



# The Short Circuit



Effective with 2016, the United Radio Amateur Club, Inc. (URAC) will cease conducting a "net" on the 145.380 repeater. We have been running simplex tests and find that we get more member participation and interactivity by changing the form and format.



Effective 7 January 2016 URAC will convert to a moderated roundtable format on 145.510 simplex. The URAC Weekly Roundtable will be convened by John, AG6VO, or the board assignee at 2000 Pacific local time on Thursdays not affected by a holiday routine. *There will be no roll call.* The moderator will make an open call for check ins. He or she will then continuously go "around the table" in the order that stations checked in until there is no one left with anything to share. URAC is also be reminded that 145.510 is considered our club's common, simplex frequency and encourage monitoring same to communicate with fellow members on a daily basis.

The January meeting of the United Radio Amateur Club will be held Friday, January 15th, at 7 pm in the break room of the Los Angeles Maritime Museum, located at Berth 84, foot of Sixth Street in San Pedro. Parking is available in the lots adjacent to the Acapulco Restaurant just south of the Museum. There is limited handicapped parking on the street across from the museum. The entrance to the break room is through the gate on the north side of the museum (towards the bridge and the Iowa) There will be a greeter on the gate.



QST de President Doug, W6HB...

Welcome to URAC's 89th year! Hard to believe that I started with the club in 1970 right out of the Army. I have seen many swings with URAC through the years having held every office at one time or another. I have forgotten how many times I have been President -- 10 or 11 I think.

I can remember memberships of up to around 150 back "in the day." Nowadays most clubs seem to be seeing a decline in headcount. All we can do is strive to survive and the more we enjoy each other's company within the hobby, the better chance we have to entice new blood so inclined.

Many have gotten away from the technical side of the hobby. Some rarely get on the air much anymore. It is my goal for 2016 to see URAC provide enlightenment to its members and attempt to increase the "hands on" technical skills and thereby see more activity building and operating.

The January meeting will feature Nick, N6EFI, and I with a show and tell on basic antennas almost anyone can build. A simple trip to Home Depot, a few formulas and you can design an antenna that equals or outperforms the comparable items you would pay up to around \$100 for at the RF Candy Store. Come prepared to get involved. Bring paper, pencil or pen and your simplest calculator and leave with skills you will use for a lifetime.

73 - Doug - W6HB



## January First Saturday Breakfast

Fifteen attendees survived the holidays well enough to make it to the first club breakfast of the new year. We had a rather fast roundtable to enable an executive board meeting so let's get to it:

**John, KC6JHV** has been to see the new Star Wars movie (the Force Awakens) and was happy with it and recommends it to us all (your scribe has seen it too: great fun)

**David, W6KL** says Burbank is still there.

**Bill, W6AJ** described his latest bout with the VA system involving some in-patient time. Best wishes, Bill, on your next encounter.

**Steve, K6NT** has been playing with his Christmas present: a digital food thermometer that has more bells and whistles than you can imagine...

**Don, NA6Z**'s favorite Christmas present is something that you have to ask him about.

**Ivan, KB6ATT** will be systematically going through his mountain of chocolate cookies that he got for Christmas: a welcome change from a lousy month for back pain.

**Norm, KG6FSA**, who is a former member, came with Sam and Ivan and we welcome him back!

**Scotty, K6ZNL** finally got around to putting up the HF antenna and hooking up the radio, only to find that there was no response at all on transmit. Turns out that there is a 'lock' switch on the microphone that has been accidentally pushed. Without the lock switch the system works fine! Lesson: always check for the obvious.

**Sam, K1SL** said that he 'survived Christmas'.

**Martin, N6UB** and Mary, xyl both passed.

**Nick, N6EFI** installed a new cooling system in his 23 yr. old truck. NOTE: Nick is a net control on the swap net on 7.235MHz starting 11:30 am local time on weekdays. You can listen in on [www.W7RNA.org](http://www.W7RNA.org) which is a station in Sedona, AZ or go to [www.NA6R.com/swap](http://www.NA6R.com/swap) for the website.

