



The Short Circuit

May 2021

since 1927

Volume 94, Issue 04

Next Meeting

Friday, 21MAY, at 7:00pm
via Skype
Topic: Station Grounding

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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 May meeting of the United Radio Amateur Club will be held

Friday, May 21st, at 7pm on Skype. The executive board meeting, held two weeks prior on Friday the 7th 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.

Program for Friday's Membership Meeting:

Station Grounding for Amateur Radio, an "Ask Dave" (Dave Casler, KE0OG) video. It's 15 minutes long.

If there is interest, we can follow up with a presentation he made to members of the Papa system.



Prez Sez ... Doug W6HB



Although we presume most URAC members have received their vaccines, we have seen insufficient sign-ups to justify efforts for a Field Day "in the FIELD." As such, the BOD voted NOT to sanction an event this year. In lieu of same, we remind all who want to participate from home that they may accredit their efforts to K6AA / URAC when they submit their reports to the ARRL. Steve, K6NT, can provide more detail on how to so this should you have difficulties finding the procedures at www.ARRL.org.

Larry, KK6TXN, has accepted the tasks requested from the BOD to get the club's tower trailer inspected and a VIN assigned by the CHP. After that event, we should know what else we need to do based on the inspection and follow on tasks with the DMV.

We are looking to have our August Potluck at the Marine Exchange, if the COVID rules allow. That call will be made at the July member's meeting IF we get enough participants committed. This is still up in the air and all depends on the membership getting on board. We MAY pull a permit with LA Rec and Parks for the previous location IF enough members commit and permit applications are being accepted. Life and club activity remains in limbo...

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. This looks to be on a track to reality. As early as it is, I ask that members get more

active on the air, within the club, and consider accepting a position on the BOD next 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 following the 1st Friday of each month.

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

Members are also invited to keep in touch around the harbor via the Battleship IOWA Amateur Radio Association's NI6BB/R repeater. This unit is on the 010 level of the IOWA with an antenna on the 013 level. The current frequency is 147.975, standard -600 split and a PL of 88.5 Hz. It is suggested that you also enable 88.5 as a receive PL to minimize other possible QRM that may be on the frequency on a different PL.

Looking forward to SEEING you at the Skype meeting on Friday, 5/21, at 1900 local time!

Field Day & August BBQ... Steve K6NT



Field Day 2021 ... The Board has decided, lacking committed interest, to cancel the on-site Club Field Day this year. This makes us consistent with almost every other club in the Los Angeles section. Some of us are going to operate from home. The ARRL has continued the same rules as last year for home stations. Also, when you submit your score, you can list that you are a member of our club. Three of us did this last year. Please work a few hams. You do not need a big score to have fun. See the ARRL site for more information on

Class D (home station), www.arrl.org/field-day. We are hoping that next year we can have a great Field Day, as we did in the past.

August BBQ ... A long tradition of the club has been our annual summer *Steak Fry and Potluck*. It used to be an evening event, but in recent years has been a *Saturday lunch BBQ and Potluck* at Friendship Park. This year we have approval to use the patio area of the [Marine Exchange](#). The advantage is that this is not a public park and there is no fee. At this time the event is tentative, with a firm decision in the next 2 months. Be Prepared to RSVP and bring a side dish.



Are you ready for the new RF exposure evaluation regulations? **... Dan Romanchik KB6NU**

On Tuesday, April 27, Dan, W1DAN, ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Section Technical Coordinator, gave a Zoom presentation on the latest FCC regulations on RF exposure evaluation. These are spelled out in [FCC-1926A1](https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-maintains-current-rf-exposure-safety-standards) (<https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-maintains-current-rf-exposure-safety-standards>), "Proposed Changes in the Commission's Rules Regarding Human Exposure to Radiofrequency

Electromagnetic Fields; Reassessment of Federal Communications Commission Radiofrequency Exposure Limits and Policies." The document is as long as the title might suggest—159 pages—but W1DAN boiled it down, focusing on what these changes mean for radio amateurs.

[Cont'd next page](#)

A recording of the presentation can be viewed by going to https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1_qIGZhHyMrha-axJt87Dcu0UZuJO0t8F.

