# The Short Circuit

January 2020 | since 1927 | Volume 93, Issue 01


### Next Meeting

Breakfast at Think Café

Welcome volunteers filling next year's slate of officers

**January 4th, 8 am at the Think Café**

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### Weekly Club Net

Join us on the URAC Club Net Thursdays at 8:00 P.M. 145.510 simplex.

### K6AA monitors

Frequency 145.51 MHz

### Club Station K6AA

Website: k6aa.org

The club station is located in the Los Angeles Maritime Museum and is open to club members during museum operating hours.

The January meeting of the United Radio Amateur Club will be held SATURDAY, January 4th, in conjunction with the *First Saturday Breakfast*, 8:00 am at the Think Café (302 W 5th Street) in San Pedro.

## The Officers volunteering for this year:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| President: | Ivan Mikulich | KB6ATT |
| Vice Pres: | John Linder | KC6JHV |
| Secretary: | Janet Meek | |
| Treasurer: | Gary Forister | N6HMR |
| Past Pres: | Sam Lollar | K1SL |
| Director: | Steve Mandich | K6NT |
| Director: | Larry Fadden | KK6TXN |
| Director: | Homer Meek | K6HKT |
| Director: | John Rockwood | WA6SDK |

## ***Program***

Ed Steiner … Volunteer with the Topsail Youth Program for 26 yrs. That's the Tall ships operating out of San Pedro. I've known of you and your "Ham" association for a really long time. I remember seeing you the first time I was in the Maritime Museum. Otherwise, retired from a career in International Distribution of Scientific Instrumentation and associated computer systems.

Program: Tall Ships

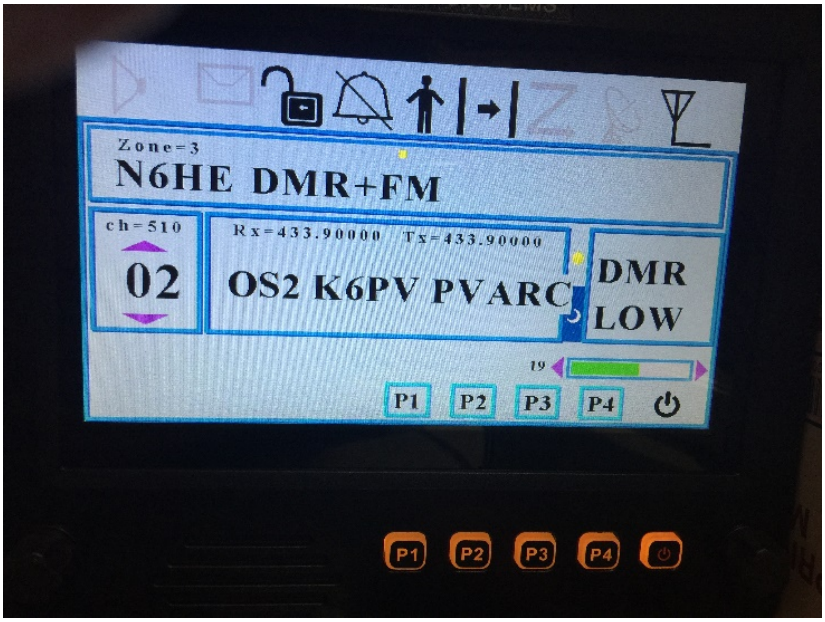
## Holiday Party Prize Drawing

The drawing for prizes was held with numbers drawn and matched to names on the entire roster. As unusual as it may seem, all six winners were in attendance at the dinner. Though attendance was not a requirement, someone suggested it was *good karma* - hi hi.

Mary Hochman
John Linder
Gina Mandich
Steve Mandich
Andrea Meek
Norman Wright

## Look what Santa brought

Santa brought Ray N6HE a CS-BFD 7” x 8” display panel for his CS800D DMR+FM mobile radio (which is still in the shack for now as he gets used to it). Waaaaay better than the usual small displays on mobile rigs.



# VISIT TO VA1MMA AT THE MARITIME MUSEUM OF THE ATLANTIC, HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA

## … Martin Hochman N6UB

Mary and I explored Halifax one day in the summer of 2019. Situated on one of the largest natural deep water harbors on the east coast of North America, Halifax is a great tourist destination with an interesting well-planned waterfront for tourists and locals, plus an attractive downtown with pleasant pretty parks. Among its waterfront features is the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, where during the period of 1928 – 1971 about one million immigrants came into Canada by ship through Pier 21. Some of us in the U.S. are descended from ancestors that first came to North America through Halifax.

