

Q5

By and for the Downey Amateur Radio Club, Inc.



Volume XIX Number 2

February 2000

Contesting with November 6 Hotel California Arnold Shatz at February Meeting

February's meeting will feature Arnold Shatz, N6HC, who will speak to us about contesting .

Arnold was first licensed in 1957 as Novice, KN3ANU, in Philadelphia, PA. He became interested in contesting as a method to quickly earn the ARRL WAS award and satisfy his thirst for competition (radio sport). He upgraded to Extra Class and callsign N6HC in 1976.

He has been active in the Southern California Contest Club for almost 20 years and is also a member of the Southern California DX Club. Arnie primarily participates in HF CW, SSB and RTTY contests either as a single operator or as a member of a multi-operator team. "November 6 Hotel California" has earned many Section awards for contesting performance. He has been a member of team efforts that have qualified for worldwide recognition. Arnie has moderated the "Contesting 101" seminar at the ARRL Division Convention, and has addressed

FEBRUARY MEETING

The February meeting of the DARC will be held in the Cafetorium of South Middle School at 12500 Birchdale Ave. in Downey, at 7:30 PM, Thursday, February 3rd.

local radio clubs about the joys of contesting.

He has earned many awards including DXCC (CW & SSB), 5BWAS, WAS (RTTY), WAC (ARRL, Ten Ten International & YL), YLCC, WAVE, WACAN, Ten-X DX award, WAZ, & YLCC. He has earned the respect of his fellow amateurs by being voted to membership in the A-1 operator club.

The February meeting will also mark the last time Chuck and Nancy Anna will provide refreshments for us. They have done a fantastic job for about the past five years and will be missed. Thank you, Chuck and Nancy! You have truly made our meetings a nicer place.

Plan on joining us as this will be a very informative meeting about an exciting aspect of our hobby. The meeting will begin at 7:30 P.M. on Thursday February 3rd. See you there!

W6TOI ACTIVE IN VHF SWEEPSTAKES Many Members Participate

W6TOI was active in the VHF Sweepstakes contest over the weekend of January 22 & 23. **Doug Lyon**, N6WZI, **Glenn Allen**, KE6HPZ, and **Bill Heather**, KB6WKT operated from Bill's QTH using the Club's call.

Besides W6TOI being activated, many other members were heard either participating or coming on the air to give W6TOI a few points. Other club members heard were: **John Kountz**, KE6GFF, **Arlene Swartz**, KE6GFI, **Dave Glenn**, N6TEB, **Elizabeth Heather**, KC6OFS, **Dick Palmer**, WB6JDH, **Ray Olesen**, AD6AF, **Ed Roos**, KC6ZHY, **Sam Lollar**, K1SL, **Ivan Mikluich**, KB6ATT, **Buck Kerns**, KD6PUI, **Larry Vaughn**, KD6NZW, **Paul Metzger**, KQ6EH and **Dave Buhler**, WB6ZGF.

While the score for W6TOI is not final, the preliminary data indicates that 533 contacts were made on six different bands and a total of 63 grids activated for aproxamently 53,000 total points, well above our score from last year.

DARC Helping Hams Provide Assistance When Needed

For quite a while, the helping hams have been serving both the members of Downey Amateur Radio Club as well as other amateurs in the immediate area. A call out for assistance will be made when a Club member is ready to erect or repair a tower or antenna system. This includes additional hardware such as rotors and related items. We will also assist the widow of a ham or a disabled ham who may not be a member of the Club. We will decline any work that is not directly related to the function of ham radio equipment. We have had such requests in the past.

There have been considerable questions as to what the parameters are for our becoming involved in a project. Our first reaction is to help whenever it is requested. Obviously, we must restrict the activity to those who are within the immediate area

See "Helping Hams", page 4

ON OTHER PAGES

About The DARC.....	2
President's Message.....	3
Field Day Committee.....	3
ARC Walk for Independence....	3
Minutes, Dec. Board Meeting....	4
Minutes, Dec. General Meeting...	5
Rose Float Return.....	6
Installation Complete.....	7
DX Notes.....	7
Treasurer's Report.....	8
License Restructuring.....	8
February DARC Calendar.....	9
HRO Anaheim Destroyed By Fire....	10

THE DOWNEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

P.O. Box 207

Downey, CA 90241

<http://www.DowneyARC.org>



Affiliations

Affiliated ARRL Club
ARRL Special Service Club
Los Angeles Area Council of Amateur Radio Clubs
Orange County Council of Amateur Radio Organizations

Frequencies

Simplex & Phone Patch: 145.595 MHz
Packet Net: WWCB Channel 175
2Meter Phone Net: 146.175+*
Rio Hondo ARC Repeaters
146.175+(no PL), 445.925 (1Z)
* See Calendar for Net Skeds

Club Officers

President

Larry Vaughn, KD6NZW
Phone: (562) 869-5332
kd6nzw@downeyarc.org

First Vice President

Ed Roos, KC6ZHY
Phone: (562) 691-3199
edroos@worldnet.att.net

VPPrograms

Bill Heather, KB6WKT
Phone: (562) 863-6607
wheather@catalina-inter.net

VPMembership

Elizabeth Heather, KC6OFS
Phone: (562) 863-6607
kc6ofs@angelfire.com

VPService

Dave Glenn, N6TEB
Phone: (562) 928-8560
n6teb@usa.net

VPWays and Means

John Powell, KF6EOJ
Phone: (562) 862-4608
jpowell@csulb.edu

Director (Two Year)

