



# *The Short Circuit*

September 2023

since 1927

Volume 96, Issue 9

**The September membership meeting will be held on Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, at 7 pm on Skype.** The October Executive board meeting will be held on Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, at 7 pm, on Skype. Anyone having trouble using Skype, please [contact Tom K6IGY](#) for assistance.

## ***Prez Sez***

We had good attendance for the Club Luncheon on Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at the Think Cafe. Please join us next month.

In December, our lunch will be a HOLIDAY PARTY on SATURDAY, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:30. This will be held instead of the regular monthly luncheon on the second Thursday. Being on a Saturday, we hope all will join us. Gina will be sending out an email about the Holiday Party soon.

We can use more operators for our club station at the Maritime Museum. For information on how to be an operator, please contact Scotty.

Our annual Summer Picnic in August was a big success. It was held at the Point Fermin Lighthouse. We had great weather. Thank you to Gina for collecting RSVP's and ordering the food, Kristen Heather for the location, and Bill Heather for setting up the station. We contacted 3 other lighthouses and a lightship.

Nomination of 2024 officers is now open. If you would like to run for a office or nominate someone, please contact Gina.

Steve Mandich, K6NT  
President

### **Photos from the picnic:**





URAC and K6AA will once again be participating in the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium's Autumn Sea Fair: Saturday, September 23 from 10 to 3 at the Aquarium at Cabrillo Beach, San Pedro. Helpers in the booth will be provided free parking and lunch. Contact Scotty, (text 310-748-3046 if you would like to participate)

Cabrillo Marine Aquarium  
presents  
**AUTUMN SEA FAIR**



**Sunday, October 16, 2011**

**10AM – 4:30PM**

Visit Marine-related Exhibitors

Enjoy Live Music • Arts & Crafts • Games • Sand Sculpture Contest

Treasure Hunt • Beach Olympics • Fireboat Display

**Free Admission**

Cabrillo Marine Aquarium • 3720 Stephen M. White Drive, San Pedro, Ca. 90731  
For information, go to [www.cabrillomarineaquarium.org](http://www.cabrillomarineaquarium.org) – or – call 310-548-7562

Co-sponsored by the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, Port of Los Angeles and FRIENDS of the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium.  
Cabrillo Marine Aquarium is a facility of the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks.

## Getting cleared for the station is simple: fill out an application on the city website.

<https://www.laparks.org/volunteerapp>

Print and fill out form "Request for live Scan service" and bring it with you to a fingerprint session. When you have printed the above paperwork, make an appointment with Louise at the Museum(310-548-7618) to have your fingerprints done and when they are approved you are (almost) all set! You will still have to show your vaccination for COVID 19 card...to Marifrances at the Museum if you do not do it online.

After that, get in touch with Scotty (text 310-748-3046 is easiest), and arrange for your date. Simple...Come join us. Try out the ICOM 7300 on loan to us by Ken W1NCA, FT-8 has been configured...the CW guys are going great guns on 10 and 12 especially, and phone is jumping on 10, 12, 15, 17, and 20...If your license does not have HF privileges, you can work with another operator (called the 'control operator'), using the control operators license class and privileges

Currently we have 8 members who man the station on a regular basis. We would like to have enough operators to man the station on all days of the week that the museum is open (Wednesday through Sunday) without putting too much of a burden on any one individual.

## Hack the ARRL?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

A couple of weeks ago, I attended [DEFCON](#), which is arguably the premiere hacking conference in the world. DEFCON hosts a number of [special interest groups they call “villages.”](#) which organize their own sub-conferences on topics ranging from artificial intelligence to voting. One of those villages is the Ham Radio Village, and as I did in 2022, I taught a [one-day Tech class in the Ham Radio Village on Thursday, August 10.](#)

So, what does this have to do with the ARRL? Well, one of the more popular amateur radio sub-hobbies is to complain about the ARRL. I won't list all the complaints here, but I think that most of you will agree that there are more than a few complaints out there.

Well, part of the hacker ethos is to not just complain about things, but to do something about it. The [Wikipedia entry on hacker culture](#) puts it this way, “[hackers enjoy] the intellectual challenge of creatively overcoming the limitations of software systems or electronic hardware (mostly digital electronics), to achieve novel and clever outcomes.” It seems to me that we could creatively overcome some of the limitations of the ARRL, i.e. hack the ARRL, if we put our minds to it.

I think that [Parks on the Air \(POTA\)](#) is a good example of this. The ARRL actually gave birth to POTA with their year-long [National Parks on the Air](#) program in 2016, which celebrated the 100th anniversary of the U.S. National Park System. It was a very popular activity, but the ARRL dropped it like a hot potato once the year was over.

Fortunately for ham radio, a dedicated group of ham hackers stepped up and created the current POTA program. POTA is wildly popular and has been a real boon to amateur radio.

## Get your hacking hats on

So, what else can be hacked? One thing that I can think of off the top of my head is [Logbook of the World](#). At one time, there was talk about making it a more real-time system. I'm not sure whatever happened to that project, but my guess is that the programming was a lot more complicated than originally anticipated, and it got put on the back burner.

