



# The Short Circuit

February 2021

since 1927

Volume 94, Issue 01

## Next Meeting

This Friday, 19FEB, at  
7:00pm via Skype

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## Weekly Club Net

Join us on the URAC Club Net Thursdays at 8:00 P.M. on the W6AM repeater. 145.480 PL 100 Hz.

## K6AA monitors

Frequency 145.51 MHz

## Club Station K6AA

Website: [k6aa.org](http://k6aa.org)

The club station is located within the Los Angeles Maritime Museum.

Note: the museum is presently closed.

**The February meeting of the United Radio Amateur Club will be held Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm on Skype.** The executive board meeting, held a week prior on Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm, was also on Skype. A link to the *General Meetings* will be sent via e-mail to the membership. Anyone having trouble using Skype, please [contact Tom K6IGY](#) for assistance.

## Prez Sez ... Doug W6HB



Welcome to the resurrection of the Short Circuit and many thanks to "Scotty," K6ZNL, for publishing same.

As of this writing we are only a month short of having survived the pandemic for a year and are slowly adapting our lifestyles. Vaccines are becoming available depending on what tier one is in.

For those just catching up, URAC convenes a Board meeting on the 2nd Fridays and the General meeting on the 3rd Fridays at 1900 Pacific local time on Skype. VP Tom, K6IGY, sends out a reminder with the link prior to each session. As we progress Tom will be adding programs and speakers. It behooves you to get literate and comfortable with Skype as with the few members URAC currently has it is one of the easiest free virtual platforms to manage and has no time limits. Contact Tom for tutoring if required.

As we comp'd all 2020 members into a free 2021, those wishing to continue URAC membership need to confirm they are still with us. Your [RSVP to Doug, W6HB](#), is appreciated so he is not E-Blasting thin air.

I have been working with the Director of the VTS / Marine Exchange who has offered to host us for Field Day 2021 within the compound. This would be a very low-key operation with no more than one HF and one VHF/UHF station. To date only three members have voiced a committed interest. How about you?

- [YouTube link about VTS.](#)
- [A little background on the Marine Exchange.](#)

Please consider providing a column or occasional input to your Publisher "Scotty" for the Short Circuit. The guidelines were emailed to all members on the current roster on 2/8/21.

Looking forward to SEEING you at the meeting on Friday, 2/19.

## Continuing Members

While you're reading this on the computer, right now, please click the link to email Doug [W6HB@aol.com](mailto:W6HB@aol.com) and advise him if:

- A. You wish to continue your URAC membership; and
- B. Whether you would like to participate in Field Day this year.

You may recall, the Board voted to waive dues of 2020 members for the new year 2021. The current roster is posted at [k6aa.org](http://k6aa.org) under Members Only Documents.

With planning underway for Field Day 2021, the expected level of participation would be a great help. Thanks.

## A little background on Field Day ...



FOR YOUR INFORMATION ... here is info, from the ARRL website, on rules used last year that will be continued this year.

### **ARRL to Extend Field Day Rule Waivers from 2020, Add Class D and E Power Limit**

02/10/2021

The COVID-19 pandemic-modified [ARRL Field Day rules](#) from 2020 will continue this June with the addition of a power limit imposed on Class D (Home

Stations) and Class E (Home Stations-Emergency Power) participants. The news from the ARRL Board's Programs and Services Committee comes as many clubs and groups are starting preparations for Field Day in earnest. Field Day 2021 will take place June 26 – 27.

“This early decision should alleviate any hesitancy that radio clubs and individual Field Day participants may have with their planning for the event,” said ARRL Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE.

For Field Day 2021:

- Class D stations may work all other Field Day stations, including other Class D stations, for points. This year, however, Class D and Class E stations will be limited to 150 W PEP output.
- An aggregate club score will be published — just as it was done last year. The aggregate score will be a sum of all individual entries that attributed their score to that of a specific club.

ARRL Field Day is one of the biggest events on the amateur radio calendar. Last summer, a record 10,213 entries were received.

“With the greater flexibility afforded by the rules waivers, individuals and groups will still be able to participate in Field Day, while still staying within any public health recommendations and/or requirements,” Bourque said.