Steve Grudzinski, AD6HT
Phone: (626) 336-3974
ad6ht@arrl.net

Director (One Year)

Buck Kerns, KD6PUI
Phone: (562) 634-8441
kd6pui@arrl.net

Secretary

Rosie Falcon, N3IVO
Phone: (714) 520-9109
n3ivo@aol.com

Treasurer

Frank Myllo III, KC6YPV
Phone: (562) 860-4045
fmyllo@prodigy.net

Trustee, W6TOI

Tom Van Buskirk, K6TV
Phone: (562) 861-3085
K6TV@compuserve.com

VE Exams

The Downey Amateur Radio Club provides VE examinations for all classes of Amateur Radio licenses on the third Saturday of each even numbered month. Exams are held at the Downey Fire Department Headquarters, 12222 Paramount Boulevard, beginning at 8:30 AM. The exam schedule for 2000 is as follows:

Feb 19	April 15	June 17
Aug 19	Oct 21	Dec 16

The ARRL/VEC test fee is \$6.65, except for elements 1A and 2 which are free. This fee is controlled by the FCC but goes to the ARRL to cover their expenses in providing the tests and handling the applications. Those planning to take tests are asked to contact **Wes Printz, W3SE**, at (562) 923-5598, or wprintz@ix.netcom.com prior to the test. This contact is appreciated but not mandatory. After the test session please wait 10 days before contacting the ARRL at (860) 594-0300 or <http://www.qsl.net/w3se> for new license information. Please do not call the FCC directly.

DARC Badges

DARC name badges are available for \$4.00, payable on order. Give your name and callsign to **Elizabeth Heather, KC6OFS**.

Previously ordered badges may be picked up at the general meeting.

Club Cups, Caps, Shirts and Jackets

Item	On Hand?	Price	Pay
Caps*	Yes	3.00	On order
Jackets	Yes	25.00	On order
TShirts	Most Sizes	10.00	On order
Polo Shirt	Most Sizes	16.00	On order
Coffee Mugs	Yes	3.00	On order

Contact **Elizabeth Heather, KC6OFS**, at any meeting or at (562) 863-6607
*Free to new members

Saturday Breakfast Location

Many DARC Club members meet for breakfast each Saturday morning at 7:00 AM at Foxy's Restaurant. Located at Third and Paramount Blvd. (on the east side of the street), the restaurant reserves an area for DARC and offers good food at reasonable prices. See you there!

Permission to copy material from the Q5 is granted provided that credit is given to "DARC Q5".

February Birthdays



The officers of the Downey Amateur Radio Club join the members of the Q5 staff in wishing each of the following a very happy birthday.

KF6UEA	Ann Wright	7
N6PWW	Ron Bracklow	7
KB6WKT	Bill Heather	7
KN6LM	Frank Tillmann	7
KF6ZQS	Deborah Wells	12
WA6SCA	Herb Rulon	19
WB6GJW	Bob Wartenbe	20
ASC	Irma Varney	25
W6LTJ	Dave Quintana	25
KF6QQG	Alfred Becerra	28
KE6GFF	John Kountz	28

Check out the Downey Amateur Radio Club **World Wide Web** site. It has more than just the articles from this newsletter. See color photographs, special features not included in the Q5, and links to other Ham Radio related sites.

<http://www.downeyarc.org>

**DOWNEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
SERVING THE DOWNEY AREA
SINCE 1951**

DARC Annual Membership

Single: \$20 Associate: \$10
Maximum for Family: \$30

Q5 Staff

Editor:

Larry Vaughn, KD6NZW
Phone: (562) 869-5332
Email: kd6nzw@downeyarc.org

Associate Editors:

- ∅ Elizabeth Heather, KC6OFS
Phone: (562) 863-6607
Email: kc6ofs@angelfire.com
- ∅ Doug Lyon, N6WZI
Phone: (562) 929-1441
Email: n6wzi@downeyarc.org
- ∅ Bill Heather, KB6WKT
Phone: (562) 863-6607
Email: wheather@catalina-inter.net
- ∅ Warren Pope, W4HDC
Phone: (909) 657-4678
Email: wpope@pe.net
- ∅ Dave Buhler, WB6ZGF
Phone: (562) 861-6069
Email: wb6zgf@catistle.net

Publishing

Art Varney, WA6OZQ
Joe Francis, WB6SZK
Chuck Anna, KE6TBC
Clem Patocka, KB6ACJ

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Larry Vaughn, KD6NZW

The Downey Amateur Radio Club has gotten the new millennium off to a great start. I heard from several members who were present at the January meeting that Barry Geipel, AD6HR, did a great job talking about QRP. I wish I had been there, but I had a dental appointment earlier that day which did not go exactly as planned. I am real sorry I missed it. **Bill Heather**, KB6WKT, our VP-Programs, has assured me that he has many other fine programs already lined up for the Club this year.

