



# *The Short Circuit*

The December meeting of the United Radio Amateur Club will be the annual Holiday Party, held Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, at the Think Café, on Fifth Street in San Pedro.

## URAC 2015 Holiday Party & Installation of Officers

December 18, 2015 from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM

**The Think Café**  
302 West 5th Street  
San Pedro, CA 90731

12 oz. New York Steak with Baked Potato, or  
Grilled Halibut, or  
Grilled Salmon, or  
Lamb Shank, or  
Vegetarian Pasta

With Soup or Salad, Fresh Bread & Butter  
Dessert, Soda, Coffee or Tea

**\$35 per person**

Mail this reservation and your check payable to "URAC"

Not later than December 10, 2015 to:

Scotty Butler, K6ZNL  
1054 W 31st St,  
San Pedro, CA 90731-6102

Member Name & Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Attendees \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Program for the Evening:

No host happy hour 6 PM – 7 PM  
Dinner is ordered at 7 PM and served as soon as prepared  
Officers sworn in at 8:30 PM  
Thieves' Exchange starts at 8:45 PM  
Event ends NLT 10 PM



The following officers of the United Radio Amateur Club for 2016 were elected at the membership meeting of November 20, 2015:

**President: Doug Dowds W6HB**



**Vice President: Bill Carter W6AJ**



**Secretary: John Rockwood WA6SDK**



**Treasurer: Scotty Butler K6ZNL**



**Directors:**

Gary Forister N6HMR



Homer Meek K6HKT



Steve Mandich K6NT



Don Putnick NA6Z

**Thieves Exchange (Holiday Party) Game Rules**

Each person who wants to participate needs to bring a wrapped gift worth at least \$15. Each person will draw a number.

The game begins with the person who has number #1. That person will select one of the wrapped gifts, and then open it for all to see (gifts must remain in plain sight until the end of the game)

The person with number #2 then takes their turn. They have a choice: they may either chose one of the remaining wrapped gifts and open it (as did #1), or they may choose to “steal” #1’s gift from them. In the latter case, #1 then has to choose a new wrapped gift.

The player with number #3 then begins with the same choice that #2 had: choose a wrapped gift, or steal one of the unwrapped gifts from someone who has already taken their turn.

This pattern continues until all players have a gift.

The following additional rules apply: first, a gift may only be stolen once in a turn. In the above, if #3 were to steal #1’s gift, and #1 were to then steal #2’ gift, #2 has to choose one of the wrapped presents; he or she can not steal #3’s gift.

In addition to only being stolen once in a turn, a gift may only be stolen 3 times in total. The third time a gift is stolen, it is said to be “frozen.” It belongs to the person who stole it the last time. To track this, we will have stickers which will be placed on a gift each time it is stolen. A gift with three stickers is frozen. \*\*\*



## December First Saturday Breakfast

We had a total of nineteen attendees on a chilly morning in December. Major ideas from this roundtable included CW practice apps, URAC website improvements, a Field Day Chairman, and a proposal for a second white elephant sale (in November). Read on...

**Doug, W6HB** as incoming URAC president, announced that 2016 executive board meetings would be held following first Saturday Breakfasts. In order to do that, we will assemble at 8, orders will be taken at 8:15 and the Board meetings will begin at 9:30 so that we can vacate the room by 10 am. As usual, all members are welcome to attend any board meeting. The first URAC program for 2016, in January, will be on antennas, in the style of 'Keep it simple, stupid' or KISS. This will be a hands on type of meeting. In February, Bruce will follow up on the Elecraft topic and the March program will be by N6HC. Anyone with ideas for club meeting topics should send an e-mail to Doug or any other member of the board.

There has been a suggestion to move the weekly club net off of the repeater, which is still a problem in Pedro, and conduct it on simplex (145.510). We will be testing the concept in upcoming weeks.

We are continuing to have website problems, due to the fact that the website administrator is so extremely busy with other issues. One of our newest members is an IT guy and Doug will be working with him to resolve the current problems.

**Ingo, KK6EWB and xyl Mary** are just back from Hemet where they met with Airstream friends, and from Las Vegas, where they attended an aftermarket car show. In addition and separately, they are back from Death Valley and Cancun!! Welcome back for the Holidays.

