



The Short Circuit

MAY 2018

since 1927

Volume 91, Issue 5

The May meeting of the United Radio Amateur Club will be held Friday, May 18th at 7 pm in the break room of the Los Angeles Maritime Museum. See page 7 for directions.



Program:



The club will conduct its semi-annual White Elephant Sale, to benefit 2018 Field Day operations scheduled for June 23 and 24, 2018.

So ... time to scour the shack for items you cannot use anymore, but which might be just what someone else is looking for.



May Special Event Stations: (note: due to the large number of Special Events in May, only the last half of May will be listed here.) For the complete list, please see:

<https://ke2yk.com/special-events/>

- **05/19/2018 | 150th Anniversary of Tabasco Pepper Sauce May 19-May 20, 1500Z-2000Z, W5DDL**, Avery Island, LA. Acadiana Amateur Radio Association. 21.280 14.280 14.070 7.280. QSL. Glen Thibodeaux, 1808 Gendarme Rd., Carencro, LA 70520. www.w5ddl.org
- **05/19/2018 | 70th Anniversary of Baytown Texas May 19, 1400Z-2100Z, K5BAY**, Baytown, TX. Baytown Area Amateur Radio Club. 21.300 14.270 7.270. QSL. BAARC, 114 Honeysuckle Dr, Baytown, TX 77520. The Baytown Area Amateur Radio Club, K5BAY, will commemorate the consolidation of the Tri-Cities of Pelly, Goose Creek and Baytown into the City of Baytown in January 1948. slojo385@comcast.net
- **05/19/2018 | Perrin Field Museum Special Event May 19-May 27, 0000Z-2359Z, W5I**, Sherman, TX. Grayson County Amateur Radio Club. 14.250 7.200 14.040 7.040. QSL. Grayson County ARC, PO Box 642, Sherman, TX 75091. Commemorating the Perrin Field Museum, Perrin Air Force Base and Armed Forces Day. www.graysoncountyar.com
- **05/19/2018 | SE Kansas Mining Special Event 3 of 7 May 19-May 20, 1400Z-2300Z, K0SEK**, West Mineral, KS. Southeast Kansas Amateur Radio Club. 18.140 14.250 7.242. Certificate & QSL. Jeff Chancey, KA0EGE, 409 W Quincy St, Pittsburg, KS 66762. Mine 19 Cabin is the 3rd of 7 Special Events recognizing the mining history in SE Kansas !! See website for details including QSL and Certificate info. PLEASE SEND SASE www.sekarc.net/p/sek-mining.html
- **05/19/2018 | William Becknell Santa Fe Trail Heritage Days Special Event — Founder of the Santa Fe Trail May 19-May 20, 1400Z-2200Z, WB0SFT**, Overland Park, KS. William Becknell Santa Fe Trail Heritage Days. 21.365 14.265 7.265 3.865 1.830; SSB CW FT8. Certificate & QSL. Please see website for information, on how to receive your certificate or QSL, and for updated information, Overland Park, KS 66204. Certificate and QSL available via website after the event. www.wb0sft.org
- **05/19/2018 | William Becknell Santa Fe Trail Heritage Days Special Event — Founder of the Santa Fe Trail Sep 8-Sep 9, 1400Z-2200Z, WB0SFT**, Overland Park, KS. William Becknell Santa Fe Trail Heritage Days. 21.365 14.265 7.265 3.865 1.830; SSB CW FT8. Certificate & QSL. Please see website for information, on how to receive your certificate or QSL, and for updated information, Overland Park, KS 66204. Certificate and QSL available from website after the event. www.wb0sft.org
- **05/20/2018 | Lindbergh Flight Across the Atlantic May 20, 1330Z-2000Z, K2CAM**, Garden City, NY. Long Island Mobile Amateur Radio Club. 21.340 14.240 7.240. QSL. LIMARC, P.O. Box 392, Levittown, NY 11756. The Long Island Mobile Amateur Radio Club will operate K2CAM, the call sign of the Cradle of Aviation Museum as it commemorated the solo flight of Charles Lindbergh across the Atlantic Ocean in 1927. www.limarc.org
- **05/21/2018 | Indianapolis 500 Special Event May 21-May 27, 2200Z-0400Z, W9IMS**, Indianapolis, IN. Indianapolis Motor Speedway ARC. 21.350 14.245 7.245 3.840. Certificate & QSL. Indianapolis Motor Speedway Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 30954, Indianapolis, IN 46230. See website for information on getting QSL cards and certificates. <https://www.qrz.com/db/w9ims>