The preferred method of submitting entries after Field Day is via the web applet. The ARRL Field Day rules include instructions on how to submit entries, which must be submitted or postmarked by Tuesday, July 27, 2021.

The [ARRL Field Day](#) web page contains for complete rules and entry forms, as well as any updated information as it becomes available. Join the ARRL Field Day.

## **Los Angeles Maritime Museum**

The following information appeared in the Short Circuit in March of last year. We are including it again to refresh all of our memories. Are you following the Maritime Museum on Facebook?

### **Los Angeles Maritime Museum**

Frequently Asked Questions: Waterfront Construction & Museum Closure

#### ***Why are You Temporarily Closing?***

The Port of Los Angeles (the Museum's landlord) is currently renovating the waterfront. The next phase of this project is a 36-million dollar "town square" and promenade that will be built directly in front of the Museum's entrance. Due to the Port's safety concerns, the Museum will be closed to the public for approximately two years beginning in the early part of 2020.

#### ***What will happen to the staff?***

Though the building will be closed to the general public, the museum staff will continue to work here. We have many exhibits and artifact-related projects requiring attention. In addition, the Port will be starting some long-awaited infrastructure improvements to our 78-year old building, which is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Museum will be offering off-site programs, lectures, and fun events. Please watch the website for updates.

#### ***What about the artifacts, exhibits, radio room and tugboat?***

All will stay in place and will be cared for by staff and volunteers during the closure. The radio room operators will continue to transmit from K6AA inside the Museum. The crew of the Angels Gate tugboat will continue their regular maintenance schedule. In addition we are launching a new website that will give you the opportunity to view the collections on line.

#### ***What about the Research Library?***

The Museum archivist will continue to assist researchers. Call 310-548-7618 ext. 215.

#### ***How do I find out what is going on during the closure?***

For updates, please visit: [www.facebook.com/LAMaritimeMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/LAMaritimeMuseum)

## **Special Event Stations**

For those seeking Special Events, here's your link:

[http://www.arrl.org/special\\_events/search/page:1/model:Event](http://www.arrl.org/special_events/search/page:1/model:Event)

## **Special Interest ... Treva N6HMS**

When I viewed this 3-part documentary on Pan American, I found it interesting from a radio perspective. As Pan Am was using Key West to Havana flights as a proving ground for eventual trans-oceanic flying, the need for airborne communications was quickly evident. In the course of developing airborne radio, a ditching 300 miles off course on this 90 mile route spurred the creation of aerial radio-navigation.

<https://www.pbshawaii.org/across-the-pacific-airborne/>

<https://www.pbshawaii.org/across-the-pacific-latin-laboratory/>

<https://www.pbshawaii.org/across-the-pacific-another-ocean/>

## ***It's not a Begali, but ... ... Dan Romanchik KB6NU***

One of the questions I'm most frequently asked is, "What is a good paddle for a beginner?" My usual answer to this question is to look for a used Bencher BY-1 at a hamfest or on one of the online venues. You used to be able to get them for \$60 or less. Now, however, there are few hamfests and the price has gone up. Now, used Benchers are close to \$80.

Another option that newcomers might consider is the [CW Morse](#) paddle (shown in photo below). They cost \$60 with a steel base (\$43 without), and are available from [3rd Planet Solar](#) and [Gigaparts](#). I purchased one recently, and used it for a couple of days. To be honest, I was prepared to hate it, but it actually works pretty well. It's not a Begali, but it's good enough that I'd recommend it as a starter key.

These keys are mostly made from 3D-printed plastic parts. You can tell this from the finish. While not as bad as some 3D-printed parts, they do look a little rough. I wouldn't be surprised if they go to molded parts, though, at some point. In high volumes, it has to be cheaper to mold the parts rather than print them.

The key does have metal parts where it counts, though. The contacts are all brass, the base is made from 1/2-in. cold-rolled steel, and the levers pivot on sealed ball bearings. My key weighed 22.5 oz (1.4 lbs.), and was quite stationary on the silicone mat that I use for my keys. The Begali is, of course, a lot heavier at nearly 60 oz. (3.75 lbs.).



