



The Short Circuit

February 2016

since 1927

Volume 89, Issue 2

The February meeting of the United Radio Amateur Club will be held Friday, February 19th, 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.

Elecraft Remote System: Design Approaches and Application

Despite it having been around for many decades, recent innovations in internet applications has made operating remotely essentially a new facet of the amateur radio hobby. As a result there are new ways to connect that did not exist even 5 years ago.

In this presentation, David Shoaf, International Distribution Manager at Elecraft, will discuss the options hams have available today. Club member should expect to understand design options and how they can architect a remote system that meets their needs.

Agenda

- 1) Emerging Remote Architectures
- 2) The Gatekeeper function
- 3) Privacy in the Community
- 4) Maintaining Control
- 5) Implementation Guidelines

Bio: David Shoaf

With a background in RF/analog engineering, David first received his First Class Radiotelephone license in 1978. For a career, however, David opted to build computer products for data centers for the next 30 years.

David has worked in every facet of designing, building and running computing systems typically found in data centers today. He has served in product management, sales, standards committees, and in distribution management throughout his career.

After a career in the computer industry with Texas Instruments and Hewlett-Packard, David came back to his roots in RF with Elecraft. David retired from HP in 2005.

After the family grew up, David received his Extra Class ticket as KG6IRW in 2000. A former denizen of Silicon Valley, David has worked for Elecraft over 3 years; living in Capitola, California, with his wife Sharon, also a retired HP engineer. Sharon and David have 1 son and 2 grandsons.



QST de President Doug, W6HB...

Great to see so many at the January meeting and all seemed to be into the topic of antennas. Nick, N6EFI, and I appreciated your participation and the advance work by Don, NA6Z, too. I am hoping to nail down another similar program for July.

The monthly no-host URAC breakfasts continue to outdraw the LAMM meetings and all enjoy a good meal and each other's company. Keep on coming out!

This month's meeting will feature Elecraft's staff showing means to remotely operate a station. Come and become enlightened.

Next month will feature Arnie, N6HC, sharing the perils and successes of the recent TX3X DXpedition to the Chesterfield Islands.

All are reminded to start stockpiling their surplus goodies for the May meeting's White Elephant Sale that will fund the June Field Day operation. Available will be items donated to the URAC cause. Good deals will be available although some items may have minimums to insure optimum satisfaction to the donor and value to the club.

Steve, K6NT, and Ray, N6HE, will be the Field Day co-chairs this year, Please get in touch with them at your earliest opportunity to volunteer and allow them to map out the pinnacle operating event of the year.

All are reminded that we have a GREAT new Web site thanks to the work of Bruce, KG6MXL, and Gary, N6HMR. Please let them know your thoughts and send them possible content for posting. Insure your submissions are club and or amateur radio related. Off topic submissions are better suited to different possibly social media sites. Frequent www.K6AA.org to keep abreast of URAC and amateur radio happenings.

All are reminded to fire up your 2-meter rigs every Thursday night at 2000 local time on 145.510 simplex for the URAC Weekly Roundtable. Moderators are Nick, N6EFI, and John, AG6VO. Come keep them company and share your week's happenings. All are also encouraged to monitor 145.510 to keep in touch throughout the week.

Get on the air, melt some solder and enjoy our hobby!

73 - Doug - W6HB



February First Saturday Breakfast

Although nineteen members and guests gathered to celebrate the first Saturday in February, more than usual decided that eating was more important than speaking. This is what the rest of us had to say...

Bruce S. KG7MXL, distributed a hand-out that had a screen shot of the front page and information on who has been visiting the new and improved K6AA website in the first few weeks it has been up, what they are looking at, and how they found it. The information lead to a discussion about the newsletter and the website: instead of just sending out the Short Circuit, we will post the Newsletter on the website and then send a link to the post.

Gary, N6HMR, will be the moderator of the site: Any member logged into the "members only" portion can post to the site. Gary will screen the content before it is officially posted.

John, KC6JHV has been on a helicopter ride/tour of the LA basin. The chopper was a Robinson R-44 out of Torrance. He also went on ride (by invitation) on the LA Fireboat.

David, W6KL says Burbank is still there.

Bill, W6AJ brought Joe Kaenel as his guest. Joe has been staying with him and helping him with his home organization.

Don, NA6Z passed.

Steve, K6NT as one of the co-chairs for Field Day (with Ray, N6HE) is beginning the process. He and Ray would like to have a slow-speed CW station available for members. We still need volunteers for phone stations and all the activity that goes into field day. We are also discussing the food station and possible changes. Please contact him or Ray and weigh in with your opinions and concerns and what you would like to do.