Another popular tourist destination on the waterfront is the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic (MMA), which contains the amateur radio station VA1MMA in "The Wireless Room" operated by the Halifax Amateur Radio Club (HARC). Although the station was not in operation when we visited, I did take photos of the radio station room, and among its contents is a vintage 1944 Marconi Model CM-11 taken from a World War II Canadian Naval Vessel which was restored by a member of HARC. There is also a modern amateur radio, an Icom IC-7600, and both radios use roof mounted antennas: a 10-12-15-17-20 meter multiband vertical and a 40-80 meter trap dipole. Much more information on HARC's work with the MMA on creating The Wireless Room can be found by clicking on the link at the bottom of the Museum's webpage on The Wireless Room, found at www.maritimemuseum.novascotia.ca , under the Permanent Exhibits listing on the left side of the webpage which come up after clicking on "What to See & Do".

Halifax has a connection with the sinking of the Titanic on April 15th, 1912, because although the survivors – which were rescued by the Cunard liner Carpathia – were taken to New York City, the White Star Line dispatched four ships from Halifax to recover dead bodies still floating at sea, and while some of the recovered 614 (or so) bodies were buried at sea, the majority were taken to Halifax and many of these bodies are now in cemeteries in Halifax with appropriate memorials. The MMA has an extensive exhibit on the Sinking of the Titanic and Halifax's role in the aftermath.

The MMA also has an extensive and fascinating exhibit on the atomic bomb sized maritime explosion which devastated Halifax on December 6, 1917. The port of Halifax was under the control of the military during this period as Halifax was a major point for shipping supplies to Europe for the war effort, and the city and surrounding areas were crowded with both military and civilians involved in the war effort and the port activities. On that fateful morning the French munitions ship Mont-Blanc was making its way through the Narrows to enter the harbor area (Bedford Basin) to become part of a convoy to Europe while the Norwegian merchant ship Imo carrying Belgian Relief Supplies was

outbound – but on the "wrong" side of the passageway for various reasons. As a result of numerous errors and miscommunications the Imo ran into the bow of the Mont-Blanc and the sparks of the collision ignited some of its flammable cargo – grains of dry picric acid stored below deck, which then ignited drums of benzol on deck putting up a large plume of black smoke. The ship's crew

abandoned ship and as the ship drifted towards the shore of Halifax various fire-fighting efforts headed towards the Mont-Blanc, while crowds of spectators were drawn to the shoreline or to their windows to watch the burning ship. At 9:04:35 a.m. the ship exploded with the estimated force of 3 kilotons, the size of some of the first atomic bombs, as its cargo of TNT and gun cotton exploded along with the other flammable cargo. 100 km away in Truro windows were shattered from the blast. In Halifax an air blast and fireball destroyed everything within 1-4 miles, killing some 1,600 people instantly and another 400 or so dying within 24 hours from their injuries. 9,000 people were injured, many very seriously, including many who were shredded by glass fragments from windows and lost their sight permanently. 1,500 homes were destroyed and 12,000 damaged, and 25,000 people lost their housing. A tsunami created by the blast also contributed to the devastation. The north clock face of the clock tower of the Halifax City Hall permanently shows 9:04, the time of the explosion.

Relief efforts came from all over Canada and the NE United States, particularly Boston and elsewhere in Massachusetts. Since 1 in 50 people that were living in Halifax lost their sight due to injuries from the explosion (from flying glass shards), dealing with blindness became a high priority. This disaster lead to the creation of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind.

Despite this very sad part of its history, modern Halifax is a delight to visit with many pleasure boats enjoying its waters, cruise ships making port calls, lots of restaurants and bars, a university population, interesting museums, pretty parks, historical locations and monuments, and a vibrant downtown. This is what we got out of our one long day in Halifax during our port call on a Holland America Line ship during our Voyage of the Vikings cruise; just imagine what more a few more days in Halifax might have revealed.

# ***Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler … Dan Romanchik KB6NU***

"Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler" is a quote attributed to Albert Einstein (reference link to quote). Here's one way to apply this principle in amateur radio, specifically to code practice oscillators.

A week ago, my friend, Paul emailed me:

> "I am planning on teaching a two-hour introduction to Morse code to 14 girls ages 8 to 9 (*Paul's granddaughter is a Girl Scout*). I plan on having the girls build a code practice device. I need your help in selecting a low cost buzzer and battery holder. Please take a look around and see would you can find. I would like to limit the power to one or two AA batteries."