[continued next page](#)

- **05/23/2018 | Silver Comet Trail 10th Anniversary May 23-Jun 3, 0000Z-2359Z, W4T**, Hiram, GA. Silver Comet Amateur Radio Society. 14.260 14.074 7.260 7.074. Certificate & QSL. Dave Walk, K4BBH, Silver Comet Special Event, 46 Ashwood Ct., Rockmart, GA 30153. Contact exchange, rules, bands, modes, certificate and, QSL information available on website silvercometars.com
- **05/24/2018 | Memorial Day K1A May 24-May 30, 0000Z-0000Z, K1A**, Cleburne, TX. Club KC5NX. 14.224 14.045 7.255 7.045. QSL. Jay Stanfield, 9200 Summit Court West, Cleburne, TX 76033. Club KC5NX will be on the air again this year as K1A to honor those who have sacrificed themselves to secure and protect our freedom. It is a day we encourage every individual, young and old, to pause, to give thanks and to remember. kc5nx.radio.club@gmail.com or www.qrz.com/db/kc5nx
- **05/24/2018 | Strange Antenna Challenge May 24-May 27, 0400Z-0659Z, K0S**, Springfield, MO. N0EW. 14.300; all modes, all bands. QSL. QSL to amateur , or club, contacted. This special event is open to all legal amateur radio operators; individual amateur radio operators and clubs are invited to participate as a special event station. QSL requests must be sent to the amateur radio operator or club with whom contact is made; not N0EW, unless that is the station with whom you have made contact. All legal frequencies may be used. The Strange Antenna Challenge is a special event in which amateur radio operators employ found or makeshift antennas to simulate emergency operating conditions following a storm or other natural disaster. It is also an educational outreach opportunity for clubs to stir interest in antenna theory, and as an interesting special event to draw the interest and potentially new amateur radio operators from the public. The call sign K0S is an affirmation of the unique public service given to all of us over the years. erikeweaver@gmail.com
- **05/26/2018 | 2nd Annual Special Event at the Fort Pierce Navy Seal Museum Honoring National Military Month May 26, 1300Z-1900Z, W4OT**, Fort Pierce, FL. Vero Beach Amateur Radio Club. 14.327; 40-meter general portion; 078C D-Star. Certificate. Vero Beach Amateur Radio Club, c/o IRC EOC, 4225 43rd Avenue, Vero Beach, FL 32967. www.vbarc.net
- **05/26/2018 | Poland through the Ages May 26-May 27, 0300Z-0900Z, W3P**, Warminster, PA. Warminster Amateur Radio Club. 14.250. Certificate & QSL. The National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, 654 Ferry Road, Doylestown, PA 18901. for QSL & certificate please send SAE. www.k3dn.org
- **05/26/2018 | Run for the Red White and Blue May 26, 0200Z-1500Z, KC5DR**, West Monroe, LA. Louisiana Delta Radio Club. 14.255. Certificate & QSL. Josphe Holland, 6019 New Natchitoches Rd, West Monroe, LA 71292. We will have day long activities as this is also the Military Museum's Memorial Day celebration! www.kc5dr.com
- **05/28/2018 | Memorial Day May 28-Jun 3, 0000Z-2359Z, K7UGA**, Phoenix, AZ. Central Arizona DX Association. All bands, all modes. QSL. Bob Davies, K7BHM, 1623 N. Los Altos Ct., Chandler, AZ 85224. www.cadxa.org
- **05/31/2018 | Corvette Homecoming May 31-Jun 3, 1400Z-2300Z, KY4BG**, Rockfield, KY. Kentucky Colonels Amateur Radio Club. 14.265 7.265 3.865. Certificate & QSL. Mary Hext KB4KCV, 1997 Browning Road, Rockfield, KY 42274. See website for certificate and QSL information. www.kcarconline.com

“Alexa, help me with ham radio”

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I have had an [Amazon Alexa](#) for nearly a year now. Mostly, I just use it to listen to internet radio stations or tell me a joke, but I think it has more potential than that. For example, I’ve written before about how [I’d like to](#)

[develop an Alexa skill](#) to control my IC-7300. I haven’t gotten around to that yet, but, Joe, N3HEE, has just published an Alexa skill called [Continuous Wave](#). It’s designed to help you learn Morse Code.