The Tuesday following the General Meeting is when the Board of Directors gets together to plan and discuss Club business. The January Board meeting was one of THE BEST I have ever participated in. I went to the meeting very tired from a rough day at work, but by the time the meeting was over I felt very enthusiastic about what our Club is doing. All the Board members present participated and contributed their ideas; we had great discussions about the topics, and people listened to each other. I was especially impressed with our new Board members. **Dave Glenn**, N6TEB, is right on top of his duties as VP-Service, one of the most difficult of all the positions. He was asking questions and clarifying the information he already had. **John Powell**, KF6EOJ, our new VP-Ways and Means, also has one of the more difficult positions, one that we have even had a hard time filling in the past. John has come up with several new ideas about ways the Club can earn more money for our projects. He not only comes up with the ideas, but follows through as well. **Steve Grudzinski**, AD6HT, Two-Year Director, brings a new vitality to the club. He volunteered to be our Field Day Chairman for this year's event. We usually need to almost beg people to take the position. **Rosie Falcon**, N3IVO, our Club Secretary, is also doing an outstanding job. She brings to the Club a tremendous amount of experience with public service. Also on the Board this year is **Ed Roos**, KC6ZHY, our First-VP. Ed is always involved and willing to help out. Added to this, our "veteran" board members, **Buck Kerns**, KD6PUI, One Year Director; **Frank Myllo**, KC6YPV, Treasurer; **Bill Heather**, KB6WKT, VP-Programs; and **Elizabeth Heather**, KC6OFS, VP-Membership, have helped provide continuity and experience to the Board. I was SO IMPRESSED with this Board meeting. The Club is in good hands.

Great news about the repeater! The committee has been instructed to purchase the equipment and get it installed as soon as possible. They have done a very thorough job researching all the different elements of a repeater and I feel we are not going to be dissatisfied. When we are finally on the air we will have another great resource for our Club and the Amateur community as well, something the DARC can rightfully be proud of.

It is with sadness and concern that we learned of Warren Pope's (W4HDC) health problems. Warren is a long time Club member who has contributed to the Club in innumerable ways through the years. Somewhat of a perfectionist, I have always respected Warren for his professionalism and integrity. He is someone I have gone to often for help and advice. I understand Warren is recuperating well, and wanted to take this opportunity to let him know that he is in the hearts and prayers of the Downey Amateur Radio Club, and to get well soon.

We have many public service events coming up the next few months and will be asking for volunteers almost all the time (at least it will seem like all the time). I would like to encourage everyone to get involved with our service events. They not only provide us with a way to pay back the community for our privileges as Amateurs, they provide us with a lot of fun as well. Don't be afraid or shy. Helping is not that hard to do, and there are many who can help you get started in public service. All you really need is an HT with an extra battery and a speaker mic or headphone set. And, of course, the willingness to help. I hope to see many of you at our events this year. We are off to a great start and are going to have a really fantastic year. Get involved and join the fun! 73 de KD6NZW

Field Day 2000!

Coming this June

SIGN UP NOW!

Can you believe it's almost that time again? This year's annual ARRL Field Day event will be held on June 23rd, 24th, and 25th. The DARC will again be hosting Field Day at the South Middle School athletic field. I am pleased to announce that **Steve Grudzinski**, AD6HT, has volunteered for this year's chairman position. I will be looking hard at what we, as a Club, can do to knock the socks off of Field Day this year. If you are interested in serving on a committee or being a station manager, then come to February's Club meeting where signup sheets will be available. The kickoff **Field Day Committee** meeting will be on February 10th, at 7:00PM at the home of **Larry Vaughn**, KD6NZW, 10328 Mattock Ave. in Downey (just south of Florence near Wilderness Park.)

ARC Walk for Independence

Saturday, April 18

Volunteers Needed

The fourth annual ARC Walk for Independence is scheduled for Saturday, April 8, 2000 beginning and ending at Stonewood Mall at the corner of Firestone and Lakewood Boulevards and again the DARC has been asked to assist by providing communications.

This is a fund raising event for ARC (formerly known as Association for Retarded Citizens) which does so much in providing training, employment, social services and other benefits to the mentally retarded and developmentally challenged in our community. Last year the ARC Walk drew over 900 participants including sponsors, clients, family members, dignitaries and others. With this participation almost doubling in size each year, the responsibilities grow in proportion and our assistance takes on more importance.

The Walk has two routes: a one mile route that circles the mall on adjacent streets and a three mile route that takes walkers to Florence Ave. and back. Club members will be assigned to
Please see "ARC Walk", page 4

Helping Hams, from page 1

of the Club. There is some flexibility in these limits. Please remember we always have to put out a call for VOLUNTEERS. If there is a need, then the convenience to the volunteers must be considered. We are sorry that we feel it impossible to travel as far as the south bay or too far into Orange county. We have had requests for those distances and further which we have had to decline.

There is no helping hams committee as such until you call, then we make the call-out that will hopefully assemble the crew to fill the need. Sometimes it takes a few weeks to find a clear spot in the schedules of a sufficient number of folks to accomplish the task. In the recent few years, we have had only a small core of people who have responded

See "**Helping Hams**", page 7

ARC Walk, from page 3

various fixed locations on the routes as well as "shadows" with some of the ARC officials. We are there to provide coordination communications as well as assuring the walkers safety. Ceremonies will begin somewhere around 8:00 A.M., with the event ending around 10:00 A.M. In past years participants (including DARC) have been served a breakfast burrito courtesy of the Acapulco Restaurant. Requirements are a 2-meter hand held radio with spare batteries (or a battery pack) and earphones or a speaker/mike (it gets loud at the start/finish point). The entire project will be conducted on the Club simplex frequency, as the distances are not that great.

