



# *The Short Circuit*

July 2016

since 1927

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

## *Program:*

N6HC Arnie Shatz

I have been a team member of ten major DXpeditions: K7C-Kure atoll (2005), 3B7C- St. Brandon Island (2007), TX5C- Clipperton Island (2008), K4M-Midway Island (2009), T31A- Kanton atoll, Central Kiribati (2011), T32C- Christmas Island, Eastern Kiribati (2011), NH8S-Swains Island (2012), T33A-Banaba (2013), FT5ZM-Amsterdam Island (2014) and TX3X-Chesterfield Island (2015).



The program will highlight how I prepare myself and the team members for a DXpedition and what issues I have had to deal with on my ten trips. It may be too gory for those with weak constitutions!

## Here is the rest of Arnie's Bio:

I was first licensed as KN3ANU at the age of 13 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and quickly upgraded to a General Class ticket. I received an Official Relay Station (ORS) appointment from the ARRL and enjoyed handling CW traffic and participating in CD contests. Amateur radio was put on hold while I attended Temple University and earned a B.S. in Biology and a M.D. degree. Post medical school training followed at the University of California, San Francisco and service in the United States Public Health Service (Department of the Navy- Lieutenant Commander), Indian Health Service on the Navajo and Hopi reservations.

I moved to Southern California in 1976 and started a solo private urology practice. In 1977 I upgraded to Extra Class as N6HC. I retired from full time urology practice in 2001 and continued to work as a part-time locum tenens physician until 2011 and volunteered at the Orange Free clinic until 2015. I am a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and a long time member of the California and Orange County Medical Associations, a diplomate of the American Board of Urology and a member of the American Urological Association, Western

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Section of the AUA and the California Urological Association. I was a member of the clinical faculty of Loma Linda University School of Medicine.

I have been an ARRL member for more than 50 years and I am a member of the league's Legacy Circle and Maxim Society. I serve as a Volunteer Examiner and a field QSL card checker for both ARRL and CQ awards. I am a member of the Southern California DX club (Vice-President-2009), Northern California DX Foundation, Southern California Contest Club and Orange County Amateur Radio Club. I am also a member of the Chiltern DX Association (UK) and the Medical Amateur Radio Council, Ltd. (MARCO). I was elected to membership in the A-1 operators club and I have earned many operating awards including WAS (6 bands, SSB, CW, RTTY), DXCC #1 Honor Roll, DXCC (8 bands, SSB, CW, RTTY), WAZ (CW & SSB), WAC, WPX (SSB & CW), and VUCC. I am an active contester and have earned numerous awards for participation in both domestic and DX competitions. I have operated from many places around the continental United States as well as Hawaii, Alaska, Mexico, Samoa and Prince Edward Island. I was named the DXer of the Year (2012) by the Southern California DX Club.



### ***QST de President Doug, W6HB...***

URAC's 3A Field Day performance was light on phone due to zero sunspots and simple, part time manned stations that still netted lots of fun for the participants. On the other hand the CW team rocked making over 1,000 Q's. As we slide further down the sunspot cycle, next year will be an even bigger challenge for those who want to "score" whereas those just looking for a fun weekend will never be disappointed!

Arnie, N6HC, will present at our July 15th meeting. Come learn why Arnie has been the doctor for 10 DXpeditions and learn of the preparation required and the services rendered. Some scenes might be a little graphic for the faint of heart so bring blinders if you require them. Members tend to frequent the Acapulco Restaurant or the Think Cafe for dinner before the meeting. Feel free to join in no-host at your pleasure.

August will be our annual picnic at Friendship / Deane Dana Park. RSVP's have been light so please get your signups back to Don, NA6Z, at your earliest opportunity.

Visits to our website [k6aa.org](http://k6aa.org) are up. Many thanks to Gary, N6HMR, and Bruce, KG7MXL, for all their work to keep it current and interesting. You may send

articles and worthy links to [n6hmr@k6aa.org](mailto:n6hmr@k6aa.org). Insure your submissions are club and or amateur radio related.

URAC's Thursday night roundtable at 2000 local time on 145.510 simplex continues weekly with moderator John, **AG6VO**. Where were you? Come join in and share your stories, technical needs and or questions, or just rag chew.

See you at the meeting or on the air.....

## **73 - Doug - W6HB**

### **July First Saturday Breakfast:**



Fourth of July Weekend was the setting of the Breakfast this year...and as usual, it is only one week since Field Day. The 19 attending members and guests were challenged to describe Field Day in ONE WORD. Here's what we got:

David, W6KL: 'Cooperation'. He saw that throughout the event.

Larry, KK6TXN: 'Educational'. He set up and worked a 40M phone station using solar power only and is glad to see that it worked (37 Q's). He went through three antennas before getting one that worked on the band with his set up and is appreciative of all the help.

Homer, K6HKT: 'Absent', although he did help set up, supplied the generator and the gas, etc.

Ivan, KB6ATT: 'Thanks' to all who helped set up, tear down, assemble all the antennas, etc.

