



The Short Circuit

March 2021

since 1927

Volume 94, Issue 02

Next Meeting

This Friday, 19MAR, at
7:00pm via Skype

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Weekly Club Net

Join us on the URAC Club Net Thursdays at 8:00 P.M. on the W6AM repeater. 145.480 PL 100 Hz.

K6AA monitors

Frequency 145.51 MHz

Club Station K6AA

Website: k6aa.org

The club station is located within the Los Angeles Maritime Museum.

Note: the museum is presently closed.

The March meeting of the United Radio Amateur Club will be held

Friday, March 19th, at 7pm on Skype. The executive board meeting, held a week prior on Friday the 12th at 7 pm, was also on Skype. A link to the *General Meetings* will be sent via e-mail to the membership. Anyone having trouble using Skype, please [contact Tom K6IGY](#) for assistance.

Prez Sez ... Doug W6HB



Many members are reporting having been able to get their vaccine or vaccines. This is good news as LA gets back into the Red Tier and things appear to begin opening up a little bit more.

URAC's board meetings have been shifted to the 1st Friday of each month and the General meeting stays on the 3rd Friday at 1900 Pacific local time on Skype. Please mark your planners or calendars accordingly. VP Tom, K6IGY, may send out reminders but he is VERY busy on many fronts so do not depend on it. Tom will be cuing up a program for the 3/19/21 meeting on the basics of DMR.

It behooves you to get literate and comfortable with Skype as, with the few members URAC currently has, it is one of the easiest free virtual platforms to manage and has no time limits. Contact Tom for tutoring if required.

By the time you see the Short Circuit, Tom should have put a survey into your email inbox. Please answer it ASAP as the results will determine if URAC has enough interest and participation to proceed with a Field Day operation in the "field" this year.

Please consider providing a column or occasional input to your Publisher "Scotty" for the Short Circuit. Any input is due to her at k6znl@arrl.net by the Wednesday *after* the 1st Friday of each month.

Where are you Thursday day nights at 2000 local time? How about getting on the 145.580 W6AM repeater and keeping our net control, Nick N6EFI, company?

Looking forward to SEEING you at the meeting on Friday, 3/19!

Continuing Members

If you haven't already, while you're reading this on the computer **right now**, please click the link to email Doug W6HB@aol.com and advise him if:

- A. You wish to continue your URAC membership; and
- B. Whether you would like to participate in Field Day this year.

You may recall, the Board voted to waive dues of 2020 members for the new year 2021. The current roster is posted at k6aa.org under *Members Only Documents*.

With planning underway for Field Day 2021, the expected level of participation would be a great help. Thanks.

A little background on Field Day ...



FOR YOUR INFORMATION ... here is info, from the ARRL website, on rules used last year that will be continued this year.

ARRL to Extend Field Day Rule Waivers from 2020, Add Class D and E Power Limit

02/10/2021

The COVID-19 pandemic-modified [ARRL Field Day rules](#) from 2020 will continue this June with the addition of a power limit imposed on Class D (Home Sta-

tions) and Class E (Home Stations-Emergency Power) participants. The news from the ARRL Board's Programs and Services Committee comes as many clubs and groups are starting preparations for Field Day in earnest. Field Day 2021 will take place June 26 – 27.

"This early decision should alleviate any hesitancy that radio clubs and individual Field Day participants may have with their planning for the event," said ARRL Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE.

For Field Day 2021:

- Class D stations may work all other Field Day stations, including other Class D stations, for points. This year, however, Class D and Class E stations will be limited to 150 W PEP output.
- An aggregate club score will be published — just as it was done last year. The aggregate score will be a sum of all individual entries that attributed their score to that of a specific club.

ARRL Field Day is one of the biggest events on the amateur radio calendar. Last summer, a record 10,213 entries were received.

"With the greater flexibility afforded by the rules waivers, individuals and groups will still be able to participate in Field Day, while still staying within any public health recommendations and/or requirements," Bourque said.

The preferred method of submitting entries after Field Day is via the web applet. The ARRL Field Day rules include instructions on how to submit entries, which must be submitted or postmarked by Tuesday, July 27, 2021.

The [ARRL Field Day](#) web page contains for complete rules and entry forms, as well as any updated information as it becomes available. Join the ARRL Field Day.

Los Angeles Maritime Museum

The following information appeared in the Short Circuit in March of last year. We are including it again to refresh all of our memories. Are you following the Maritime Museum on Facebook?

Los Angeles Maritime Museum

Frequently Asked Questions: Waterfront Construction & Museum Closure

Why are You Temporarily Closing?

The Port of Los Angeles (the Museum's landlord) is currently renovating the waterfront. The next phase of this project is a 36-million dollar "town square" and promenade that will be built directly in front of the Museum's entrance. Due to the Port's safety concerns, the Museum will be closed to the public for approximately two years beginning in the early part of 2020.