**Bob, KK6FAI**, was with us to take a radio exam. He is busy with Marine Radio at King Harbor and offered to give a program !! Nice to have you with us, Bob.

**John, AG6VO** has been running the Thursday night Club net for the past few months (and doing a great job of it), but he will not be able to run the next this coming Thursday due to attendance at CERT Training. If anyone can run the net in his place, please contact him or a board member. If no one volunteers, we can test

out the simplex capabilities...???. **John brought his xyl Peg.** Welcome, Peg.

**Roy, KK6VYV** has been checking into other nets with his new antenna system; he checked into the 40M swapmeet net (Nick runs that one) last week, and the YL System (14.332MHz) the week before, when Scotty was controlling. He is continuing his CW studies, and working with Neal and Tom at K6AA on Sunday afternoons. He also heard that the TRW swap meet is NOT going away and they got renewed. Great news, thanks Roy.

**Gary, N6HMR** has been busy wiring his daughter's new office for wifi. After making 100 of them (connections) you get good at it. I'll bet. **Treva N6HMS** brought up the subject of CW classes (as in has there been another one by NC6Q in Long Beach). Answer yes but it has already started...which precipitated a group discussion on studying and improving speed in CW. Several suggestions included a smart phone app and classic books in CW (another program subject?)

**Bill W6AJ** spent the day after Thanksgiving with friend and Timmy the Turtle. Bill had a story about being on a boat not in the water (as in Marine Radio requirements) from California history in Tulare County'

**John, WA6SDK** ran the drawing again this month.

**Scotty K6ZNL** announced that we already have 24 paid for the Holiday Party and a slightly higher number of membership renewals. As a reminder: if you want to attend the Holiday Party, the tab for dinner is \$35@ and payment is required ahead of time: Drop Dead Date December 10, 2015. Send payment to Scotty Butler K6ZNL at 1054 W 31<sup>st</sup> Street, San Pedro, CA 90731 or drop it by the Maritime Museum on Wednesday 12/9/2015. You do not have to specify your chosen menu item ahead of time. The directions for the Theives Exchange will be sent in the Newsletter, which should go out early next week.

**Tom, KJ6JPZ** has been busy lately in coaching the San Pedro High School Academic Decathlon Team with the local Toastmaster Club. They are helping the team with their speeches and interviews.

**Don, NA6Z** reminds us that he is sending out the URAC e-News, so if you want anything sent out to the club, send it to him ([NA6Z@arrl.net](mailto:NA6Z@arrl.net)). In the way of these discussions, it morphed into the now dormant elmer project...Don is willing to pick it up again, so if you have newbie (or oldbie) questions or concerns, let him know so that he can match you up with someone with the information. Conversely, if you have

expertise, (or common knowledge) in an aspect of ham radio, let Don know that too. The group discussed the possibility of developing the website so that we could include a question and answer blog. All were in favor...

**Bruce, AG6BJ** has received his first royalty check for his speaker design...good timing, Bruce. He is ready to get on two meters, but will need some help setting up his new rig. See ref to elmers above. Bruce will let us know when and where...

**Steve, K6NT** is being nominated as 2016 Field Day Chair! I didn't see him get up and flee, so we probably have one...He talked about a second CW station (most of our points have come from the CW station managed by Steve and Ray, N6HE) for slower CW speed operators...this brought up the subject of smart phone apps for CW learning and practice...several were mentioned, among them "CW Trainer" (note from editor: iphone does not have an app with this name, although they do have one called "CW Text").

**Nick, N6EFI** acknowledged Ray KK6VYV's check-in to the 40 meter swap net(7.235)for which he is net control on weekdays at 11 am. The subject of swap

nets and swap meets brought up the subject of the White Elephant sale. A group discussion ensued in which the concensus was that it would be good to have a second sale by and for the club, probably in November. There are details about sales which we have not talked about recently, including the seller putting a reserve price on an item and the possibility of doing sales on consignment.

**David, W6KL** reports that all is well from Burbank.

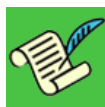
**Homer, K6HKT** informs us that the PV club has an antenna designer as a member and carries antenna designs on its PVARC website.

