



April - June 2023



ARCOver

A Community Service Organization Dedicated to Amateur Radio Since 1970

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E-mail: W6SBA@arrl.net



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

SBARC members,

Your radio club is hanging out online again.... We are back to Zoom 100% for the general club meetings. We decided to leave the church meeting location primarily due to low attendance. We did leave the door open to go back if we see it to be beneficial. Maybe by now you have had the opportunity to get all your antennas dried out. Looks like the rain has pulled back. This should help get us motivated to do some portable operating. We have not had a discussion about field day. At the next club meeting we will bring this topic up and see where our club operating interest is at.

The coffee meetup: Some members have self-organized a coffee clutch at El Prado Park. It's at the park strip that runs from Torrance High School to downtown old Torrance. They meet on the south side closer to the downtown businesses. You'll need to bring your own chair. Look for the blue jackets and caps. The turnout has been pretty good. The meetup is the first Friday of the month at 9AM. Stop by and stay for whatever time your schedule allows.

Armed Forces Day Parade: The club has agreed to support the parade in cooperation with TARA. As in years past, we have focused on assisting with setting up the formation in rear staging area. We need member participation to pull this off. It's a couple of hours work and you get to see the equipment close up. Then if desired, you move down the parade route and watch the parade. Please let us know if you can help. I think you will find it an interesting activity.

Dues: A last reminder that it is that time of year again. The dues are \$15.00 per person, \$30.00 for a couple and \$30.00 for family of 3 or more. This year we want to make it a little easier by using Zelle to pay your dues. We agreed to hold the membership price the same as last year. The club does have expenses. The club's primary income is only from the dues and swap meet sales. And, we are always looking for new members.

Meeting location: Our next meeting is April 20th at 7:30PM. Our speaker will be on Zoom. Please keep an eye out for the meeting invite email with the Zoom meeting link. This month's speaker, K8ZT Anthony Luscre. Presentation: Intro to Amateur Radio Contesting- Not Just for competition, but anyone who wants to make more QSOs! You will need a zoom link to join and participate. The links are sent out to the membership. If you want to be a guest, contact Joe WB6MYD and request a meeting link.

Council Positions: Scott-N6LEM President, Joe-WB6MYD, VP-Sect-Tres., Greg-WQ9P council, Paul-KF5PPF council. We have an available spot on the council for you! Please think about getting your name on this list. We need your help to keep the club moving forward.

We have now partnered with the TRW amateur radio club to hold VE sessions at the "S" building cafeteria. Betty N6VZF is leading the SNARC VE testing program. VE testing and the swap meet are a convenient combination. Contact Betty to volunteer or for testing information. These activities both occur on the last Saturdays of every month. Swap meet starts at 7AM to 11:30AM. VE testing is from 10AM until Noon.

Since we have moved to a quarterly Arc-Over publication, monitor your email for meeting and club activity announcements. Stay tuned and let us know what you would like to see happening with your club. You can stay in touch with us on our Thursday's weekly repeater net at 7:30PM except the club meeting nights.

73's... Scott-N6LEM

**April:**

- 6th:** The Net* @7:30pm
13th: The Net* @7:30pm
20th: Club Meeting @7:30pm
27th: The Net* @7:30pm
29th: TRW Swap Meet 7:00-11:00am
 And V.E. session

May:

- 4th:** The Net* @7:30pm
11th: The Net* @7:30pm
18th: Club Meeting @7:30pm
25th: The Net* @7:30pm
27th: TRW Swap Meet 7:00-11:00am
 And V.E. session

June:

- 1st:** The Net* @ 7:30pm
8th: The Net* @ 7:30pm
15th: Club Meeting @7:30pm
22nd: The Net* @ 7:30pm
24th: TRW Swap Meet 7:00-11:00am
 And V.E. session
29th: The Net* @ 7:30pm

**Join us on the W6SBA 224.38 192.8pl repeater for our SBARC Thursday night net.*

Club newsletter is only published quarterly, the Club meeting presentations for February and March will be announced via a weekly email or during the Thursday Night Net.