What will happen to the staff?

Though the building will be closed to the general public, the museum staff will continue to work here. We have many exhibits and artifact-related projects requiring attention. In addition, the Port will be starting some long-awaited infrastructure improvements to our 78-year old building, which is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Museum will be offering off-site programs, lectures, and fun events. Please watch the website for updates.

What about the artifacts, exhibits, radio room and tugboat?

All will stay in place and will be cared for by staff and volunteers during the closure. The radio room operators will continue to transmit from K6AA inside the Museum. The crew of the Angels Gate tugboat will continue their regular maintenance schedule. In addition we are launching a new website that will give you the opportunity to view the collections on line.

What about the Research Library?

The Museum archivist will continue to assist researchers. Call 310-548-7618 ext. 215.

How do I find out what is going on during the closure?

For updates, please visit: www.facebook.com/LAMaritimeMuseum

Special Event Stations

For those seeking Special Events, here's your link:

http://www.arrl.org/special_events/search/page:1/model:Event

Special Interest ... Treva N6HMS

When I viewed this 3-part documentary on Pan American, I found it interesting from a radio perspective. As Pan Am was using Key West to Havana flights as a proving ground for eventual trans-oceanic flying, the need for airborne communications was quickly evident. In the course of developing airborne radio, a ditching 300 miles off course on this 90 mile route spurred the creation of aerial radio-navigation.

<https://www.pbshawaii.org/across-the-pacific-airborne/>

<https://www.pbshawaii.org/across-the-pacific-latin-laboratory/>

<https://www.pbshawaii.org/across-the-pacific-another-ocean/>

How to prevent ESD damage ... **... Dan Romanchik KB6NU**

Here are some tips from Keysight Technologies, one of the leading electronic test equipment companies, on how to prevent ESD from damaging your electronics.

USE A GROUNDED WRIST STRAP whenever you are handling equipment or boards. Using a grounded wrist strap prevents your body from building up charge and causing damage when this built-up charge discharges into your equipment or test boards. Make sure to connect that alligator clip to ground!

USE GROUNDED WORK SURFACES OR MATS for your boards. Do NOT use static generating or insulating materials as a work surface. Non-grounded mats and static generating/insulated materials can inductively charge boards, especially exposed ones. When connecting a charged board to equipment, the board can cause damage by discharging into the equipment's inputs.

KEEP CHARGED MATERIALS AT LEAST 0.3 METERS FROM EXPOSED ASSEMBLIES. This includes plastics, foam, or other materials that can build up charge. Having a charged material near an exposed assembly can inductively charge the assembly. The assembly can then discharge into the equipment's inputs.

DISCHARGE YOUR CABLES BEFORE CONNECTING THEM TO YOUR EQUIPMENT. Electrostatic charges can build up on test probes and test leads, so it's important to discharge them before connecting them to your test equipment:

- Ensure your device is off.
- Connect your cable to your device.
- Attach a 50 Ω shunt to the open end of the cable.
- Remove the shunt and immediately attach your device to your equipment. This prevents the center conductor (of your cable) from discharging stored charge into your equipment. A charged assembly can charge connected cables.

USE BOARD STANDOFFS AS NEEDED. In some situations, you need board standoffs to provide extra insulation for your exposed assemblies. This prevents your grounded mats from making unwanted connections on your board.

NEVER USE "PINK" PACKING MATERIAL FOR BOARD TRANSPORT OR AS A WORK SURFACE. While many people think pink packing material is ESD safe, in most cases it easily builds up unwanted charge. Unless continuous, thorough testing is done, treat pink packing materials as charged.

CAP UNUSED EQUIPMENT INPUTS to avoid accidental ESD and physical damage. Damage often occurs by accidentally contacting equipment inputs. Capping unused inputs protects them from incidental ESD damage.

USE ESD-SAFE BAGS WHEN TRANSPORTING BOARDS. This protects boards from ESD damage while moving between ESD-safe locations.

DO NOT OVERDRIVE EQUIPMENT INPUTS. Start your testing at the least sensitive input setting and zoom in on your signal. Additionally, observe the maximum input levels for your specific equipment. The least sensitive setting is the most resilient, so starting there ensures that your inputs are at safe operating levels.

After I posted this to my blog, Dave, N8SBE offered some further tips. He writes:



Grounded heel straps also help reduce static charge. Test them with a floor tester every time you put them on. The floor needs to be somewhat conductive—not metal, that’s a safety hazard—so use conductive wax on tiles, or conductive carpet to drain of electrostatic charges.

Keep materials, such as styrofoam cups, that form electrostatic charges easily away from your workspace. A styrofoam cup can generate thousands of volts.

Keep the humidity up in the workspace. That helps to keep static generation down as well.

