



The Short Circuit

March 2016

since 1927

Volume 89, Issue 3

Next Meeting

TX3X

Chesterfield Islands
DXpedition
Arnold Shatz N6HC

**March 18th, 7 pm
in the Break Room**

Contents

- 1....March Meeting
- 2....QST from the President
- 3....First Saturday Breakfast
- 4....Greetings from the Maritime Museum
- 5....Field Day At My House ...
Ray N6HE
- 6....CW Corner
- 7....Member Support
- 7....Ham Radio News (links)
- 8....Social Media & Ham Radio
Dan Romanchik KB6NU
- 8....Recognize anyone?
Memories from past years.
- 12...Coming In April: Interplanetary Communications
- 13...March Calendar
- 13...Future Meeting Topics
- 14...URAC 3 Month Calendar
- 14...Field Day Survey
- 15...Field Day fast approaching
- 16...August Picnic
- 16...Help Wanted
- 17...Books of Interest
- 18...You might be a ham if ...
- 19...Things to do
- 19...Remember this?
- 20...Membership Application
- 21... Board & Contact List

Weekly Club Net

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

K6AA and URAC members monitor

Simplex 145.510 MHz

Club Station K6AA

Website: k6aa.org

The club station, located in the Los Angeles Maritime Museum, is open to museum-approved and K6AA-qualified club members during museum operating hours. To become qualified, contact Scotty k6znl@k6aa.org



Arnold Shatz N6HC (left) with David Greenhut N6HD

What is it like to participate in the activation of an uninhabited top 25 DXCC entity in the South Pacific? What can you accomplish when Mother Nature throws unfavorable propagation and windy weather in your way? How do you prepare for all contingencies in a hostile environment? The answers to these questions and any others that you may conjure up will be answered by Arnie Shatz, N6HC, as he presents the story of the TX3X – Chesterfield Island DXpedition. Don't miss this entertaining saga.

With memberships and awards too numerous to mention in this limited space, be sure to check his bio on QRZ. Between 2005 & 2015, he's been a team member of 10 major DXpeditions.



QST QST QST

From the President

de

W6HB

Thanks to all who enjoyed learning about the new technology of remote operations as presented by Elecraft last month. There seems to be life after HOA's and CC&R's if one wants to look at options!

This month's breakfast was lightly attended, maybe due to the impending weather and hopefully not due to ill health. We will try to encourage Don, NA6Z, to regularly send out an E-Blast prior to each feed to remind all.

March 19th will feature Arnie, N6HC, sharing the perils and successes of the recent **TX3X DXpedition to the Chesterfield Islands**. Pass the word and invite friends, family and any non-URAC hams you know to attend. The travelogue side of the presentation should be interesting to just about anyone.

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 from electronics goodies to baked goods. Those donating items may establish minimum bids (for both electronics **and** baked goods) so as to ensure optimum satisfaction to the donor and value to the club.

Please get in touch with Steve, K6NT, and Ray, N6HE, at your earliest opportunity to sign up and volunteer your support for the 2016 URAC Field Day effort. This will allow them to plan the operating event of the year. I have applied for the

permit for Angels Gate Park and for access to Building "F's" restroom facilities. To date we have one CW station and one SSB HF station. There will be no club-funded community feed although we may belly up with coffee and or pastries for Sunday morning. At this point all participants are on their own for food. If some would like to consider a pot of spaghetti to share, let me know and we can pass the hat. What would you like to bring to the party?

In order to keep our k6aa.org website timely and of interest to all, Gary, N6HMR, needs your input and appreciation. Send articles and worthy links to n6hmr@k6aa.org. Ensure your submissions are club and or amateur radio related. Off topic submissions are better suited to social media sites and will not be accepted. Please visit the club's site regularly for news of interest to club members and Hams in general.

Reservations have been made for the **URAC August Picnic at Deane Dana Park** in San Pedro to be convened on **Saturday the 20th from 0900 to 1700**. The club will furnish hamburgers and hot dogs. A signup roster will be sent out by Don, NA6Z, via E-Blast. On the sign up let us know if you will attend and what pot luck item you will bring. If there is enough interest we may have antenna building, a fox hunt, games and whatever else you may desire. Present us with your ideas.

The Thursday night URAC Roundtable continues weekly at 2000 local time on 145.510 simplex. The moderator is John, AG6VO, with support from members as they pass the microphone around to those who check in. See you there to share the doings of the day and or week.

Until later enjoy the radio and your friends so inclined....

73 - Doug - W6HB



Ten were were in attendance this fine cloudy morning. Some experienced drizzle at their homes during the previous night.

Larry KK6TXN reports he finally got his wire antenna erected with an 18' pushup mast. He is also dealing with raccoon problems.

John KC6JHV is busy with his aviation-photo website. Available for purchase, check out his photos at <http://fineartamerica.com/profiles/john-linder.html>. Also included is a brief bio of John.

