



The Short Circuit

January 2015

since 1927

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Batteries and Amateur Radio By Howard H. Rogers

KF6NOR for K6AA

Batteries provide portable power for on-the-go hams, supply emergency back-up systems, and are a necessity for most all toys and gadgets these days. In this presentation, "Batteries *will* be included."

Join us and meet Howard Rogers, at K6AA, United Radio Amateur Club meeting
January 16, 2015, 7:00PM, Los Angeles Maritime Museum, San Pedro, CA

Howard will be discussing batteries, especially in relation to Amateur Radio, including how batteries work, safety, and application. Primary cells (alkaline and lithium), as well as secondary cells such as nickel cadmium, nickel metal-hydride, lithium-ion, and lead-acid will be covered.

Howard's career started when he served in the U.S. Navy from 1944-1946, repairing electronic equipment, such as shipboard radios, radar and sonar. In 1949, he received a B.S. in Chemistry (1949) from the University of Illinois and a Ph. D in Inorganic Chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1953. He minored in Electrical Engineering at a time when "electronics" meant the era of vacuum tube electronics.

Beginning In 1952 through 1961, he carried out research for the Allis-Chalmers Mfg. Company in West Allis, WI. Howard was employed with the Rocketdyne Division of Rockwell International in Canoga Park from 1961 to 1970. Howard became Chief Research Scientist for Martek Instruments (Oceanographic) in Newport Beach. Starting in 1973 Howard did research and development on the nickel-hydrogen battery for Hughes satellites until retiring in 2002 from Boeing Satellite Systems in Torrance, previously part of Hughes Aircraft. He is credited for his contributions to scientific papers and is an author of 27 U. S. Patents and is a recipient of the Lawrence A. Hyland Patent Award from Hughes Aircraft.

In 1997, Howard earned his Technician class (now General) amateur radio license. He is a member of the Torrance Amateur Radio Association (TARA call sign W6TPD, Torrance P.D.), BIARA (U. S. S. Iowa) and South Bay ARC (W6SBA).

Meet KF6NOR. Keep your skill set calibrated and "Everready."



The Club's No-host Breakfast is held 8:00 am on the First Saturday of each month at the

Think Cafe at 302 W. 5th Street, San Pedro, CA

Saturday January 3, 2015

Only 11 of us braved the cold for the New Year to enjoy the excellent breakfasts at the Think Café. Here are our stories:

John, KC6JHV, took advantage of the tour of the tunnels under the Marine Exchange, as suggested and arranged by our November speaker. He says it was very informative and enjoyable.

Nick, N6EFI wishes all a Happy New Year. He is starting out the year with a new car (another Lexus) and is exchanging his new MFJ microphone switch for a new one: the current one makes both Mics 'hot'.

David, W6KL, is still messing with his Flex 6500 and expects to be for some time...

Steve, K6NT enjoyed his son Michael's visit over the Holidays.

Scotty, K6ZNL described her 'adventure' of visiting the Rose Parade Floats using the Los Angeles Metro.

Tom, KJ6JPZ is still embroiled in the home improvement process, with a new roof at present, waiting for solar panels. There have been no more raccoon incursions.

Mary, Martin's WF wishes all a Happy New Year and says she is glad to be home.

Martin, N6UB, under probing, gave us a brief rundown of the itinerary of their 85 night cruise around Africa.

We are eagerly awaiting a program.

Doug, W6HB

- Reports that the Website is down, along with the BIARA website, but both are being worked on. It appears that they may require software upgrades.
- Bill Carter, our president, is with his gravely ill sister. We wish them both all the best.
- January's meeting, on the 16th, will have a program on batteries by Howard Rogers.
- HAMCON meeting to be held next week: Doug is the prize chair. As of now he does not need help, but as we get closer (Sept) he may need help in the prize room. He will keep us posted.
- The bands have been good lately and his neighbor's plasma TV is no longer causing him interference.

