triggered via amateur radio.



When the light beacon is activated, the 1U CubeSat will be visible momentarily — each flash will last just 8 microseconds — from the ground, with a brightness similar to the International Space Station. Following ISS deployment, LightCube will orbit Earth for approximately 2 years before safely deorbiting.

The LightCube mission is a collaborative project between Arizona State University's Interplanetary Initiative, the ASU Fulton Schools of Engineering, Vega Space Systems, and CETYS Universidad. ASU designed and built the satellite.

Here's how it will work: A radio amateur with a hand-held transceiver will wait until the satellite is roughly overhead, as determined by a smartphone or computer app. The user will transmit a predefined number code, and if LightCube is charged, it will flash. The satellite then requires 30 seconds to recharge the capacitor that fires the xenon light tubes. At this point, no frequencies have been coordinated for LightCube.

The idea itself is not novel. As the LightCube sponsors note, Fitsat in 2013 used high-power LEDs to transmit Morse code. Equisat in 2016 could produce a beacon visible to the naked eye.

The History of “Elmer” “Elmer” Inspiration, Elmer “Bud” Frohardt Jr, W9DY, SK *ARRL.com 03/24/2016*

The ham radio mentor who inspired the term “Elmer” — Elmer P. “Bud” Frohardt Jr, W9DY (ex-W9GFF), of Madison, Wisconsin — died on March 22. He was 93. A friend and co-worker of the late Rod Newkirk, W9BRD (later VA3ZBB), who edited *QST*'s “How’s DX?” column, Frohardt was the “Elmer” that Newkirk had in mind when he used the name in his March 1971 column, referring to someone who helped to mentor new Amateur Radio licensees and calling them “the unsung fathers of Amateur Radio.”

“Too frequently one hears a sad story in this little nutshell: ‘Oh, I almost got a ticket, too, but Elmer, W9XYZ, moved away and I kind of lost interest,’” Newkirk had written. “We need those Elmers. All the Elmers, including the ham who took the most time and trouble to give *you* a push toward your license, are the birds who keep this great game young and fresh.”

On AC6V’s “Origin of Ham Speak” web page, John Becker, K9MM, is quoted as saying, “Bud was very well known locally for his involvement with the RAMS (Radio Amateur Megacycle Society) radio club, and he was always helping newcomers to the hobby.”

An ARRL Life Member, Frohardt, who preferred to be called “Bud,” had worked as a communications technician for the Illinois State Police, retiring in 1986. Licensed in the 1930s, he was a veteran DXer, eventually working all 381 countries at that time from his former home in Chicago. When he moved into an antenna-restricted neighborhood in the 1990s, he enthusiastically began chasing DX from his car, racking up 326 entities while operating from the back seat. He also was active in the annual Illinois QSO Party, which he managed at one point.

“Am most proud of all the wonderful young people I have been able to interest over the years in science, radio, DX, CW, and electronics,” Frohardt wrote on his QRZ.com page. “Many of them have become excellent operators, engineers, scientists, doctors or business people.” — *Thanks to The Daily DX*



IARU Continues World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 Preparations

ARRL.com 06/02/2021

IARU Region 1 Spectrum Affairs Chair Barry Lewis, G4SJH, reports that efforts continue in defending the interests of amateur radio during preparations by CEPT — the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations — for World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-23). The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) sponsors the WRC. Meeting on May 21, the IARU worked with CEPT regional telecommunications organizations (RTOs) at the third meeting of the Conference Preparatory Group (CPG). The CPG is the parent group in CEPT that oversees the development of the CEPT Briefs for each WRC-23 agenda item, and reviews the progress of individual project teams under the CPG umbrella.

IARU put forward the agreed preliminary IARU positions for agenda items that could affect amateur radio. IARU’s overall objective is to safeguard the allocations to the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite services in the co- and adjacent-frequency bands within the scope of each agenda item. CEPT Briefs include a specific section in which the views of all the recognized international and regional organizations can be placed, and IARU’s views are now in this section of the draft briefs for each agenda item of interest.

The meeting also heard presentations from other Region 1 RTOs, as well as organizations from Region 2 and Region 3 about their preparations. These presentations and the CEPT [meeting document](#) drafts are available via the CEPT website. The IARU Spectrum and Regulatory Liaison Committee (SRLC) continues to be active in all the CEPT project teams dealing with the WRC preparation.



CALENDAR

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

Club Meeting - 3rd Thursday of the month
June 17, 2021 - 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 - **Cancelled due to Covid-19**
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

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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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TO:



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