



# *The Short Circuit*

APR 2018

since 1927

Volume 91, Issue 4

The April meeting of the United Radio Amateur Club will be held SATURDAY, April 7th in conjunction with the First Saturday Breakfast, 8 am at the Think Café (302 W 5<sup>th</sup> Street) in San Pedro.

## ***Program:***

Following the First Saturday Breakfast, at approx. 10 am, we will adjourn to the Marine Exchange for a tour of the Tunnels AND a tour of the Vessel Traffic System:

10AM arrive, get settled: briefing on the MX and VTS in our conference room. MX to provide water/coffee.

10:30 - Tour topside of the VTS

11:00 - Tour of bunkers.

1130 - End.



Due to the bunker tour,

request everyone bring a good flashlight, closed toed shoes for all, and ladies wear pants.

If anyone has a problem w/ stairs we can walk around and enter through the ground level (horizontal) entrance.

Our Guide will be

## **J. Kipling Louttit, Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, Retired**

Captain Kip Louttit leads a staff of 20 civilians and a Coast Guard detail of six active duty Operations Specialists with an annual budget of \$2.8 million. The Marine Exchange of Southern California, a non-profit





organization first established in 1923, is unique among the nation's Vessel Traffic Services in having a public/private partnership with the Coast Guard. It has evolved into one of the world's foremost organizations of its kind, and uses state-of-the-market electronic and computer technology to provide vessel traffic management and maritime information services for the maritime community within the Los Angeles and Long Beach harbor areas and the Southern California region. The Marine Exchange continuously works to promote a safe, secure, efficient, reliable, and environmentally sound maritime transportation system. Here are the directions to the Marine Exchange:

**Directions Marine Exchange of Southern California &  
Vessel Traffic Service of Los Angeles and Long Beach**

3601 South Gaffey Street, Building 803, San Pedro, CA, 90731

Executive Director: CAPT Kip Louttit Cell: 310-897-1714

Office & External Affairs Manager: Steve Chesser: 310-519-3134

**24 Hour Watch Floor: 310-832-6411**

Notes: (1) We are a tenant of Angel's Gate Park, near the Korean Bell.

(2) If you plug the physical address into your GPS, depending on the brand, you get to the entrance of the park or somewhere in the park but not necessarily to the MX. Therefore, GPS users start at step 4 below.

1. Make your way to Gaffey Street in San Pedro. This can be from the 110 freeway, the Vincent Thomas Bridge, or PV Drive South/25<sup>th</sup> Street.
2. Proceed South on Gaffey Street. The street numbers will get bigger.
3. \*At 25<sup>th</sup> street, there is an "S" turn. The left lane continues on Gaffey Street, which is what you want. The right lane goes up the hill to 25<sup>th</sup> street, which you don't want.
4. At the light at 32<sup>nd</sup> street, make a right at the light to enter Angels Gate Park.
5. Go up the steep hill and the road bends around to the left.
6. You will pass a large grass field on your left that is fenced.
7. At the end of the large grass field there is a small, horizontal, wood sign that says "Marine Exchange." If you start downhill, you just missed it.
8. Make a left and go through the white swing gate.
9. Go straight until you reach the little traffic circle, take the fork to the right, drive to the end, and see our building. Park anywhere.
10. Go to the door with the glass enclosure and ring the buzzer on the right side of the door. The VTS watch will buzz you in.



\*People coming from PV Drive South/25<sup>th</sup> Street will merge here.

Greetings URAC - K6AA,

Welcome to the Straight Key Century Club.

**Your SKCC number for LIFE is: 18443**

We are very happy you have joined the SKCC, you will be making many new friends and having a lot of fun as a new SKCC member.

The SKCC was founded to keep SKN (Straight Key Night) going all year long, and that is why the founders formed it. We take our name and our heritage very serious and request that you use only a fully mechanical keying device - straight key, semi-automatic bug, or cootie key, during all QSOs that you intend to exchange SKCC information and use for award credit.

