



The Short Circuit

The December membership meeting will be held Friday, December 17th, at 7 pm on Skype. . The executive board meeting, held two weeks prior on Friday the 3rd 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.



A Ham Radio Operator's Night Before Christmas

T'was the night before Christmas,
And all through two-meters,
Not a signal was keying up
Any repeaters.

The antennas reached up
From the tower, quite high,
To catch the weak signals
That bounced from the sky.

The children, Tech-Pluses,
Took their HTs to bed,
And dreamed of the day
They'd be Extras, instead.

Mom put on her headphones,
I plugged in the key,
And we tuned 40 meters
For that rare ZK3.

When the meter was pegged
by a signal with power.
It smoked a small diode,
and, I swear, shook the tower.

Mom yanked off her phones,
And with all she could muster
Logged a spot of the signal
On the DX Packet Cluster,

While I ran to the window
And peered up at the sky,
To see what could generate
RF that high.

It was way in the distance,
But the moon made it gleam -
A flying sleigh, with an
Eight element beam,

And a little old driver
who looked slightly mean.
So I thought for a moment,
That it might be Wayne Green.

But no, it was Santa
The Santa of Hams.
On a mission, this Christmas
To clean up the bands.

He circled the tower,
Then stopped in his track,
And he slid down the coax
Right into the shack.

While Mom and I hid
Behind stacks of CQ,
This Santa of hamming
Knew just what to do.

He cleared off the shack desk
Of paper and parts,
And filled out all my late QSLs
For a start.

He ran copper braid,
Took a steel rod and pounded
It into the earth, till
The station was grounded.

He tightened loose fittings,
Re-soldered connections,
Cranked down modulation,
Installed lightning protection.

He neutralized tubes
In my linear amp...

(Never worked right before --
Now it works like a champ).

A new, low-pass filter
Cleaned up the TV,
He corrected the settings
In my TNC.

He repaired the computer
That would not compute,
And he backed up the hard drive
And got it to boot.

Then, he reached really deep
In the bag that he brought,
And he pulled out a big box,
"A new rig?" I thought!

"A new Kenwood? An Icom?
A Yaesu, for me?!"

(If he thought I'd been bad
it might be QRP!)

Yes! The Ultimate Station!
How could I deserve this?

Could it be all those hours
that I worked Public Service?

He hooked it all up
And in record time, quickly
Worked 100 countries,
All down on 160.

I should have been happy,
It was my call he sent,
But the cards and the postage
Will cost two month's rent!

He made final adjustments,
And left a card by the key:
"To Gary, from Santa Claus.
Seventy-Three."

Then he grabbed his HT,
Looked me straight in the eye,
Punched a code on the pad,
And was gone - no good bye.

I ran back to the station,
And the pile-up was big,
But a card from St. Nick
Would be worth my new rig.

Oh, too late, for his final
came over the air.

It was copied all over.
It was heard everywhere.

The Ham's Santa exclaimed
What a ham might expect,
"Merry Christmas to all,
And to all, good DX."

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Prez Sez

December 2021

Supposedly mostly due to COVID fears, the 2021 Holiday / Swearing In party was cancelled due to insufficient committed participation. A few members will be meeting for dinner. Here's hoping 2022 will be better, URAC thrives and we can recruit more movers and shakers.

Many thanks to my outgoing BOD and those who made my past year worthwhile.

The LAMM had a soft opening but the 2nd floor and station K6AA are not yet open. It may not be open until some time next year. The Director has said she will keep me posted.

Please consider providing a column or occasional input to your Publisher "Scotty" for the Short Circuit. Any input is preferred to be to her at k6znl@arrrl.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 moderator, Nick, N6EFI, company?

Looking forward to **SEEING** you on the Skype meeting on Friday, 12/17/21, at 1900 local time!



We have George Nestojko, NA6Q with 132 contacts for 560 points. We have Larry Fadden, KK6TXN with 28 contacts for 306 points. We have Steve Mandich, K6NT with 63 contacts for 302 points. And we have Tom Marinello, W6IGY with 19 contacts for 126 points.

Larry KK6TXN



ARRL Clean Signal Initiative on the horizon

In recent message to his Northwest Division membership, Mike Ritz, W7VO, described a new program that he's gotten the ARRL to take on—the Clean Signal Initiative. He writes:

“After a few months gathering support from the amateur community for the project, the ARRL Clean Signal Initiative (CSI) is finally getting off the ground. The Board's Programs and Services Committee approved the concept several months ago, and since then I have been canvassing some of the best known RF engineers in amateur radio to get their support and input. As a result, the team will be conducting our first Zoom call next week to lay out the next steps for the project. All I can say at this time is that there are some amateur radio “heavy hitters” behind this, and I believe will be a game changer for the ARRL.

For those that may be unaware of this project, here is a synopsis (or at least my vision):

1. The CSI gets the ARRL formally in the “technical standards” business. (Other technical organizations already do it: IEEE, UL, ASTM, and SAE, and others.) The ARRL currently tests new products to informal standards, with no real hard benchmarks for manufacturers to meet,

other than the minimal standards outlined in FCC Part 97.307.