After explaining how RF exposure can be harmful, Dan explained how the rules are changing: The biggest change, he notes, is that amateur radio's categorical exclusion has been eliminated. What this means is that now every radio amateur will have to perform an RF exposure evaluation of their stations. This now includes mobile and portable stations, including HTs, SOTA/POTA stations, and Field Day and special event stations.

He noted that you must be able to prove that your station is safe. This includes not only performing the evaluation, but also documenting these evaluations, should this data be requested by FCC personnel.

One thing that's not changing are the maximum permissible exposure (MPE) limits. These are spelled out in [FCC OET Bulletin 65](https://transition.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Engineering_Technology/Documents/bulletins/oet65/oet65.pdf) (https://transition.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Engineering_Technology/Documents/bulletins/oet65/oet65.pdf), "Evaluating Compliance with FCC Guidelines for Human Exposure to Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields." The FCC published this document in August 1997, but it's still the Bible when it comes to RF exposure. If you don't have a copy, or have never taken a look at it, you really should do so.

Be careful, though, when reading it. It contains a table (Table 1 on p. 21) that contains a list of output powers at various frequencies. If your station exceeded those limits, then you were required to perform an RF evaluation. Now, however, all amateurs (and other radio services, for that matter) must perform RF exposure evaluations if their output power exceeds 1 mW. We are no longer categorically excluded from performing these evaluations.

OET Bulletin 65 goes on to give guidance on how to calculate or measure exposure levels. Explaining how to do this is outside the scope of this article, but again, you'll want to refer to the bulletin for more information.

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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 (<https://KB6NU.Com/study-guides/>), and often appears on the ICQPodcast (<https://icqpodcast.com>). When he's not RF exposure evaluations, he teaches online ham radio classes and operates CW on the low end of the HF bands.

Besides the elimination of the categorical exclusion for amateur radio stations, what else is new is the dates on which amateur radio stations must perform evaluations. They are:

- **May 3, 2021(!)** for new and modified stations
- May 3, 2023 for stations that complied under the old rules.

Having said all that, the ARRL's [RF Exposure page](http://www.arrl.org/rf-exposure) (<http://www.arrl.org/rf-exposure>) has a lot of resources to help you understand this topic and perform your own RF exposure evaluations:

- An [RF-exposure FAQ](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/RFsafetyCommittee/RFXFAQ.pdf) (<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/RFsafetyCommittee/RFXFAQ.pdf>) to help hams understand the new rules.
- "[Learning to Live with RF Safety](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/protected/Group/Members/Technology/tis/info/pdf/QST_Mar_2009_p70-71.pdf) (http://www.arrl.org/files/file/protected/Group/Members/Technology/tis/info/pdf/QST_Mar_2009_p70-71.pdf)," QST March 2009 pp. 70-71.
- [RF Safety at Field Day](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/tis/info/pdf/9906048.pdf) (<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/tis/info/pdf/9906048.pdf>) QST, June 1999, pp. 48-51. A case study of Field Day with NSRC in a public park
- RF Exposure Station [Evaluation and Exemption Worksheets](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/tis/info/pdf/rfex1_2.pdf) (http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/tis/info/pdf/rfex1_2.pdf)
- *RF Exposure and You* (<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/RFsafetyCommittee/RF%20Exposure%20and%20You.pdf>). This 8 Mbyte PDF file contains the text of the entire book by Ed Hare, W1RFI.
- [Chapter 5 References](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/tis/info/pdf/RF%20Exposure%20Chapter%205.pdf) (<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/tis/info/pdf/RF%20Exposure%20Chapter%205.pdf>) needed for filling out worksheet.

There are also links to FCC web pages with information on RF exposure.

I'm sure we'll all be hearing more about this in the days ahead. Hopefully, someone will come out with a simple way to do the modeling or make the calculations. As always, play safe.