Gary N6HMR gave reports of regulations which deny to non-current pilots the same privileges as those with no experience at all. He also talked of the tour given the previous Saturday (W6HB, KG7MXL, N6HMS, N6HMR, and KQ6EA) to K6DGE (*Dorothy Grant Elementary*) radio club members. <http://www.k6dge.com> Located in Fontana, this visit included time at the LAMM, the K6AA station (where several figured out the morse code key), a guided tour the Battleship Iowa, and time with NI6BB where the licensed hams got on the air for some DX.

Steve K6NT updated us on the Boy Scouts preparation for Field Day participation at Cabrillo Beach Explorer Base. Also the the latest plans for our August picnic, which will be at [Deane Dana Friendship Park](#) (more details elsewhere in this newsletter).

David W6KL showed his latest *toy* from HRO. An SDR 100kHz - 2 GHz receiver called [SDRplay](#). With it connected to his computer at home, he's able to access it for listening from his smart phone.



John AG6VO reported on Cerritos medical doctors who want to get into ARRL EmComm. They have been requesting info regarding licensing and VE classes. John is an EmComm examiner and is looking for volunteers interested in assisting in that role.

Ingo KK6EWB brought (xyl) Mary. They will soon be visiting their Airstream in Louisiana. Ingo completed CERT training and is now ready to join a Certified Emergency Response Team.

Doug W6HB gave a rundown of of the programs for the coming months and discussed the August picnic, Field Day planning (Steve K6NT & Ray N6HE are co-Chairs), and the [Visalia DX Convention](#) (April 15-17) for which he is obtaining the raffle prizes (there's even a really nice prize for the first-time attendees, so if you haven't been before, this might be worth the effort!).

In preparation for some (Field Day prep) antenna building fun at the August picnic, Doug also brought a few parts he picked up on Amazon for making open wire feed line.



While the gathering officially began at 8:00, with a board meeting following, the last holdouts were still sharing stories, ideas and information in the parking lot past 11:00.

73 ... John WA6SDK

Greetings From the Los Angeles Maritime Museum



The Octant, the Sextant, the Chronometer ... these navigational instruments and more history at the LAMM *online exhibits*. Check them out [here](#).



Before There Were Apps takes us back to a time when ships and sailors roamed the earth without cell phones or a GPS! Discover vintage technology in this new exhibit.

All this and more. If you haven't visited the website for a while, check out what's new and what's past. [It's only a click away.](#)

Field Day At My House ... *... by Ray N6HE*

I've been wanting a tower/mast, beam, and a rotor for a long, long time. Had a 204BA (4-element wide-spaced 20M beam) at my old RPV house, before the draconian RPV antenna ordinance. Hysterical story of me putting it up on a tower to be stealthy before dawn in the rain by myself. Amazing I'm still alive. Had to take it down because the tower was rusting through (I'd gotten it second hand, of course, and didn't want to delay things by de-rusting and painting it). Gave the 204BA to URAC (it's still around, somewhere).

So, I bide my time looking for a low crank-up tower/mast and a rotor, and of course a (small) beam. Bought a SteppIR 2-element 20-17-15-12-10M beam. Two full size 20M elements (~33'), but only a 5' boom. Still in the box as life's been very busy, and besides, I didn't have a tower/mast or rotor yet.

So then a local ham (I forget who; he had a shop on Torrance Blvd near the railroad trestle) was dismantling his "shack in the shop" and posted a Yaesu G-800DXA rotor for sale, pretty cheap. "Worked last time I tried it," he said (where've we heard that before?). Bring it home, put it on the shelf in the garage. Cable is not long enough for my installation – and it's cut in half. Oh well, I'm going to have to splice in more anyway, so what the heck. Forward to present day: I splice the cable pieces together, all looks good. Push power button, expecting the control head to light up. It doesn't. Heart sinks. Then heart leaps as I realize there's another part to this – the power cord. Duh! Plug it in. Unit lights up. Good. Mash the "clockwise" button, hear gears, rotor is turning. Happy!

Two down, one to go. Need a crank-up mast/tower. Ivan built 4 of them a while back (nesting square tubes) and I asked him if he'd do another one or two. Nope, too old for that stuff now, he said. Rats. But I'm keeping my eyes open. Steve, K6NT, tells me that one of those exact ~30' crank-up masts may be for sale by Bruce, AG6BJ. I jump on it. Go over to pick it up. Jeez, this thing is heavy! So we use a dolly of his and somehow I/we get the thing into the back of my SUV and I drive it home. Somehow

again I get it, with the dolly, out of the SUV and into the garage (horizontal, on the floor). Amazingly, Donna doesn't say anything. Maybe it's just lost in the garage stuff?

Meantime, I'm thinking about how to break the news of this new purchase to Donna, as it'll be sitting right outside our formal-dining-room window and visible from where we entertain guests in the living room.

A non-ham friend helps me wheel the thing on the dolly around to the back of the house and we get it vertical (nested), more-or-less where I figure it'll go. Fully collapsed, it's about 10-11 feet high, the bottom section is about 6 inches square, and it has a decent-sized hand crank and winch on the bottom at the 2-foot level. Oh, did I mention Donna wasn't home when we did this?

