



The Short Circuit

December 2016

since 1927

Volume 89, Issue 12



URAC 2016 Holiday Party & Installation of Officers

December 16, 2016 from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM

The Think Café
302 West 5th Street
San Pedro, CA 90731

12 oz. New York Steak with Baked Potato, or
Grilled Halibut, or
Grilled Salmon, or
Lamb Shank, or
Vegetarian Pasta

With Soup or Salad, Fresh Bread & Butter
Dessert, Soda, Coffee or Tea

Program for the Evening:

No host happy hour 6 PM – 7 PM
Dinner is ordered at 7 PM and served as soon as prepared
Officers sworn in at 8:30 PM
Thieves' Exchange starts at 8:45 PM
Event ends NLT 10 PM

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

Merry Christmas / Happy Chanukah and seasoned greetings as all gather with family and friends during this festive time to over eat and spend quality time.

Here's hoping all have made their reservations with Scotty, K6ZNL, for our holiday party at the Think Cafe on Friday, December 16th. Make sure you bring a wrapped goodie to participate in the Thieves' Exchange. I challenge all to be prepared to shelter your package from Homer's daughters!

Thanks to all who bid and or donated by over bidding at the November White Elephant Sale. Those funds all went to procure three major prizes to be awarded to lucky members at the holiday party. The winner need not be present but we sure hope you are!

Dues for 2017 will remain at the same rate as 2016. You can download and print or E-submit your application to be found <http://k6aa.org>. Checks made out to URAC go to Scotty, K6ZNL, through 2016 and Gary, N6HMR, picks up the reins in January.

Thanks to your new and retreaded 2017 officers who stepped up to serve and were elected by acclimation at the October meeting. Check out the listing on the Web site and thank them for their service. All new BOD members please see Gary, N6HMR, the have your picture taken for the Short Circuit and Web site.

See you at the party and or on the air Thursday nights on 145.510 simplex.....

73 - Doug - W6HB

December First Saturday Breakfast



December First Saturday Breakfast

What? Sunday Breakfast, not Saturday? Yes indeed and 18 stalwart souls rolled out of bed early. Here's what they had to share:

David, W6KL, not only is Burbank still there, but he has a recommendation...Mr. Carlson's Lab on U-Tube, which see... <https://www.youtube.com/user/MrCarlsonsLab/featured>

Homer, K6HKT recommends the weather map at DarkSky.net. The site centers its data on your latitude and longitude. There is even a mobile app.

Andrea, Homer's daughter has been busy with horse judging rules for the US Equestrian Federation, but promises to start studying for her license 'soon'

Bill, W6AJ, has been busy ferrying other people back and forth to the VA hospital (instead of himself) and has been to visit Timmy.

John Rogers, AG6VO is still in the house remodeling phase "all I want for Christmas is a functioning kitchen" sung to the tune of...He told of his teaching at Cal State Long Beach, where he was asked to teach a course on Relativity "without math".

Sam, KK6HMP, from Seal Beach came to visit us with John

Steve, K6NT mostly passed, but volunteered to work on the club tower (in passing?)

John, WA6SDK says he is hearing more DX at the Station.

Scotty, K6ZNL, is in the midst of the construction phase of her brother's house remodel in Corona; necessitating trips back and forth to Corona three plus times a week.

She described the station radio's current propensity to turn itself off in the midst of transmissions. The group thought it might be due to in-line voltage drops. We will investigate.

Tom, KJ6JPZ said that his e-mail account has been "spoofed" as opposed to hacked. If you get an e-mail from him saying that he is in the Ukraine and needs money, don't believe it.

Ingo, KK6EWB, was visiting friends near Redding, California and came upon an ICOM IC 737, Astron Power Supply, microphone and dipole antenna in a kitchen cabinet...he was able to purchase this find from the owner for a VERY reasonable price and is now the proud owner of an HF radio set-up.

Mary, Ingo's xyl said they went to the Death Valley 49er Days in November. They had a great time at a great time of the year to visit Death Valley.

Gary, N6HMR and Treva, N6HMS, both passed.

John, KK6UAN, just joined the group!! He has had his license about a year and has been looking for a group. Welcome John. (He lives in Pedro)

Larry, KK6TXN, went in with some relatives and bought a freeze-dryer. He is looking forward to making great eats for camping and emergencies. He was able to clean up the CB unit that he bought at the White Elephant sale and is looking forward to using it also.

Nick, N6EFI has tried out the radio that he bought at the White Elephant sale this year and also what he bought at the sale LAST year (a power supply).

Doug, W6HB is going back to Rarotonga in April next year with Bruce & Marilyn.