Once again this is a great "starter" project for those who think they might be interested in public service communications. Even if you are not licensed or don't yet have a radio we can team you up with another operator and have you "get your feet wet" in public service communications. It's a great way to learn and it will only take about two hours of a Saturday morning.

If you are interested there will be a sign up sheet at the February and March meetings or contact **Dave Buhler**, WB6ZGF, at 562/861-6069 or via e-mail at wb6zgf@catisle.net.

DARC Board of Directors Meeting, January 11, 2000

President **Larry Vaughn**, KD6NZW, called the meeting to order at 7:33PM at Downey Fire Station #1. Board members present were **Ed Roos**, KC6ZHY; **Frank Myllo**, KC6YPV; **Rosie Falcon**, N3IVO; **Dave Glenn**, N6TEB; **John Powell**, KF6EOJ; **Buck Kerns**, KD6PUI; and **Steve Grudzinski**, AD6HT. Absent were **Bill Heather**, KB6WKT, and **Elizabeth Heather**, KC6OFS.

Frank presented a summary of last year's annual budget. Annual income was under the budgeted amount by \$181.28. Annual expenses were over than the budget amount by \$233.00. The biggest overbudget category was Field Day expenses. Last year's printing costs increased more than expected as well. There was some discussion about the possibility of obtaining loaned tables and chairs at no expense for Field Day this year instead of renting the equipment. Frank reported that monthly financial activity for December of 1999 was notable for the return of our security deposit from the annual luncheon facility.

A motion was made to accept last year's annual budget report as presented. Seconded and approved unanimously.

Dave summarized the Club's response to a last minute request from the Downey Fire Department for communicators in the event of Y2K problems. See the minutes of the January General Business Meeting (elsewhere in this issue) for details. Dave said the City representatives have expressed thanks and appreciation several times for the Y2K communications coverage provided by the Club. Steve reported that while he was staffing a DCS communications post at the EOB during the Y2K preparations he spoke to **Doug Lyon**, N6WZI (at a Downey Fire Station) by radio, thus establishing a link between the EOB and Downey.

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the December Board Meeting as published in Q5. Seconded and approved unanimously.

Old business: 440 MHz repeater: Dave reported that the Repeater Committee has narrowed the list of repeater controllers down to two favored models. The Committee expects to make a decision on which of the two models to recommend for purchase by next week. Various features (options) which distinguish the two models were discussed, and the Committee was instructed by the Board to make a decision and go ahead and initiate the purchase of repeater and controller equipment next week.

New business: Dave reported that since the FCC announced the new Amateur Radio licensing structure, interest in licensing materials has surged. Local businesses are selling out of license manuals for Amateur Radio licenses. The Board discussed starting up license classes again in response to the increased interest. Availability of teaching materials (books) may be a limiting factor. A location for classes is also needed. Larry reported that **Bob Turner**, N6HEB, had indicated that Rancho Los Amigos Hospital may have a space which could be set aside for permanent full-time use by the Club. The space could be secured so that the Club could use the facility at any time and store materials there. Larry will ask **Tom VanBuskirk**, K6TV, to investigate the possibility. Dave also mentioned the possibility of obtaining rooms at his church for Club use. A coordinator is still needed for licensing classes.

Dave reported that we need a new volunteer to coordinate refreshments for the General Business Meetings beginning in March.

Steve brought up the topic of recruitment and retention of Club members. Frank brought a list of former members who have not renewed their membership in recent years. A letter will be sent inviting them to consider rejoining. Letters to Amateur Radio operators living in the Downey vicinity are also in the works. John presented a draft of a letter to the ARRL Foundation, a program which provides monetary grants to radio clubs. The letter describes the public service work of the Club and asks for a grant to help fund the purchase of the 440 MHz repeater, since the repeater will be used to serve the Downey community. The Board reviewed the letter and made suggestions for revisions to the letter. A copy

Please See "**Board Minutes**", page 5

DARC General Meeting Minutes for January 6, 2000

The meeting was called to order at 7:31PM in the cafeteria of South Middle School in Downey. In the absence of the Club President, **Bill Heather**, KB6WKT, VP-Programs, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Buck Kerns, KD6PUI, informed us that he had received a letter and a certificate of appreciation from the Hawaiian Inter-Club Council of Southern California in recognition of the Club's service during their Hawaiian Festival this past July. The festival is held the third weekend of July each year. Buck passed the certificate to the Club secretary for addition to Club records.



Bill introduced the speaker of the evening, **Barry Geipel**, AD6HR. Barry is a relatively newly licensed ham who is active in the Lake Perris QRP Society. Barry is active chasing DX on CW, and is also Net Manager for an NTS CW net. He told us that he had no interest in CW when he first obtained his Amateur Radio license. Searching for a good deal on his first radio, he purchased a used H.T. from another ham via the internet. During the course of the purchase, Barry and the seller of the H.T. had a few chats and shared their views and interests regarding Amateur Radio. After Barry purchased and received the H.T., he was surprised when the seller sent him a Heathkit HF radio for free. But this free radio turned out to be a challenge to Barry: it had no microphone connector! Barry dutifully plunged into the adventures of CW practice tapes, and the excitement of his first CW contact. In short order, Barry was bitten by the CW bug, and also developed an avid interest in QRP work, where the original spirit of Amateur Radio (homebrew and kit radios, experimentation, and cost-effectiveness) still prevail. Barry and several acquaintances brought along a whole table full of QRP radios and talked about the adventure and excitement of working QRP.