**CLUB MEETING**

JOIN US ONLINE

**CLUB OFFICERS****President:**

Scott -N6LEM,
310-530-9889; scottsimpson126 (gmail)

Vice President and Secretary:

Joe -WB6MYD,
310-328-0817; wb6myd (gmail)

Treasurer:

Joe -WB6MYD,
310-328-0817; wb6myd (gmail)

Council:

Greg-WQ9P,
310-702-9312; wq9p (arrl dot net)

Council:

Paul -KF5PPF,
832-423-8845; pdmakinen (gmail)

What is LoTW, Why Should You Sign Up for it, and How Do You Use it?

Posted by [Anthony Luscre, K8ZT](#) on May 28, 2021 at 1:46 pm On All Bands.com

When I started out in Amateur Radio 40 years ago this summer, there were basically three ways to exchange a written confirmation of a contact (a QSL card):

Mail your card directly to the station and request a card from them. Etiquette often dictated including a way for the station to return their card to you without them incurring any expense:

- Stations in your country-: include self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE)
- Stations in other countries: include international reply coupons (IRC) or cash (often called “green stamps”); IRCs are no longer sold in the U.S.

Send your card and request to a station’s **QSL Manager** (a third party who would handle QSLing for a very busy station). This request also usually involved a SASE, IRC, or “green stamps.”

Use a **QSL Bureau** (often written as Buro). In the U.S., the ARRL runs a QSL Buro that sends out QSLs in bulk to other buros worldwide, receives incoming cards from worldwide buros, and sends them on to volunteers who forward them en masse to stations using the buro.

All of these methods had traits in common:

- Filling out and sending QSL cards
- Use of postal systems to move physical cards around the world
- Money outlays for QSL cards, envelopes, postage, and buro fees
- Waiting time while cards moved slowly and often inefficiently across the globe

In 2003, the ARRL introduced an electronic confirmation (QSL) system called Logbook of The World (LoTW). This system was designed to avoid many of the downsides of physical QSL cards and their movement from place to place. One of the primary goals of the plan was to provide secure authentication using cryptographic key distribution. An amateur’s computer-based logbook, in ADIF or Cabrillo format, must be “signed” using a key obtained from the ARRL. Logbook data includes call signs and locations of stations, contact time, frequency, and operating mode. The ARRL assigns keys to U.S.-based amateurs who appear in the FCC licensing database and to non-U.S. amateurs who provide alternate proof of identity.

For the entire article visit: [What is LoTW, Why Should You Sign Up for it, and How Do You Use it? \(onallbands.com\)](#)

MONTHLY MEETING

Be Connected. Be Heard. Be Informed.

At the April meeting, we’ll be watching a video presentation by Anthony, Luscre, K8ZT, who has been involved with Amateur Radio for over 40 years. He has a love for cataloging and has a wealth of knowledge to share with others.

The presentation describes what radiosport and Amateur Radio contesting is, how it works and why it can enhance your overall ham radio experience. Contesting is a popular activity in Amateur Radio but just like Amateur Radio itself, it is a multifaceted activity with different meanings and activities for individual operators. Participants in contests often have different individual goals and experiences in the same contest. For example, one ham may be trying to win first place in their contest category while a second ham may be trying to complete their Worked All States (ARRL WAS) award. Even hams competing for top places in the contest may be operating in different categories such as single or multi-operator, high power or QRP, etc. In most cases, you don’t need any special equipment, beyond your simple home station, to have fun competing in a contest. On the other hand, you may choose to create a “super contesting station” with all the bells and whistles or more likely something in between. Whatever route you choose to take, this course can be a great way to get started.

Students will learn:

- Why do hams like to contest?
- What are the different types of competitions?
- How to compete in contests.
- Ways to improve your overall contesting experience and results.
- Ways to improve your station for more efficient and effective contesting.

How contesting can enhance your overall ham radio experience.

Please join us on Zoom on Thursday, **April 20th at 7:30pm**. Keep an eye out for the email with Zoom link.

Winter 2023 Balloon Update

Since my last update we have only launched 4 balloons but there have been some interesting developments. On October 8th 2022 we launched a ZachTek WSPR transmitter on 20 & 30 meters, under a hydrogen filled Yokohama balloon that lasted 6 days 17 hours and was lost over Cairo, Egypt. After some of the previous short-lived flights, getting a balloon to stay up 6 days seemed like a major milestone!

