



The Short Circuit

May 2016

since 1927

Volume 89, Issue 5

Next Meeting

URAC White Elephant Sale

Jim Jerzycke KQ6EA

May 20th, 7 pm
in the Break Room

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Weekly Club Net

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

K6AA and URAC members monitor

Frequency 145.510 MHz

Club Station K6AA

Website: www.k6aa.org

The club station, located in the Los Angeles Maritime Museum, is open to qualified club members during museum operating hours. To become qualified, contact Scotty

k6znl@k6aa.org



Following our long standing tradition, the May URAC meeting will be the *first of two* annual White Elephant Sales. This one will be used for Field Day expenses, while the second, in November, will be

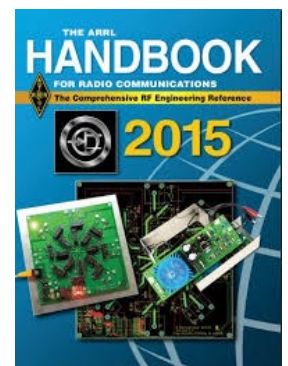
used for the Holiday Party prizes.

Time to clean out the shack and garage, and lug your stuff down to the Maritime Museum to help raise funds for the 2016 URAC Field Day operation, and make the YL/YF happy by getting rid of what they commonly refer to as "All That Old JUNK"! (and one ham's junk is another ham's treasure...) There are always some interesting items, some great items, and some true "White Elephants" to bid on, along with tasty baked items.

Items seen and sold at past White Elephant Sales have been complete HF stations, VHF/UHF radios, scanner radios, power supplies, antennas, coax, tubes, tuners, parts, and more. Be advised...some of the items will have reserve prices, so you know that the quality will be good this year.



Don't miss the sale, to be held on May 20th at the LA Maritime Museum. Here are some of the promised items :





QST QST QST
de
W6HB

The (first of two) Annual URAC White Elephant Sale(s)

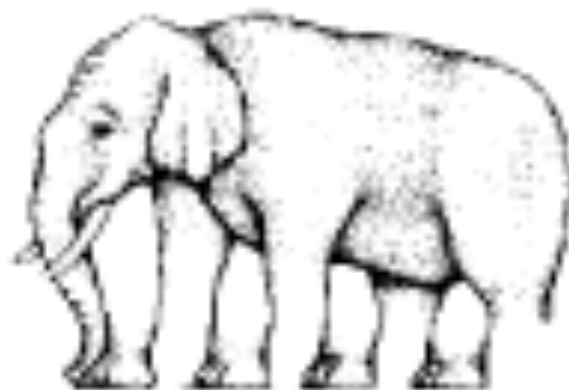
“white elephant”

One entry found for white elephant in Merriam Webster On-line dictionary:

Main Entry: white elephant

Function: noun

- 1 : an Indian elephant of a pale color that is sometimes venerated in India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Myanmar
- 2 a : a property requiring much care and expense and yielding little profit
 - b : **an object no longer of value to its owner but of value to others**
 - c : something of little or no value



URAC's own Jim Jerzycke, KQ6EA, will lead the charge to redistribute objects as above.

Radios, antennas, electronic stuff, baked goods ... come one, come all...bring \$\$\$

Have something you'd like to donate to the auction but won't be in town to attend? Get it to Jim KQ6EA. E-mail kq6ea@arrl.net to make arrangements.

2016 Upcoming Meeting Topics

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



The Club's No-host Breakfast is held 8:00 am on the First Saturday of each month at the Think Cafe at 302 W. 5th St, San Pedro, CA

RAIN, and rainbows, brought out an almost record-breaking crowd of 20 members and guests

for the *May First Saturday Breakfast*. Here's what went down:

John AG6VO described his adventures in the machine shop of the IOWA (which is where he volunteers). The problem is the lack of tools on the ship, and also the fact that he hasn't worked a machine for 18 years(!). Peg, his xyl, has volunteered to help paint on the ship. She reports that the house remodel is proceeding. John lost his weather station in the storms recently and has had to remove it from its tower. He reports that the trouble was the battery.

Ivan, KB6ATT, has been touring his European relatives around. Now that they are leaving, he will have time to catch his breath. He was unfortunate enough to step on a nail in his garage.

Homer took a ride on a B-25 with the group out of the Torrance airport with his daughters.

Neal, N6NW, sends his greetings and QRU (look it up).

Roy, KK6VYV, is struggling with CW, especially the part where you get on the air with it. He has been hanging with Neal and Tom K6LQI at K6AA on Sunday afternoons. They both use CW exclusively.