So I wait, and sure enough, about 5 days later, I hear, "Ray, what the hell is that big thing over there?!? Surely you don't plan on it staying there, right? It can't stay there. It's big and ugly!" Well, since it's always Field Day at my house, I mumble something like, "Gee, I'm only trying something out here. Not sure about how it'll end up." Donna seems at least OK with the thing, just not where it is. I don't share with her that all the places I think she'd be OK with have the 16' elements hanging over our neighbors' property line. Thinking that time heals all wounds, I leave it there and don't put anything on top of it yet. At some point days later, Donna says, "There's gonna have to be some vines or something on it so you can't see what it really is." This is, in my mind, a major victory. The boa constrictor ratchets one more notch towards its goal. I know I can get some green growy-thing covering the bottom section. It'll look like a small tree with a winch on it, but so what?

So next I mount the rotor with the newly-spliced too-short cable to the top of the crank-up mast. The four attach bolts on the rotor-to-mast bottom part of the rotor are loose and in good shape. Zip, Pop! It's on top of the crank-up mast. Easy. Gotta test this arrangement, so I grab the MFJ *two-back-to-back-*

telescoping-stainless-whips tuned-to-15M dipole I have (with a chopped-off broom handle *short mast section* sticking out of the bottom of it) which would go atop the rotor, right? Hrmph. The $\frac{3}{4}$ " broom handle is waaaaay too small for the rotor's upper mast clamp assembly at the top of the rotor. The MFJ mast clamp only goes up to $\frac{3}{4}$ " and the rotor wants at least a $1\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter mast. And one of the top clamp's 4 bolts is frozen, but fortunately in the partially-unscrewed position. I try making the broom handle go up to $1\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter with about a $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile of duct tape wound around and around it, but it's too wonky (no surprise here, right?).

Go to local hardware store, get an amazingly perfect-for-this-job water/gas pipe tubular connector thing that is about 2" in diameter on the outside and about $\frac{3}{4}$ " on the inside, and it's about 5" long, so it's perfect. Try it out on a broom handle in the store and it clamps down real tight on the $\frac{3}{4}$ " wood I.D., and the O.D. seems OK. Happy again. Drive home, find out that my broom handle is slightly smaller in diameter than the one in the store. Shim it up with a bit of aluminum "500 mile an hour" *speed tape*, if you know what that is. Not perfect, but it'll make the broom-handle to pipe-connector thing pretty snug. Now to get the pipe connector into the upper part of the rotor. Remember the one frozen bolt? It's not far enough out to allow the pipe connector with the short wooden mast to the antenna in. So at top of stepladder and needing two left hands, I get a

"cobalt" hacksaw blade (these Yaesu bolts are made of really hard steel) fitted to my trusty hacksaw, and start awkwardly sawing the bolt with one hand, the bolt kept from spinning with an end wrench in the other hand. Saw, saw, saw. Saw some more. Aching arm. Saw more. Finally, the frozen bolt is in two pieces. Unscrew the other three, drop in the pipe-connector with the antenna on top of it. Tighten the three bolts. Not a permanent solution, but it'll work, since it's only a light rotatable 15M dipole up there.

Home stretch now. Crank up the mast, almost ripping off the rain gutter as a fitting on the mast goes by (no wonder it's so hard to turn the crank!), but up it goes to about 20 feet, a good level for neighbors and spouses to adjust to for a while. I remembered to orient the dipole so that one leg of the dipole didn't try to pass through my close-by 40M dipole when I raised the mast! I even remembered to put a loop of coax up there so I don't break the coax with rotation (I'm really proud about this, as I hadn't done this in about 40 years). Test the rotor – and the antenna rotates! Life is good.

Next: See how high the mast goes up, try out the dipole up there with the neighbors and Donna, splice in more cable, assemble and test the SteppIR 2-el beam, replace the dipole with the beam, and plant a growy-thing at the base of the mast. Stay tuned. Remember: "It's always Field Day at N6HE's QTH!"



Instant Recognition

by Nancy Kott, WZ8C

Some Hams are content to rag chew at slow speeds and don't have a desire to go faster. This is fine! As long as you are getting on the air and having fun with Morse code, that is what is important. However, many frustrated Hams want to go faster. "How can I increase my code speed?" is the most commonly asked question.

<http://www.k17kc.com/FistsCodeCourse/instant.pdf>

CW Corner

Go With the Flow

by Nancy Kott, WZ8C

Morse code. These two words conjure up more emotions than any other phrase in Amateur Radio. For some reason, Hams who enjoy Morse code are fiercely protective of it.

.... There is something about code that creates a feeling that is deep seated and very strong.

I was reading a book called *The Flow* by Professor Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi and it dawned on me that this is what makes people so passionate about Morse code!

.... Hams go into the state of Flow when they get on the air. But it doesn't happen to all Hams, it tends to happen to CW ops ...

There are seven criteria for the State of Flow. Let's look at them briefly as they relate to Amateur Radio....