Please review our policy on keys and exemptions here:

<http://www.skccgroup.com/keypolicy.php>

As a new member of the SKCC you can now print your SKCC membership certificate. Please see:

[http://www.skccgroup.com/membership\\_data/member\\_certificate.php](http://www.skccgroup.com/membership_data/member_certificate.php)

Should you need help with your Morse Code studies, please take a closer look at the SKCC Morse Elmer link below. There you will find many SKCC members willing to help with your studies if needed. You will find the newest Elmers (looking for someone to help) at the bottom of the list for your call area. Also, please take a look at the new SKCC Beginner's Corner link found here:

[http://www.skccgroup.com/member\\_services/beginners\\_corner/](http://www.skccgroup.com/member_services/beginners_corner/)

There is a wealth of wonderful and helpful info there for new Morse operators as well as Old Timers!

You can sign up for the SKCC groups.io group here: <https://groups.io/g/skcc>

Not only are the group messages posted there, but it is also home current operating events and lots of other important things. There is great information on CW, keys, sending, and more stored there so take time to explore it.

Many SKCC Members like to exchange membership information and strive to earn a variety of awards. As the club has grown, keeping track of all those contacts and creating award applications can become quite a task. Please visit the File and Downloads page for some software tools that can help you manage your logs:

[http://www.skccgroup.com/member\\_services/files\\_and\\_downloads/](http://www.skccgroup.com/member_services/files_and_downloads/)

We now have 3 SKCC sprints per month:

Every 2nd Sunday we have a 24 hour Weekend Sprintathon (WES) where everyone is welcome, any skill level or speed. The link for the 24 hour WES (Weekend Sprintathon) event is:

[http://www.skccgroup.com/operating\\_activities/weekend\\_sprintathon/](http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekend_sprintathon/)

Note: The WES is now a 36-hour event and starts at 1200Z on the Saturday preceding the 2nd Sunday.

Every 4th Wednesday is the Straight Key Sprint (SKS). This is the monthly 2 hour weeknight sprint and those pages can be found here:

[http://www.skccgroup.com/operating\\_activities/weekday\\_sprint/](http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/)

The 1st Thursday of each month is the Straight Key Sprint Europe (SKSE). It is a 2-hour event that takes place the first Thursday of every month that is modeled on the Straight Key Sprint theme but with the timings adapted to make it more accessible to our European members. The time varies according to British Local time. For details of the next sprint, please visit:

[http://www.skccgroup.com/operating\\_activities/skse/](http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/skse/)

The SKCC Elmer frequency of 7.114 MHz are monitored by members willing to help anyone at any speed to make that first CW QSO or just be there for some "On the Air" code practice via a real live QSO. Sending mistakes are welcomed! Repeats are no problem! For more info on the SKCC Morse Elmer program please see:

[http://www.skccgroup.com/member\\_services/morse\\_elmers/](http://www.skccgroup.com/member_services/morse_elmers/)

Novice Day - Every Friday 0000z to 2400z is now Novice Day on 7114 Khz. No contest, just a day set aside for the beginners, the slower ops or anyone that wants help. The goal is to congregate our beginners and they can help each other. Also to increase activity on 40 meters above 7100 KHz.

Need help with Code Practice at home, in the car, or at the office during your breaks? John KF7BYU, SKCC #6666 has helped create a new web page with practice CW MP3 files. Each audio file has a matching text file that you can read along, if you like. Some are full length books and start out slow and increase CW speed by 1 word per minute for each new chapter. Take look here:

[http://www.skccgroup.com/member\\_services/learning\\_center/](http://www.skccgroup.com/member_services/learning_center/)

Stop by the SKCC Sked web page at: <http://sked.skccgroup.com>

Take a look to the right hand side, and you will find SKCC members logged on.

If your browser is working correctly, then you will see where others might be operating. You can also post where you are listening or calling CQ or just ask a question, maybe send a greeting. There are many SKCC members found there, they are eager to bring new and old CW operators into the group and if you ask for a slow speed contact, you will get several offers. You can see the calls of those logged in at current time on the screen. Sometimes the logged in stations are not actually looking at the computer screen, so do not be discouraged if you don't get a reply instantly. If you are looking for a specific station, include that stations call sign or the operators name in your message. It will then appear in a highlighted color on that operators screen to alert them.

