



The Short Circuit

October 2016

since 1927

Volume 89, Issue 10

The October meeting of the United Radio Amateur Club will be held Friday, October 21st, 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: Overview of LiFePO₄ (lithium iron phosphate) battery technology



Kevin Zanjani, KI6DHQ, from Bioenno Power (located in Santa Ana, CA) will be presenting an exciting overview of LiFePO₄ (lithium iron phosphate) battery technology for ham radio and solar applications, including typical setups used with ham radio. The presentation will highlight the benefits of LiFePO₄ technology compared to traditional batteries. The presentation will also have Q&A at the end and an exciting show-and-tell of various LiFePO₄ batteries, powerpacks, and solar products. Bioenno Power has attended various hamfests and hamventions including the Palm

Springs Hamfest, Dayton Hamvention, Nevada State Convention, Texas HamComm, the Visalia DX Convention, among others, providing hands-on demos of the products. The company's products were highlighted in the July 2016 issue of CQ Magazine, with Gordon West, WB6NOA. We look forward to an informative and exciting presentation!

Kevin Zanjani, KI6DHQ, has been with Bioenno Power (www.bioennopower.com) since 2012 and is currently a Sales Manager with the company. He has 12+ years of experience across various industries. He holds a BSEE from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, MSECE from the University of California, Irvine, and MBA degree from the University of Southern California, Marshall School of Business.





QST de President Doug, W6HB...

Welcome to fall even if the weather can't seem to make up its mind. You have a few weeks left to get your antennas up and tuned to be ready for hopefully a wet and cool winter.

The signup sheet for the URAC December Party is on the web site as is the membership application for 2017. Consider making it easy on your treasurer and staff by getting these in early.

Did you clean out your shack and garage yet? November 18th will be our 2nd White Elephant Sale of the year with the proceeds to be applied to the December Party gift pool.

Come to the October 21st meeting to learn a new word -- LiFePO₄. Bioenno Power will educate us on their line of batteries and related products. Come see the latest in high capacity, light weight and long life and high duty cycle power sources.

Bill, KB6WKT, and I completed the material takeoffs for the club's tower remediation. Please E-mail me or Bill if you are available to help out at a Saturday work party at Angels Gate. Based on availability we will buy the hardware and then schedule a date to attack the project.

Steve, K6NT, has been tasked to present a slate of 2017 officers to the membership at the October meeting. If you are available to serve please let Steve or me know ASAP.

Don, NA6L, sent out the instructions and form to nominate a member for URAC's Ham of the Year. If you are so inclined please submit soon.

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

73 - Doug - W6HB

October First Saturday Breakfast



It's October already! And 16 of us showed up for the Breakfast, early on Saturday morning...here's what was discussed in the roundtable (or squaretable):

Ivan, KB6ATT is just back from visiting Toronto: 100 degrees (F) and high humidity. His stories centered around dealing with an unfamiliar rental car, and dealing with the all too familiar TSA. He had a good time and is glad to be back.

John, KC6JHV, had a visitor to the station last Friday who was a captain on a container ship in port. Had a great visit with him and then had another ship's captain in to visit yesterday. (Ed. Comment: See what you are missing by not working the station)

Bill, W6AJ, has been through cousin visits, friend visits, etc. and seems to spend a great deal of time picking people up from the airport. Coming soon is another relative: K0ZEP. His turtle laid more eggs and he is looking forward to his football game today.

David, W6KL, Burbank is still there...

Don, NA6Z officially retired 9 hours ago.

Homer, K6HKT, says this month, he retired 25 years ago! Homer brought in and passed around some 8 x 10 photos of the Iowa, on her journey from San Francisco, and some of his desert photos. Spectacular.

Steve, K6NT, is working on the slate of officers for URAC 2017 (he is the nominations chair). Please contact him if you would like to or be willing to be an officer.

Scotty, K6ZNL reports that she has started to split her shift at K6AA to be present at the station during the weekend, when the museum gets more visitors. She reports also several intense conversations about amateur radio with parents of the kids that come for the play area, now just outside the station.

John, WA6SDK passed for now, but has the stuff for awarding the certificate for both this month and last.

Gary, N6HMR's grand-daughter's vocabulary seems to be expanding exponentially...

Treva passed for now.

Sam, K1SL and Ivan came to us directly from the Downey group Breakfast. Still doing Fridays at the station.

Marilyn, KI7DLK started the MAC vs PC conversation of the morning. She is one, Bruce is the other...

Bruce KG7MXL attended the FEMA incident commander class (ISC 300), the LAFD sponsored training was at the FD Training facility near Griffith Park (?) And congratulations are in order: He passed the EXTRA.

Larry, KK6TXN finally got his shack grounded...only to be beset by termites. He is really busy now taking down everything so that the property can be tented.

Nick, N6EFI has recently run into old timers and previous URAC members.