Don, NA6Z is also getting a new roof.

Doug won the certificate

Recorded by Scotty K6ZNL, still looking for a volunteer replacement

URAC's VE Corner ... Gary N6HMR

In December, following the *First Saturday of the Month Breakfast*, another new Tech joined the hobby. Turn time (exam to license) was only two business days. Conducted at the Maritime Museum, the examinee had heard of the Brass Room and appreciated being able to use the quiet location for his test. Thanks Bill W6AJ and David W6KL for making this exam possible.

Many thanks to our VEs and CEs for their participation. Without the volunteer help, these exams would not be possible. And our continued thanks to Marifrances for use of the Brass Room, a very quiet, comfortable environment for testing.

Want to work DX but think you can't because you're *only a Tech*? Well think again ... at URAC's Christmas Holiday Dinner I talked with one member, a Tech, who's worked 141 countries on 10m Phone. *It can be done!*
Been studying for the General exam? The question pool is scheduled to change on July 1st.

How do we promote better operating practices? ... ***... Dan Romnanchik KB6NU***

A lament I often hear is that many amateur radio operators either don't seem to understand the importance of good operating practices or just don't care about them. Just this morning, a reader sent me an e-mail saying "I think there are too many hams out there who don't know how to call a station on split frequency. It's amazing that we have so many dummies out there."

I wrote back, saying, "Maybe we need another type of Official Observer, called the Operating Observer. This group would note when operators aren't following good operating procedures and send people gentle reminders." Of course, as soon as I hit Send, I knew this wasn't a very good idea. As my reader noted, this would be a thankless job, and chances are the poor operators would simply ignore the notices, anyway.

Even so, there must be some way to encourage good operating procedures. One effort to promote better operating procedures is the DX Code of Conduct (<http://www.dx-code.org/>). This is a list of 13 suggestions to make DX operation, particularly pileups, less chaotic. The website includes a small image that you're supposed to post to your website to show that you support the Code. While this is certainly a step in the right direction, I wish there was something we could do to be more proactive in improving operating practices.

There is, of course, the *ARRL Operating Manual*. This publication is now in its tenth edition and is a valuable source of information about how to operate properly. The problem is only a fraction of amateur radio operators on the air have a copy, much less read it.

Another attempt at promoting good operating practice is the ARRL's A-1 Operator's Club (<http://www.arrl.org/a-1-op>). While a noble effort, I think that this program really requires more promotion. In addition to being more aggressive about finding A-1 operators and bringing them into this "club," the ARRL should use it to promote better operation. Perhaps a series of videos with the A-1 Ops logo showing how to operate split or how to properly call CQ would help improve operating practices overall.

Talking about videos, I'd be surprised if there weren't already some YouTube videos that illustrate good operating practices. If you know of any, please e-mail me. It would be great to have a list of really good ones that I can send to people who want information on how to operate better.

What do you think? Do we need to be more proactive about encouraging hams to use good operating practices? If so, how do we go about it? What do you do to encourage better operating practices?

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When not worrying about the state of amateur radio operating practices, you'll find KB6NU working on updates to his "No Nonsense" study guides, teaching one-day Tech classes, or blogging about amateur radio at www.kb6nu.com.

73, Dan KB6NU

2015 Save the Date:

- Baker to Vegas: March 28-29
- CROP Hunger Walk: Saturday, May 2
- Museum Ships Weekend: June 6-7
- ARRL Field Day: June 27-28
- Lighthouse/Lightship's Weekend: August 15-16
- Conquer the Bridge Run: (with PV) Monday, September 7
- HAMCON, ARRL SW: September 11-13

~ January 2015 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 New Year's Day	2	3 First Saturday Breakfast: Think Café, 8 am
4	5	6	7	8 Club Net, 8 pm	9	10
11 Human Trafficking Awareness	12	13	14	15 Club Net, 8 pm	16 Club Meeting, LAMM, 7 pm	17
18	19 Martin Luther King	20	21	22 Club Net, 8 pm	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 Club Net, 8 pm	30	31