After the program **Elizabeth Heather**, KC6OFS, VP-Membership, introduced visitors to the meeting. A new licensee was also recognized: **Harold Wright**, KF6ZQQ, (husband of **Ann Wright**, KF6UEA), passed his licensing examination at the December Club VE testing session. Ann also passed her 5 WPM code test during that same testing session.

Bill called for volunteers for several Club events and programs. A chairperson is needed for the Tour De Sewer bicycle event coming up this spring, and for the Special Olympics event at about the same time. A Field Day Chairperson is also needed. Operators are also needed to work those three events. Anyone interested in helping out with the above events should contact **Dave Glenn**, N6TEB. Volunteer(s) are also needed to revise the Club's emergency notification procedures.

Dave Buhler, WB6ZGF, discussed an upcoming Club Public Service event. The Association of Retarded Citizens (ARC) has a short benefit walk on Saturday morning, April 8th. The walking courses are one mile and three miles long. This event has been doubling in size each year, and last year 900 walkers participated. Dave said it's a bit early to sign up for this event, but mark your calendars. He also reported that the Downey Holiday Lane Parade public service event (Sunday December 5th) was a success. This year there were no high winds knocking booths over, and it didn't even rain. The weather was fine and a good time was had by all. He also reported on the progress of the Club escort of the Downey Rose Parade float back to Downey after the parade in January. This event was a mixed bag of successes and setbacks. Bill and **Glenn Allen**, KE6HPZ set up an APRS tracking system for the float this year. The tracking system worked well, and parade float staff members really appreciated being able to watch the float move on the computerized map as the float made its way back to Downey. But the float had a new, inexperienced driver. A mishap led to a broken bolt in the steering mechanism. There was a spare bolt, which was not threaded. A scramble for tools ensued,

Please see "Meeting Minutes", page 6

Board Minutes, continued from page 4

of the final draft will be sent to **Fried Heyn**, WA6WZO, as well.

John asked the Board to think about the possibility of putting up banners from manufacturers of radio equipment at Field Day in exchange for donations to the Club.

Steve discussed recent activity of the Helping Hams program. The Club has recently had a request for assistance in installing an antenna rotor. Ed will coordinate Helping Hams requests, and put a notice about the program in Q5.

Steve reported that the Amateur Radio licensing fee has increased to \$6.65. Steve also suggested that we list the amount of Club dues in Q5 every month. The Board discussed topics for workshops the Club could hold. Topics include building a J Antenna, building QRP kits, a Direction Finding antenna, attenuator kits, and signal strength meters.

Larry said we need to review the Club Constitution and Bylaws, and maybe revise them. A copy of the most recent revision of the Constitution and Bylaws is not currently available. Need to obtain the most current version for review. Deferred for a later meeting.

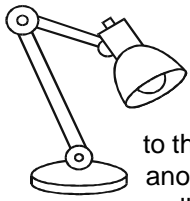
Dave reported that the Radio Shack outlet store in Garden Grove currently has handheld radios marked at a 40% discount. Larry will talk to Elizabeth about the possibility of obtaining some of the discounted equipment for the Club raffle.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rosie Falcon N3IVO, Secretary

SPECIAL OLYMPICS COMING SOON

Sometime, (usually in March) the Downey Amateur Radio Club will be helping out with the Special Olympics, an event our Club has participated in for many years now. It is one of the most rewarding of all the events we do. We usually need about 10 operators and will be asking for people to sign up to help at the next two meetings. This a very worthwhile event which takes place at Cerritos College.--KC6OFS



Spotlight on

???

The Spotlight article will not be appearing this month due to the illness of its writer, Warren Pope, W4HDC. We hope to have another of his fine articles for you next month. We all hope you get well soon, Warren.

Meeting Minutes, from page 4

and everybody waited while the spare bolt was threaded and installed. The Downey float was the last float to leave the route; finally exiting at 8 pm. The float returned to Downey at 11:20PM. (Dave reported, however, that this is not a record. The record still stands in a previous year, when the float returned to Downey after 1:00AM.)

Elizabeth reports that she will be ordering more Club merchandise this month. Anyone wishing to order T-shirts (white or blue), Polo shirts (blue), Jackets, or Hats should contact her as soon as possible. Elizabeth also announced a contest for creating a special Club logo to be used during the Club's 50th Anniversary year. Send any entries to Elizabeth.

Bill reminded members that many of the Club memberships expire in November. He asked members to check their expiration dates and renew their memberships. The minutes of the December General Business meeting were approved as published in Q5.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the proposed annual Club budget as published in Q5. It was passed unanimously.

Bill gave an update on the work of the Repeater Committee. Last fall the Club voted by a large majority to set up and operate a 440 MHz repeater. The Committee is recommending the Club accept a proposal from HRO for a Yeasu commercial repeater (25 watts, solid state with pretuned duplexers). The committee is still evaluating controllers and should have a complete list of recommended equipment by next month. Anyone with feedback, comments, or questions about the repeater is invited to contact Bill. Bill reported that the budgeted amount for the repeater should cover all of the expenses of the repeater.