The Sked Page is a great place to schedule a contact, whatever your purpose. A great thing about it is if the schedule does not work out, you can find out why on line when the other station comes back and tells you if he could not hear you, the frequency was busy, or maybe there was QSB. It is also great place for folks to get started on their SKCC QSO's, to work on awards, or just start a new friendship.

The SKCC group site, <http://www.skccgroup.com> will have the latest happenings for the club. These news items will change from time to time so it is a good idea to watch them for the current events and updates on ongoing events. For more detail on the many SKCC operating events and all the monthly activities, check out the links under Activities in the home page's navigation column.

The SKCC has a FREE QSL Bureau. Yes, that is what I said it is FREE. Check out the Buro at:

[http://www.skccgroup.com/member\\_services/qsI\\_buro/](http://www.skccgroup.com/member_services/qsI_buro/)

So you see, there is a lot to do and have fun with in the SKCC. We are always open for ideas or suggestions to make SKCC more interesting and informative to all its members. Do not hesitate to jump into the SKCC Yahoo group to post your thoughts. The SKCC is an association of people that



enjoy pounding brass and listening to distinctive, hand- formed Morse Code. Always try to stay true to the foundation of the club, and the brotherhood of the key.

If you ever have questions concerning your SKCC membership or about anything related to the SKCC, please send an email to: [skccboard@skccgroup.com](mailto:skccboard@skccgroup.com) for a prompt and courteous response.

Thanks again, I look forward to a QSO soon!

73 de Randy N8KQ SKCC #8934S

**April Special Event Stations: (note, due to the large number of Special Events in April, only the first few will be listed here.) To see the complete list, please see:**

<https://ke2yk.com/special-events/>

- **04/01/2018 | 100th Anniversary of the Foundation of the UK Royal Air Force Apr 1-Apr 8, 0001Z-2359Z, K2R**, Pocono Lake, PA. Royal Air Force Amateur Radio Society. 14.195 7.145. QSL. Michael Goodwin, 136 Ski Trail, Pocono Lake, PA 18347. [ke2eh@mail.com](mailto:ke2eh@mail.com)
- **04/01/2018 | Special Event Station EI100MCV – Marine Radio Day; Anzac Day; International Marconi Day Apr 1-Dec 31, 0800Z-2359Z, EI100MCV**, Dublin, IRELAND. National Maritime Museum of Ireland Radio Club. All bands, all modes; operating on or close to frequencies ending in 18. QSL. Via bureau, Clublog, or direct to Dave O’Conner, EI6AL, Silver Howe, Sydenham Mews, Corrig Avenue, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin A96 RF99, IRELAND. This is part of a year-long event commemorating the sinking of Royal Mail Ship (RMS) Leinster. April events include Marine Radio Day on Apr. 14 and 15; Anzac Day on April 28, and International Marconi Day on Apr. 28. Full details on website. [www.qrz.com/db/ei100mcv](http://www.qrz.com/db/ei100mcv)
- **04/05/2018 | 70th Anniversary of the Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club Apr 5-Apr 14, 0000Z-0000Z, W4R**, Stephens City, VA. Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club. 14.230 7.250 3.820. QSL. Shenandoah Valley ARC, P.O. Box 2273, Winchester, VA 22604. QSL via LOTW, EQSL or Direct with SASE. [w4rkc@yahoo.com](mailto:w4rkc@yahoo.com) or [svarc.us](http://svarc.us)
- **04/05/2018 | 70th Anniversary of the Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club, Winchester, VA Apr 5-Apr 14, 1200Z-2359Z, W4RKC**, Winchester, VA. Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club. 14.250 14.080 14.040. QSL. W4RKC Special Event, PO Box 2273, Winchester, VA 22604. By members of the SVARC from the Club House in Winchester, VA [shenvalarc.org](http://shenvalarc.org)
- **04/07/2018 | Activation of State Parks in the State of Texas Apr 7-Apr 8, 1500Z-2100Z, K5LRK**, The Colony, TX. Lake Area Amateur Radio Klub. CW – Bottom of band +40 kHz; Phone – General Segment +25 kHz and 28.350; VHF – 50.200 and 144.200 MHz. QSL. Ken Rainy, AC5EZ, 529 Kenilworth Ave, Oak Point, TX 75068. Apr 7 – Apr 8, 1500 – 0300 and Apr 8, 1500 – 2100 <https://www.k5lrk.com>
- **04/07/2018 | Chennault Aviation’s Hops and Props Special Event Station Apr 7, 0500Z-0900Z, KC5DR**, West Monroe, LA. Louisiana Delta Radio Club. 14.250. Certificate & QSL. Joseph Holland, 6019 New Natchitoches Rd, West Monroe, LA 71292. Come on out for our Special event station at the Chennault Aviation Museum!!! Old planes from Delhi’s museum will be on hand, and at the hanger they will have plane rides! Later, for a more adult experience, they will have beer tasting. [kb5vjy@gmail.com](mailto:kb5vjy@gmail.com) or [www.kc5dr.com](http://www.kc5dr.com)