Bill, W6AJ: 'Absent'. Family commitments.

Don, NA6Z: 'AWOL'. Illness. As an aside, he tells us that after 37 years in his house, he now has air conditioning!!

Bruce, AG6BJ: 'Spotless' (i.e. Zero Sunspots). Both Saturday and Sunday, although he did get on 20 and 40 Sunday morning at home and made FD contacts.

John, AG6VO: 'Impressive'. John stopped in at the FD site on the way to the FD operation of the new VA club of which he is an officer.

John, WA6SDK: 'DX'. The 20M phone station worked Estonia, Guam and lots of HI, which has not been the case of late.

Scotty, K6ZNL: also 'Educational'. She found out just how much can be gotten in the back of her Honda. (A lot.) Scotty also said that she missed the social aspects of having a gathering place, which in past years has been the food tent/table. This sparked a discussion around the table with the consensus being that it would be a good idea next year to have some sort of food/gathering/etc. Form to be determined.

Tom, KJ6JPZ: 'Informative'. He worked the GOTA station and found out how difficult it can be to hear individual callsigns in a pile-up.

Martin, N6UB: "Sea-Food-Seal-Day", which is what he ended up saying at least once on the air instead of CQ Field Day...the rhythm is the same, and the day couldn't be more fitting. The Marine Mammal Care Center, just down the hill from our site was having "Seal Day." We ended up directing at least three food trucks who got lost to the proper site.

Mary, xyl: 'Happy'

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Gary, N6HMR: 'Active'. There appeared to be more cw out there. The last few minutes of the CW station operation got hectic when they realized that making 1000 Q's was possible and sprinted for it (ended up with 1001!)

Treva, N6HMS: 'Camaraderie', fun and thanks...and we ended up directing (including transport of) people to a wedding in a nearby park for which the directions were not clear.

Nick: N6EFI: 'Different', both good and bad.

Ana, xyl, Doug: 'Birthday' during Field Day. Many happy returns. Ana did a show and tell for a cell phone holder that might also hold an HT in your vehicle.

Doug, W6HB: 'Club'. Good to see the response at the breakfast from what is pretty much the FD group.

Notes: meeting in July is N6HC preparing for a DXpedition, August is the club picnic (more discussion, Don will send out another e-mail blast looking specifically for what sides everyone is bringing). September is Bob on RFI.

Martin, N6UB won the certificate.

Submitted by Scotty Butler, K6ZNL

Temporary Scribe.

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

**F YbYk 'nci f'Ua UHf f`JWbgY'Å 'Zf ZYYQ æo4D**

Those who are regular readers of the Short Circuit may recall that in April, three short months ago, an article appeared here regarding free renewal of your FCC Amateur license. In the past few weeks it has been learned that some did not take this advice (or do not read the SC), preferring to mail a check to some organization to do the simple task for them.

You can do it yourself for free, or we can help you do it for free. See it as an opportunity to learn something about the ULS site and control of your license information. And for those without internet access, that's not an excuse ... most of your fellow members do have access and will be happy to help.

According to ARRL "*All amateurs must be registered with the FCC. This is not an option.*" Read more about the ULS and CORES at <http://www.arrl.org/cores-uls-registration>.

In other club news ... while many have indicated an interest in operating K6AA at the LA Maritime Museum, your Treasurer reports difficulty in filling the station schedule. If you're interested, please let Scotty [k6znl@k6aa.org](mailto:k6znl@k6aa.org) know.

Have you given any thought to "what can I do for my club?" Let your President [w6hb@k6aa.org](mailto:w6hb@k6aa.org) know of your willingness to help ... he's got plenty of jobs, but not enough helpers.

## **Make your own dipoles with these center insulators ...**

**... Dan Romanchik KB6NU**

One of the things that always gets my goat is the price some companies charge for dipole antennas. It's not that they're charging an outrageously large sum of money, and I certainly don't begrudge them making a profit for their efforts. It's just that if hams would just buy their own wire and parts, they would not only save money over the long run, but be encouraged to experiment with antennas. That's what I started doing about ten years ago, and I've been very happy with the results.

One of the first things that I did was to purchase ten Budwig HQ-1 center insulators and ten HQ-2 end insulators (<http://budwigmoldedproducts.com/antenna-connector-and-insulators/>). I've made a bunch of antennas with these insulators, including several 40m/20m inverted vees for portable use (such as Field Day and special events), a 17m dipole, and a 10m loop antenna. These insulators are very well-made, and can easily be reused, too.

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HRO sells the HQ-1 Center Insulator for \$15.95 and a pair of HQ-2 Insulators for \$5.95. I just placed another order for ten HQ-1s and 20 HQ-2s.

There are a bunch of other center insulators on the market, including:

\* The Alpha Delta Delta-C antenna hardware kit (<http://universal-radio.com/catalog/antsup/0297.html>) consists of a Delta-C Center Insulator, antenna connecting hardware, 1 SEP Arc-Plug™ static protector (installed in Delta-C) and 2 Delta-CIN end insulators. This is a little heavier-duty than the Budwig insulators.