<http://www.k17kc.com/FistsCodeCourse/withtheflow.pdf>

Member Support

From time to time various members have enjoyed *Member Support*, whether it's been help studying for a license, instruction on how to better tune a radio, guidance in erecting an antenna, better techniques for soldering that project together, or the volunteer staffed exam team so you could upgrade to the next higher class. Usually taking place in the background, it just happens through the year and the majority are not even aware.

Which brings up *ground rods and adobe soil*. Most of us have them, ground rods that is, and how did they get installed? Are they as deep as we wanted? Did we buy a bigger sledge hammer for that one-time effort? Seems it's one of those one-time projects which your neighbors probably haven't had to deal with, so where do you turn for a better tool?

Enter this month's *Member Support* from Neal N6NW. As Neal puts it ...

About 40 years ago I had a need to place 8' ground rods 9' into the ground. Not an easy task when the soil is Adobe (clay). When the soil is dry it is almost as hard as concrete. The trick of using water pressure to dig down just does not work in Adobe.

I was lucky enough to have a long "One Inch Diameter Wood Bit" (including shank about three ft long). I had a neighbor weld a length of 3/4" water pipe to the shank. Using a T handle through the water pipe it made a reasonable drill for making "One Inch diameter holes" in the Adobe soil. The depth of drill can be changed by adding sections of water pipe. Currently it is configured to drill about 9 feet.

Available if anyone has a need for it.

If you wish to borrow, please contact Neal n6nw@k6aa.org

Don't have clay soil? Want to do it the hard way? Then check out these two *instructional* videos:

[Using water](#)

[Using a hammer](#)

Ham Radio News

Ham Radio Daily ... Your Source for Amateur Radio News
<http://www.hamradiodaily.com>

Ham Universe ... Latest Ham Radio News Feeds and links from the World of Ham Radio News!
<http://www.hamuniverse.com/hamnews.html>

Southgate Amateur Radio News
<http://www.southgatearc.org>

eHam ... news, classifieds, product reviews
<http://www.eham.net>

K0NR Radio Site ... amateur radio, VHF/UHF, QRP, mountaintop operating and technical stuff
<http://www.k0nr.com/wordpress/>

KB9MWR ... advancing ham radio, different ideas
<http://kb9mwr.blogspot.com>

KB6NU's Ham Radio Blog
<http://www.kb6nu.com>

Amateur Radio Newsline
<http://www.arnewsline.org>

International Ham Radio News and Opinion
<http://www.amateurradio.com>

Ham Radio Update
<http://www.hamradioupdate.com>

Television Programs all about Amateur Radio
<http://arvideonews.com/hrn/>

Amateur Radio Audio Newsfeeds
<http://ky4ky.com/audionews.php>

QRZ now dot com
<http://qrznow.com>

FCC rattles sword against pirate operations
<http://www.radioworld.com/article/fcc-rattles-sword-against-pirate-operations/278268>

What do you mean it's not true???

Morse code factored into SOS call
http://www.timesdaily.com/opinion/columnists/bernie_delinski/morse-code-factored-into-sos-call/article_4ae31b18-3b28-5292-b46d-0e85f624d6b1.html

Social Media and Ham Radio ... *... by Dan Romanchik KB6NU*

In the last ten years, there's been an explosion in social media. I've found some to be really great. Others, I haven't found to be to my liking. Here are my opinions on a few of the most popular social media websites:

- Twitter (twitter.com). I like Twitter. I have more than 3,000 followers on Twitter, and it's not only helped me sell more books, I've found out about a lot of great projects, and I've met and corresponded with a lot of great hams there. It's a lot of fun. If you have a Twitter account, follow me there. I'm @kb6nu.
- Facebook (facebook.com). I have a Facebook account and I even have a page for my study guides. I don't like using Facebook, though, and avoid it when I can.
- Reddit (reddit.com/r/amateurradio). Reddit hosts a very active amateur radio forum. What I like about Reddit is that these guys, unlike say the forums on eHam.Net or QRZ.Com are really interested in doing stuff, not just complaining or arguing. A lot of the hams on Reddit, and it's associated IRC channel (talk about retro!), #redditnet, have used my study guides, and apparently, I'm quite popular there.
- Blab (blab.im). Blab is an interesting concept. It's kind of like an interactive podcast. You can record

the blab sessions and then post them to YouTube or your own website. When I suggested having a regular Blab session to talk about ham radio topics to my blog readers, they weren't very enthusiastic about it. Even so, I think that I'm just going to do it. Sometimes you just gotta go with your gut, and my gut says this could be fun and eventually popular. Blab is integrated with Twitter, so if you follow me on Twitter, you'll find out when I'm blabbing.

The biggest problem with participating on these social networks, of course, is that it takes a lot of time, time that could be used for building stuff or getting on the air. Even so, I would say that, overall, using them has certainly increased my enjoyment of amateur radio and has connected me to people that I probably would not have connected with otherwise.