**Mary, xyl of KK6EWB** attended a Dead & Co concert with her niece at the LA Forum (your editor is green with envy)

**Ingo, KK6EWB**, has been up to a lot in the last month but finds that he is mesmerized by Apple TV...

**Doug, W6HB** told us about the U of Iowa football rally aboard the USS Iowa on 12/31 pre-Rose Bowl, with an attendance of upwards of 10,000.

A suggestion has been made to re-institute the second White Elephant Sale for the club to be held in the month of November...more to come.

No certificate awarded this month...we will double up next month.

Submitted Sincerely,

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



A quick note from the Exec. Board Meeting following the Breakfast: tentative programs for the year 2016 are:

January building antennas

February Elecraft

March: N6HC Arnie, DXped TX3X

April: WB6CIA: Space X, communications

May: White Elephant Sale I

June: Field Day prep

July: N6HC Arnie, DX doctor

August: BBQ

September: Show your Shack

October: Commercial Radio licensing

November: White Elephant Sale II

December: Holiday Party

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

As 2015 drew to a close, the week of Christmas found our final VE session for the year. Jim KQ6EA, Doug W6HB and I were pleased to find a passing score for a new Amateur Technician licensee. Being the holidays, the processing took a bit longer, but all things considered (Christmas, Saturday & Sunday) five *calendar* days were a pretty good turn time.

Now into the New Year, for the (almost) 25% of our membership who are General Class, if you're planning on an upgrade to Extra in 2016 don't forget the new exam pool takes effect after June.

As always, Bill and I extend a tremendous *Thank You* to all the volunteer VEs and CEs on our exam team ... without your support and commitment we could not offer testing to the entire radio community (Amateur and Commercial). And *Thank You* Marifrances for supporting our efforts with a reliable exam location.

On another topic, over 36% of URACs membership indicated an interest and willingness to operate our Museum Station K6AA. If you're not one of the few keeping our station alive, please consider making this one of your resolutions for 2016. Whether you're an old-time DXer or one who finds HF to be unfamiliar territory, this is a win-win ... you'll be helping *your club* and receive the personal satisfaction from contacts with others sharing your interest. Give it a thought, consider what fun you're missing, and give Scotty K6ZNL a call or email to get started. She'll ensure you receive all the support and training you need to feel comfortable as a Station Operator.

## **What would Wayne (Green) do? ...** **... Dan Romanchik KB6NU**

Wayne Green was a crackpot...but he was a great one.

For those of you who aren't as old as I am, Wayne Green, W2NSD, was not only the publisher of 73 Magazine, but also the founder of Byte and other PC magazines in the early days of personal computing. In 73, he would write these long, rambling editorials. Often, he would take the ARRL to task, criticizing what he thought to be some lunk-headed policy or another.

Just as often, he'd be encouraging hams to take up some new technology. He was, for example, one of the guys driving hams to set up repeater systems.

He would often exhort hams to get started in their own technology-related business. I remember one column where he urged hams to get involved in the home-security business. And, of course, when personal computers became popular, he wrote that hams should think about getting into that business. His reasoning was that our knowledge of electronics would stand us in good stead in those businesses.

Today, I think that he would be telling us to get more involved in with technologies like the Internet of Things, Wi-Fi, or whatever other wireless technology is coming down the pike. "Wireless" is the key word here. These networking technologies are based on good, old radio, and who better to push these technologies forward than guys like us who understand radio.

This point was brought home to me last week as I was interviewing an executive of a wireless company for an article that I'm writing. He said to me that many of the companies he works with are taking a software-centric view to their wireless products. They simply use the reference designs provided by the wireless chip makers and expect those designs to work flawlessly in their products.

While they often do, he gave me an example where simply using the reference design was a colossal failure. In one case, he said, the company mounted the board inside a metal enclosure. Since the antenna was part of the printed-circuit board, the enclosure acted like a shield, and of course, the device had little or no range.

He went on to say that he thought there was a real shortage of experienced RF guys in the wireless industry. Does that sound like an opportunity to you? It does to me. So, I'm going to make like Wayne Green here and exhort all you guys to get out there and take advantage of it.

This is not only a business opportunity, but a way for amateur radio operators to fulfill a couple of the "purposes" of amateur radio, as set forth in Part 97.1 of the amateur radio regulations. Part 97.1(b) says that one of the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service is "Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art."