Scotty, K6ZNL is working on the K6AA station report for 2015 and says that we logged 839 QSO's last year. (See the full report later in this issue).

Bruce E. AG6BJ, is giving the same program to the DX club that he did for us. He also noted that he and his wife arrived at about 7 pm for the club meeting and could not get in. We will have a gate keeper stand by later for our next meeting.

John, WA6SDK passed

...at some point in the discussion, the 'Great Wind Storm' of last week came up: Homer said he lost power for 12 hours, John L said 48 hours, Gary said that the Wi-Fi antenna he talked about last month blew over, and in Pedro, the Vons sign at 25th and Western blew over. Wow. The good part is that we all survived intact.

Treva, N6HMR says that she and Gary are "on vacation" (from the grandkids) and enjoying the respite (except that the kids and grandkids are on Taiwan and there has been a big earthquake (they are all OK).

Nick, N6EFI went with another cooling system (fan) for his 2 M rig and has installed LED lighting as well. He had to lower the intensity of the LED (surprise?) but he rigged a shade to do it.

Larry, KK6TXN was in show and tell mode with his spiffy new Comet Mark II antenna analyzer. He tuned a 6 M inverted V with it already. If anyone needs it for a project, let him know.

Homer, K6HKT brought a home-made through the wall fitting and demonstrated it.

Doug, W6HB talked about the August BBQ options. We are searching for a venue other than the Pt. Fermin (windy and cold) or the LAMM (the POLA, too many forms). One option is the Iowa, with a tour and catered meal. Only problem is that it is pricy, about \$40/each. We are open to suggestions, and/or a volunteer with a back yard and plenty of parking. It will continue to be discussed. Doug will be gone for the April club meeting. We are scheduled to have Mark WB6CIA as a presenter discussing Cassini (spacecraft) communications.

Due to technical problems, no certificate awarded again this month...In March, we will have three drawings based on the attendance rosters. Be there.

Submitted Sincerely,

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



Tentative programs for the first half of 2016 are:

February	Elecraft
March:	N6HC Arnie, DXped TX3X
April:	WB6CIA: Space X, communications
May:	White Elephant Sale I
June:	Field Day prep

URAC's VE Corner ... Gary N6HMR

Free online practice tests ... how good are they?

What follows is based upon a true incident involving one ham wanting to help a friend join in this hobby. Happy to be a tutor and guide in their studies, most of the instruction was structured around the free online practice exams ... the theory being, once you can successfully pass the free simulated online exams, you're ready to take the actual test.

When test day came, the ham awaited the good news of their friend's near perfect score ... only to learn they didn't pass.

Next came a phone call to the CVE (Contact VE), the team leader for the VE session, complaining of mistreatment of their student who was given an unfairly difficult exam, having questions on it never seen by their student. So let's look at the reality of this situation.

Element 2, the Tech exam, is comprised 10 *subelements*. Each subelement is comprised of 2 to 6 *topics*. Each topic has 11 to 14 questions in the exam pool. It's these 35 topics which make up the exam, each *test question* being from a different *topic*. With a total of 426 questions in the pool, an online practice exam of 35 questions only covers about 8% of the total question pool.

Subelement	Topics - (Exam Questions)	Pool Questions per Topic	Pool Questions per Subelement
1	6	14, 13, 14, 12, 12, 13	78
2	3	12, 13, 12	37
3	3	11, 11, 12	34
4	2	12, 12	24
5	4	12, 13, 13, 12	50
6	4	11, 12, 13, 12	48
7	4	11, 12, 13, 12	48
8	4	11, 11, 13, 11	46
9	2	14, 11	25
0	3	11, 12, 13	36
Total	35		426

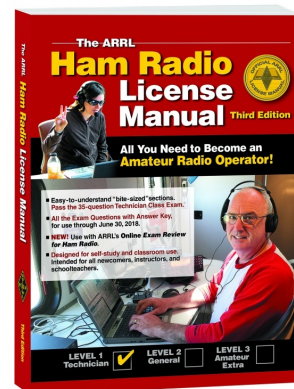
Being as the actual FCC question pool is available for free, the tutor does a disservice focusing on the free practice exams. As a minimum, download the entire question pool (<http://www.arrl.org/question-pools>) and ensure the student understands why each answer of a topic is correct. With understanding comes retention. To complain that questions on the test were not encountered in the free practice exams is ludicrous.