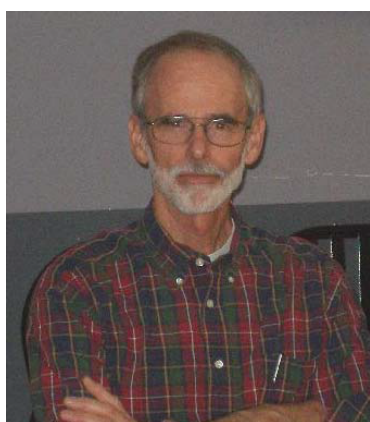
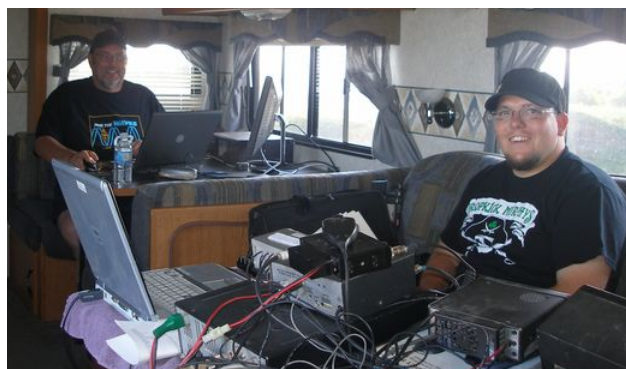
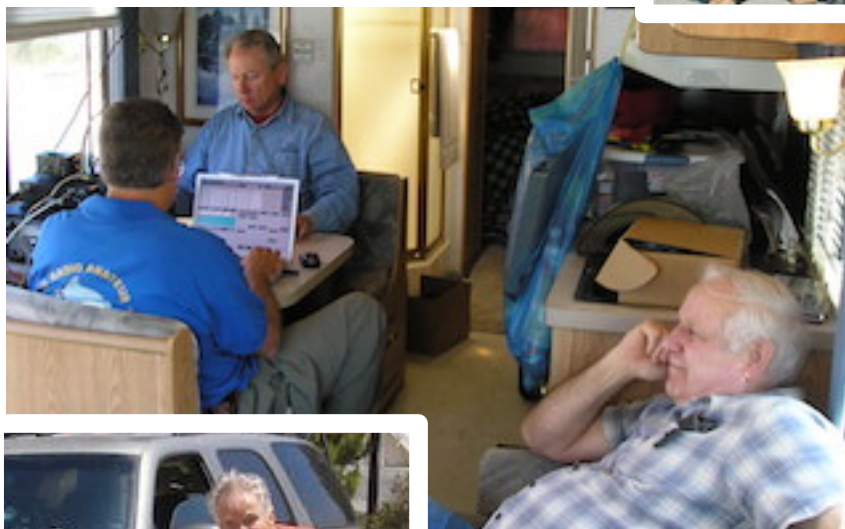
What do you think? What social media accounts do you have? Which do you prefer? What have they done for you?

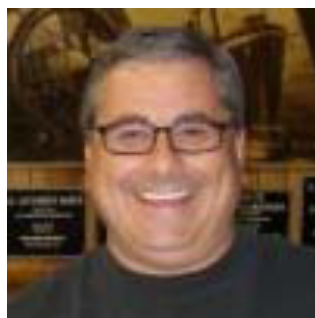
=====

When he's not blabbing or tweeting, KB6NU likes to work CW, build stuff, and teach ham radio classes. He's also a prolific blogger (www.kb6nu.com) and the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides (www.kb6nu.com/study-guides). If you have any comments, questions, compliments, or complaints, email him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Recognize anyone? Memories from past years.









Coming In April

Interplanetary Telecommunications

How does NASA/JPL get all those great pictures and all that science data back to Earth?

Don't miss this *REAL DX* talk ... some info about your speaker:

Mark Schaefer
WB6CIA
Novice license 1968
Extra License 1972
President of
Bellflower Amateur Radio Association
Cal Poly Pomona ARC
Jet Propulsion Laboratory ARC
BSEEE Cal Polytechnic Pomona 1979
Graduate work USC 1980/81
First Class Commercial License
KROQ Radio Engineer 1981
Microwave RF Telecom Engineer
Jet Propulsion Laboratory 1979 to 2011
Radio Astronomy and Halley Comet Submillimeter Radiometer for Kuiper Airborne Observatory
Earth Atmosphere Observing Microwave Limb Sounders for Balloons, UARS, AURA Satellites
Earth Oceans Scatterometer on Quikscat and Adios 2 Satellites
Telecom and Radio Science on Cassini at Saturn and Juno at Jupiter Orbiter Missions
Telecom and Radar Altimeter for Spirit, Opportunity, Curiosity Mars Rover Missions
Telecom for Odyssey at Mars, Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, Spitzer Space Telescope Missions
RF Engineer
Space Exploration Technologies 2011 to present
16 Falcon 9 Rocket Launches
8 Dragon Missions to ISS

March 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 8:pm URAC roundable 145.510 Simplex	4	5 8:am First Saturday Breakfast, Think Café 9:30 URAC Board meeting
6	7	8	9	10 8:pm URAC roundable 145.510 Simplex	11	12 9:30-4:30 Palm Springs Hamfest
13 Daylight Saving Time "Spring Forward" ... GMT - 7hrs	14	15	16	17 Happy St. Patrick's Day 8:pm URAC roundable 145.510 Simplex	18 7:pm URAC Meeting - Los Angeles Maritime Museum	19
20 Spring begins	21	22	23	24 8:pm URAC roundable 145.510 Simplex	25 Good Friday	26
27 Happy Easter	28	29	30	31 8:pm URAC roundable 145.510 Simplex		

Courtesy of WinCalendar.com

More Calendars: PDF Calendar, 2016 PDF Calendar, Word Calendar, Excel Calendar.

