



The Short Circuit

APRIL GUEST SPEAKER:

Diana Feinberg, AI6DF: “Amateur Radio’s International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend”;

You might be very surprised to learn the world’s nearly 15,500 lighthouses and 2.6 million+ amateur radio operators have many things in common. It’s thus fitting amateur radio celebrates International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend every August to promote awareness of these structures’ unique architectures, histories, and preservation needs.

URAC member Diana Feinberg, AI6DF, will speak on “Amateur Radio’s International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend”—a presentation based on her 50+ year interest in lighthouses, the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club’s annual ILLW participation at Point Vicente Lighthouse in Rancho Palos Verdes, and URAC’s ILLW participation at Point Fermin Lighthouse. Her presentation will also cover ILLW from a global perspective and the future for lighthouses in the United States, in addition to what hams have in common with lighthouses worldwide.

Besides being a member of URAC and PVARC, Diana is 2015 Chair of the Los Angeles Area Council of Amateur Radio Clubs and Chair of HAMCON 2015, the 2015 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention that returns to the Torrance Marriott Hotel on Sept. 11-13, 2015.

Her HF amateur radio interests include DXing and contesting using indoor wire dipole antennas, participating in the PVARC’s annual “Islands On The Air” DXpedition to Santa Catalina Island, and ARRL Field Day. She is also very active with amateur radio emergency communication through the Los Angeles County Disaster Communications Service, several local agencies, and various public service events including the Los Angeles Marathon and Palos Verdes Half Marathon.



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, April 4, 2015

Wow...spring has sprung...we had to add another table to accommodate the 18 members and guests who showed up for the First Saturday Breakfast at the Think Café. Several lively discussions were part of the mix, but the main gossip is here:

Doug, W6HB led it off with his coming travels: to the DX Convention in Visalia, and more spectacularly, his planned vacation/DXpedition to Raratonga in the Cook Islands. Check it out on QRZ.com under the call sign of E51DLD. Listen for him.

Nick, N6EFI is seeing us better following his recent cataract surgery. He reports no side effects, no problems, no fear and much improved vision. Way to go, Nick.

John, KC6JHV is just back from a trip to our nation's capital, where he got to observe congress in session and took an amazing tour of Gettysburg.

Bill, W6AJ reported on a guess appearance for Timmy the turtle at the arboretum.

Steve, K6NT, one of our CW captains for Field Day is anticipating the good time we will all have in June this year at Field Day.

Don, NA6Z has been recovering from shoulder surgery and reports that the dongle that he won in one of the door prize drawings picks up some very interesting stuff.

Bruce, AG6BJ has been looking into best ham radio speakers for the male voice (to compensate for lower frequencies). Ask him about the particulars at the next meeting.

Tom, KJ6JPZ enjoyed his recent jaunt to Palo Alto for a Radio Astronomy Conference. He toured the Stanford Linear Accelerator Site as part of the conference.

Scotty, K6ZNL took the opportunity to canvass for volunteers for the CROP Hunger Walk, which will be on May 2 this year: 10 am to about 3 pm at Point Fermin (directly following the May First Saturday Breakfast. John, KC6JHV and John, WA6SDK volunteered so we need about three more volunteers. Please contact Scotty if you can help out.

As volunteer Field Day chairman, Scotty reported on status so far: Ray, N6HE and Steve, K6NT will mastermind the main (!) CW station (we are talking about a second, slow speed CW station...) and Gina, KF6MYQ will take charge of the food (we have the reputation for the best food in the section). Please contact Scotty to be a part of this yearly effort.

John, WA6SDK, 'is now in charge of the prizes for the door prize drawings at the monthly meetings.

He is contemplating trying out somewhat different prizes this year, although still from Harbor Freight.