I like to think that I follow ESD-safe procedures, but there are a couple of things here that I hadn’t thought about before. For example, I’d never really thought about discharging test equipment cables before connecting them. I think that’s a good tip.

To learn more, go to <https://www.keysight.com/find/PreventESD>

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the “No Non-sense” amateur radio license study guides (KB6NU.Com/study-guides/), and often appears on the ICQPodcast (icqpodcast.com). When he’s not worrying about electrostatic discharge, he teaches online ham radio classes and operates CW on the HF bands.

“Members Only” pages - Treva N6HMS

Have you ever logged into k6aa.org, viewed various pages, and found yourself unable to get back to the *Members Only Documents* page? Here are two proven ways to return. 1) Log out and log back in (it logs into the Members Only page); and 2) using the magnifying glass search icon, enter *members only* and the resulting page will display a link to return. Understand, though, you must be logged in. 73

Future of the Short Circuit - Gary N6HMR


While the monthly publication of this newsletter has historically served to spread information related to the hobby and the club, comments received suggest it’s time to consider other means for sharing this information. Due to the nature of a once-a-month publication, meaningful information often becomes “dated” before publication is finalized for distribution.

Rather than waiting for the week of the meeting to have all the information presented in a single document, an ever-changing and always current webpage could be devoted to the same information. As guest columns are offered, they could be uploaded that day. The calendar of events could be current throughout the month. Events of interest to the Amateur community could be presented in a timely manner.

Whether this continues as a once-a-month printable publication or a web-based document, I would suggest a need for fresh participation from the membership. Your publisher, Scotty, receives almost no feedback (good or bad), and very limited contributions to fill the pages; it would certainly be easier to upload member contributions and articles to a web page rather than expend the hours involved for an 8-½ x 11 document. Give Scotty a surprise, let her know your thoughts and offer your help; let her know what you plan to contribute to the next issue of The Short Circuit.

March & April Calendars of Events

~ March 2021 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Input to the Short Circuit is due	4 URAC Round-Table: 8 pm W6AM repeater, 145.480MHz PL 100	5	6
7	8 International Women's Day	9	10	11 World Kidney Day URAC Round-Table: 8 pm W6AM repeater, 145.480MHz PL 100	12 URAC exe BOD meeting: 7pm Skype	13
14 Daylight Saving Time Begins	15 Short Circuit finalized for publication	16	17 Saint Patrick's Day	18 URAC Round-Table: 8 pm W6AM repeater, 145.480MHz PL 100	19 URAC membership meeting: 7 pm Skype	20 Spring Begins
21	22	23	24	25 URAC Round-Table: 8 pm W6AM repeater, 145.480MHz PL 100	26	27
28	29	30	31			

~ April 2021 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 URAC Round-Table: 8 pm W6AM repeater, 145.480MHz PL 100	2 Good Friday URAC exe BOD meeting: 7pm Skype	3
4 Easter  Happy Easter	5	6	7 World Health Day Input to the Short Circuit is due	8 URAC Round-Table: 8 pm W6AM repeater, 145.480MHz PL 100	9	10
11	12 Short Circuit finalized for publication	13	14	15 Tax Day (Taxes Due) URAC Round-Table: 8 pm W6AM repeater, 145.480MHz PL 100	16 URAC membership meeting: 7 pm Skype	17
18	19	20	21 Administrative Professionals' Day	22 Earth Day URAC Round-Table: 8 pm W6AM repeater, 145.480MHz PL 100	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 URAC Round-Table: 8 pm W6AM repeater, 145.480MHz PL 100	30 Arbor Day	

2021 URAC Executive Board

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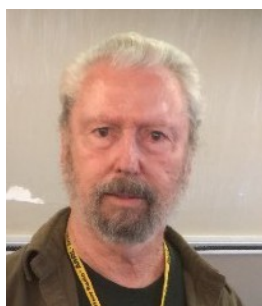
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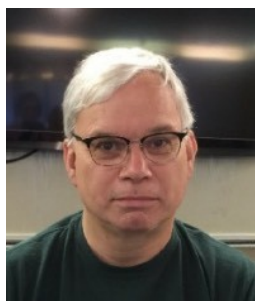
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IMPORTANT NOTES

K6AA Station While access to the Museum is temporarily closed, once operations are approved, we will need more operators for our K6AA station. When manning the station is again possible, please 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, on the W6AM Repeater
145.480 MHz PL 100 Hz

Club Meeting

Held monthly on the 3rd Friday of the month, 7:00 pm, via Skype. Link sent by Tom K6IGY; if having difficulty, [contact Tom K6IGY](#).

“VE/CE Session for Amateur and Commercial Licenses

By appointment. Go to <http://k6aa.org/licensing-exams/> If no one schedules an exam, there won't be an exam team or exam material available.

The Museum is at the Foot of 6th Street.
The Museum is presently closed.