(cont'd from page 7)

According to Part 97.1(d), another purpose of the Amateur Radio Service is "Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts."

Let's do it!



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When he's not ruminating on the latest wireless technologies, KB6NU likes to make use of some vintage wireless technologies by working CW on the HF bands. He's also a prolific blogger ([www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com)) and the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides ([www.kb6nu.com/study-guides](http://www.kb6nu.com/study-guides)). If you have a comment or a question, email him at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

### DX OPERATIONS FOR JANUARY 2016 Per NG3K



Sable Is, CY0: Is now operating thru 1/31/2016. QSL via JE1ET.  
So Cook Is, E61LLA: Is now operating thru 1/9/2016. QSL via OZ6TL.  
Kenya, 5Z4: Is now operating thru 1/10/2016. QSL via M0LEP.  
Rotuma, 3D2AG/p: Is now operating thru 1/15/2016. QSL via 3D2AG.  
Antigua, V25LK: Is now operating thru 1/10/2016. QSL via OM3AG.  
Laos, XW4XR: Is now operating thru 1/15/2016. QSL via 3W3B.  
Senegal, 6W: Is now operating thru 1/12/2016. QSL via WA3DX.  
Vanuatu, YJ4AO: Is now operating thru 1/13/2016. QSL via DL7VOA.  
Ogasawara, JD1BMH: Is now operating thru 1/9/2016. QSL via JD1BMH.  
Guadeloupe, FG: Is now operating thru 1/10/2016. QSL via UT6UD.  
Senegal is now operating thru 1/30/2016. QSL via EA1HFI.  
Vanuatu, YJ0AFU: Is now operating thru 1/10/2016. QSL via VK4AFU.  
Senegal, 6W7SK: Is now operating thru 1/31/2016. QSL via F6BLP.  
Antigua, V25GB: Is now operating thru 1/14/2016. QSL via GW4DVB.  
NZ SubArctic Is, ZL9A: Is now operating thru 1/11/2016. QSL via VE3LYC.  
Panama, HP3: Is now operating thru 1/12/2016. QSL via N2ZN.  
Palau, T88: Is now operating thru 1/14/2016. QSL via JO3LVG.  
Bonaire, PJ4B: Is now operating thru 1/22/2016. QSL via PA8A.  
Cayman Is, ZF2PG : Will be operating from 1/9 thru 1/17/2016. QSL via K8PGJ.  
Belize, V31: Will be operating from 1/9 thru 1/21/2016. QSL via DJ4KW.  
So Cook Is, E51J: Will be operating from 1/12 thru 1/21/2016. QSL via JA3ARJ.  
Palmyra Is, K5P: Will be operating from 1/12 thru 1/25/2016. QSL via K9CT.  
Laos, XW4ZW: Will be operating from 1/15 thru 1/24/2016. QSL via K4ZW.  
So Sandwich Is, VP8STI: Will be operating from 1/17 thru 1/25/2016. QSL via N6PSE.  
Fernando de Noronha, PY0F: Will be operating from 1/19 thru 1/26/2016. QSL via PP1CZ.  
Solomon Is, H44MS: Will be operating from 1/19 thru 1/31/2016. QSL via DL2GAC.  
Palau, T88UC: Will be operating from 1/21 thru 1/26/2016. QSL via JA9FIO.  
Palau, T88HK: Will be operating from 1/29 thru 2/2/2016. QSL via JA6DND.

~ January 2016 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 New Year's Day 	2 URAC First Saturday Breakfast, 8 am URAC exec. Board meeting 9:30 am Think Café
3	4	5	6	7 URAC simplex roundtable: 145.510 simplex	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 URAC simplex roundtable: 145.510 simplex	15 URAC membership meeting, 7pm Break room Los Angeles Maritime Museum.	16
17	18 Martin Luther King 	19	20	21 URAC simplex roundtable: 145.510 simplex	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 URAC simplex roundtable: 145.510 simplex	29	30
31						

~ February 2016 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Groundhog Day 	3	4 URAC simplex roundtable: 145.510 simplex	5	6 URAC First Saturday Breakfast, 8 am URAC exec. Board meeting 9:30 am Think Café
7 Super Bowl	8	9	10	11 URAC simplex roundtable: 145.510 simplex	12	13
14 Valentine's Day 	15 Presidents' Day 	16	17	18 URAC simplex roundtable: 145.510 simplex	19 URAC membership meeting, 7pm Break room Los Angeles Maritime Museum.	20
21	22	23	24	25 URAC simplex roundtable: 145.510 simplex	26	27
28	29					