**Larry, KK6TXT**, as a new ham says that his Christmas list this year is all radio...

\*A further item that came up was a remote listening site for when local conditions get too noisy: W7RNA.org


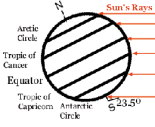

Scotty won the certificate.(!)

Submitted Sincerely,




Scotty K6ZNL, still looking for a new breakfast scribe...

## ~ December 2015 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 World AIDS Day	2	3 Club net: 145.380, 8 pm.	4	5 First Saturday Breakfast, 8 am Think Café, San Pedro
6	7	8	9	10 Club net: NOTE: no net control...meet simplex 145.510 8 pm	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 Club net: 145.380, 8 pm. Try simplex 145.510 following the net	18 URAC Holiday Party, Think Café, San Pedro starting at 6 pm 	19
20	21	22 Winter Solstice 	23	24 NO CLUB NET	25 Christmas 	26
27	28	29	30	31 NO CLUB NET		

## ~ January 2016 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 New Year's Day 	2 First Saturday Breakfast, 8 am Think Café, San Pedro; Board meeting 9:30am
3	4	5	6	7 Club net: 145.380, 8 pm.	8	9
10	11 Human Trafficking Awareness	12	13	14 Club net: 145.380, 8 pm.	15 URAC Meeting, 7 pm, Los Angeles Maritime Museum: ANTENNAS	16
17	18 Martin Luther King	19	20	21 Club net: 145.380, 8 pm.	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Club net: 145.380, 8 pm.	29	30
31						



### Two Free Amateur Radio Courses

FCC **“Technician”** course (entry level)

FCC **“General”** course (2<sup>nd</sup> level)

Each course is 2 sessions

The sessions will be on 20 & 27 February 2016

**Technician** 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM both Saturdays (bring your lunch)

**General** 1:30 PM to 5:00 PM both Saturdays

The FCC tests will be 10:00 AM to noon on 5 March 2016

At the start of the 20 February Technician course, the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club will give a 30 minute presentation on how to get further involved with amateur radio.

The class location is at Fred Hesse Community Park,  
29301 Hawthorne Blvd., Rancho Palos Verdes.

**Confirm your attendance to Walt, K1DFO at [waltordway@juno.com](mailto:waltordway@juno.com)**

There is no fee for either course.

Taking the FCC test is \$15.

#### Optional Material (sold at cost)

Gordon West books with all the FCC test questions,

\$22 for the Technician and \$26 for the General

Paper copy of my Power Point charts,

\$22 for the Technician and \$22 for the General -

For courses sponsored by the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club, students thru grade 12 who pass their examination at a PVARC VE test session will, upon application to the Club, be eligible for reimbursement up to a maximum of \$50 to cover the cost of materials and the examination fee.

Everyone who obtains their first ham radio license through a PVARC VE test session, regardless of age, will receive a free membership in the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club for the remainder of the current calendar year.

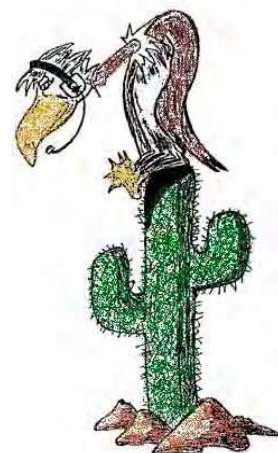
# ***2016 SW Division Convention***

## ***Yuma Hamfest***

***Yuma, Arizona***

***Feb. 19 & 20, 2016***

Yuma County Fairgrounds  
2520 East 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, Yuma, Arizona



***www.yumahamfest.org***

Check the Website for Additional Information

Gates Open for Camping Thursday, 2 pm Vendor Setup Friday, 7 am - Noon	Event Hours Friday, Noon - 5 pm Saturday, 8 am - 5 pm	Hamfest Dinner & Grand Prize Drawing Saturday Night 6:00 - 8:00 pm
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**Vendors & Exhibitors**  
**Consignment Sales**  
**License Testing**  
**Hourly Door Prizes**  
**On-site RV Camping**  
**Hamfest Dinner**  
**ARRL Speaker**  
**Transmitter Hunt**  
**\$5.00 Admission**

**Tailgating (Swap Meet)**  
**Full Seminar Schedule**  
**DXCC Card Checking**  
**Incredible Grand Prizes**  
**Emergency Preparedness**  
**Admission Prize**  
**Hospitality Area**  
**Near Space Balloon Launch**  
**Antenna Clinic**

Hamfest Talk-In Frequency: 146.840 (–) PL 88.5 Hz

Email Contact: [info@yumahamfest.org](mailto:info@yumahamfest.org)



We are proud to have the Amateur Radio Council of Arizona (ARCA) as a sponsor of our event.