~ February 2015 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Super Bowl	2 Groundhog Day	3	4	5 Club Net, 8 pm	6	7 First Saturday Breakfast, Thinnk Café, 8 am
8	9	10	11	12 Club Net, 8 pm	13	14 Valentine's Day
15	16 Presidents' Day	17	18	19 Club Net, 8 pm	20 Club Meeting, LAMM, 7 pm	21
22	23	24	25	26 Club Net, 8 pm	27	28

Note: This is the first of several postings letting you know what nets/organizations that URAC/K6AA belongs to:

YLSYSTEM.ORG

Looking for a group to just have fun with on 20 meters? Try the YLISSB, known as the YLSystem which meets daily on 14.332 MHz beginning at 1300Z and runs until the band closes in the evenings Monday through Friday, and until 1700Z (sometimes later) on the weekends.

Although started in the early 60s as an emergency traffic net for YLs, it is now a general fun group with more OMs than YLs, and is open to all General class and above operators. You don't have to be a member to check in, but the membership fee/dues are \$20.00 year which gets you the annual Publication, the "Voice" as well as eligibility to earn any of the 50 plus awards offered. The members are from all states and many DX locations. Most all control stations either use Netlogger, or have a logger operating so you can quickly see the members on board.

On visiting the website, click on the torch in the center to take you to the main index page. One of the choices in the left column is the Communicator, the monthly newsletter. You can also select awards to see what is offered. You will find that there are some you can earn only on specific dates, such as the Veterans on Nov. 11th, or the Irish on March 17th.

The System (they preferred not to be called a net because they offer open communications between stations) is a place to make new friends and acquaintances, and if you hear someone check in that you want to talk with, just say "Recheck" and your call sign when asked for check ins. They hold an annual convention which was held in FL in 2014, but will be in Erwin, TN on June 17-20th, 2015.

So for some plain old rag chewing fun, and to earn some wallpaper if that's your thing, try the YLSystem.

W4VTH
H. B. "Skipper" Delius
YL System Awards Coord.
(615)789-5374

Note: K6AA is a member of the system, as are W6HB, K6ZNL and WA6SDK.

All I Wanted For Christmas.....

Santa brought N6HE a MicroHAM MicroKEYER II integrated voice/CW/RTTY/PSK31 computer-radio interface system. He's now has surplus gear: Memory (CW) keyer, Voice Memory keyer, CW/FSK interfaces, etc. – and a rats-nest of now-unused cables. All software driven from one box with one USB connection to the computer and a cable harness to the radio. Slick! He's a very happy camper!

The 2014 Ham of the Year Award was won for 2014 by the team of Jim and Dorothy Jerzycke. The award was presented at the Holiday Banquet by last year's winners, Gary and Treva Forister:



DX OPERATIONS for JANUARY 2015 per NG3K

French Polynesia, FO: Is now operating thru 1/12/2015. QSL via OE1SSS.

Ogasawara, FG: Is now operating thru 1/10/2015. QSL via JD1BMH.

Bahamas, C6A: Is now operating thru 1/31/2015. QSL via 9H5G.

Austral Is: Is now operating thru 1/11/2015. QSL via KE8G.

Namibia, V5: Is now operating thru 1/13/2015. QSL via G3RWF.

American Samoa, KH8: Is now operating thru 1/12/2015. QSL via JA0JHQ.

Palau, T88: Is now operating thru 1/15/2015. QSL via JA6EGL.

Sint Maarten, PJ7: Will be operating from 1/9 thru 1/15/2015. QSL via VA3QSL.

Easter Is, XR0YJ: Will be operating from 1/9 thru 1/17/2015. QSL JA3ARJ.

Cayman Is, ZF2PG: Will be operating from 1/10 thru 1/18/2015. QSL via K8PGJ.