Sam, K1SL, has recently had cataract surgery and is amazed by what he can see now.

Gary and Treva, N6HMR and N6HMS, gave us several thumbnails of their trip to India. Think of all those pictures you've seen of India and then multiply them. People everywhere... traffic continually day and night... heat and different smells and tastes... all that and more. Maybe we can get them to do a program???

Gary said he found no amateur radio antennas.

Martin, N6UB, and xyl Mary just got back from their annual trip to the Big Bend Open Road

Race in Texas. On the way they saw Space Port America and the Virgin Galactic Terminal. They also recently returned from a 2-month trip to New Zealand, by car and motor home. (More potential programs.)

John, WA6SDK, conducted the certificate drawings for us as usual.

Bruce, AG6BJ, 's son has just left on a trip to walk across Greenland (really). His son, who is a geographer, and his son's friend, who is a snow researcher, will be doing experiments the whole way as a GSF project. They will be communicating by satellite phone and marine radio, and posting on social media (twitter, etc.). Bruce is the one reporting the rainbow: seen off the Harbor freeway, near the smokestack that says "San Pedro".

Scotty, K6ZNL, identified with the traffic woes from her recent trip to Indonesia. NOTE: her computer crashed last week and it will take longer to produce the Newsletter.

Bruce, KG7MXL, introduced his wife Marilyn, a brand new ham (two weeks), call sign KI7DLK. Bruce was on the Iowa recently in a QSO when Doug checked in and chatted from the Cook Islands.

Larry, KK6TXN, has been working with a solar panel and 110 amp-hour battery to get his rig off the grid. He will attempt to earn the 100 bonus points for the operation at Field Day.

Nick, N6EFI, has been working maintenance projects around the house; partially because 40 Meters has been so bad lately. Most of his projects are caught up now, so hopefully the band will improve.

John, KC6JHV, gave blood again. Good for you, John. He has been working on his aviation photography website which is keeping him busy. His family has been going through a kitchen remodel job, which is thankfully nearly done.

Norm, KG6FSA, joined us from Downey.

The February Certificate was won by Bruce KG7MXL

The May Certificate was won by Sam K1SL.

*Respectfully submitted,
Scotty K6ZNL*

URAC's VE Corner ... Gary N6HMR

A Tech Class which didn't teach the test

Mid-week leading up to the *First Saturday Breakfast*, URAC's VE team conducted an exam session for 8 applicants. Though none achieved a perfect (100%) score, all ended the session with a passing certificate. The turn-time through W5YI was just 24 hours from exam to call sign.

All had completed a formal 12-week class taught by VE David Malin, AA6RV. What is noteworthy about David's class was he taught the knowledge, not the test. These applicants actually understood the material and have a solid basis from which to begin their hobby. Wouldn't it be terrific if all classes resulted in a transfer of knowledge, rather than rote memorization of a fixed question pool. *Thank You David* for taking the time to impart a more thorough foundation from which to progress in Amateur Radio.

As always, Bill W6AJ 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.

Mentioned previously, over 36% of URAC's membership indicated an interest and willingness to operate our Museum Station K6AA. If you're not one of the few keeping our station alive, and not already involved in another URAC volunteer capacity, please consider making the effort to support your club in this way. 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.

I'm EXTRA Ignorant... **... Dan Romanchik KB6NU**

On Sunday, I received the following e-mail from a reader:

"Just wanted to let you know I passed the General exam using your study guide. It was very helpful. I am now generally ignorant whereas before I was only technically ignorant. Ha!"

My reply to him was:

"Well, if you're generally ignorant, I guess that makes me EXTRA ignorant!"

This isn't just a joke - being ignorant is part of the hobby. Amateur radio operators will always be ignorant about something or other. Even if you could master every facet of the hobby at some point in time, your mastery would be short-lived as the technology continued to advance.

Over the course of my amateur radio career, we've gone from equipment that primarily used vacuum tubes, to solid-state gear that first used discrete transistors and then integrated circuits, to software-defined radios. I could have, at some point, simply

given up on the new technology and still enjoyed amateur radio. Some guys do that, and that's OK. It is only a hobby after all.

I'm not one of those guys, though, and if you're not one of those guys, then you have to resign yourself to being ignorant. But, that's a good thing, as long as you realize that you're ignorant. Realizing that you're ignorant will spur you on to learn new things and accept new challenges.