*It's not a Begali Magnetic Pro (right), but the CW Morse dual-lever paddle (left) is worth considering as a first key.*

A spring between the levers provides the tension. Two screws allow you to adjust the contact spacing. Unlike the Begali, whose adjustment screws have a very fine thread to give you plenty of adjustability, these screws are standard thread screws. What this means is that it can be a bit tricky to set the contact spacing. The screws are spring-loaded to prevent the adjustment from changing, but the springs don't seem to be very beefy, and I can see where the adjustment might change after a lot of use.

The ball bearings give the key a nice action. During my tests, I had the speed cranked up to 23 wpm, and this key performed well at that speed. One thing I didn't like very much is that the arms tend to flex more than I like, but I actually have the same problem with the plastic Begali finger pieces. That's why I use the aluminum finger pieces on the Begali.

Overall, though, I'm quite happy with this key. And, for sixty bucks, which is about one-fifth of the price of a new Begali Magnetic Pro, I can certainly recommend this key to newcomers getting started in CW.

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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 testing new keys, he teaches online ham radio classes and likes to work special event stations and state QSO parties.

## ***"Members Only" pages - Treva N6HMS***

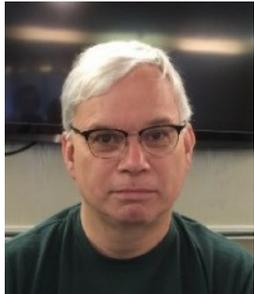
Have you ever logged into [k6aa.org](#), viewed various pages, and found yourself unable to get back to the *Members Only Documents* page? Here are two proven ways to return. 1) Log out and log back in (it logs into the Members Only page); and 2) using the magnifying glass search icon, enter members only and the resulting page will display a link to return. Understand, though, you must be logged in. 73

## February & March Calendars of Events

| ~ February 2021 ~                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                        |                        |                                             |                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                            |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Sun                                                                                                               | Mon                                                                                                                                                    | Tue                    | Wed                                         | Thu                                                                         | Fri                                                                                                                                                        | Sat       |
|                                                                                                                   | <b>1</b>                                                                                                                                               | <b>2</b> Groundhog Day | <b>3</b>                                    | <b>4</b> URAC Round-Table:<br>8 pm W6AM repeater,<br>145.480MHz PL 100      | <b>5</b>                                                                                                                                                   | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>7</b> Super Bowl                                                                                               | <b>8</b>                                                                                                                                               | <b>9</b>               | <b>10</b> Input to the Short<br>Circuit due | <b>11</b> URAC Round-Table:<br>8 pm W6AM repeater,<br>145.480MHz PL 100     | <b>12</b> Chinese New Year<br><br><br>URAC<br>Board mtg, SKYPE, 7<br>pm | <b>13</b> |
| <b>14</b> Valentine's Day<br><br> | <b>15</b> Presidents Day<br><br><br>Short Circuit Publication<br>date | <b>16</b>              | <b>17</b>                                   | <b>18</b> URAC Round-<br>Table: 8 pm W6AM<br>repeater, 145.480MHz<br>PL 100 | <b>19</b> URAC General<br>Membership meeting<br>SKYPE 7 PM                                                                                                 | <b>20</b> |
| <b>21</b>                                                                                                         | <b>22</b>                                                                                                                                              | <b>23</b>              | <b>24</b>                                   | <b>25</b> URAC Round-<br>Table: 8 pm W6AM<br>repeater, 145.480MHz<br>PL 100 | <b>26</b>                                                                                                                                                  | <b>27</b> |
| <b>28</b>                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                        |                        |                                             |                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                            |           |