The Yuma Hamfest is an American Radio Relay League (ARRL) sanctioned event.



Presented by the Yuma Amateur Radio Hamfest Organization

**URAC's VE Corner ... Gary N6HMR**

Following a heavily attended First Saturday Breakfast (was there even one empty place setting?), David Reid, Bill Carter and I proctored three Commercial exams at the LA Maritime Museum.

Already on the VE team, URAC's own John Rogers AG6VO is on his way to qualifying as a Commercial Examiner (CE) by passing Element 1 for his MROP. At present, to become a CE one must have a Commercial License which required Element 3 ... either GROL (1 & 3) or GMDSS-Maintainer (1, 3 & 9).

Of the other two applicants, one upgraded from MROP to GROL and the other added both GMDSS licenses by passing Elements 7 and 9.

If you're considering acquiring a Commercial license and looking for current study material, depending upon which Element, your "current" book may be from 2 to 20 years old. Elements 1, 3 and 8 were last revised in 2009, Elements 7 and 9 in 2013, and Element 6 in 1994 (there are no plans to revise this Element). Elements 5, T3 and T4 are no longer administered.

As we approach the new year, if you're interested in passing your Extra Class license, know that the exam pool takes affect after June; so you have six months with the current study material.

For Saturday's exam, thanks to David and Bill for your time after the breakfast, and to Marifrances for use of the museum facilities.

**Kids are Not the Future of Ham Radio ...  
... Bob Witte K0NR**

You've heard it a million times: our kids are the future. That statement gets applied to almost everything, including amateur radio. How can you argue with an obvious fact like that?

But I am starting to think it is incorrect.

We've had really good success on creating new hams of all ages in our Technician License Class (at the Tri-Lakes Monument Radio Association). We've been doing this for a while now and I think I am seeing a pattern emerge. We've been able to attract middle schoolers to the class and help them get their ham radio license. I've talked to many of them on the air. They've helped out with public service events. They seem to have fun playing with radios.

Then this thing called high school happens. The high school phase in the US is filled with tons of stuff to do: studying, homework, AP classes, science competitions, sports, dating, movies, driving and after school jobs. Way too much stuff. Ham radio starts to take a backseat to these normal high school activities. Then we don't see the kids at the radio club meetings or chatting on the local repeater because they are busy doing other things. Have we lost them forever? Not sure.

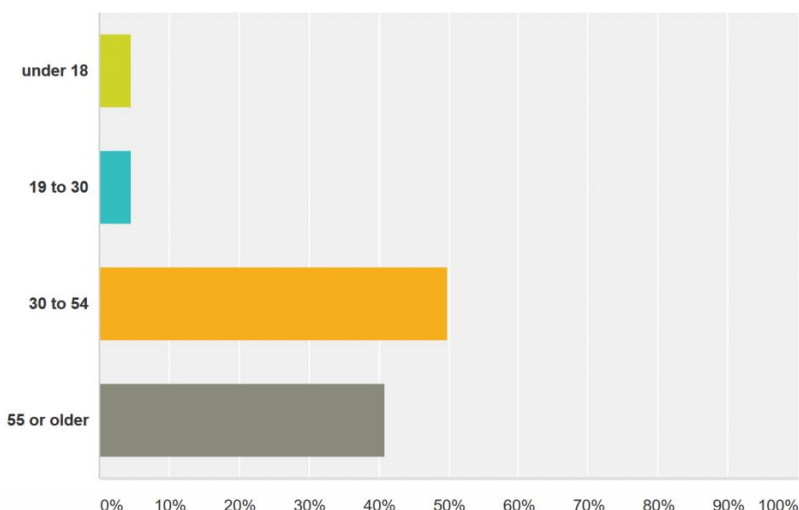
High school is often followed by college which has its own set of challenges: a totally new environment, away from home, a new set of people, new studies, etc. There might be a ham radio club on campus but maybe not. If a kid is not off to college they are (hopefully) out doing something to establish themselves in this world. Eventually they emerge on the other side, get a job, get themselves established, sometimes with a spouse and maybe a kid or two. By this time they are 25 to 30 years old, depending on the individual.