Dave, N6TEB, gave a summary of the newly released FCC revision of the Amateur Radio licensing structure. The new licensing scheme will have only three license classes. The three classes are Technician, General, and Extra. Amateurs holding licenses in classes to be eliminated (such as Advanced class) will be "grandfathered" into the new licensing scheme, and will be allowed to renew their licenses. Some may be "grandfathered up" into a higher license class, but they must show proof of test results before being "grandfathered up". Technician licenses will not require passing a code test. General and Extra class licenses will require a 5 WPM certificate. The new license scheme takes effect April 15th of this year. Band plans and privileges for the various license classes will NOT change with the new licensing scheme. For further details, the entire (60 page) document describing the new licensing scheme is available on the FCC web site, and also at the ARRL web site.

Dave, N6TEB, also reported that the Club received a request by email on December 28th for Amateur Radio staff at the Downey Fire stations on New Year's Eve for Y2K preparedness. In a last-minute scramble, Club volunteers were recruited and provided communicators for the Compton, Lynwood, Sante Fe Springs, and Downey Fire Departments.

Bill announced that **Chuck Anna**, KE6TBC, and **Nancy Anna**, KE6TBD, have been providing refreshments for the Club meetings for 5 years now. Chuck and Nancy have indicated that next month will be their last month providing refreshments for the Club. Bill expressed the Club's gratitude for their years of dedicated service, and a good round of applause followed. Bill asked for a volunteer for Club Refreshment Chair beginning in March. Give Bill Heather a call if interested.

Bill presented a DARC coffee mug to the evening's speaker in appreciation for his program presentation.

The Club attendance prize was won by Sharon Travis, KF6HGD.

Raffle prize winners were: **John Powell**, KF6EOJ, (MFJ external speaker), **Joe Francis**, WB6SZK, (MAHA battery charger/conditioner), **Bill Heather**, KB6WKT, (QRZ Callsign database CD), **James Brackett**, KE6FVN, (QRP Power book from ARRL), and **Doug Lyon**, N6WZI, (QRP T-shirt). Doug promptly gave the QRP T-shirt to **Dick Palmer**, WB6JDH, for his efforts in promoting QRP in our Club. The meeting was adjourned at 9:12PM.

Respectfully submitted, **Rosie Falcon**, N3IVO (Secretary)

Downey Rose Float Return Proves Murphy's Law

Soon after each New Years Day, the DARC conducts it's first public service event of the year: Communications support for the return of the Downey Rose Float Association's entry in the Tournament of Roses Parade.

Last year's project went off almost flawlessly with the float returning to Downey at about 8:00 P.M. and everyone glad to be able to get home at a reasonable hour. This year... well... As it was about to leave its parking place on Sierra Madre Ave. in the Post Parade area, a large bolt in the steering assembly broke making it impossible to steer the 55-foot float during it's trip back home. As luck would have it, the float carried a spare. As Murphy would have it, it needed to be threaded. Through the generosity of one of the mechanics from Festival Artists, a commercial float building firm, the bolt was threaded and finally installed by the time all of the other floats in Post Parade had left. At 8:10 P.M. the Downey float finally moved out and headed home.

End of story? Hardly. At Foothill and San Gabriel Boulevards we caught up with all the floats going back to the Azusa float barns. As we could go no faster than the slowest float in the convoy, we inched our way south until all the others turned on Huntington

Please see "Parade", page 10

DX Notes

By Mike Gauthier, K6ICS

I am interested in receiving DX reports for this column. One contact or many. Call me- Days 562-923-1837, evenings 562-923-0131. 24 hour FAX 562-923-3609. Internet e-mail: k6ics@catalina-inter.net or my website at <http://www.catalina-inter.net/mgauthier>.

FEBRUARY 2000 PROPAGATION OUTLOOK

It looks like we are near the peak for this sunspot cycle. Conditions should remain flat and the current peak of 150-175 should remain till the end of the year. Noise is low on ALL bands. Now is the time to be working DX. It won't get any better till the peak of the next cycle about 11 years from now.

DX ACTION

ROTUMA ISLAND, 3D2. Tony, 3D2AG/p, is still on the island and can often be found on 28025 or 28495 kHz starting at 2000z.

SWAZILAND, 3DA0. Andre, 3DA0WPX, is QRV on 20 meters usually between 1700 and 0000z. QSL via ZS6WPX.

VIETNAM, 3W. Park, HL1ACP, is QRV as 3W6AP. QSL via HL2AQN.

POLAND, 3Z. Polish Amateur Radio Society (PZK) members can use the special 3Z prefix to celebrate the 70 years of PZK and the Millenium Year 2000. Each member can use the 3Z prefix plus their call area and own suffix (example - SP1MHV will use the special callsign 3Z1MHV, SP8MI will use 3Z8MI, etc.).

UNITED NATIONS, NY, 4U1UN. Look for it on 160-10 meters SSB and possibly RTTY. IMPORTANT! QSL ONLY to: UN Amateur Radio Club, P.O.Box 3873, NY, NY 10017.

TANZANIA, 5H. Chris, ZS5IR, is QRV as 5H9IR from Geita, using mostly CW and SSB on 80 to 10 meters. QSL via ZS6EZ.