### 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.



The  
Desert  
RATS  
club is  
pleased  
to  
announce  
our annual Hamfest



**SAT. MARCH 12, 2016 • 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM**

**PALM SPRINGS PAVILION • 401 S. PAVILION WAY**

**NEXT TO PALM SPRINGS STADIUM • PALMSPRINGSHAMFEST.COM**

**Palm Springs Hamfest  
Saturday March 12, 2016  
9:30 AM to 4:30 PM**

**Palm Springs Pavilion  
401 S. Pavilion Way  
Palm Springs, CA 92262**

#### **Walk-in Admission Fee**

Admission to the 2016 **Palm Springs Hamfest** is \$5.00 payable at the admissions windows at the Pavilion. Children 12 and under are admitted free. Parking is free.

#### **Tailgating Fees**

There is no fee for the tailgaters to sell their wares. Tailgaters will have to pay the \$5 per person entry fee if they wish to enter the Pavilion to see the other vendors. If Tailgaters wish to spend the night before or after they will have to register for the overnight camping with a fee of \$25 per night. Tailgaters need to check out the Palm Springs Hamfest website for all the details and registration form which you can do the day of the event. <http://palmspringshamfest.com/home/flea-market/>

#### **Motor Homes/RV's**

Overnight parking of motor homes is available at the cost of \$25 per night. No motor home will be allowed into the overnight parking area prior to 3:00 PM on Friday, March 11, 2016 and all motor homes must vacate the premises no later than Sunday March 13, 2016 at 12:00 noon.

Pre-registration is required as space is limited to first come, first served. Registration is done via the Palm Springs Hamfest Website. <http://palmspringshamfest.com/home/camping-rules/>

#### **VE Testing**

Palm Springs Hamfest 2016 will again offer VE Testing. Upgrade your license at the event then get a deal on near gear from one of our fine Expo vendors — all in the same day! Testing this year will be from 9 a.m. to noon with the testing center closing at 1 p.m. See our [VE Testing](http://palmspringshamfest.com/ve-testing/) page for information. <http://palmspringshamfest.com/ve-testing/>

**Speakers will be announced the beginning of February 2016**

Check out the Palm Springs Hamfest Website at the beginning for February to see who our speakers will be. <http://palmspringshamfest.com/home/hamfest-presentations/>



[http://k6aa.org/index.php/menu-newsletters/doc\\_download/6-application-for-membership](http://k6aa.org/index.php/menu-newsletters/doc_download/6-application-for-membership)

Please use this link (above) to complete the application on the computer.



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 Doug Dowds W6HB		VICE-PRESIDENT Bill Carter W6AJ	
SECRETARY John Rockwood WA6SDK		TREASURER Scotty Butler K6ZNL	
DIRECTOR Gary Forister N6HMR		DIRECTOR Homer Meek K6HKT	
DIRECTOR Steve Mandich K6NT		DIRECTOR Don Putnick NA6Z	
		Past President Bill Carter W6AJ	

**Contact List**  
**For 2015**

**President**

Doug Dowds, W6HB  
310-834-1695  
[W6HB@arrl.net](mailto:W6HB@arrl.net)

**Secretary**

John Rockwood, WA6SDK  
310-753-8550

**Treasurer**

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

**Vice President**

Bill Carter, W6AJ  
310-503-6989  
[W6AJ@arrl.net](mailto:W6AJ@arrl.net)

**Newsletter Editor**

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

**Webmaster**

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<http://www.k6aa.org/specialevents.html>

### *Additional Calendar Notes*

## Club Roundtable

Held weekly on  
Thursdays at 8pm  
145.510 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. **By appointment.** Go to <http://k6aa.org/index.php/menu-licenseexams>”



The Museum is at the Foot of 6<sup>th</sup> Street. To get to the Break Room, walk past the main entrance around to the north end (nearest the Iowa) until you see the gate. There will be a greeter at the gate. Gate to the Break Room

