



The Short Circuit

June 2016

since 1927

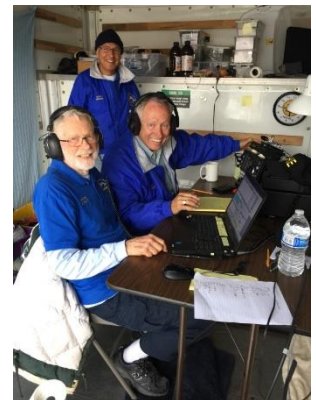
Volume 89, Issue 6

The June meeting of the United Radio Amateur Club will be held Friday, June 17th, 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.

Program: 2016 ARRL Field Day



URAC will hold its annual ARRL Field Day exercise on the weekend of June 25 and 26 at Angels Gate Park in San Pedro. We will use the program time of our regular June membership meeting to discuss details. Potential operators, visitors, members and guests are invited to attend.



Here are some photos of last year's field day operation. Let's see if we can make it even better this year!



QST de President Doug, W6HB...

URAC's June meeting will reminisce on Field Days past and provide final planning for this year's event gearing up for the 24th, 25th and 26th at Angels Gate Park in San Pedro near the Marine Exchange.

Despite poor attendance last month's White Elephant Sale raked in adequate funds to support its intended purpose, Field Day 2016. Thanks to those who dug deep into their wallets.

Our August meeting has been shifted to Saturday the 20th in the form of an annual picnic. The club has already paid for the site at Deane Dana Park and committed to providing hamburgers and hot dogs. To date the response to the sign ups request sent out by Don, NA6Z, via E-Blast has netted only around nine participants. Please get you reservation into Don ASAP.

To date it looks like we will be going 3A for 2016's Field Day. Steve, **K6NT**, and Ray, **N6HE**, are your chairmen for the 2016 URAC Field Day effort. Get in touch with them to confirm your position, We could use a VHF/UHF operation and need to confirm GOTA. All participants are on their own for food.

Have you been visiting our website **k6aa.org**? Many thanks to Gary, N6HMR, and Bruce, KG7MXL, for all their work to keep it current and interesting. Send articles and worthy links to **n6hmr@k6aa.org**. Insure your submissions are club and or amateur radio related.

The Thursday night URAC Roundtable at 2000 local time on 145.510 simplex continues weekly with moderator John, **AG6VO**. Participation has been somewhat light but the rag chews still run 30 to 60 minutes and share ideas, news and tech support between those who check in. Where were you?

73 ... Doug W6HB



June ... First Saturday Breakfast

Your scribe was out of town for June's Breakfast, so John, WA6SDK graciously took the notes:

John, KC6JHV, visited Big Bear with his dad. They visited the wolf sanctuary/rehabilitation facility.

Bill, W6AJ visited the UK/England and met lots of 'family members' named Carter.

Marilyn, KI7DLK, is shopping for her first HF transceiver; she already has an HT.

(editorial comment: AH...I remember when I got my General, the word was: "welcome to HF, be prepared to spend money")

Bruce, AG6BJ reported on his son's Greenland Expedition, which was plagued by problems with gear, supplies, etc.

John, WA6SDK saw a documentary feature film recently about global warming and was impressed. He reported the monies collected at White Elephant Sale.

Sam, K1SL reported that the computer monitor at the K6AA station is still down and not working.

Steve, K6NT talked Field Day business (3A)

Treva, N6HMS says that the Battleship Iowa is conducting a fund-raising event this weekend.

John, AG6VO is doing machine shop metal work (lathe, etc.) for the Iowa: 40mm casing for big guns (38 caliber)

Larry, KK6TXN, says that his solar gear is set up (solar rig). Solar panels, batteries, etc. mono-crystalline, better in low-light situations; everything working fine. He gave a few details.

Doug, W6HB is in the process of obtaining our Field Day permits

Submitted by Scotty K6ZNL based on John's WA6SDK notes.

Design Advances Make Portable Operation Easier, More Fun...

... Dan Romanchik KB6NU

I've just returned from the Dayton Hamvention. Dayton was a blast as usual, and if there's one thing I took away from this year's event it's that portable operation is not only becoming more popular, but more sophisticated as well. In fact, it's a virtuous circle. More sophisticated portable equipment is making portable operation more popular, which is spurring manufacturers to make more sophisticated equipment, which is making portable operation even more popular, and around we go.

This is perhaps most easily seen in the evolution of the Elecraft products. One of their first rigs was the K1, a small rig that was frequently toted out into the field, even though it wasn't really designed for that purpose. It had a small form factor, but had a conventional front panel layout.

The next evolution was the KX1. This CW-only radio was designed specifically for field work. It originally only covered 40m and 80m, and had a very limited front panel, but its built-in battery pack and KXPD1 paddle made it a great choice for portable operators when it was introduced in 2004.

A big leap forward was made when they introduced the KX3 in 2012. This radio combined a bunch of features never before found in a portable rig. The KX3 features an SDR architecture and covers all modes, including (SSB, CW, Data, FM, AM); used the same full-sized LCD display as the K3; has advanced DSP features; and can be connected to a computer via USB for firmware upgrades and for use with other ham radio software. The KX3 is so full-featured that many operators use it as their main rig with a suitable linear amplifier.

At Dayton 2016, Elecraft took this concept even further and introduced the KX2. It's about half the size of the KX3, but yet has almost all of the features of the KX3. There was a tremendous amount of buzz over this radio at Dayton among portable operation aficionados. The base price of the KX2 is \$750, and with options, will cost you about \$1,000.