CHILE, CE. Raul, CE3RR, is active on 29600 kHz using FM.

ETHIOPIA, ET. Peter, ET3BN, is occasionally QRV on 30 meters at 0500z.

MAYOTTE ISLAND, FH. Christian, 6W1QV, is QRV for five months as FH/TU5AX. Activity is on 40 to 6 meters. QSL via F5OGL.

MIDWAY ISLAND, KH4. Paul, NZ7Q/KH4, is QRV for two more months using CW on all bands. QSL via N6ZVA.

FRANZ JOSEF LAND, R1FJ. Nick, R1FJV, is QRV daily on 20, 15, 12 and 10 meters. He is here until December 31, 2001. QSL via UA3AGS.

ANTARCTICA, R1ANP. Mike, RW1AI, is active as R1ANP from Progress Base until the end of March. QSL via NT2X.

POLAND, SP. Special Event station HF70PZK is active to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Polish IARU member society. QSL via SP3CW.

EASTERN KIRIBATI, T32. Look for T32DA near 14250 kHz from 0300 to 0600z. QSL via W4ZYV.

PITCAIRN ISLAND, VP6. Jukka, OH2BR, will be QRV as VP6BR, and will be active on 160 to 10 meters, including the WARC bands, using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL to home call.

MYANMAR, XZ. 24 members of the Arizona DX Association are QRV as XZ0A from Thahtay Kyun until February 6. Look for CW, SSB and RTTY activity on 160 to 6 meters. QSL via W1XT.

DARC Members DXCC Count:

KK6T 297 Mixed, 264 CW, 235 SSB,
137 RTTY, 80 Meters 100

K6ICS 295 Mixed, 288 Phone (AM &
SSB), 40 Meters 164 Mixed

WA6RTA 324 Phone (AM & SSB)

KK6K 250 Phone, 200 CW

KB6ATT 246 Mixed, 30 CW

N6WZI 10 Meters 198 Phone

K6TV 180 SSB, 31 CW

KE6ARF/Mobile 129 SSB

WA6OUD 10 meters 129 Phone

W6TOI 102 Mixed

KQ6EH 30 Meters 54 CW

Helping Hams, from page 4

consistently. We have worked them quite hard and extensively. We need more people to make themselves available so these few will not feel compelled to respond on each and every request. So if you have the skills to lead the erection of a tower or other hardware, make yourself known.

Those who know me realize that I am only able to be a recruiter or perhaps serve as ballast on a guy rope. So make it as easy as you can for me to have the help we need when the call comes. There have been fortunately only a few occasions when we have not had a minimum crew to get a job done and the Club member had to ask untrained neighbors to fill in. This is one of the more satisfying things we do in spite of the fact that we are usually quite tired when one of these work days is completed. We are ready to help when you have a project. Call either the current "Helping Hams" co-ordinator or the Vice President for Ways and Means to get the ball rolling. If you are physically able, we will probably put you high on the list for assistance after your project is done. That's the way it works.

If you are only in the planning stage of the project, contact a Club member who is knowledgeable in the area of interest to you. Someone will most likely be happy to "Elmer" for you.

Ed Roos, KC6ZHY, Vice President & Helping Hams Co-ordinator

**Treasurer's Report
December 1999**

SUMMARY

Bank Balance as of 11/31/99	\$6,513.41
Income	\$500.81
Expenditures	(\$451.30)
Bank Balance as of 12/31/99	\$6,562.92
Raffle Holding Fund	\$455.94

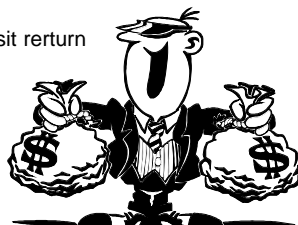
INCOME	This Month	Year to Date	Annual Budget	(Over) Under Budget
ARRL Memberships		204.00	200.00	(4.00)
Club Merchandise	41.00	426.00	600.00	174.00
DARC Dues	250.00	2,105.00	2,500.00	395.00
Interest on Savings	9.81	142.30	125.00	(17.30)
Luncheon Reserv.		1,104.00	1,500.00	396.00
Misc. Income	200.00	1,596.24	0.00	(1,596.24)
Q5 Ads		0.00	0.00	0.00
Fund Raisers		681.18	1,515.00	833.82
Totals	\$500.81	\$6,258.721	\$6,440.00	\$181.28

EXPENDITURES

	This Month	Year to Date	Annual Budget	(Over) Under Budget
ARRL Memberships		162.00	175.00	13.00
Attend. Prizes		30.00	55.00	25.00
Autopatch		4.11	250.00	245.89
Club Merchandise	273.87	308.78	400.00	91.22
Club Bulletin				
Printing		725.71	650.00	(75.71)
Supplies		0.00	150.00	150.00
Postage	66.00	630.00	700.00	70.00
Committees				
Awards		20.30	100.00	79.70
Education		0.00	50.00	50.00
Membership		83.36	75.00	(8.36)
Pub & Pub Rel		19.70	25.00	5.30
Sunshine		0.00	50.00	50.00
Equip Maint		257.04	200.00	(57.04)
Events				
Christmas Party	26.63	26.63	50.00	23.37
Field Day		728.86	600.00	(128.86)
Luncheon		1,118.34	1,500.00	381.66
Picnic		0.00	50.00	50.00
Fund Raisers		54.78	50.00	(4.78)
Other Events		0.00	20.00	20.00
Insurance		383.00	400.00	17.00
Misc. Expenses	71.60	1,341.27	0.00	(1,341.27)
Officers' Expenses				
President		0.00	25.00	25.00
Secretary		0.00	25.00	25.00
Treasurer	13.20	26.40	25.00	(1.40)
Other Organizations				
Dues		0.00	20.00	20.00
RHARC Repr		350.00	350.00	0.00
PO Box		64.00	60.00	(4.00)
Refreshments		274.68	300.00	25.32
Stationery, Copies		0.00	20.00	20.00
Worldradio Listing		65.00	65.00	0.00
Totals	\$451.30	\$6,673.96	\$6,440.00	\$233.96