Recently, I realized that I'm mostly ignorant about satellite operation. I know some of the basics from having read articles and writing about the topic in my study guides, but I have never made a contact using a satellite. I think that might be one of my next challenges. With the advent of CubeSat, there are many new satellites up in the air and many more opportunities to have interesting contacts.

So, what are you ignorant about? By that I mean, of course, what's going to be your next challenge in amateur radio?

=====

When he's not challenging himself with new things, Dan falls back on something he knows pretty well - operating CW. You'll find him mainly on the 80m, 40m, and 30m bands. Dan is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides, and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, and you can contact him by e-mailing cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

MUSEUM SHIP'S WEEKEND

Attention authorized K6AA operators:

MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND**June 4-5, 2016****0000Z June 4, to 2359Z June 5, 2016**

For Museum Ship's Weekend, we will activate K6AA as the Army Tug, "Angel's Gate". We will work same hours as the Museum is open. (Saturday and Sunday 10 am to 4:30 pm). Please advise Scotty k6znl@arrrl.net if you are interested.

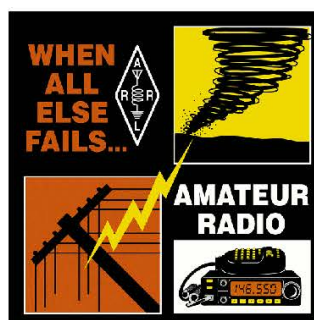


United Radio Amateur Club, Inc. www.K6AA.org

**Field Day:
June 25,26,
2016**



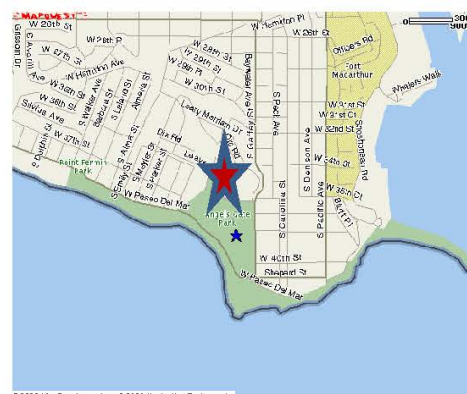
See the Information and exhibits on how to become an amateur radio operator: Try out "on the air" Saturday, Noon to 6 pm




Remember, when all else fails, Amateur Radio will be there.
Come see how you can become a part of ham radio.



Angels Gate Park, San Pedro; enter from Gaffey Street, towards the Angels Gate Cultural Center



~ May 2016 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 Cinco De Mayo K6AA roundtable 145.510 MHz simplex 8 pm	6	7 First Saturday Breakfast and Exec. Board meeting 8 am Think Café, San Pedro
8 Mother's Day	9	10	11	12 K6AA roundtable 145.510 MHz simplex 8 pm	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 K6AA roundtable 145.510 MHz simplex 8 pm	20 URAC meeting: White Elephant Sale. 7 pm LAMM	21 Armed Forces Day
22	23	24	25	26 K6AA roundtable 145.510 MHz simplex 8 pm	27	28
29	30 Memorial Day  Memorial Day	31				

~ June 2016 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 K6AA roundtable 145.510 MHz simplex 8 pm	3	4 First Saturday Breakfast and Exec. Board meeting 8 am Think Café, San Pedro
5	6	7	8	9 K6AA roundtable 145.510 MHz simplex 8 pm	10	11
12	13	14 Flag Day	15	16 K6AA roundtable 145.510 MHz simplex 8 pm	17 URAC meeting: Field Day prep. 7 pm LAMM	18
19 Father's Day	20 Summer Solstice	21	22	23 K6AA roundtable 145.510 MHz simplex 8 pm	24	25 ARRL Field Day for URAC: Angels Gate Park, San Pedro
26 ARRL Field Day for URAC: Angels Gate Park, San Pedro	27	28	29	30		

DX Operations

<http://www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html>

This site provides Announced DX Operations. If you're a DXer, you probably already know about it ... if not, check it out, see what you're missing.

Tech & General Test Prep

Two Free Amateur Radio Courses

FCC **Technician** course (entry level)

FCC **General** course (2nd level)

Each "course" is two sessions, 4 hours each for Technician and 3-1/2 hours each for General.

Sessions will be on 4 & 11 June 2016.

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

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

FCC tests will be 10:00 AM to noon on 18 June 2016

At the start of the 4 June 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.



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

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310-834-1695
W6HB@arrl.net

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310-753-8550

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k6znl@arrl.net

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310-503-6989
W6AJ@arrl.net

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Scotty Butler K6ZNL
310-833-2656
k6znl@arrl.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