Hans, KI6BOM, and XYL were in town and joined us for the meeting. Hans reported that they wanted to go to the club meeting on Friday the 20th, but did not spot any cars in the parking area with ham license plates and so thought that there was no meeting. (I knew those license plates were good for something...note, you can get California call sign license plates for a ONE TIME charge of \$20. Great deal) He and his wife are flying back to Hamburg tomorrow and will be back with us in six months.

Carl John Rogers, AG6VO, comes to us from his new home in Orange County with Sam, KK6HMP as driver (authors' aside...Sam's Prius has three mag-mount antennas in-line and looks like it has a 'Mohawk' on its roof). After a visit to the Napa Valley, John is busy 'cleaning his plate'.

Gary, N6HMR and Treva, N6HMS recently returned from a trip to Turkey (I smell a meeting program) which they enjoyed. Gary brought in a magazine article on the “radio quiet zone” surrounding the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank, West Virginia. The article started a spirited discussion of the hazards (or not) of RF radiation.

Martin, N6UB recently read a book set in Los Angeles, Ghetto-Side by J. Leovy, which he recommends. Scotty Butler, K6ZNL

Breakfast Scribe (you can take this over any time...)

Still looking for a permanent Scribe,
Scotty, K6ZNL

URAC APRIL/MAY CALENDAR

~ April 2015 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 URAC Weekly Net, 145.380 8 pm	3 Good Friday	4 First Saturday Breakfast, Think Café, 8 AM
5 Easter	6	7 World Health Day	8	9 URAC Weekly Net, 145.380 8 pm	10	11
12	13	14	15 Tax Day (Taxes Due)	16 URAC Weekly Net, 145.380 8 pm	17 URAC membership meeting, Los Angeles Maritime Museum, 7 PM	18
19	20	21	22 Earth Day / Administrative Professionals Day	23 URAC Weekly Net, 145.380 8 pm	24 Arbor Day	25
26	27	28	29	30 URAC Weekly Net, 145.380 8 pm		

~ May 2015 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 4 First Saturday Breakfast, Think Café, 8 AM Hungar Walk radio support, Point Fermin, 10 am to 3 pm
3	4	5	6	7 URAC Weekly Net, 145.380 8 pm	8	9
10 Mothers Day	11	12	13	14 URAC Weekly Net, 145.380 8 pm	15 URAC membership meeting, Los Angeles Maritime Museum, 7 PM	16 Armed Forces Day
17	18	19	20	21 URAC Weekly Net, 145.380 8 pm	22	23
24	25 Memorial Day	26	27	28 URAC Weekly Net, 145.380 8 pm	29	30
31						

DX OPERATIONS FOR APRIL 2015 Per NG3K

Surinam, PZ5LP: Is now operating thru 6/5/2015. QSL via PA1LP.
Bonaire, PJ4: Is now operating thru 4/13/2015. QSL via NK8O.
Reunion, FR: Is now operating thru 4/14/2015. QSL via F5MNW.
Barbados, 8P6DR: Is now operating thru 4/15/2015. QSL via G3RWL.
Reunion, FR: Is now operating thru 4/11/2015. QSL via DG5AA.
Chagos, VQ9ET: Is now operating thru 4/14/2015. QSL via DU7ET.
Palau, T88MZ: Is now operating thru 4/10/2015. QSL via DU1CKF.
Maldives, 8Q7SA: Is now operating thru 4/12/2015. QSL via LZ3HM.
Chatham Is, ZL7E: Is now operating thru 4/15/2015. QSL via ZL1ALZ.
Samoa, 5W: Is now operating thru 4/15/2015. QSL via JA1KJW.
Svalbard, JW: Is now operating thru 4/15/2015. QSL via F8DVD.
Ascension Is, ZD8N: Is now operating thru 4/21/2015. QSL via G3ZVW.
Fiji, 3D2SE: Will be operating from 4/10 thru 4/13/2015. QSL via ZL3TE.
Turks & Caicos, VP5: Will be operating from 4/11 thru 4/16/2015. QSL via VE3OC.
Sint Maarten, PJ7: Will be operating from 4/12 thru 4/17/2015. QSL via K4BDR.
Aruba, P4: Will be operating from 4/12 thru 4/24/2015. QSL via VE7NX.
Vanuatu, YJ0XG: Will be operating from 4/13 thru 4/19/2015. QSL via JA1XGI.