\* The TEN-TEC ACRO-BAT Antenna Connector & Hanger (<http://www.universal-radio.com/catalog/antsup/3720.html>) is an interesting product. Unlike the Budwig and Alpha-Delta insulators, this product does not have an SO-239. Instead, this insulator clamps over the coax and antenna wire, and in doing so, provides strain relief. I haven't tried this one, but it seems like a nice design. The cost is \$10, directly from TEN-TEC or from Universal Radio.

\* The Unadilla W2AU ANsulator (<http://universal-radio.com/catalog/antsup/0913.html>) is made from PCV tubing and include eyelets for terminating the antenna wire and for supporting the insulator in the middle. For \$15, I think I'd rather have the Budwig insulator. Also, you should be able to make one of these insulators for less than 15 bucks.

\* The Hy-Gain C-1C Center Insulator (<http://www.hy-gain.com/Product.php?productid=C-1C>) has a screw for tightening down the antenna wire, so you don't have to do any soldering, but overall, I don't think I like the looks of this model. And, at 30 bucks, it seems kind of pricey.

If none of these strikes your fancy, you can always make your own. WP4AOH has some very good instructions on how to do this using PVC pipe and fasteners that you can find at your local hardware store (<http://wp4aoh.blogspot.com/2012/07/dipole-antenna-center-insulator.html>).

Whatever route you take, I encourage you to keep several on hand and enough antenna wire and coax to complete the antenna. You never know when the urge will strike you to build an antenna, and if you don't have the parts you've missed an opportunity to do some experimenting.

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When not checking his stock of antenna parts, you'll find KB6NU working on updates to his "No Nonsense" study guides, blogging about amateur radio at [www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com), or working 30m CW.



No, It's not the first time we have run solar, but it is the first time we have run it so much in public., and by a newbie. Congrats, Larry



HIGHTEC Solar Inc.  
160 watt  
monocrystalline  
solar panel

Sun Saver 20L 20 Amp  
12 Volt solar controller

U.P.G. D5751 110  
AH AGM battery




N8XJK Super Booster,  
battery  
regulator/booster by  
TGE


Larry, KK6TXN, with Yaesu FT-450D.  
Antenna is Nick's (N6EFI) 40 Meter  
Dipole



# Field Day Educational Activity

## K6AA 2016

~ July 2016 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Canada Day	2 URAC First Saturday Breakfast, 8 am; Exec Board Mtg. 9:30 am. Think Café, San Pedro
3	 4 Happy 4th of July!	5	6	7 URAC 2M Simplex Roundtable: 145.510 MHz, 8 pm	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 URAC 2M Simplex Roundtable: 145.510 MHz, 8 pm	15 URAC membership meeting: 7 pm, Los Angeles Maritime Museum	16
17	18	19	20	21 URAC 2M Simplex Roundtable: 145.510 MHz, 8 pm	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 URAC 2M Simplex Roundtable: 145.510 MHz, 8 pm	29	30
31						

~ August 2016 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 URAC 2M Simplex Roundtable: 145.510 MHz, 8 pm	5	6 URAC First Saturday Breakfast, 8 am; Exec Board Mtg. 9:30 am. Think Café, San Pedro
7 International Friendship Day	8	9	10	11 URAC 2M Simplex Roundtable: 145.510 MHz, 8 pm	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 URAC 2M Simplex Roundtable: 145.510 MHz, 8 pm	19	20 SPECIAL: URAC  Picnic, All day, Friendship Park, San Pedro
21	22	23	24	25 URAC 2M Simplex Roundtable: 145.510 MHz, 8 pm	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## **Two Free Amateur Radio Courses**

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

FCC **“General”** course (2<sup>nd</sup> level)

Each course is 2 sessions

The sessions will be on 27 August and 10 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 17 September 2016

At the start of the 27 August Technician course, the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club will give a 30 minute presentation on how to get further involved with amateur radio.

The class location is at Fred Hesse Community Park,  
29301 Hawthorne Blvd., Rancho Palos Verdes.

**Confirm your attendance to Walt, K1DFO at [waltordway@juno.com](mailto:waltordway@juno.com)**

There is no fee for either course.

Taking the FCC test is \$15.

### **Optional Material (sold at cost)**

Gordon West books with all the FCC test questions,










\$22 for the Technician and \$26 for the General

Paper copy of Walt's 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	

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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](http://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 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month (except August and December)

#### No Host Breakfast

Held monthly on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month at 8:00am. Location:  
Think Café on 5<sup>th</sup> Street in San Pedro

### “VE/CE Session for Amateur and Commercial Licenses

Monthly on 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday **by appointment**. Go to <http://k6aa.org/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 6<sup>th</sup> Street. To get to the Break Room, walk past the main entrance around to the north end (nearest the Iowa) until you see the gate. There will be a greeter at the gate. Gate to the Break Room.