I recently posted about the demographics of our students in the Tech License Class (<http://www.k0nr.com/wordpress/2015/10/where-are-the-new-technicians-coming-from/>). The chart below shows the age distribution of our students from our most recent class. Hmmm, clearly most of our students are



### What is your age?

Answered: 22 Skipped: 0



30 or older. (Sorry, we have not collected age data with finer resolution.) This particular class is light on the under 18 crowd...sometimes we have a clump of kids in the mix.

For whatever reason, it seems most people find themselves in a situation as an adult that causes them to say "I want to get my ham radio license." When asked why they want to get their ham license, the top response is always emergency/disaster communications, followed by backcountry communications, pursuing electronics as a hobby and learning about radio communications. I suspect that starting to be established in a community and having some disposable income also play a role.

My hypothesis is that the most effective way of growing a vibrant ham radio community is to target adults ages 25 to 40.

This age range is more equipped and ready to be ham radio operators and are still young enough that they will be around for a while. Of course, we still want to work with all age groups, including kids and retirees. We've all seen very young hams get the bug for ham radio early and carry it throughout their life. And we also see plenty of older folks get interested in the hobby as they approach or enter retirement. We don't want to miss out on either of those groups.

So that's my read on the situation. I've got some data to support my theory but I can't really prove it. What do you think? What are you seeing in your ham radio community?

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Bob Witte, K0NR, blogs about amateur radio at K0NR.Com. You can find this post at <http://www.k0nr.com/wordpress/2015/11/kids-not-the-future/>. You can e-mail him at [bob@k0nr.com](mailto:bob@k0nr.com). He is also on Twitter: @K0NR.

### Treasurer's Membership Special

Renew your membership, join, or re-join United Radio Amateur Club before January 1, 2016 and get a **FREE Club Patch**.



Hurry! I only have 49 left!



United Radio Amateur Club of Los Angeles Harbor  
MEMBERSHIP AND RENEWAL APPLICATION  
Membership Year 2016  
*CELEBRATING OUR 89th ANNIVERSARY 1927 - 2016*



- ☐ New Application \$20  
☐ Life Member (Annual Renewal) \$ 0  
☐ Renewal Application (due by Jan 31<sup>st</sup>) \$20  
☐ Family Membership \* \$25  
 \* Family member need not be a licensed Amateur, but must reside at the same address.

URAC Membership Applications - Available Online at:  
<http://k6aa.org/index.php/menu-joinurac>  
 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 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>.  
 Please make **check** payable to "URAC" (PLEASE DO NOT MAIL CASH). Bring to any club meeting or mail to the URAC Treasurer:

Scotty Butler, K6ZNL  
 1054 W 31ST ST  
 SAN PEDRO, CA 90731-6102

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

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership in URAC requires this release be signed annually by the applicant (including Life members), and spouse if family membership.

For Official Use Only Please Do Not Write In This Area

CASH \$ \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK \$ \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK NO. \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATA ENTRY: ☐ FINANCIAL ☐ ROSTER ☐ ATTENDANCE

<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](mailto:w6aj@arrl.net)

**Secretary**

Tom Butler, KJ6JPZ  
310-833-2656  
[tsbutlerjr@aol.com](mailto:tsbutlerjr@aol.com)

**Treasurer**

Scotty Butler, K6ZNL  
310-833-2656  
[k6znl@arrl.net](mailto:k6znl@arrl.net)

**Vice President**

unfilled

**Newsletter Editor**

Scotty Butler K6ZNL  
310-833-2656  
[K6znl@arrl.net](mailto:K6znl@arrl.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 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month (except August and December)

**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 and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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