St Vincent, J88PI: Will be operating from 4/13 thru 4/22/2015. QSL via GW4DVB.
Spratly Is, DX0P: Will be operating from 4/14 thru 4/20/2015. QSL via WA6LOS.
Cape Verde Is, D44TDK: Will be operating from 4/16 thru 4/24/2015. QSL via HB9FTD.
Reunion, FR: Will be operating from 4/16 thru 5/1/2015. QSL via F5PLC.
Mauritania, 5T2MM: Will be operating from 4/17 thru 4/20/2015. QSL via PY4KL.
Micronesia, V63DX: Will be operating from 4/17 thru 4/25/2015. QSL via JA7HMZ.
Crete, SX9PL: Will be operating from 4/18 thru 4/24/2015. QSL via SP9KAT.
Bahamas, C6AGM: Will be operating from 4/22 thru 4/28/2015. QSL via G3USR.
Nicaragua, YN: Will be operating from 4/22 thru 4/30/2015. QSL via N2ZN.
Norfolk Is, VK9NT: Will be operating from 4/24 thru 5/4/2015. QSL via VK3QB.
Cayman Is, ZF2ZI: Will be operating from 4/25 thru 5/2/2015. QSL via IW7EGQ.
Ogasawara, JD1BLY: Will be operating from 4/29 thru 5/5/2015. QSL via JI5RPT.
Bhutan, A52LSS: Will be operating from 4/30 thru 5/6/2015. QSL via JH3LSS.

URAC's VE Corner ... Gary N6HMR

For March we provided testing of 2 Amateur and 7 Commercial elements, resulting in issuance of three new licenses. Turn time (exam to license) is still only two business days for Amateur and ten for Commercial processing.

Many thanks to our VEs and CEs for your 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.

Been studying for the General exam? The question pool is scheduled to change on July 1st.

Should we weep for amateur radio? ... *... Dan Romnanchik KB6NU*

On an amateur radio mailing list that I subscribe to, one fellow wrote, "I weep for the state of amateur radio in the US, since this dispatch is apparently necessary...." He then pointed to an article on the ARRL website which reminded hams that while their local time may be switching to daylight time, Universal Coordinated Time did not change (<http://www.arrl.org/news/view/change-local-clocks-this-weekend-but-not-utc>).

The implication, of course, was that we have dumbed down ham radio so much that a reminder like this was necessary.

This thread went on and on, eventually garnering 17 different replies. Before it morphed into a discussion of whether or not DST is a good idea in the first place, the replies echoed the sentiment in the original e-mail:

"It's become a push button, nanny state world, what do you expect, competence?"

"We are truly in a time of appliance operating, not only in ham radio, but in practically every aspect of our lives. :-("

At first, I had the same reaction. I thought to myself, "How dumb are we getting in ham radio, if guys have to be reminded that UTC doesn't change when we switch to daylight savings time?" After thinking about this for a while, though, I've completely change my mind on this.

I work with a lot of newcomers to amateur radio, and many of them just don't know how UTC works. This is not their fault—they just haven't had the opportunity to deal with UTC. What these old timers (old farts?) didn't realize is that the ARRL article is not directed at them, but at the newcomers to ham radio.

I'll even go one step further. It's easy for us old-timers to be dismissive of newcomers' lack of knowledge, and then complain that amateur radio is getting dumber, but knee-jerk reactions don't usually help anyone involved. A much better approach would be to roll up your sleeves and teach them something. The only way newcomers are going to get to be old timers like us is if we help them learn stuff like this.

=====

When not teaching newbies about UTC, 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

<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**