



The Short Circuit

April 2021

since 1927

Volume 94, Issue 03

Next Meeting

This Friday, 16APR, at
7:00pm via Skype

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N6HMR & N6HMS
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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 April meeting of the United Radio Amateur Club will be held

Friday, April 16th, at 7pm on Skype. The executive board meeting, held two weeks prior on Friday the 2nd 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



Here's hoping all continue to be safe and have had, or are in line for, their vaccines.

Field Day 2021 at the Marine Exchange is still up in the air as we have VERY few committed members. We will continue to solicit players and make the final decision at our May member's meeting.

Larry, KK6TXN, has found a couple businesses who could blast and powder-coat the club's tower trailer, but we have to tow it to them for firm bids. He and Tom, K6IGY, are working to determine what we need to do to get a VIN assigned to the unit and plates affixed. Next would be replacing the tires and refurbishing the wheels.

We are looking to have our August Potluck at the Marine Exchange too, if the COVID rules allow. That call will be made at the July member's meeting IF we get the go ahead and enough participants committed.

White Elephant sales were discussed and as we have nothing collected to date the event via Skype or otherwise has been scrubbed for May. COVID permitting, we MAY attempt an event in November in person or using photos of your offerings to auction same via Skype.

A reservation has been made with the Think Café for our Christmas / Hanukah / Holiday party. The date is Saturday, December 11th, and is contingent as always during these limbo times upon COVID and the rules that keep changing.

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 following the 1st Friday of each month.

Where are you Thursday 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 Skype meeting on Friday, 4/16, at 1900 local time!

For those who enjoy a little history, may we suggest two stores; one of fact, one of fiction ... Gary & Treva N6HMR & N6HMS

"One Harvey Girl recalled being told, "We'll guarantee you a good railroad man for a husband." But she was also taught how to handicap desirability: "You learned that brakemen were a dime a dozen, engineers were good, but men in the communications department, like telegraphers, were very good."

Appetite for America ... How Visionary Businessman Fred Harvey Built a Railroad Hospitality Empire That Civilized the Wild West ... by Stephen Fried

(Available from your public library.)

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Use of telegraph for train routing began in 1851. From early years, these positions were filled by both men and women. One such operator was Ella C. Thayer, who used her professional experience as the basis for her book *Wired Love A Romance of Dots and Dashes*. (Available free from Amazon in Kindle format.)

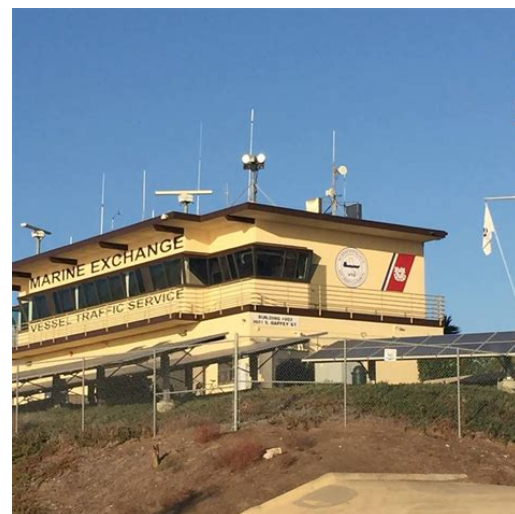
Did you respond to the survey ??? ...



Last month, our VP Tom K6IGY sent out a survey to all members asking if you would like to participate in Field Day with URAC this year. A little birdie tells me he only received Six (6) replies. If you would like to participate, please respond !!! If you are unsure about what time you might like to operate the Field Day station, that's OK ... just say that. We need to know who would like to participate.

Field Day 2021 will take place June 26 – 27.

The plan is to operate within the confines of the Marine Exchange territory, and to run only one Field Day Station ... that is, we would be a 1A.



Special Event Stations

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

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

Securing PowerPole connectors ... **... Dan Romanchik KB6NU**

In preparation for this year's Field Day, I made a bunch of cables with PowerPole connectors to connect the solar panel, charge controller and batteries that I used. If you're not familiar with PowerPoles, you might want to [check out this YouTube video](#). They're really great connectors, and have become the DC connector of choice for many hams.