Misc Income:: \$200.00 luncheon deposit return
Misc Expense \$71.60 raffle

Frank Myllo III, KC6YPV, Treasurer



AMATEUR LICENSES RESTRUCTURED

Advanced, Technician & General — 5 wpm for All Classes

- ◆ **New Rules to Take Effect April 15, 2000**
- ◆ **RACES Station Licenses Eliminated**
- ◆ **Pre 3/87 Techs able to be General**

On December 30, the FCC released a 70-page Report and Order regarding WT Docket No 98-143, amending the rules governing the Amateur Radio Service to:

- a) reduce the number of Amateur Radio operator license classes from six to three,
- b) reduce the number of written examination elements from five to three and the number of telegraphy examination elements from three to one,
- c) authorize Advanced Class amateur radio operators who are presently VECs to prepare and administer examinations for the General Class Amateur Radio operator license, and
- d) eliminate RACES station licenses.

The amended rules are an attempt to simplify and streamline the regulations that govern the Amateur Radio Service. They will take effect April 15, 2000.

The classes of licenses will be Technician, General and Extra. There will be only one level of code requirement, five words a minute, which will be required at all levels for new licenses. Novice and Advanced licensees will retain current operating privileges and may renew indefinitely.

Although no new Novice and Advanced licenses will be issued after the effective date of the Report and Order, the FCC does not plan to automatically upgrade any existing license privileges. Current licensees will retain their current operating privileges, including access to various modes and subbands and will be able to renew their licenses indefinitely. Starting April 15, 2000, individuals who qualified for the Technician class license prior to March 21, 1987, will be able to upgrade to General class by providing documentary proof to a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator, paying an application fee, and completing FCC Form 605. New written examinations will consist of 35 questions from a question pool (which will be revised) for Technician and General classes, and 50 questions for the Extra.

Work has started to revise Amateur Radio examinations. The nation's Volunteer Examiner Coordinators, including the ARRL-VEC, now are under the gun to meet the implementation date of the restructuring plan. The ARRL says study materials may be available as early as February 1, but in any case "well in advance" of April 15. Current Amateur Radio study materials remain valid at least until the new rules become effective. The FCC has left it in the hands of VECs to determine the specific mix and makeup of written examination questions.

Details of the restructuring plan and a list of frequently asked questions are available on the ARRL Web site, www.arrl.org/, and the complete FCC Report and Order may be viewed on *World Radio's* web site, www.wr6wr.com/.

-extracted from: the **ARRL Letters** dated January 7 and January 14, 2000, and **World Radio** dated February 2000.

Parade, from page 6

Drive and we were finally on our own. Our motorcycle escorts helped greatly to expedite our return but we had lost a lot of valuable time.

At this point I should mention a new aspect to our float support. Earlier last year **Glenn Allen**, KE6HPZ, suggested that since the Tournament, through the TORRA group, had used A.P.R.S. (Automatic Position Reporting System) to track float convoys for the last three years, we should try to give that same capability to the Rose Float Assn. With Glenn and **Bill Heather**, KB6WKT, conspiring... uh, planning it, the Association members were able to track their beloved float on a computer screen all the way home, much to their amazement and delight. Incoming Association President Mike Prokop said he didn't realize that hams had such advanced technology but was very grateful that the DARC could provide it.

The float and it's escorts returned to the parking lot at the Embassy Suites Hotel at 11:20 P.M. where it was greeted by the Association members who had patiently watched its progress. The float would be displayed at the hotel for a couple of days to let the public see it "up close and personal".

On behalf of the Downey Rose Float Association I'd like to thank those members who gave greatly of their time and talents assisting me in this project. In addition to Glenn and Bill were **Ed Roos**, KC6ZHY, **Blackie Snodgrass**, KB6RKW, and as always, **Art Varney**, WA6OZQ.
WB6ZGF



HRO Anaheim Destroyed by Fire

New Location Already Begun

The Ham Radio Outlet store in Anaheim was destroyed by a fire that began about three o'clock Sunday morning, January 23. The early morning blaze completely destroyed the building and inventory. Even the salvage company which was brought in took one look at the inventory and said, "Forget it. Just bring in a bulldozer."

No business records were lost as they are backed up every evening by modem. Personal equipment on consignment will be covered by the insurance.

Their telephone number still works, being forwarded to the Burbank store (where most of the staff is temporarily at work). A new HRO will emerge at the same shopping center within about three weeks.

FIRST CLASS

The Downey Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 207
Downey, CA 90241-0207

Q5