Future Meeting Topics

APRIL

- WB6CIA: Space X, communications

May

- White Elephant Sale I

June

- Field Day Prep

July

- N6HC Arnie, DX doctor

August

- BBQ All-Day Picnic (note: Saturday all-day picnic, vs our regular Friday night dinner)

September

- Show Your Shack

October

- Commercial Radio licensing

November

- White Elephant Sale II

December

- Holiday Party

URAC 3-month Calendar

Date	Time	Event
5-Mar-16	8:00	URAC breakfast at Think Café
5-Mar-16	9:30	URAC Board Meeting at Think Café (following breakfast)
12-Mar-16	9:30 - 4:30	Palm Springs Hamfest
13-Mar-16	02:00	Daylight Saving Time
18-Mar-16	19:00	URAC meeting TX3X - Chesterfield Island DXpedition
25-27 Mar-2016	17:00 for 48 hrs	CQ WPX Contest SSB 0000 UTC Saturday - 2359 UTC Sunday
2-Apr-16	8:00	URAC breakfast at Think Café
2-Apr-16	9:30	URAC Board Meeting at Think Café (following breakfast)
15-Apr-16	19:00	URAC meeting Interplanetary Telecommunications - WB6CIA Mark Shaefer
15-16 Apr-16	17:00 for 24 hrs	SETI QSO Party 0000 UTC Saturday - 2359 UTC Saturday
17-Apr-16	11:00 - 15:30	Crop Hunger Walk 3-5 people needed
7-May-16	8:00	URAC breakfast at Think Café
7-May-16	9:30	URAC Board Meeting at Think Café (following breakfast)
20-May-16	19:00	URAC meeting White Elephant Sale
27-29 May-16	17:00 for 48 hrs	CQ WPX Contest CW 0000 UTC Saturday - 2359 UTC Sunday

IMPORTANT * * * * * [Field Day Survey](#) * * * * * IMPORTANT

URAC will participate in the 2016 Annual Field Day event this year as we have in all the FDs since its inception in 1933. It is the most popular on the air event of the year, and the most fun. Location is the Angels Gate Park area of the old Fort MacArther, north of the Marine Exchange.

Dates:

Set up starts 11AM, Friday June 24.

Event starts 11AM Saturday June 25; and

Event ends 11AM Sunday June 26.

Field Day Chairmen: Ray N6HE and Steve K6NT.

Please see the ARRL site: www.arrl.org/field-day

and our club site: k6aa.org/

Please respond to survey by March 31.

n6he@k6aa.org and k6nt@k6aa.org

1. Do you plan on attending Field Day this year?
Which days?
2. Can you help set up on Friday?
3. Can you help take-down on Sunday?
4. Do you want to operate: CW? Phone?
5. Can you help set up a refreshment station? Food will be the responsibility of each person.
6. Do you want to set up a station? It can be as simple as a VHF radio and antenna on your car. We need one or more HF phone stations and a second CW slow speed station. We record contacts using a FD program that we can provide to your laptop computer.
7. Can you bring any other equipment?
8. Can you bring an RV or large tent, or canopy?

Field Day Fast Approaching



**THE UNITED RADIO AMATEUR'S CLUB WITH PORTABLE
W6DIS OF WILMINGTON, CAL FEB 5 2007**

Photo above from the 1934 September QST, announcing **URAC as the first place finisher in 1934 Field Day** with 58 QSO's.

Field Day is fast approaching. It's not too soon to start considering your level of interest.

New to HF? Uncomfortable working the radio or making contacts? This is the perfect opportunity to get past that. With a scripted scenario and short contacts, you don't have to think about what you'll say to keep the dialogue running. Don't think you're fast enough? Doesn't matter ... what's important is that you end the weekend having had fun and/or learning something in the process.

How about CW? Been working at it but find you start missing characters? There's plenty of helpers to assist with copying and logging, and (again) don't

fret the speed. Better to send accurately than faster than you're comfortable. Like phone, this is an opportunity to improve your knowledge and skill set.

Some will call it a contest and want to make a kazillion QSOs in the process, but you'll find even the hardest-core operators will prefer *involvement by many over points by a few*. While it's fun to find lots of QSOs in the log, at the end of the day realize this is a club event, and everyone's active participation is encouraged. Stay as long or as short as you like ... some will operate through the back side of the clock and witness the sunrise. Like to stay up super late? You can be there'll be a mic or key available.