• **04/07/2018 | Hillsboro Lighthouse Apr 7, 1400Z-1800Z, NB4RC**, Pompano Beach, FL. North Broward Radio Club. 14.000. QSL. NB4RC, 4116 NW 1 ST, Deerfield Beach, FL 33442. [JoeyJet@BellSouth.net](mailto:JoeyJet@BellSouth.net)

• **04/07/2018 | IEEE Rededicating Plaque at Bell Isle Apr 7, 1300Z-2100Z, K0P**, Dearborn, MI. Ford Amateur Radio League. 10 – 28.400 Sab. 28.170 cw 20 – 14.250 Ssb 14.130 cw 40 – 7.270 Ssb 7.100 cw 80 – 3.900 Ssb 3.55 cw. Certificate. FARRL, P.O. Box 2711, Dearborn, MI 48123. QSL Cards will go out as postcards [ethw.org/Milestones:One-Way\\_Police\\_Radio\\_Communication,\\_1928](http://ethw.org/Milestones:One-Way_Police_Radio_Communication,_1928)

• **04/07/2018 | National Library Week Apr 7, 1500Z-2000Z, K4L**, Aiken, SC. North Augusta Belvedere Radio Club. 14.230 14.245; DSTAR on ref 30C. QSL. Via LoTW or North Augusta Belvedere Radio Club, 118 Frances Drive, North Augusta, SC 29841. [k4nab.org](http://k4nab.org)

DX OPERATIONS FOR APRIL 2018  
Per NG3K

Burkina Faso, XT2AW: Is now operating thru 4/15/2018. QSL via M0OXO.  
Barbados, 8P6DR: Is now operating thru 4/29/2018. QSL via G3RWL.  
Mauritius, 3B8MM: Is now operating thru 4/11/2018. QSL via DL6UAA.  
Kosovo, Z68BG: Is now operating thru 4/19/2018. QSL via HB9TSW.  
Canary Is, EA8: Is now operating thru 4/28/2018. QSL via DJ9BN.  
Wake Is, KH9: Is now operating thru 4/30/2018. QSL via N7NVK.  
Agalega & St Brandon, 3B7A: Is now operating thru 4/17/2018. QSL via F5UFXD.  
Tuvalu, T2AR: Is now operating thru 4/15/2018. QSL via 3D2AG.  
Australia, VK9: Will be operating from 4/9 thru 4/18/2018. QSL via VK5MAV.  
Palau, T88UW: Will be operating from 4/13 thru 4/19/2018. QSL via JH7IPR.  
So Cook Is, E51BCP: Will be operating from 4/15 thru 4/20/2018. QSL via KD7WPJ.  
Kosovo, Z66D: Will be operating from 4/15 thru 4/22/2018. QSL via OK6DJ.  
Senegal, 6W: Will be operating from 4/15 thru 4/28/2018. QSL via DC4CQ.  
East Kiribati, T32AZ: Will be operating from 4/17 thru 4/24/2018. QSL via KH6QJ.  
Palau, T8: Will be operating from 4/17 thru 4/25/2018. QSL via JA7WFT.  
Vanuatu, YJ0AG: Will be operating from 4/17 thru 4/29/2018. QSL via M0OXO.  
St Barthelemy, FJ: Will be operating from 4/18 thru 4/27/2018. QSL via AI5P.  
Solomon Is, H44R: Will be operating from 4/22 thru 4/25/2018. QSL via DL2GAC.  
Liechtenstein, HB0: Will be operating from 4/24 thru 4/28/2018. QSL via DL1AWD.  
Market Reef, OJ0W: Will be operating from 4/27 thru 5/4/2018. QSL via OH3WS.  
Temotu, H40D: Will be operating from 4/29 thru 5/3/2018. QSL via VE3LYC.  
Bhutan, A52: Will be operating from 4/29 thru 5/5/2018. QSL via JH3AEF.  
Mozambique, C96RRC: Will be operating from 4/29 thru 5/5/2018. QSL via R7AL.