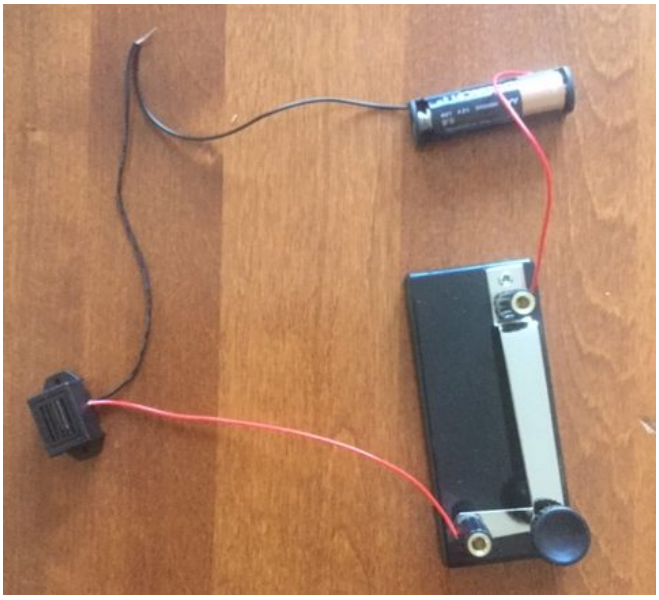
I replied that I'd be happy to help him with the demonstration, and offered the following advice:

> "A while back, I built the QRPGuys' K7QO Code Practice Oscillator (https://qrpguys.com/k7qo-code-practice-oscillator). It uses a CR2032 coin battery.
>
> "Unfortunately, they don't sell it anymore, but the assembly manual is still online (https://qrpguys.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/cpo_assy_012616.pdf). The assembly manual doesn't call out specific parts, but here are some Amazon SKUs:
>
> B00J4BK0NS, Black 3V Electromagnetic Type Piezo Buzzer, 20 pcs/$6.58
>
> B06XF3K4NP, Coin Cell Button Battery Holder, 30 pcs/$9
>
> B008SNZUYC, 3 Pin PCB Mount Female 3.5mm Stereo Jack, 10 pcs/$5.40
>
> B071RMD6FD, 1/8" 3.5mm Stereo Male Connector, 10 pcs/$7
>
> "Batteries are available at the dollar store for about 30 cents each. So, you could do the whole thing for less than $5 for sure, even with a printed circuit board, which I would suggest that we do. Heck, if you ask nicely, the QRPGuys might even give us the artwork, or even better, have some boards still in stock. Even if they have neither, you should be able to get the boards in plenty of time."

Later that day, Paul replied:

> Thanks, Dan, for the information and making yourself available to help. I am just going to use a buzzer, key, and battery. The buzzer has a frequency of 400 Hz.
>
> https://www.xump.com/science/Buzzer-Leads15V.cfm
>
> https://www.xump.com/science/ContactKeySwitch.cfm
>
> https://www.xump.com/science/Single-AA-Battery-Holder.cfm

And this morning, he sent me this photo, noting, "FYI. Also sounds great."



I think that this is as good an example of "Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler" as there can be. I've volunteered to help Paul with his class. That will be fun, too.

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Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides (KB6NU.Com/study-guides/), and often appears on the ICQPodcast (icqpodcast.com). When he's not trying to keep things as simple as possible, but not simpler, he likes to build stuff and operate CW on the HF bands.