Another possible ARRL hack would be to do something about the ARRL's digital magazines. This hack is particularly needed now that fewer and fewer members are going to be getting the print versions of QST, QEX, and the National Contest Journal. Making the information more easily accessible I think would end up being beneficial for the ARRL as well as ham radio in general.

## Can you hack a hamfest?

This isn't strictly an ARRL thing, but one aspect of ham radio that I would love to see hacked is hamfests. Recently, on the social media platform Mastodon, someone wrote:

“Researching local hamfests, and they're still such an old man thing. 7 am open gates. Grange fair. Fire house. Greasy breakfast cart. Noon close.

“Can we get like a 3 pm start time at a farmer's market with snacks, kombucha, and chiptune DJ?”

My reply was, “There's nothing that I know of that stopping anyone from starting something new.” I would love to see someone come up with something like a hamfest that's more relevant for younger hams and easier for them to attend. It wouldn't be easy to do, but life's not easy, is it?


Ham radio needs the hacker ethos now more than ever. Hackers take on difficult challenges because they are difficult, don't they? So, let's get to it.







## ~ September 2023 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> URAC BOD meeting, Skype, 7 pm.	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Labor Day	<b>5</b> URAC 2 meter Roundtable, W6MEP Repeater 147.240 +600, PL of 67 Hz	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Patriot Day	<b>12</b> URAC 2 meter Roundtable, W6MEP Repeater 147.240 +600, PL of 67 Hz	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> URAC Lunch, 1:30 pm, Think Café, San Pedro	<b>15</b> URAC Membership meeting, 7 pm on Skype	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> URAC 2 meter Roundtable, W6MEP Repeater 147.240 +600, PL of 67 Hz	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Cabrillo Marine Aquarium Autumn Sea Fair, 10-3, Cabrillo Beach, San Pedro 
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> URAC 2 meter Roundtable, W6MEP Repeater 147.240 +600, PL of 67 Hz	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

## ~ October 2023 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> URAC 2 meter Roundtable, W6MEP Repeater 147.240 +600, PL of 67 Hz	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> URAC BOD meeting, Skype, 7 pm	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Columbus Day	<b>10</b> URAC 2 meter Roundtable, W6MEP Repeater 147.240 +600, PL of 67 Hz	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> URAC Lunch, 1:30 pm, Think Café, San Pedro	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> URAC 2 meter Roundtable, W6MEP Repeater 147.240 +600, PL of 67 Hz	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> URAC Membership meeting, 7 pm on Skype	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> United Nations Day URAC 2 meter Roundtable, W6MEP Repeater 147.240 +600, PL of 67 Hz	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> URAC 2 meter Roundtable, W6MEP Repeater 147.240 +600, PL of 67 Hz 				

## URAC 2023 Executive Board

<p>PRESIDENT Steve Mandich K6NT <a href="mailto:s.mandich@yahoo.com">s.mandich@yahoo.com</a></p>		<p>VICE PRESIDENT/ WEBMASTER Torm Marinello K6IGY <a href="mailto:tom@marinellonet.com">tom@marinellonet.com</a></p>	
<p>DIRECTOR Ken Ota W1NCA <a href="mailto:Jm1nca@yahoo.co.jp">Jm1nca@yahoo.co.jp</a></p>		<p>TREASURER Gary Forister N6HMR <a href="mailto:n6hmr@k6aa.org">n6hmr@k6aa.org</a></p>	
<p>SECRETARY John Linder KC6JHV <a href="mailto:Linder.john@yahoo.com">Linder.john@yahoo.com</a></p>		<p>DIRECTOR/ SC EDITOR/ STATION MANAGER / TRUSTEE Scotty Butler K6ZNL <a href="mailto:butleal@aol.com">butleal@aol.com</a></p>	<p>S</p> 
<p>DIRECTOR Gina Mandich KF6MYQ <a href="mailto:Gina.mandich@yahoo.com">Gina.mandich@yahoo.com</a></p>		<p>DIRECTOR / STATION EQUIPMENT MANAGER George Nestojko NA6Q <a href="mailto:gnejstojko@gmail.com">gnejstojko@gmail.com</a></p>	
<p>PAST- PRESIDENT Doug Dowds W6HB <a href="mailto:W6HB@aol.com">W6HB@aol.com</a></p>			

Check out the special events page on [k6aa.org](http://k6aa.org) for the latest from ARRL and e-ham net.

### *Additional Calendar Notes*

**“VE/CE Session for Amateur and Commercial Licenses by appointment.** Go to <http://k6aa.org/licensing-exams/> If no candidate schedules an exam, there won't be an exam team or exam material available.

#### **Club Roundtable**

Held weekly on Thursdays, at 8pm, on the  
W6AM Repeater  
145.480 MHz PL100 Hz

The Museum is at the Foot of 6th Street.  
The museum is open Wednesday through  
Sunday 12 to 5. K6AA is open when  
the museum is open. To be cleared to  
operate the station, please contact Scotty,  
k6ZNL at [k6znl@arrl.net](mailto:k6znl@arrl.net)

#### **Club Meetings**

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

2. Virtual meeting held monthly on  
the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month, 7:00 pm,  
via Skype. Link sent by Tom K6IGY; if  
having difficulty, [contact Tom K6IGY](#).