Special Event Stations

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

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

CW Corner - Gary N6HMR

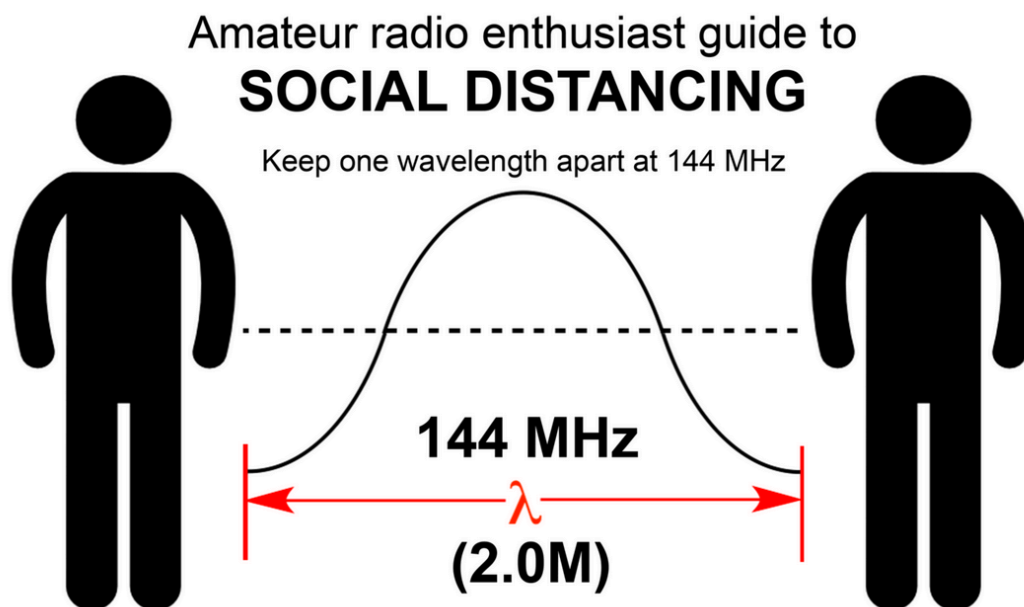
Still interested in learning CW but don't know where to start? May I suggest the book "*Dits and Dahs ... the ABC's of Morse Code Operating*." At 71 pages, it's a good synopsis of learning the language, use of keys, how to operate, and how to increase your proficiency.

Also important is learning CW as a language, not broken into the assortment of dots and dashes, but the sound of the characters. Need some help? Try [*Learning Morse Code as a Language*](#) by the late Jack Ritter W0UCE (SK).

Wanted ... Short Circuit Contributors

Your newsletter editor, Scotty K6ZNL, can use your help. Contributors are needed to share relevant articles to the membership. Through the month, as you come across something radio related, please consider sending Scotty a link. If you've read a book you liked which touches on some aspect of radio communications, a brief tickler might be enough for others to enjoy the same story. The other option, in lieu of a formatted publication, is an active online version. You will recall this was touched on in a recent issue.


Amateur Radio guide ...



Posted in r/amateurradio by u/g6nhu

May & June Calendars of Events

~ May 2021 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 Cinco De Mayo 	6 URAC Thursday night 2M RoundTable 8 pm 145.480	7 URAC Exec. Board meeting, 7 pm Skype	8
9 	10	11	12	13 URAC Thursday night 2M RoundTable 8 pm 145.480	14	15 
16	17	18	19	20 URAC Thursday night 2M RoundTable 8 pm 145.480	21 URAC Membership Meeting, 7 pm, Skype	22
23	24	25	26	27 URAC Thursday night 2M RoundTable 8 pm 145.480	28	29
30	31					

~ June 2021 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 URAC Thursday night 2M RoundTable 8 pm 145.480	4 URAC Exec. Board meeting, 7 pm Skype	5
6	7	8	9	10 URAC Thursday night 2M RoundTable 8 pm 145.480	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 URAC Thursday night 2M RoundTable 8 pm 145.480	18 URAC Membership Meeting, 7 pm, Skype	19
20 	21 Summer Solstice	22	23	24 URAC Thursday night 2M RoundTable 8 pm 145.480	25	26 
27 	28	29	30			

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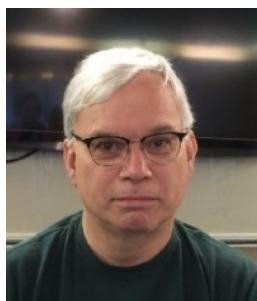
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IMPORTANT NOTES

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.