So, with high hopes, on November 12th 2022 we launched a QRP Labs tiny U4B transmitter on 20 meters, under another Yokohama balloon that lasted exactly 1 day 4 hours and 16 minutes and stopped transmitting over the Atlantic. That was a very fast trip across the country but a very short flight overall.

Something basic was wrong but we could not figure out what. Finally, Bruce KK6BJ and I sat down in my garage and had a long talk about everything we were doing. Bruce came up with the idea that we should seal up the filling port on the balloons differently. We had been using an impulse sealer because it produced such a neat consistent melted plastic seal. Even under a microscope the seal looked perfect and we were sealing the balloon neck, not once, but 2 or 3 times. No hydrogen could possibly get past that seal. Bruce made a persuasive argument that we should change one major step and then see what happens. So, on December 10th 2022 we filled up a Yokohama balloon with hydrogen and sealed the neck with a Hanger 9 model airplane sealing iron set to 425 deg. That's hot and you don't want to linger long over the plastic especially when it's filled with hydrogen.

At 9:15 AM on a beautiful Saturday, December 10th 2022 morning we released a 20-meter QRP Labs U4B WSPR transmitter (callsign Ki6RC) under a really well-sealed Yokohama balloon. To save weight I installed the transmitter under only one solar panel which was pointed straight up. The balloon made 1 orbit of the earth and then went up north where there was not enough winter sun to allow it to transmit but after 2 weeks it came down south again and continued around the earth for another $\frac{3}{4}$ of an orbit and then went north again. As I write this it's been gone for another 2 weeks now and I think it's probably down but we know for a fact it stayed in the air for at least 47 days 10 hours!

While that balloon was off up north, we decided to launch a ZachTek transmitter (callsign KK6BJ) under two well-sealed Yokohama balloons attached one over the other. Launched on January 8th 2023 it has been in the air for 31 days, has just completed its third orbit and is orbiting the earth every 10 days. With two balloons holding it up, it's flying extremely high at 45,000 to 50,000 feet. We have our fingers crossed that the Chinese won't shoot it down as it crosses over their country for the 4th time. Ha! 73

Tom - Ki6RC

PS. I'm currently getting a couple of Yokohama balloons ready for another launch. The balloons have to be filled with air to pre-stretch them for a week or two. This one will be a QRP Labs U4B 20-meter WSPR transmitter with two solar panels mounted at 45-degrees to catch more of the winter sunshine. Callsign will be Ki6RC.

Amateur Radio Included in FEMA Guide for National Emergency Preparedness

ARRL.com 03/22/2023



The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has released a final version (March 2023) of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Functional Guidance. The guidance, which provides a framework for communications resources within incident management, officially includes support from amateur radio operators. The expanded Communications Unit (COMU) structure now includes the Auxiliary Communicator (AUXC) role, which covers personnel from services that provide communications support to emergency management, public safety, and other government agencies. This includes amateur radio.

NIMS guides government, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector to work together to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters and other emergencies. "This is a major step in the recognition of the need and usefulness of amateur radio and other communications services in our national preparedness," said Josh Johnston, [KE5MHV](#), Director of Emergency Management for [ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®](#). "It also gives official guidance to pave the way for future training and education of volunteers in ARRL's [Amateur Radio Emergency Service®](#) (ARES®)," Johnston added.

The NIMS ICT guide (PDF) is available at https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_ict-functional-guidance.pdf.

NASA Names Three Hams for Artemis II Moon Mission Crew

ARRL.com 04/07/2023

NASA and the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) announced the four astronauts who will venture around the moon on Artemis II. This will be the first crewed mission on NASA's path to establishing long-term moon science and exploration development. The agencies revealed the crew members on Monday, April 3, 2023, during an event at Ellington Field near NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. Three of the four crew members are amateur radio operators.



"The Artemis II crew represents thousands of people working tirelessly to bring us to the stars. This is their crew, this is our crew, this is humanity's crew," said NASA Administrator Bill Nelson. "NASA astronauts Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, and Christina Hammock Koch, and CSA astronaut Jeremy Hansen, each has their own story, but together, they represent our creed: E pluribus unum - out of many, one. Together, we are ushering in a new era of exploration for a new generation of star sailors and dreamers - the Artemis Generation."