| ~ March 2021 ~                           |                                        |           |                                                 |                                                                                                 |                                                            |                            |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Sun                                      | Mon                                    | Tue       | Wed                                             | Thu                                                                                             | Fri                                                        | Sat                        |
|                                          | <b>1</b>                               | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b>                                        | <b>4</b> URAC Round-Table:<br>8 pm W6AM repeater,<br>145.480MHz PL 100                          | <b>5</b>                                                   | <b>6</b>                   |
| <b>7</b>                                 | <b>8</b> International Women's<br>Day  | <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b><br>Input to the Short Circuit<br>due. | <b>11</b> World Kidney Day<br><br>URAC Round-Table:<br>8 pm W6AM repeater,<br>145.480MHz PL 100 | <b>12</b> URAC BOD<br>meeting. SKYPE 7 pm                  | <b>13</b>                  |
| <b>14</b> Daylight Saving Time<br>Begins | <b>15</b><br>Short Circuit Publication | <b>16</b> | <b>17</b> Saint Patrick's Day                   | <b>18</b> URAC Round-Table:<br>8 pm W6AM repeater,<br>145.480MHz PL 100                         | <b>19</b> URAC General<br>Membership meeting<br>SKYPE 7 pm | <b>20</b> Spring<br>Begins |
| <b>21</b>                                | <b>22</b>                              | <b>23</b> | <b>24</b>                                       | <b>25</b> URAC Round-Table:<br>8 pm W6AM repeater,<br>145.480MHz PL 100                         | <b>26</b>                                                  | <b>27</b>                  |
| <b>28</b>                                | <b>29</b>                              | <b>30</b> | <b>31</b>                                       |                                                                                                 |                                                            |                            |

## 2021 URAC Executive Board

|                                                                                                             |                                                                                     |                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>PRESIDENT<br/>Doug Dowds<br/>W6HB<br/><a href="mailto:w6hb@aol.com">w6hb@aol.com</a></p>                 |    | <p>VICE-PRESIDENT<br/>Tom Marinello<br/>K6IGY<br/><a href="mailto:tom@marinellonet.com">tom@marinellonet.com</a></p>      |                  |
| <p>SECRETARY<br/>Scotty Butler<br/>K6ZNL<br/><a href="mailto:k6znl@arrl.net">k6znl@arrl.net</a></p>         |    | <p>TREASURER<br/>Gary Forister<br/>N6HMR<br/><a href="mailto:n6hmr@k6aa.org">n6hmr@k6aa.org</a></p>                       |                  |
| <p>DIRECTOR<br/>Larry Fadden<br/>KK6TXN<br/><a href="mailto:kk6txn@k6aa.org">kk6txn@k6aa.org</a></p>        |   | <p>DIRECTOR<br/>Steve Mandich<br/>K6NT<br/><a href="mailto:k6nt@k6aa.org">k6nt@k6aa.org</a></p>                           |                 |
| <p>DIRECTOR<br/>John Linder<br/>KC6JHV<br/><a href="mailto:k6hkt@k6aa.org">k6hkt@k6aa.org</a></p>           |  | <p>DIRECTOR<br/>John Rockwood<br/>WA6SDK<br/><a href="mailto:JohnRockwood319@gmail.com">JohnRockwood319@gmail.com</a></p> |                |
| <p>PAST-PRESIDENT<br/>Ivan Mikulich<br/>KB6ATT<br/><a href="mailto:kb6att@k6aa.org">kb6att@k6aa.org</a></p> |  | <p>NEWSLETTER<br/>Publisher<br/>Scotty Butler<br/>K6ZNL<br/><a href="mailto:k6znl@arrl.net">k6znl@arrl.net</a></p>        | <p>WEBMASTER<br/>Tom Marinello<br/>K6IGY<br/><a href="mailto:k6igy@k6aa.org">k6igy@k6aa.org</a></p> |

## IMPORTANT NOTES

**K6AA Station** While access to the Museum is temporarily closed, once operations are approved, we will need more operators for our K6AA station. When manning the station is again possible, please 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, on the W6AM Repeater  
145.480 MHz PL 100 Hz

#### **Club Meeting**

Held monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month, 7:00 pm, via Skype. Link sent by Tom K6IGY; if having difficulty, [contact Tom K6IGY](#).

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

**By appointment.** Go to <http://k6aa.org/licensing-exams/> If no one schedules an exam, there won't be an exam team or exam material available.

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