When I make up PowerPole cables, I normally don't bother trying to secure the two halves together, especially if you're using some decently heavy gauge wire. They fit together pretty tightly, and don't come apart easily. Even so, I think securing them together is a good idea. You can buy a little roll pin to insert between the red and black housings that is supposed to prevent them from coming apart, but many folks complain that the pin has a tendency to fall out. This not only defeats the purpose, but could also damage your equipment.



Securing them is the right thing to do, though, and I recently came across some great suggestions on how to do this in the daily digest that I receive from the [Elecraft-KX mailing list](#). Here are the best tips from the thread, [Securing Anderson Power Poles](#):

- Rudy K8SWD: You can thermally bond the red and black housings with a soldering iron like you are making little welds on both sides. Permanent (mostly) but it works better than the roll pins. Just clean the tip really good before soldering!
- Dave K0CDA: [Anderson] also make connectors that are thermally bonded together in pairs. They do NOT come apart.
- Don W3FPR: I use a drop of Super Glue on the junction of the plastic pieces. Warning – that glue grabs quickly, so slide the 2 pieces only enough to start the assembly, then apply the drop of glue and quickly finish sliding them together. I have never had ones prepared like that come apart, and I don't use roll pins. I will say one more thing – use only the genuine APPs. I have seen some knockoffs that do not mate well.
- Greg KC9NRO: Take a hot soldering iron. Wipe the tip with sponge. Run the tip down both side of APP bonding the black and red sides together. Clean soldering iron tip and apply some solder to tip. That's how I roll. Never comes apart
- Mike AI4NS: PVC cement will soften the plastic enough to bond them together. You can also get plastic welding rods, such as [Daindy Plastic Welding Rods](#). Chuck a rod in a Dremel and weld them together. I have made plastic boxes and panels using this method.
- Jack WD4E: Snip the cotton end off a Q-tip, cutting at an angle. Insert into hole made for roll pin, cut off excess, save remainder of Q-tip for next requirement.
- Troy K4JDA: 2.5mm screws work well, stay in, and are easily removable.

I posted these suggestions to [my blog](#) and got a few more great suggestions:

- Tom KB8UUZ: Fat tooth picks also work great. Jam it in, break it off.
- Bruce N0NHP: I use MEK (Methyl Ethyl Ketone) replacement to clean my circuit boards after soldering. A single drop of MEK on the junction between the two halves of the PowerPole shell will

fuse them. It can be broken with a sharp tap but not accidentally. It will set and dry in seconds and should be applied after the shell pieces are put together.

I think these are all great suggestions. I think that I'm going to try the cotton swab method. While reading them, another thought occurred to me. I haven't tried this yet, but I'm thinking a little drop of hot glue on the roll-pin hole might work, too.

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Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides (KB6NU.Com/study-guides/), and often appears on the ICQPodcast (icqpodcast.com). When he's not thinking up new ways to keep his PowerPoles together, he likes to teach ham radio classes and operate 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

April & May Calendars of Events

~ April 2021 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 URAC 2M Roundtable, 145.480 ,8 pm	2 Good Friday URAC BOD meeting: Skype, 7 pm	3
4 Easter	5	6	7 World Health Day	8 URAC 2M Roundtable, 145.480 ,8 pm	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 URAC 2M Roundtable, 145.480 ,8 pm	16 URAC Membership meeting; Skype, 7 pm	17
18 	19	20	21 Administrative Professionals' Day	22 Earth Day URAC 2M Roundtable, 145.480 ,8 pm	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 URAC 2M Roundtable, 145.480 ,8 pm	30 Arbor Day	

~ May 2021 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 Cinco De Mayo	6 URAC 2M Roundtable, 145.480 ,8 pm	7 URAC BOD meeting: Skype, 7 pm	8
9 Mother's Day 	10	11	12	13 URAC 2M Roundtable, 145.480 ,8 pm	14	15 Armed Forces Day
16	17	18	19	20 URAC 2M Roundtable, 145.480 ,8 pm	21 URAC Membership meeting; Skype, 7 pm	22
23	24	25	26	27 URAC 2M Roundtable, 145.480 ,8 pm	28	29
30	31					

2021 URAC Executive Board

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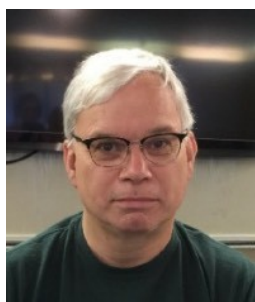
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IMPORTANT NOTES

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.