Faithfully submitted,

Scotty Butler, K6ZNL, temporary gossip guru

Is there a market for a \$400 “prepper” radio? ... *... Dan Romanchik KB6NU*

A couple of days ago, a reader wrote:

"I would like to know if it would be feasible to build a radio with the following features:

- SSB operation (only SSB is required, CW would be an additional benefit)
- 20 – 50W of power
- Portable-friendly (lightweight, capable of operating at lower voltages from small portable batteries)
- Low receiver current drain
- Coverage of 40m and 80m bands. Very limited coverage is acceptable. Even channelized coverage of a few select frequencies would be acceptable.
- S-meter

"It strikes me that there is a large market for ham radio products for “preppers,” and there has been a lot of interest in the Baofeng line of radios from that market. I think there would be a LOT of interest in a radio that could go far beyond line-of-sight and contact friends or family hundreds of miles away. Preppers would have little interest in contacts more than a state or two away, and no interest at all in novel operating modes.

I wonder if a radio that trims away excess features (all-mode operation, wide frequency coverage, high power output, sophisticated audio filtering) could be produced for a lot less cost than currently available HF rigs. If so, and it was paired with a decent NVIS dipole and some General-class study materials and sold as a package deal, it could be a huge hit – something you could tuck in a bug-out-bag, set up in the field, and use to make contacts in a reasonably local area, or set up in your backyard at home and use minimal power to operate.

"Is there a reason why I don't see radios like this on the market, some kind of technological limitation that would make this sort of thing impractical? If

something like this was built, what kind of cost and performance would you expect? I'm certainly not expecting any kind of detailed analysis, but even just a speculation about if such a project could be feasible would be appreciated."

I replied:

"I think one of the reasons you don't see radios with the feature set you describe is that more full-featured radios are already pretty inexpensive. The Yaesu FT-450D, for example, costs less than \$800 and offers 100W output. The FT-817ND, which is designed for portable operation, costs less than \$700. Is that too much for preppers?

"While it might seem like you could sell a radio with fewer features for less, I think that you hit the law of diminishing returns. At some point, removing features doesn't reduce the cost all that much. For example, removing the CW capabilities from a transceiver capable of SSB operation really doesn't save that much because, in a way, CW operation is really just a subset of SSB operation. You'll save the cost of a key jack, but how much is that? Maybe a buck or two. Having said that, it could be that the big amateur radio manufacturers are overlooking an opportunity here."

We swapped a couple more e-mails about this. He noted, "Most preppers would probably rather buy a high-end AR-15 or several months worth of storage food for \$800 than a radio." I suggested, "If there was a catastrophic event, and you really needed to communicate, wouldn't it seem silly to have not spent the extra \$400 on a really decent radio?"

What do you think? Is my analysis a little too simplistic perhaps? Are amateur radio manufacturers ignoring a potential market?

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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. You can contact him by e-mailing cwgeek@kb6nu.com.



2016 K6AA FD RESULTS – analysis by N6HE

Total Points: 5910

Overall:

All U.S.	154/2696	Top 5.7%
SW Division	10/195	Top 5%
LAX Section	3/25	Top 12%*

In our 3A Class:

All U.S.	26/326	Top 8%
SW Division	2/21	Top 9.5%
LAX Section	1/6	We <u>are</u> the top

*N6HC mounted a HUGE 6A effort and wiped almost everybody out in LAX/SW Div. Good on them! The other team that beat us in LAX was 4AB station N6GA, the QRP mountain topper guys working CW almost exclusively (waaaaay more points for CW QRP operation). K6AA is #1 in 3A LAX (BTW, PVARC/K6PV was #1 in the 2A class - the “locals” done good!).

All things considered, a decent effort! Thanks to all that made it Happen!

73, Ray

2017 Arizona Section Convention

Yuma Hamfest

Yuma, Arizona

Feb. 17 & 18, 2017

Yuma County Fairgrounds
2520 East 32nd Street, Yuma, Arizona



www.yumahamfest.org

Check the Website for Additional Information

<p>Gates Open for Camping Thursday, 2 pm Vendor Setup Friday, 7 am - Noon</p>	<p>Event Hours Friday, Noon - 5 pm Saturday, 8 am - 5 pm</p>	<p>Hamfest Dinner & Grand Prize Drawing Saturday Night 6:00 - 8:00 pm</p>
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Vendors & Exhibitors
Consignment Sales
License Testing
Hourly Door Prizes
On-site RV Camping
Hamfest Dinner
ARRL Speaker
Transmitter Hunt
\$5.00 Admission

Tailgating (Swap Meet)
Full Seminar Schedule
DXCC Card Checking
Incredible Grand Prizes
Emergency Preparedness
Admission Prize
Hospitality Area
Near Space Balloon Launch
Antenna Clinic

Hamfest Talk-In Frequency: 146.780 (-) PL 103.5 Hz

Email Contact: info@yumahamfest.org



We are proud to have the Amateur Radio Council of Arizona (ARCA) as a sponsor of our event.