Senegal, 6W7SK: Will be operating from 1/10 thru 2/5/2015. QSL via F6BLP.

Haiti, HH5: Will be operating from 1/12 thru 2/3/2015. QSL via KC0W.

Bonaire, PJ4B: Will be operating from 1/14 thru 1/29/2015. QSL via PA8A.

Laos, XW4XR: Will be operating from 1/15 thru 1/23/2015. QSL via E21EIC.

Gambia, C5X: Will be operating from 1/15 thru 1/26/2015. QSL via G3VMW.

Papua New Guinea, P29NK: Will be operating from 1/15 thru 2/15/2015. QSL via DH1NK.

Iran, EP6T: Will be operating from 1/16 thru 1/31/2015. QSL via ?.

St Barthelemy, FJ: Will be operating from 1/17 thru 1/25/2015. QSL via N9SW.

Seychelles, S79AC: Will be operating from 1/17 thru 2/10/2015. QSL via OE4AAC.

St Kitts & Nevis, V47JA: Will be operating from 1/20 thru 3/1/2015. QSL via W5JON.

Guatemala, TG9: Will be operating from 1/22 thru 2/17/2015. QSL via VE7BV.

Navassa Is, K1N: Will be operating from 1/25 thru 2/13/2015. QSL via N2OO.

Guadeloupe, FG: Will be operating from 1/27 thru 2/1/2015. QSL via F6ITD.

Virgin Is, KP2: Will be operating from 1/30/2015 only. QSL via W7AUM.

Chatham Is, ZL7: Will be operating from 1/30 thru 2/1/2015. QSL via JA0JHQ.

<i>2015 U.R.A.C. Executive Board</i>			
PRESIDENT Bill Carter W6AJ		VICE-PRESIDENT Unfilled	
SECRETARY Tom Butler KJ6JPZ		TREASURER Scotty Butler K6ZNL	
DIRECTOR Richard Requa KB6FLF		DIRECTOR Homer Meek K6HKT	
DIRECTOR John Rockwood WA6SDK		DIRECTOR Don Putnick NA6Z	
		Past President Jim Jerzycke KQ6EA	

[Contact List](#)
For 2015

President

Bill Carter, W6AJ
310-503-6989
w6aj@arrl.net

Secretary

Tom Butler
310-833-2656
kj6jpz

Treasurer

Scotty Butler, K6ZNL
310-833-2656
k6znl@arrl.net

Vice President

unfilled

Newsletter Team

Dorothy Jerzycke, KJ6JOQ
Jim Jerzycke, KQ6EA
(562)-422-0024
dorothy0657@verizon.net
kq6ea@verizon.net

Webmaster

Duane Cassone, W6ADC.

***** IMPORTANT NOTES *****

K6AA Station We can still use more operators for our K6AA station. See Doug, W6HB, and or Scotty, K6ZNL, checkout and training.

Check out the special events page on the website for the latest from arrl and e-ham net:

<http://www.k6aa.org/specialevents.html>

Additional Calendar Notes**Club Net**

Held weekly on Thursdays at 8pm
Primary = WA6LA repeater
(145.380; -600; PL 100)
If the repeater is unavailable, our Net
will use the repeater output (145.38)
on simplex.

Club Meeting

Held monthly on 3rd Friday of the
month (except August and December)

No Host Breakfast

Held monthly on the 1st Saturday of
the month at 8:00am. Location:
Think Café on 5th Street in San Pedro

“VE/CE Session for Amateur and Commercial Licenses

Monthly on 1st Saturday and 3rd Sunday. **By appointment.** Go to <http://k6aa.org/index.php/menu-licenseexams>”



United Radio Amateur Club
 Newsletter Editor
 Los Angeles Maritime Museum
 Berth 84, Foot of Sixth Street
 San Pedro CA 90731
 33° 44' 20" N 118° 16' 39" W

Place
 Stamp
 Here

ADDRESS CORRECTION
 REQUESTED