Doug, W6HB reports that the station on the Iowa, NI6BB participated in Gold Star Mothers' Day and VJ Day and will be participating in Veterans Day. Programs for the remainder of the year are:

- October: Lithium Iron Phosphate Battery Technology
- November: White Elephant Sale
- December: Holiday Party

Certificates were won by:

September: Tom K6IGY

October: John Rogers: AG6VO

Submitted to the best of my recollection,
Scotty Butler, K6ZNL, temporary scribe

QST QST QST QST

HAMCON 2017

LOGO DESIGN CONTEST

Sharpen your colored pencils, put new points on your favorite crayons, hone your computer graphic skills, clean your watercolor brushes

Members of the 12 Clubs Participating in the Convention Organization are Eligible to Enter ONE or MORE Logo Designs.

Winner Will Receive Acknowledgement, Free Admission to Convention & Saturday Banquet Dinner Ticket

Logo Contest Rules:

1. Design must include the ARRL Logo (download from ARRL web site).
2. Convey Convention Theme "Radio for Everyone".
(DXer, Emergency Communications, Microwave or Repeater Enthusiast, Experimenter, Antenna Designs etc.).
3. **ANY** shape is OK! (round, square, triangle, irregular).
4. Limit design to 6 colors (black and white are colors).
5. Avoid fine detail (design will be used on convention pin 1.5" dia. or 1.5" height & width max).
6. Use only "sans serif" fonts (Arial, Calibri, Helvetica, etc.).
7. All entries must be submitted on 8-1/2" X 11" white paper as an E-mail attachment.
8. All entries will become the property of HAMCON 2017 and can be used at the discretion of the Convention Planning Committee.
9. Deadline for ALL entries is December 15, 2016.

Submit design to Convention Secretary, Brad Rachielles, as an E-mail attachment to: **bradrachielles@dslextreme.com**

~ October 2016 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 1 st Saturday Breakfast, 8 am Think Café, San Pedro
2	3	4	5	6 K6AA 2 Meter Roundtable: 145.510 Simplex, 8 pm	7	8
9	 10 Columbus Day	11	12	13 K6AA 2 Meter Roundtable: 145.510 Simplex, 8 pm	14	15
16 Cabrillo Marine Aquarium Autumn Sea Fair: URAC Booth	17	18	19	20 K6AA 2 Meter Roundtable: 145.510 Simplex, 8 pm	21 URAC membership meeting, 7 pm, Los Angeles Maritime Museum, San Pedro	22
23	24 United Nations Day	25	26	27 K6AA 2 Meter Roundtable: 145.510 Simplex, 8 pm	28	29
30	31 Halloween 					

~ November 2016 ~						
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		1	2	3 K6AA 2 Meter Roundtable: 145.510 Simplex, 8 pm	4	5 1 st Saturday Breakfast, 8 am Think Café, San Pedro
6 Daylight Saving Time Ends	7	8 Election Day 	9	10 K6AA 2 Meter Roundtable: 145.510 Simplex, 8 pm	11 Veteran's Day 11/11/11 	12
13	14	15	16	17 K6AA 2 Meter Roundtable: 145.510 Simplex, 8 pm Great American Smokeout	18 URAC membership meeting, 7 pm, Los Angeles Maritime Museum, San Pedro	19
20	21	22	23	24 	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Should U.S. ham tests be given abroad? ... **... Dan Romanchik KB6NU**

A couple of weeks ago, I received an e-mail from a reader who wanted my opinion about a thread on the HamRadioHelpGroup mailing list. The e-mail that started the discussion was a message from an American living in Italy who wanted to take the Technician Class exam. In her e-mail, she told of her troubles finding a test session, and then when she did find one, what she perceived as "irregularities" in the testing process. Reading the thread was a little disconcerting, and I blogged about this issue (www.kb6nu.com/u-s-amateur-radio-license-exams-given-outside-u-s/).

I understand why foreign nationals go to the trouble of taking the U.S. license exam. Some of them even buy my study guides. About a year ago, for example, I swapped some e-mail with a guy from Malaysia about why he purchased my study guide and why he wanted a U.S. license. He said it was because a neighboring country offered reciprocal operating privileges to U.S. licensees, but not Malaysian licensees! He mentioned that he tested for the license in Thailand.

Basically, my Malaysian friend was using the U.S. licensing process to circumvent the Malaysian licensing process. Australians seem to do this, too. Apparently, according to one of the VKs who commented on the thread, getting a U.S. Tech license is easier than testing for an Australian Foundation license. So, some Australians get a U.S. Tech license first, then get the Australian government to issue them a VK Foundation license based on the reciprocal operating agreement between the U.S. and Australia.

Another reason some outside the U.S. obtain U.S. amateur radio licenses is the challenge. That's the reason Martin Butler, M0MRB/W9ICQ, of ICQPodcast fame, gave when I spoke to him about this recently.

Are these reasons "good enough" to continue this program of licensing non-U.S. citizens? My first reaction was that *no, it's not good enough*, and I questioned whether or not the ARRL VEC should sanction non-U.S. VEs and whether or not the FCC should even allow testing outside the United States.

I didn't see the need for conducting these test sessions or the desirability (to the U.S.) of licensing

foreign nationals. I reasoned that not only was there a greater possibility of test fraud, this program could lead to foreign authorities claiming that the U.S. was meddling in their affairs.