The crew will work as a team to execute an ambitious set of demonstrations during the flight test.

Their assignments are as follows: Commander Reid Wiseman, KF5LKT, Pilot Victor Glover, KI5BKC, Mission Specialist 1 Christina Hammock Koch, and Mission Specialist 2 Jeremy Hansen, KF5LKU. Koch had planned to study and take her amateur license exam in 2019, but her flight was suddenly rescheduled 6 months earlier than originally planned.

She had to immediately begin preparing for her flight instead of studying.

The Artemis II mission is scheduled to launch in November 2024. The approximately 10-day flight test will launch on the agency's powerful Space Launch System rocket, prove the Orion spacecraft's life-support systems, and validate the capabilities and techniques needed for humans to live and work in deep space.

For more information, visit the [NASA](#) website.

Tornado Season and Amateur Radio

ARRL.com 03/17/2023



Tornado season is fast approaching, and amateur radio operators will again play a key role in helping the National Weather Service (NWS) issue accurate and timely warnings. In fact, March through May is considered the most active period for tornadoes to develop.

The NWS reports there have already been 255 preliminary filtered reported tornadoes and 213 confirmed tornadoes in the United States in 2023. Worldwide, nine tornado-related deaths have been confirmed, all of them in the United States.

January saw the third-highest number of tornado watches and confirmed tornadoes of any January on record in the United States. Additionally, the first two months of the year saw the fourth-highest number of confirmed tornadoes for the first 59 days of any year on record.

The SKYWARN® ([weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov)) Storm Spotter Program is available to anyone interested in helping the NWS track and report potentially dangerous weather. Anyone can become a SKYWARN weather spotter, and the information is available at the SKYWARN website. Most states have amateur radio networks that are activated during severe weather. Trained volunteers use their radios to report rapidly changing activity and share the information with local weather offices. A list of the states that have scheduled special weather

awareness activities can be found at the [NWS Awareness and Preparedness Calendar \(weather.gov\)](https://www.weather.gov).

The NWS Forecast office in Norman, Oklahoma, uses amateur radio as one method of communicating with spotter groups and emergency management organizations. For decades, amateur radio operators have provided invaluable service in support of the SKYWARN storm spotter program by using their unique communications capabilities to share critical information between the NWS, the local emergency management officials, and storm spotter networks.

In 1999, the NWS, along with ARRL, founded SKYWARN Recognition Day to honor the voluntary contributions of thousands of amateur radio operators who play a critical role in keeping the public safe and informed about severe weather conditions. The day is celebrated on the first Saturday in December, and amateur radio spotters can earn awards for participating.



The 2022 NWS Spotter of the Year Award was given to Bryan Loper, WX5CSS, of Atlanta, Texas. The award noted that Loper is very active with the amateur radio network and weather community within the Arkansas/Louisiana/Texas region, and is always reliably providing weather reports. Loper is an ARRL member.

To learn more about amateur radio licensing and SKYWARN visit [ARRL.org](https://www.arrrl.org).

CALENDAR

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

Club Meeting - 3rd Thursday of the month
@ 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 **Last Saturday of the month**

VE Sessions - Contact Betty, N6VZF, with questions
(sessions are held on the Northrop Grumman Campus)

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

CLUB SERVICES

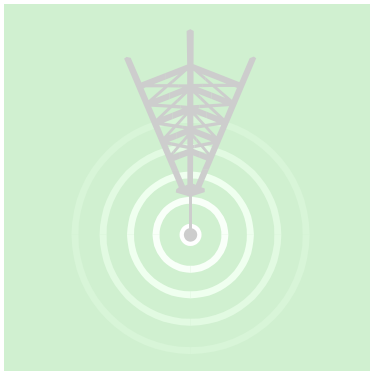
| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Awards Manager (HF/VHF) | Cliff - K6LH |
| Health & Welfare | Joe - WB6MYD |
| Swap Meet Chair | TBD |
| VE Test Liaison & Sessions | Betty Barch-N6VZF N6VZF@arrl.net (310) 545-6422 |
| Webmaster | TBD |
| Editor | Glenda - KF6QFE Glenda.simpson@hotmail.com |
| 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

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TO:



Address Correction Requested

A COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION

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