August Picnic

This summer we are having a picnic on **Saturday**, August 20, at the Deane Dana Friendship Park, Sycamore Plateau Picnic area, section C. This all-day event is in place of the *Friday Night BBQ Dinner* we have had on our typical meeting night in August. We have this space reserved from 9AM to 5PM. There are 6 large picnic tables for us, under a wood slated shade cover, with a view of San Pedro and the harbor. We will have grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, and ask that each person bring a side dish to share.

To get to this location go up 9th Street, above Western Avenue, and make a quick left into the driveway. Go to the top of the drive and make a right into the parking lot. Continue to the end of the lot, and the picnic area is to the right. Rules include *no Alcoholic beverages, no balloons or streamers, and no amplified music.*

Activities include antenna building projects, such as a 2M J-Pole or yagi, and wire HF antennas. A T-hunt can also be done. Please let a board member know your interest in these activities.



Help Wanted

Along the earlier theme of “[Member Support](#)” ... a request has been made by one of our members who is unable to hear the URAC simplex communication Thursday nights. Would one of the regulars to our *Thursday Round Table* please volunteer to write a synopsis of the discussion. Not a long dissertation,

just a synopsis of topics and club updates which are brought up.

If you will coordinate with Don NA6Z, he will see that it gets to those interested.

Your fellow URAC members thank you !!

This year's **CROP Harbor Area Hunger Walk** is on **Sunday, April 17th from 1100 to 1530**. The start and finish is at Point Fermin, there is only one check point and there should be the usual single straggler van. As such URAC will need a minimum of 3 participants and a max of 5 or 6. Equipment required will be a 2-meter HT set up for 145.510 MHz simplex. If you man the van, a mag-mounted

antenna is recommended and a mobile radio with a cigar lighter plug works well and will ensure no dead spots on the route.

I will be on my way home from the Visalia IDXC so won't be able to participate this year. Please RSVP to me ASAP via w6hb@arrl.net if you want to work this event and specifically if you want to be the lead and contact person.

Books of Interest

QST QST, INDEXA & Southeastern DX Club member writes a book on DXing!!

In this DX operating guide, Jeff Cantor, K1ZN shows how to effectively use your radio transceiver, logging software and Internet resources to experience the thrill and satisfaction of being able to communicate anywhere in the world.

Most everyone has dreamed of using distant radio communication (DXing) to talk with people in interesting and distant lands. This book helps make that a reality, describing the antenna, transceiver, amplifiers, propagation prediction tools and radio operating protocols used for successfully making DX contacts.

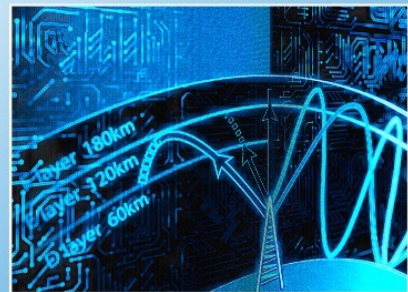
In addition to the equipment requirements, Jeff draws on his many years of DXing to highlight: signal propagation characteristics, spotting clusters and other resources used for finding DX stations. Once contacts have been made, the fine points of QSLing and applying for DX award programs are described. For those looking for something more, there is the challenge of working DX on the Top and Magic Bands, and the excitement of working QRP.

This book has been written expressly to help you enjoy the DXing hobby by successfully outfitting your station, completing contacts and applying for awards.

- Working the World
- Becoming a DXer
- DX Spotting Clusters
- Working Pileups and Operating Split
- DX Code of Conduct
- Lessons from DXpeditions
- Transceivers and Options Selection Criteria
- Antennas and Towers
- Power Amplifiers, how much is enough?
- Using Contests to Catch DX
- DX Nets and Call Lists
- Understanding and using Propagation Predictions
- Beacons and Reverse Beacon Networks
- Online Spotting Programs and Operating Resources
- QSL Logging and Contesting Software
- QSL Bureaus
- QSLing Direct, how to get a card back.
- DXCC & IOTA Card Checking
- DXing Award Programs, certificates and plaques
- Top Band / 160 Meter Band DXing
- Magic Band / 6 Meter DXing
- Operating QRP
- DX Clubs and Other Support Organizations

Nifty E-Z Guide to Adventures in DXing

**Developing Worldwide Friendships
through Radio Communication**



Working the World as a DXer
DX Operating Practices & Spotting Clusters
Working Pileups and Operating Split
Transceiver and Antenna Selection
Understanding and Using Propagation Predictions
QSLing, Logging and DXing Award Applications
Unique Challenges & Rewards of QRP Operation
DX Clubs and Other Support Organizations

Jeffrey A. Cantor, K1ZN

To order, please go to: www.niftyaccessories.com/DX_book.php

You Might be a Ham Operator if...