2. Creates and incorporates documented “best practice” standards and testing methodologies to ensure commercial amateur radio transmitters and amplifiers meet not only minimum FCC requirements for signal cleanliness, but push the envelope.
3. These new standards can be “home grown”, or passed through the IEEE, but I think it’s important they be also branded as “ARRL Technical Standards.”
4. Test new commercial transceivers and amplifiers against these standards.
5. Certify the transmitters and amplifiers that pass the standards: “CSI certified by the ARRL.”
6. Work with manufacturers to ensure compliance of those that don’t. (Market pressure will drive this.)
7. Market the program to the amateurs through QST.
8. Work with manufacturers and social media experts to create training materials to teach hams how to set up their equipment to ensure the cleanest transmitted signals. (This education part is key!)”

Rob Sherwood, NC0B, of Sherwood Engineering, who is most well-known for his [ranking of receiver performance](http://www.sherweng.com/table.html) (<http://www.sherweng.com/table.html>), is part of this effort. You can see a video of a talk that he gave recently to the Sutton & Cheam Radio Society by going to <https://youtu.be/IioApKRecrI>. Also on the committee is Ward Silver, N0AX.

Based on my knowledge of how IEEE standards committees work, I stressed that the initiative should make every effort to get as many stakeholders—including manufacturers and users—involved as possible. Involving so many people may be cumbersome at times, but standards require consensus for them to be effective, and the only way to do that is to get everyone involved. I’d suggest that if you feel that you have something to contribute that you contact Mike directly. His email address is w7vo@arrl.org.

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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 worry about how clean his signal is, he operates CW on the HF bands and teaches ham radio classes.



Two Free Amateur Radio Courses

ALL FOLKS MUST WEAR A MASK EVEN IF VACCINATED

FCC **“Technician”** course (entry level)

FCC **“General”** course (2nd level)

Each course is 2 sessions

The sessions will be on 5 and 12 February 2022

Technician 9:30 AM to 1:15 PM both Saturdays (bring your lunch)

General 1:30 PM to 5:00 PM both Saturdays

The FCC tests will be 10:00 AM to noon on 19 February 2022

At the start of the 5 February Technician course, a member of the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club will give a 30-minute presentation on how to get further involved in amateur radio.

The class location is at Fred Hesse Community Park,
29301 Hawthorne Blvd., Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

Confirm your attendance to Walt, K1DFO at wfordway@juno.com

There is **no fee** for either course.

Taking the FCC test is \$15.

Optional Material (sold at cost)

Gordon West books with all the FCC test questions,

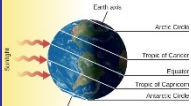

\$26 for the Technician and \$26 for the General

Paper copy of Walt's Power Point charts,

\$22 for the Technician and \$20 for the General

For courses sponsored by the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club, students thru grade 12 who pass their examination at a PVARC VE test session will, upon application to the Club, be eligible for reimbursement up to a maximum of \$50 to cover the cost of materials and the examination fee.

Everyone who obtains their first ham radio license through a PVARC VE test session, regardless of age, will receive a free membership in the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club for the remainder of the current calendar year.

~ December 2021 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 World AIDS Day	2 URAC 2 Meter Roundtable; 145.480, 8 pm	3 URAC Board of Directors Meeting, SKYPE, 7 pm	4
5	6	7	8	9 URAC 2 Meter Roundtable; 145.480, 8 pm	10 Human Rights Day	11
12	13	14	15	16 URAC 2 Meter Roundtable; 145.480, 8 pm	17 URAC Membership Meeting SKYPE, 7 pm	18
19	20	21 Winter Solstice (Northern) 	22	23 URAC 2 Meter Roundtable; 145.480, 8 pm	24	25 Christmas 
26	27	28	29	30	31	

~ January 2022 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 New Year's Day
2	3	4	5	6 URAC 2 Meter Roundtable; 145.480, 8 pm	7 URAC Board of Directors Meeting, SKYPE, 7 pm	8
9	10	11 Human Trafficking Awareness	12	13 URAC 2 Meter Roundtable; 145.480, 8 pm URAC Lunch 1:30 pm Think Café, San Pedro	14	15
16	17 Martin Luther King	18	19	20 URAC 2 Meter Roundtable; 145.480, 8 pm	21 URAC Membership Meeting SKYPE, 7 pm	22
23	24	25	26 Australia Day	27 URAC 2 Meter Roundtable; 145.480, 8 pm	28	29
30	31					

2021 URAC Executive Board

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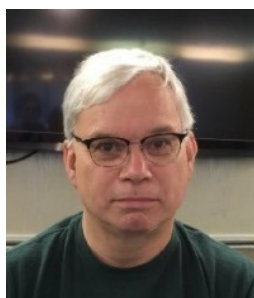
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IMPORTANT NOTES

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 PL100 Hz

Club Meetings

**1..Lunch meeting at the Think Café,
2nd Thursday 1:30-4 pm**

2. Virtual 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.