# ***Special Event Stations - January***

- 01/01/2020 | NCDXA 5th Annual Worked All RST Special Event Jan 1-Feb 28, 0000Z-2359Z, KL7RST, Anchorage, AK. North Country DX Association (K7ICE). 14.250 14.075 7.190 7.050. QSL. J. Reisenauer, 2573 Old Georgetown Rd. W., Kershaw, SC 29067. www.qrz.com/db/kl7rst
- 01/02/2020 | 14th Annual Straight Key CW Event Jan 2-Jan 31, 0000Z-2359Z, K3Y, various cities. SKCC – Straight Key Century Club. 21.050 14.050 7.055 3.550. Certificate & QSL. SKCC c/o Jeremy Downard, KD8VSQ, 511 W. Pottawatamie St., Tecumseh, MI 49286. K3Y/0 thru 9 plus KH6, KL7, KP4 and DX member stations in six WAC areas operating straight key, bug and cootie keys. QSL card confirms one QSO per area, up to 19 for all-area sweep. See URL for schedule, map, stats, etc. www.skccgroup.com/k3y
- 01/07/2020 | Florence Nightingale Bi-Centenary Jan 7-Feb 3, 1000Z-0900Z, GB200FN, ROMSEY, UNITED KINGDOM. RSGB. 14.200 MHz 7.95 MHz. QSL. John Wakefield, Oakhurst, Lower Common Road, West Wellow, ROMSEY SO51 6BT, UNITED KINGDOM. Direct QSL to include postage. Full details on QRZ.com. www.qrz.com/db/gb200fn
- 01/08/2020 | 9th Annual Balloon Festival Jan 8-Jan 12, 0000Z-2359Z, K7B, Lake Havasu City, AZ. London Bridge Amateur Radio Association. 18.145 14,263 7.195 3.905. Certificate. Garry F. Fisher K9WZB, 1850 Rainbow Ave S, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403. www.lbara.club
- 01/11/2020 | 119th Anniversary of the Lucas Gusher Jan 11-Jan 12, 1400Z-2300Z, K5S, Beaumont, TX. Beaumont Amateur Radio Club. 7.245 14.250 7.074 14.074. Certificate & QSL. Beaumont Amateur Radio Club, 4839 Hwy 326 N., Kountze, TX 77625. Visit our QRZ page for qsl and certificate information as well as updated times and frequencies. www.qrz.com/db/w5rin
- 01/11/2020 | USS Midway Museum Ship Special Event; Desert Storm Kickoff Jan 11, 1700Z-2359Z, NI6IW, San Diego, CA. USS Midway (CV-41) Museum Ship. 14.320 7.250 PSK31 14.070 DSTAR REF001C. QSL. USS Midway Museum Ship COMEDTRA, 910 N Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92101.
- 01/18/2020 | Maderas Canyon – Birding Capital of Arizona Jan 18, 1600Z-2100Z, K7T, Tucson, AZ. Oro Valley Amateur Radio Club. 7.200 LSB 14.040 CW 14.250 USB 18.100 FT-8. Certificate. Email, qsl@tucsonhamradio.org, for certificate.. No paper QSLs please. www.TucsonHamRadio.org
- 01/18/2020 | Tonto National Monument – cancelled due to fire, see new event for K7T Jan 18, 1600Z-2100Z, K7T, Tucson, AZ. Oro Valley Amateur Radio Club. 7.040 CW 14.040 CW 14.250 USB 18.100 FT8. Certificate. Email , http://www.qsl@TucsonHamRadio.org , for certificate.. Commemorating 100th Anniversary of the Salt River project that supplies water to Phoenix. No paper QSL's please. *event cancelled due to fire — see new event listed for K7T on this date* www.TucsonHamRadio.org
- 01/19/2020 | Quartzfest 2020 Jan 19-Jan 25, 0700Z-1800Z, W7Q, Quartzite, AZ. Quartzfest. 7.275 +-10 khz 14.285 +- 10 khz 21.395 +- 10khz 28.415 +- 10khz. QSL. Gloria Luther, 7690 W Derry , Kirkland, AZ 86332. https://quartzfest.org
- 01/25/2020 | Discovery of Gold in California Special Event Station Jan 25-Jan 26, 1400Z-2330Z, AG6AU, Coloma, CA. El Dorado County ARC. 21.348 14.248 7.248. QSL. El Dorado County ARC, PO Box 451, Placerville, CA 95667. www.edcarc.net

… http://www.arrl.org/special_events/search/page:2/model:Event

… **also check out this link** Link to DX Operations

## ~ January 2020 ~

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 1 New Year's Day | 2 URAC 2M Simplex Roundtable: 8 pm, 145.510 MHz | 3 | 4 URAC First Saturday Breakfast and Meeting, 8 am, Think Café, San Pedro |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 URAC 2M Simplex Roundtable: 8 pm, 145.510 MHz | 10 | 11 Human Trafficking Awareness |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 URAC 2M Simplex Roundtable: 8 pm, 145.510 MHz | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 Martin Luther King | 21 | 22 | 23 URAC 2M Simplex Roundtable: 8 pm, 145.510 MHz | 24 | 25 Chinese New Year |
| 26 Australia Day Cabrillo Marine Aquarium Whale Fiesta | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 URAC 2M Simplex Roundtable: 8 pm, 145.510 MHz | 31 | |

# United Radio Amateur Club of Los Angeles Harbor
# MEMBERSHIP AND RENEWAL APPLICATION
## Membership Year 2020
***CELEBRATING OUR 93rd ANNIVERSARY 1927 - 2020***

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| New Application | ($10 after July 1st) | $20 |
| Life Member (Annual Renewal) | | $ 0 |
| Renewal Application (due by Jan 31st) | | $20 |
| Family Membership * | | $25 |

* Family member need not be licensed, but must reside at the same address.