1. When you look at a full moon and wonder how much antenna gain you would need.
2. When a friend gets a ride from you and remarks that you have a lot of CBs in your vehicle, it turns in to an hour long rant on how ham radio is not CB radio.
3. When someone asks for directions, you pause, wondering if long or short path would be best.
4. When you can look at a globe and be able to point to your antipode (and you know what an antipode is).
5. Your cell phone ring tone is a Morse code message of some kind.
6. You have accidentally said your Amateur Radio call sign at the end of a telephone conversation.
7. Your favorite vacation spots are always on mountain tops.
8. You notice more antennas than road signs while driving your car.
9. You have driven onto the shoulder of the road while looking at an antenna.
10. Porcupines appear to be fascinated with your car.
11. If you ever tried to figure out the operating frequency of your microwave oven.
12. When you look around your bedroom of wall to wall ham gear and ask: Why am I still single?
13. The local city council doesn't like you.
14. You actually think towers look pretty.
15. Your family doesn't have a clue what to get you for Christmas, even after you tell them.
16. Your HF amplifier puts out more power than the local AM radio station.
17. The wife and kids are away and the first thing that goes through your head is that no one will bother you while you call "CQ DX" a few hundred times.
18. When you pull into a donut shop and the cops there on their coffee break ask if they can see your radio setup.
19. You refer to your children as your "Harmonics".
20. Your girlfriend or wife asks: "You're going to spend \$XXXX on what???"
21. You actually believe you got a good deal on eBay.
22. When you see a house with a metal roof, and your only thought is what a great ground plane that would be.
23. You have pictures of your radio equipment as wallpaper on your computer's desktop.
24. Every family vacation includes a stop at a Ham radio store.
25. The first question you ask the new car dealer is: "What is the alternator's current output?"
26. You buy a brand new car based on the radio mounting locations and antenna mounting possibilities.
27. You have tapped out Morse code on your car's horn.
28. A lightning storm takes out a new Laptop, Plasma TV, and DVD Recorder, but all you care about is if your radios are okay.
29. Your wife has had to ride in the back seat because you had radio equipment in the front seat.
30. Your wife was excited when you were talking about achieving that critical angle, but very disappointed when you finally did.
31. During a love making session with your wife, you stop to answer a call on the radio.
32. Your wife threatens you with divorce when you tell her that you are going on a "fox" hunt.
33. Talking about male and female connectors makes you feel excited.
34. You dream of big, comfortable, knobs, but not on women.
35. You always park on the top floor of the deck, just in case you might have to wait in the car later.
36. When house hunting, you look for the best room for a radio shack and scan the property for possible tower placement.
37. When house hunting, you give your realtor topographical maps showing local elevations.
38. The real estate agent scratches his head when you ask if the soil conductivity is high, medium, or low.
39. You have Ham radio magazines in the bathroom.
40. When your doorbell rings, you immediately shut down the amplifier.
41. Fermentation never enters your mind when "homebrew" is mentioned.
42. Instead of just saying no, you have said "negative".
43. You have used a person's name to indicate acknowledgement.
44. You become impatient waiting for the latest AES catalog to arrive.
45. You have found yourself whistling "CQ" using Morse code.
46. You always schedule the last full weekend in June for vacation.
47. You walk carefully in your back yard to avoid being close-lined.
48. You have deep anxiety or panic attacks during high winds or heavy ice.
49. You and the FedEx/UPS men are on a first name basis.
50. You really start to miss people that you've never seen.
51. Your exercise machine is a Morse code keyer.
52. You walk through the plumbing section at the hardware store and see antenna parts.
53. Your neighbors thought you were nuts when you ripped up your lawn to bury chicken wire.
54. Your next door neighbor thinks that your wife is a widow.
55. Your wife has delivered meals to your Ham shack.
56. If you sold all your Ham radio equipment, you could pay off your mortgage.
57. Removing snow from the roof of your car requires working around the antenna and wires.

Things to Do

1. Join URAC
2. Meet new and interesting people
3. Attend First Saturday Breakfast
4. Attend Thursday Night Round Table on 145.510 Simplex
5. Attend monthly meetings
6. Participate in club events
7. Commit to joining the fun at Field Day
8. Have Fun!!



Who remembers THIS logo?

Or this sign?





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

<i>2016 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 2016

President

Doug Dowds, W6HB
310-834-1695
W6HB@arrrl.net

Secretary

John Rockwood, WA6SDK
310-753-8550

Treasurer

Scotty Butler, K6ZNL
310-833-2656
k6znl@arrrl.net

Vice President

Bill Carter, W6AJ
310-503-6989
W6AJ@arrrl.net

Newsletter Editor

Scotty Butler K6ZNL
310-833-2656
k6znl@arrrl.net

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, for training and checkout.

Check out the special events page on k6aa.org for the latest from arrl and e-ham net.

Additional Calendar Notes

Club Roundtable

Held weekly on
Thursdays at 8pm
145.510 Simplex

Club Meeting

Held monthly on 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/>

Also available most Wednesdays, again ... **by appointment**.

If no one schedules an exam, there won't necessarily be an exam team or exam material available.



The Museum is at the Foot of 6th Street. 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