The Yuma Hamfest is an American Radio Relay League (ARRL) sanctioned event.



Presented by the Yuma Amateur Radio Hamfest Organization

QCWA 70th Anniversary CHARITY Cruise October 18 – 29, 2017

Join us aboard **Holland America's**
new ship, ms **KONINGS DAM**

*Don't miss this exciting opportunity.
Sail the seas with your family & QCWA
friends to promote Amateur Radio World Wide*



11-Day Southern Caribbean Wayfarer
Roundtrip Fort Lauderdale



*Enjoy sailing 11 days visiting St. Maarten, Guadeloupe, Barbados, Martinique, St Kitts & Nevis,
St Thomas and the Bahamas before returning back to Ft Lauderdale.
Be part of the group functions, enjoy a complimentary Pinnacle Grill dinner and the comradery.*

Rates start at \$1444* per person including tax and may be combinable with current promotions.

Call WHITE TRAVEL for the best possible rate.

SPECIAL BONUS ON-BOARD CREDIT BOOKING INCENTIVE

Book with WHITE TRAVEL (Monday to Friday) between January 30 and February 10, 2017

Inside staterooms will receive \$35 on-board credits**

Outside Stateroom will receive \$50 on-board credits

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Contact White Travel for all the details

Phone: 800-547-4790 / Email: info@whitetravel.com

*Rate is based on an inside Category J, double occupancy at the time of printing. Lower categories and/or a lower rate may be available at the time of booking. All rates and accommodations are based on availability ** Credits are per stateroom












~ December 2016 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 URAC 2M roundtable, 8 pm 145.510 MHz	2	3
4 URAC First Saturday Breakfast, 8 m, Think Café, San Pedro	5	6	7	8 URAC 2M roundtable, 8 pm 145.510 MHz	9	10 Human Rights Day
11	12	13	14	15 URAC 2M roundtable, 8 pm 145.510 MHz	16 URAC Christmas Party and Installation of Officers, 6 pm, Think Café, San Pedro	17
18	19	20	21 Winter Solstice (Northern)	22 URAC 2M roundtable, 8 pm 145.510 MHz	23	24
25 Christmas	26	27	28	29 URAC 2M roundtable, 8 pm 145.510 MHz	30	31

~ January 2017 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5 URAC 2M roundtable, 8 pm 145.510 MHz	6	7 URAC First Saturday Breakfast, 8 m, Think Café, San Pedro
8	9	10	11 Human Trafficking Awareness	12 URAC 2M roundtable, 8 pm 145.510 MHz	13	14
15	16 Martin Luther King	17	18	19 URAC 2M roundtable, 8 pm 145.510 MHz	20 Inauguration Day URAC membership meeting, 7 pm, Los Angeles Maritime Museum	21
22	23	24	25	26 Australia Day URAC 2M roundtable, 8 pm 145.510 MHz	27	28 Chinese New Year
29	30	31				

DX OPERATIONS FOR DECEMBER 2016**Per NG3K**

St Kitts & Nevis, V47JA: Is now operating thru 12/15/2016. QSL via W5JON.
Malta, 9H3AP: Is now operating thru 12/9/2016. QSL via G8GNI.
Trinidad & Tobago, 9Y4: Is now operating thru 12/14/2016. QSL via K4NHW.
DR Congo, 9Q0HQ/3: Is now operating thru 12/25/2016. QSL via IS0BWM.
St Martin, FS: Is now operating thru 12/11/2016. QSL via K9NU.
Bonaire, PJ4: Is now operating thru 12/15/2016. QSL via DC1COP.
Bonaire, PJ4: Is now operating thru 12/10/2016. QSL via NA9Q.
Palestine, E44QX: Will be operating from 12/8 thru 12/12/2016. QSL via DF8DX.
Turks & Caicos, VP5: Will be operating from 12/10 thru 12/19/2016. QSL via VE7ACN.
St Lucia, J68HZ: Will be operating from 12/17 thru 1/2/2017. QSL via K9HZ.
Norfolk Is, VK9NM: Will be operating from 12/19 thru 12/26/2016. QSL via VK1MA.
PE & Marion Is, ZS8Z: Will be operating from 12/24 thru 12/31/2016. QSL via ZS1LS.
Palau, T88GA: Will be operating from 12/25 thru 12/29/2016. QSL via JA7XBG.
Nicaragua, H74: Will be operating from 12/31 thru 1/6/2017. QSL via EA3BT.

<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	

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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.