To use this skill, you have to first enable it. Once enabled, say, “Alexa, open Continuous Wave.” This opens the skill at the main menu. You can then say any of the following at any voice prompt...

- Learn
- Practice
- Alphabet
- Common words
- Random words
- Words
- Sentences
- Call signs
- Contest
- Quick Brown Fox
- QSO
- Help
- Stop – To end your session.

I’ve just played around with this app for a short time, but I’ve found it to be quite entertaining. It does, however, have one big drawback. You can’t set the speed. It’s currently limited to sending at 20 words per minute only. Also, the learn function could use a little refining. When you give the command “learn,” it asks you for a character, sends that character three times, and then asks you for another. If you could set the speed at which the skill sends characters, it could teach a character like the K7QO Code Course, first sending the character slowly, then ramping up the speed.

Overall, though, I think this is a great first shot at a usable Alexa skill for teaching Morse Code. I hope this is the first of many versions of this skill.

Other ham radio skills

While I was poking around on Amazon, I decided to see what other amateur radio skills might be available. Here are a few that I found:

- [Ham Exam](#). Ask Alexa to ask you questions from the Technician Class question pool.
- [Ham Lookup](#). Allows you to look up amateurs by call sign. Information is provided from the callbook.info database.
- [Ham Radio Propagation Forecast](#). Reports the latest forecasts directly from HamQSL (run by N0NBH).
- [ARRL Audio News](#). Adds ARRL Audio News to your Alexa flash briefing.



Building your own voice app

The Continuous Wave Alexa skill was developed using tools found at [VoiceApps.Com](#). Two other websites—[Pullstring](#) and [StoryLine](#)—also have tools to help you build voice apps. And, Amazon has an [online tutorial](#) that will teach you how to build an Alexa app. I’m just getting started with these tools, so I can’t recommend one over the others, but they do look like they’ll make developing voice apps easier.

Since I’m currently in the process of updating my [No Nonsense Technician Class License Study Guide](#), it occurs to me that I should also develop an Alexa skill for drilling students on test questions. I guess you could call them audio flashcards. Stay tuned for that.

When he’s not trying to figure out how to build voice apps, Dan blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, teaches ham radio classes, and operates CW on the HF bands. Look for him on 30m, 40m, and 80m. You can email him about the voice apps that you like at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

~ May 2018 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 URAC 2M Roundtable 145.510 MHz 8 pm.	4	5 Cinco De Mayo First Saturday Breakfast, 8 am Think Café, San Pedro
6	7	8	9	10 URAC 2M Roundtable 145.510 MHz 8 pm.	11	12
13 Mother's Day	14	15	16	17 URAC 2M Roundtable 145.510 MHz 8 pm.	18 URAC Meeting 7:00 PM Break Room LA Maritime Museum	19-Armed Forces Day
20	21	22	23	24 URAC 2M Roundtable 145.510 MHz 8 pm.	25	26
27	28 Memorial Day	29	30	31 URAC 2M Roundtable 145.510 MHz 8 pm.		

~ June 2018 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 First Saturday Breakfast, 8 am Think Café, San Pedro Museum Ships Weekend, Angels Gate Tug, K6AA
3 Museum Ships Weekend, Angels Gate Tug, K6AA	4	5	6	7 URAC 2M Roundtable 145.510 MHz 8 pm.	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 Flag Day URAC 2M Roundtable 145.510 MHz 8 pm.	15	16
17 Father's Day	18	19	20	21 Summer Solstice URAC 2M Roundtable 145.510 MHz 8 pm.	22	23  ARRL Field Day, Angeles Gate Park K6AA
24 ARRL Field Day, K6AA Angeles Gate Park 	25	26	27	28 URAC 2M Roundtable 145.510 MHz 8 pm.	29	30

2018 URAC Executive Board

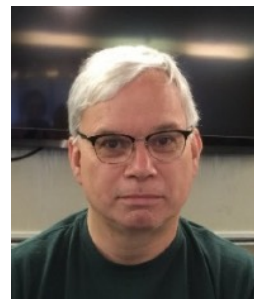
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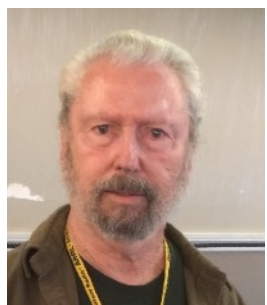
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***** IMPORTANT NOTES *****

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 the 1st Saturday of
the month in conjunction with our ...

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/>

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.