As to providing an unfairly difficult exam, one must consider the process by which the CVE prepares an exam. While possible, it's doubtful your CVE goes through the question pool searching for specific questions to create a test. For one thing, at least with W5YI, your CVE is required to change exams at least every 90 days.

The VEC (Volunteer Examiner Coordinator), in our case W5YI, provides the CVE with a computer program. Using this program the CVE selects which exam Element to create, and the program prepares an exam randomly selecting one question from each topic. The CVE prints out as many exams as desired, each being unique ... don't bother trying to copy from another applicant, they have a different set of questions.

Passing score is 75% ... one can miss 9. Being unable to answer all pool questions of a particular topic, one cannot ensure getting that topic (question) correct on the exam. If all study is via the free practice exams, the applicant has no idea how many of the pool questions they have not seen. Save the free online tests as a final step, a confidence builder, but first ensure there is understanding of all the questions making up each individual topic.

For self-study, the ARRL License Manual does an excellent job of explaining the material ... again, with understanding comes retention. The end of the manual has the entire Exam Question Pool, cross referenced to explanatory text for each question.



While this particular incident involved the Tech exam, it is equally applicable to General and Extra class exam preparation.

Happy studying.

K6AA Station Report 2015

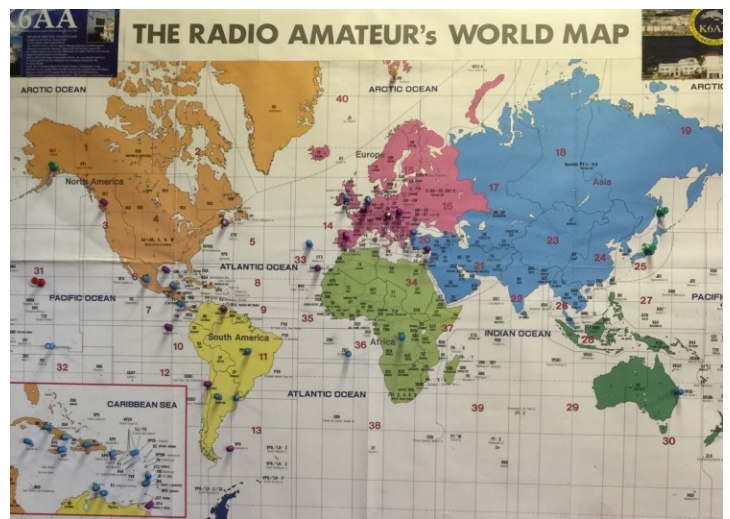
K6AA logged 839 QSO's in 2015, not counting Museum Ship's Weekend, Field Day or other Special Events.



Not bad...Of all contacts, 110 were CW ! 129 DX contacts, not including aeronautical mobile (twice), Santa's Workshop (NJ) or other specials. We belong to the YLISSB and Ten-Ten nets.

And remember, these great contacts were made by a small group (seven) of operators who educate the public about amateur radio in addition to having great fun on the air. Come be a part of the action. If you have not registered, get the paperwork from Doug or Scotty and start. If you ARE registered, come see us about an orientation and a time slot for volunteering. If you can't make it every week, think about coming in one shift a month.

DX countries for 2015 Included Anguilla, Argentina, Aruba, Australia, Bora Bora, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada (Alberta, BC, NB, NS, ONT) Cayman Islands, Costa Rica, Cuba, Curacao, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Falkland Islands, Guantanamo Bay, Hungary, Isle of Man, Italy, Japan, Kitts & Nevis, Lithuania, Martinique, Mexico, Navassa Island, Netherlands, Peru, Puerto Rico, Sakhalin Island (Russia), Slovenia, Spain, St. Helena Island, St. Lucia, Uruguay, and Venezuela.