Of course, Elecraft isn't the only company competing in this market. LNR Precision sells a radio called the LD-5, and at Dayton, they introduced the LD-11, which like the KX3 and KX2 features an SDR architecture and covers 160m - 6m. This radio goes for about \$800, and has also proven to be popular among portable operators.

Dayton also had a number of exhibitors that supplied products other than radios to aid portable operation. There were several portable antenna manufacturers, including Buddipole (buddipole.com) and PackTenna (packtenna.com), and BiEnno Power (biennopower.com) was also there, showing off their new lithium-iron batteries,

While radios like the KX2 and LD-11, at relatively low prices, allow operators to easily get out into the field, portable operation would not be as popular as it is without organized activities. Programs like the Summits on the Air (SOTA, www.sota.org.uk, na.sota.org) and the National Parks on the Air (NPOTA, npota.arrrl.org) make portable operation even more fun. These programs do this by providing a structure in which operators can find one another and gain awards for operating. SOTA did not have a booth at Dayton, but NPOTA was a big part of the ARRL section there.

If you aren't already a portable operator, you should give it a try! You don't have to invest a bunch of money in a rig to just try it. KX1s have been had for less than \$400, and simpler QRP rigs cost a lot less. Getting outside and operating in the fresh air is a lot of fun and could give you a whole new perspective on amateur radio.

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Dan, KB6NU, 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. Listen for him operating his KX1 from the park or beach this summer

~ June 2016 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 URAC/K6AA 2M simplex roundtable: 8 pm, 145.510	3	4 URAC First Saturday Breakfast and Executive Board Meeting: 8 am Think Café, San Pedro
5	6	7	8	9 URA/K6AAC 2M simplex roundtable: 8 pm, 145.510	10	11
12	13	14 Flag Day 	15	16 URAC/K6AA 2M simplex roundtable: 8 pm, 145.510	17 URAC membership meeting, 7 pm, LAMM, San Pedro	18
19 Father's Day  HAPPY FATHER'S DAY	20 Summer Solstice	21	22	23 URAC/K6AA 2M simplex roundtable: 8 pm, 145.510	24	25 Field Day, Angels Gate Park, San Pedro 
26 Field Day, Angels Gate Park, San Pedro 	27	28	29	30 URAC/K6AA 2M simplex roundtable: 8 pm, 145.510		

~ July 2016 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Canada Day 	2 URAC First Saturday Breakfast and Executive Board Meeting: 8 am Think Café, San Pedro
3	4 Independence Day  Happy 4th of July!	5	6	7 URAC 2M simplex roundtable: 8 pm, 145.510	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 URAC 2M simplex roundtable: 8 pm, 145.510	15 URAC monthly meeting, 7 pm LAMM	16
17	18	19	20	21 URAC 2M simplex roundtable: 8 pm, 145.510	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 URAC 2M simplex roundtable: 8 pm, 145.510	29	30
31						

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 10 & 17 September 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 1 October 2016

At the start of the 10 September 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, Inc. www.K6AA.org

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



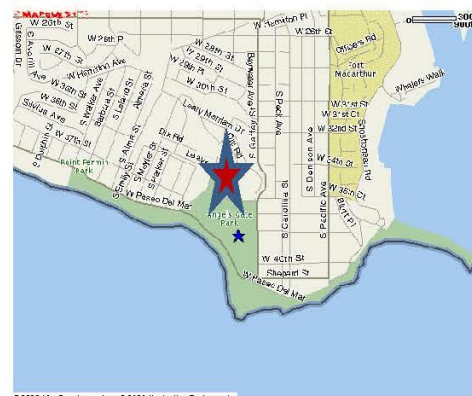
See the Information and exhibits on how to become an amateur radio operator: Try out "on the air" Saturday, Noon to 6 pm



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












DX OPERATIONS FOR JUNE 2016

**Per
NG3K**

Norfolk Is, VK9PAS: Is now operating thru 6/24/2016. QSL via VK3PC.
Uganda, 5X1O: Is now operating thru 6/12/2016. QSL via EA5GL.
Br Virgin Is, VP2V: Is now operating thru 6/15/2016. QSL via K6TOP.
Cayman Is, ZF2MN: Is now operating thru 6/17/2016. QSL via M0OXO.
St Martin, FS: Is now operating thru 6/23/2016. QSL via K9EL.
Micronesia, V63AN: Is now operating thru 6/9/2016. QSL via EB7DX.
Palau, T88AN: Will be operating from 6/9 thru 6/14/2016. QSL via EB7DX.



St Martin, FS: Will be operating from 6/11 thru 6/25/2016. QSL via W5LAC.
St Kitts & Nevis, V47JA: Will be operating from 6/14 thru 7/15/2016. QSL via W5JON.
Mauritius, 3B8: Will be operating from 6/15 thru 7/14/2016. QSL via EB7DX.
St Barthelemy, FJ: Will be operating from 6/17 thru 6/29/2016. QSL via W9DR.
Greenland, OX: Will be operating from 6/19 thru 6/24/2016. QSL via JK1FNL.
Macao, XX9TGM: Will be operating from 6/20 thru 6/27/2016. QSL via PG5M.
Maldives, 8Q7HW: Will be operating from 6/20 thru 6/28/2016. QSL via DK1HW.
Dominica, J79XE: Will be operating from 6/22 thru 7/11/2016. QSL via WB4WXE.
Bahamas, C6AUX: Will be operating from 6/23 thru 7/8/2016. QSL via VE3IKV.
Malta, 9H3G: Will be operating from 7/28 thru 7/4/2016. QSL via JH3FUK.

<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	

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*** 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.