URAC Membership Applications - Available Online at:
http://k6aa.org/join-urac/
URAC Badges - Order Online at:
http://www.thesignman.com/clubs/urac.html

**Preference**: Complete this form on the computer, then print it out. In lieu of this, use blue or black ink. Pencil will not be accepted.

Membership year runs from January 1st through December 31st. Please make **check** payable to "URAC" (DO NOT MAIL CASH). Bring to any club meeting or mail to the URAC Treasurer:

Gary Forister, N6HMR
4127 PASEO DE LAS TORTUGAS
TORRANCE CA 90505-6325

Name _____ Call _____ Class _____

Address _____ City _____

ST _____ ZIP+4 _____ E-mail _____

Phone _____ Emergency Phone _____ Birth mo/dy ____ / ____

ARRL Membership Yes Life No EmComm Affiliation: _____

I am interested in volunteering for the following club activities:
K6AA Field Day K6AA Station Operator Volunteer Examining License Instructor Special Event Station

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION (Resides at same address)

Spouse _____ Call _____ Class _____ Birth mo/dy ____ / ____

ARRL Membership Yes Life No EmComm Affiliation: _____

I am interested in volunteering for the following club activities:
K6AA Field Day K6AA Station Operator Volunteer Examining License Instructor Special Event Station

Name _____ Call _____ Class _____ Birth mo/dy ____ / ____

Relationship _____ ARRL Membership Yes Life No EmComm Affiliation: _____

Additional Family Members may be added to the back of this form.

**FULL RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS**

In consideration of my participation in the United Radio Amateur Club and any and all of its events, I, the undersigned, intending to be legally bound, for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, do hereby fully and finally waive, release, and hold harmless, the United Radio Amateur Club of the Los Angeles Harbor Area, a non-profit California Corporation, and their respective directors, officers, employees, members, agents, and assignees, from any and all responsibility, liability, claims, causes of actions, injuries, judgments, or other damages of any nature whatsoever, including, but not limited to, any personal injuries I might suffer, directly or indirectly, resulting from my participation in, or travel to and from the aforesaid activity. I acknowledge that I am engaging In the aforesaid activity, and knowingly executing this Release, at my insistence, and request, and that I voluntarily do so without any coercion whatsoever.

**Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

**Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

Renewal of URAC membership through yearly dues payment signifies member's continued agreement of this signed release.

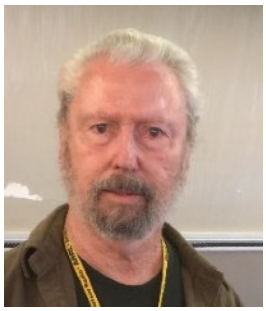
For Official Use Only Please Do Not Write In This Area

CASH $ _____ CHECK $ _____ CHECK NO. _____ DATE: _____

DATA ENTRY: ☐ FINANCIAL ☐ ROSTER ☐ ATTENDANCE

17 DEC 2019

# 2020 URAC Executive Board

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| PRESIDENT<br>Ivan Mikulich<br>KB6ATT<br>kb6att@k6aa.org | | VICE-PRESIDENT<br>John Linder<br>KC6JHV<br>kc6jhv@k6aa.org | |
| SECRETARY<br>Janet Meek<br>janme711@hotmail.com | | TREASURER<br>Gary Forister<br>N6HMR<br>n6hmr@k6aa.org | |
| DIRECTOR<br>Larry Fadden<br>KK6TXN<br>kk6txn@k6aa.org |  | DIRECTOR<br>Steve Mandich<br>K6NT<br>k6nt@k6aa.org | |
| DIRECTOR<br>Homer Meek<br>K6HKT<br>k6hkt@k6aa.org | | DIRECTOR<br>John Rockwood<br>WA6SDK | |
| PAST-PRESIDENT<br>Sam Lollar<br>K1SL<br>k1sl@k6aa.org | | NEWSLETTER EDITOR<br>Scotty Butler<br>K6ZNL<br>k6znl@arrl.net | WEBMASTER<br>Tom Marinello<br>K6IGY<br>tom@marinello.net |

## 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 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 1st Saturday of the month in conjunction with our ...

**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 **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 6th Street.