A

| ~ April 2018 ~   |  |     |                                      |  |              |   |
|--|--|-----|--------------------------------------|--|--------------|---|
| Sun  | Mon  | Tue | Wed                                  | Thu                                      | Fri          | Sat   |
| 1 Easter  | 2  | 3   | 4                                    | 5 URAC 2M roundtable: 8 pm, 145.510 MHz  | 6            | 7 URAC First Saturday Breakfast AND Marine Exchange Tour: 8 am, Think Café, San Pedro |
| 8  | 9  | 10  | 11                                   | 12 URAC 2M roundtable: 8 pm, 145.510 MHz | 13           | 14  |
| 15   | 16 Tax Day (Taxes Due)  | 17  | 18                                   | 19 URAC 2M roundtable: 8 pm, 145.510 MHz | 20           | 21  |
| 22 Earth Day   | 23   | 24  | 25 Administrative Professionals' Day | 26 URAC 2M roundtable: 8 pm, 145.510 MHz | 27 Arbor Day | 28  |
| 29   | 30   |     |                                      |  |              |   |

***Upcoming Event: In May, 2018, we will have both a First Saturday Breakfast AND a separate URAC meeting on the third Friday so that we can have our May White Elephant Sale. Funds from the sale benefit the 2018 Field Day effort.***

## 2018 URAC Executive Board

PRESIDENT  
Sam Lollar  
K1SL

[k1sl@arrl.net](mailto:k1sl@arrl.net)



VICE-PRESIDENT  
John Linder  
KC6JHV

[Linder.John@yahoo.com](mailto:Linder.John@yahoo.com)



SECRETARY  
vacant

TREASURER  
Gary Forister  
N6HMR

[n6hmr@k6aa.org](mailto:n6hmr@k6aa.org)



DIRECTOR  
Larry Fadden  
KK6TXN

[kk6txn@k6aa.org](mailto:kk6txn@k6aa.org)



DIRECTOR  
Steve Mandich  
K6NT

[k6nt@k6aa.org](mailto:k6nt@k6aa.org)



DIRECTOR  
Homer Meek  
K6HKT

[k6hkt@k6aa.org](mailto:k6hkt@k6aa.org)



DIRECTOR  
Ivan Mikulich  
KB6ATT

[kb6att@k6aa.org](mailto:kb6att@k6aa.org)



PAST-  
PRESIDENT  
Doug Dowds  
W6HB

[w6hb@aol.com](mailto:w6hb@aol.com)



NEWLETTER  
EDITOR  
Scotty Butler  
K6ZNL

[k6znl@arrl.net](mailto:k6znl@arrl.net)

WEBMASTER  
Bruce Sperka  
AD7MM

[bsperka@gmail.com](mailto:bsperka@gmail.com)



**\*\*\* IMPORTANT NOTES \*\*\***

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

Check out the special events page on [k6aa.org](http://k6aa.org) for the latest from arrl and e-ham net.

**Additional Calendar Notes****Club Roundtable**

Held weekly on  
Thursdays at 8pm  
145.510 Simplex

**Club Meeting**

Held monthly on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month in conjunction with our ...

**No Host Breakfast**

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

**“VE/CE Session for Amateur and Commercial Licenses**

Monthly on 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday **by appointment**. Go to <http://k6aa.org/licensing-exams/>

If no one schedules an exam, there won't necessarily be an exam team or exam material available.



The Museum is at the Foot of 6<sup>th</sup> Street.