DX OPERATIONS FOR FEBRUARY 2016**Per NG3K**

Curacao, PJ2: Is now operating thru 2/9/2016. QSL via DL9NBJ.
Guadeloupe, TO6D: Is now operating thru 3/8/2016. QSL via F6ITD.
So Georgia Is, VP8SGI: Is now operating thru 2/9/2016. QSL via N6PSE.
St Martin Is now operating thru 2/10/2016. QSL via WZ1P.
Belize, V31JZ/p: Is now operating thru 2/11/2016. QSL via NN7A.
St Kitts & Nevis, V47KA: Is now operating thru 2/25/2016. QSL via K1KA.
Lesotho, 7P8C: Is now operating thru 2/17/2016. QSL via F6KOP.
Bahamas, C6ABB: Is now operating thru 2/18/2016. QSL via 2RFA.
Namibia, V6: Will be operating from 2/9 thru 10/18/2016. QSL via DC8QT.
Easter Is, CE0Y: Will be operating from 2/10 thru 2/14/2016. QSL via W7Yaq.
Togo, 5V7TH: Will be operating from 2/10 thru 2/22/2016. QSL via ON6DX.
St Martin, FS: Will be operating from 2/10 thru 2/26/2016. QSL via F8AAN.
Senegal, 6W7: Will be operating from 2/10 thru 3/1/2016. QSL via F6HMJ.
Mauritius, 3B8HD: Will be operating from 2/11 thru 3/1/2016. QSL via OE4AAC.
Fiji, 3D2PW: Will be operating from 2/13 thru 2/19/2016. QSL via DF6PW.
St Kitts & Nevis, V47TR: Will be operating from 2/13 thru 2/21/2016. QSL via K8AQM.
Falkland Is, VP8IDX: Will be operating from 2/14 thru 2/19/2016. QSL via N6PSE.
Honduras, HR8: Will be operating from 2/15 thru 2/25/2016. QSL via AA4W.
Sint Maarten, PJ7AA: Will be operating from 2/16 thru 3/12/2016. QSL via AA9A.
Dominica, J7: Will be operating from 2/17 thru 2/23/2016. QSL via N2ZN.
Tonga, A35T: Will be operating from 2/18 thru 2/24/2016. QSL via M0URX.
Guinea, 3XY1T: Will be operating from 2/18 thru 3/4/2016. QSL via I2YSB.
Micronesia, V63DDX: Will be operating from 2/19 thru 2/24/2016. QSL via JA7HMZ.
Guantanamo, KG4: Will be operating from 2/19 thru 3/4/2016. QSL via W4WV.
Antigua, V26IS: Will be operating from 2/21 thru 3/4/2016. QSL via OH2IS.
Sao Tome & Principe, S9BK: Will be operating from 2/25 thru 3/25/2016. QSL via HB9BEI.

MEMBERSHIP

Please take note of the following page. Dues for 2016 are now past due. Those wishing k6aa.org member access and email forwarding from k6aa must be current dues members.

For your convenience, the application on the following page is formatted for completion on the computer, with check boxes and fill-in-the blank text lines. With digital signature it couldn't be easier ... fill it out on your computer, electronically sign it, and email it to our Treasurer at k6znl@k6aa.org. Dues may be posted (USPS address on application), or given to the Treasurer at one of our meetings.



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 31st) \$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 1st through December 31st. 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

~ February 2016 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 GROUND HOG DAY 	3	4 URAC roundtable : 8 pm; 145.510 MHz simplex	5	6 First Saturday Breakfast, Think Café 8 am. URAC Board meeting 9:30 am Think Café.
7 	8	9	10	11 URAC roundtable : 8 pm; 145.510 MHz simplex	12	13
14 	15 Presidents' Day 	16	17	18 URAC roundtable : 8 pm; 145.510 MHz simplex	19 URAC meeting. 7 pm, Los Angeles Maritime Museum	20
21	22	23	24	25 URAC roundtable : 8 pm; 145.510 MHz simplex	26	27
28	29					

~ March 2016 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 URAC roundtable : 8 pm; 145.510 MHz simplex	4	5 First Saturday Breakfast, Think Café 8 am. URAC Board meeting 9:30 am Think Café.
6	7	8 International Women's Day	9	10 URAC roundtable : 8 pm; 145.510 MHz simplex	11	12
13 Daylight Saving Time  Begins	14	15	16	17 URAC roundtable : 8 pm; 145.510 MHz simplex	18 URAC meeting. 7 pm, Los Angeles Maritime Museum	19
20 Spring Begins  Happy Spring!	21	22	23	24 URAC roundtable : 8 pm; 145.510 MHz simplex	25 Good Friday	26
27  Happy Easter	28	29	30	31 URAC roundtable : 8 pm; 145.510 MHz simplex		

Two Free Amateur Radio Courses

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

FCC **“General”** course (2nd 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

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.

<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

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W6HB@arrl.net

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Webmaster

Bruce Sperka KG7MXL
(310) 528-9679
bsperka@gmail.com

*** IMPORTANT NOTES ***

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

Additional Calendar Notes

Club Roundtable

Held weekly on
Thursdays at 8pm
145.510 Simplex

Club Meeting

Held monthly on 3rd Friday of the
month (except August and December)

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/>



The Museum is at the Foot of 6th 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