This post garnered a lot of comments. Several of them took me to task for voicing this opinion and were in favor of keeping the current licensing program in place. There were a variety of reasons.

One of the reasons in favor of using the U.S. licensing process is that in many countries, amateur radio license exam sessions are not very frequent. Another is that they often are quite expensive. This creates an artificial barrier to getting an amateur radio license. Using the U.S. licensing system breaks through this barrier and allows many more to enjoy amateur radio.

Of course, for everything to be on the up and up, the foreign authorities would have to condone the use of U.S. license tests. Apparently, this is the case in Thailand and Australia. I don't know about Italy, but I'm guessing that the authorities there don't really care about Italians obtaining U.S. licenses.

Perhaps the best comment came from Thida, HS1ASC/KH6ASC. He noted that the tests in Thailand were administered very strictly, and says "The U.S. may lose some callsigns, but what the U.S. and U.S. hams get from us is goodwill, very positive feeling. Everyone who gets U.S. license is so proud, and others look at them respectfully." Since Part 97.1(e) lists as one of the purposes of amateur radio, "Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill," I'm now all in favor of offering U.S. ham tests abroad.

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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. When he's not pondering the vagaries of the U.S. licensing system, you'll find him working CW on the HF bands.

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 05 and 12 November 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 19 November 2016

At the start of the 5 November 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 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.

**DX OPERATIONS FOR
OCTOBER 2016
Per NG3K**

Kenya, 5Z4: Is now operating thru 10/10/2016. QSL via IW5BBV.
Norfolk Is, VK9NZ: Is now operating thru 10/15/2016. QSL via ZL3PAH.
Lord Howe Is, VK9LX: Is now operating thru 10/8/2016. QSL via W1RSD.
Maldives, 8Q7MD: Is now operating thru 10/12/2016. QSL IZ1MHY.
Seychelles, S79PA: Is now operating thru 10/12/2016. QSL via R2DG.
Malta, 9H3LH: Is now operating thru 10/9/2016. QSL via IK8YFU.
Tuvalu, T2J: Is now operating thru 10/10/2016. QSL via JF2MBF.
Maldives, 8Q7HX: Is now operating thru 10/16/2016. QSL via DJ9Hx.
Temotu, H40GC: Is now operating thru 10/17/2016. QSL via LZ1GC.
Central Kiribati, T31T: Is now operating thru 10/30/2016. QSL via 3Z9DX.
Belize, V31VP: Is now operating thru 10/11/2016. QSL via WB0TEV.
Sao Tome & Principe, S9YY: Will be operating from 10/8 thru 10/23/2016. QSL via DH7WW.
Belize, V31TT: Will be operating from 10/9 thru 10/16/2016. QSL via K5TTE.
Hawaii, KH6: Will be operating from 10/9 thru 10/23/2016. QSL via DJ0FX.
Bermuda, VP9: Will be operating from 10/10 thru 10/15/2016. QSL via AA1AC.
French Polynesia, FO: Will be operating from 10/10 thru 11/2/2016. QSL via DF1YP.
Fiji, 3D2GG: Will be operating from 10/11 thru 10/13/2016. QSL via JF2MBF.
Panama, H84JK: Will be operating from 10/13 thru 10/18/2016. QSL via SP5APW.
Burkina Faso, XT2AW: Will be operating from 10/13 thru 11/20/2016. QSL via M0OXO.
Easter Is, CE0Y: Will be operating from 10/14 thru 10/17/2016. QSL via JA0JHQ.
Maldives, 8Q7DK: Will be operating from 10/15 thru 10/23/2016. QSL via 4Z5SL.
Lesotho, 7P8AO: Will be operating from 10/15 thru 10/29/2016. QSL via HA5AO.
Micronesia, V6Z: Will be operating from 10/17 thru 11/1/2016. QSL via GM3WOJ.
Solomon Is, H44GC: Will be operating from 10/18 thru 10/21/2016. QSL via LZ1GC.
St Lucia, J6: Will be operating from 10/18 thru 10/27/2016. QSL via WF2S.
St Helena, ZD7VDE: Will be operating from 10/18 thru 10/30/2016. QSL via G0VDE.
Ghana, 9G5AM: Will be operating from 10/19 thru 10/26/2016. QSL via S59ZZ.
Vietnam, 3W2R: Will be operating from 10/20 thru 10/28/2016. QSL via EB7DX.
Vietnam, 3W2DK: Will be operating from 10/20 thru 11/5/2016. QSL via N0ODK.
Fiji, 3D2YA: Will be operating from 10/21 thru 10/26/2016. QSL via JA1NLX.
Tanzania, 5H3DX: Will be operating from 10/22 thru 11/12/2016. QSL via NK8O.
Anguilla, VP2EGR: Will be operating from 10/25 thru 11/7/2016. QSL via DL7DF.
Chatham Is, ZL7G: Will be operating from 10/26 thru 11/9/2016. QSL via G3TXF.
Martinique, FM: Will be operating from 10/29 thru 11/4/2016. QSL via WT4BT.
Samoa, 5W: Will be operating from 10/31 thru 11/9/2016. QSL via JF1OCQ.

<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	
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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 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.

