

Q5

By and for the Downey Amateur Radio Club, Inc.



Volume XX Number 1

January 2001

VIBROPLEX KEYS: TOPIC OF JANUARY MEETING

Tom Van Buskirk, K6TV, Trustee of the Club call sign, W6TOI, and a past president of the Club, will be our featured speaker for the January meeting. Tom will be our first speaker as we begin our celebration our Club's 50th anniversary year. Tom is a historian of CW transmissions and technology, and has an eclectic collection of keys, bugs, and replicas of historic keys. His presentation will focus on the history and use of the Vibroplex keys. He will be showing several slides and share some examples of these mechanical devices.

Most recently he has served as the Club's "Director of Education" for this past fall's Technician and code classes. He reports that he was pleased with the achievements made by students in those classes.

He has supported many Club members gaining skills with the code so that they could upgrade their licenses. On a regular basis he participates in the National Traffic System code nets. He has also become active again in the local DCS activities. Besides his participation in NTS and DCS, Tom is also a member of two additional groups: FISTS, which is a group dedicated to the preservation and use of the Morse Code; and the Morse Telegraph Club, whose focus is on American Morse telegraphy and railroad telegraphy. Club members may have seen Tom *modeling* several of his ham radio T-shirts that feature his love of CW or QRP operation. Two of his favorites are the ones that read: **KNOW CODE** and the one that says: **QRP AIN'T FOR SISSIES**.

JANUARY MEETING

The January meeting of the DARC will be held in the Cafeterium of South Middle School, 12500 Birchdale Ave., in Downey, beginning at 7:30 PM, Thursday, January 4.

Tom was first licensed in 1957 and has held his interest in the hobby. Currently he is working toward acquiring WAS certificates band by band. He has completed 10m, 20m, 80m and is just about ready to complete WAS for 40m and 15m. Tom holds an Extra Class license.

After the presentation, there will be a few Club announcements followed by our traditional refreshment break. After the break is the business portion of the meeting where upcoming events and activities will be shared with the Club. We will have some great raffle prizes. Mark the date on your calendar. Bring a friend.

New E-mail List for DARC Members

With the approval of the Board, **Frank Ney**, N4ZHG, has established an internet e-mail reflector for the use of Downey ARC members on E-Groups, (a web-based reflector service).

What is an e-mail reflector? Basically it's the internet equivalent of a Packet BBS system. Using one general e-mail address, members can send messages to every other member of the club. There are several advantages to this. First, you don't need to know every Downey ARC members' e-mail address, or have it stored in your computer file. Second, the reflector provides the internet equivalent of a calling channel specifically for the club. Third, and most important, since you're not listing every e-mail address on your message, it's slightly more secure, and the message will not fall afoul of the various "spam" filters on everyone's internet service

Please see "E-mail", page 5

Proposed Budget for 2001

The following is the proposed budget for the Downey Amateur Radio Club fiscal year 2001. While it looks like a deficit budget we are expecting a substantial amount to be received the first part of the year making for a net gain.

INCOME

ARRL Memberships	\$373.00
Club Merchandise	\$700.00
Dues	\$2100.00
Interest on Savings	\$75.00
Luncheon Reservations	\$1300.00
Fund Raisers	\$1500.00
Total Income	\$6048.00

EXPENDITURES

ARRL Memberships	\$353.00
Attendance Prizes	\$55.00
Autopatch, Repeater	\$240.00
Club Merchandise	\$400.00
<i>Club Bulletin</i>	
Printing	\$1200.00

See "Budget" on page 4

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**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
2-Meter Repeater: 146.175+ no pl*
440 Repeater: 446.860 - pl 156.7
* See Calendar for Net Skeds

Club Officers

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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 2001 is as follows:

Feb 17 April 21 June 16
Aug 18 Oct 20 Dec 15

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 **John Powell, KF6EOJ**. 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 **John Powell, KF6EOJ**, at any meeting or at (562) 862-4608
*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".

January 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.



WA6GCV	Roy Johnson	3
N6ATU	Frank Myers	4
N6HYX	Al Parmer	11
N7KUF	Dick Troxcil	18
K6ZCM	Robert Patterson	23
KE6AHS	Don Johnson	25
N6MYX	Bill Jones	26
KD6VGT	John Werner	27
KB6RKW	Blackie Snodgrass	30

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: \$35

Make check payable to "DARC", send to: **DARC Membership**
11531 E. Lemming St.
Lakewood, CA 90715
Include your name(s), callsign(s), address, and phone number

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Larry Vaughn, KD6NZW

I would like to begin by wishing everyone a safe and happy New Year; I am sure 2001 will be a good one for the Club. Gee, is it 2001 all ready? When that movie came out it seemed only like science fiction based in the distant future. I guess, given time, the future does get here. In this issue of the Q5 is an article forwarded to me by our 1st Vice President, **Ed Roos**, KC6ZHY, about some students in Illinois who are going to make the first Ham Radio contact with our new International Space Station. How wonderful it is that Amateur Radio will again be helping in the education of our young people; maybe it will spur some of them along in their studies so they may become the scientists and engineers of the next generation. How often has Amateur Radio done this in the past? I believe at one of our meetings a couple of years ago we took an informal pole of the people in attendance, asking how many of our members actually worked in an electronics related field. I was amazed at how many of our members actually got their start in electronics with Amateur Radio. I believe the magic is still there, still there affecting the young people of today.

As our Club enters its 50th year of service to our members and the community, I would like to think that we, too, have affected the lives of many people. I know in the short time I have been a member we have helped many different groups on many occasions. We have made a difference. And I hope we can continue to make that difference.

We just graduated a new license class. Thanks to our instructors (**Buck Kerns**, KD6PUI, **Tom VanBuskirk**, K6TV, and **Joe Frances**, WB6SZK, and all the others who helped), we have some new Hams in the hobby. I hope we can continue and expand our classes so we can continue to contribute to the hobby.

2001 will be our 50th year, and I hope we can find some meaningful ways to celebrate this historic event. **Steve Grudzinski**, AD6HT, and his wife **Ginny**, KF6UUT, have worked on some ideas for us that we will be discussing at the January meeting. I hope everyone will attend and be a part of the planning. If you have any ideas of your own, we would love to hear them. We want to make our anniversary real memorable. Come on out and participate with your Club and help it continue to be one of the best Amateur Radio Clubs in the county. 73

AO-40 FAILS

AMSATs Phase 3d Satellite Is Silent

Early in December AMSAT News Service reported that ground stations were testing the complex systems onboard the next-generation Amateur Radio satellite, AO-40. Launched November 16, AO-40—formerly Phase 3D—remained in a geostationary transfer orbit. A North American P3D Command Station operator reported an S-band (2.4 GHz) transmitter had been activated and had been sending 400 b/s BPSK telemetry. The 2-meter transmitter (145.898 MHz) will remain on during S-band operation.

On December 13th, AMSAT OSCAR-40 went silent, and command stations on the ground have been unable to reestablish contact up through December 18th when this was written. It had been hoped that an onboard computer timeout expected on or about December 16 would restart the beacon telemetry and give the ground crew some clues as to why AO-40 suddenly stopped transmitting.

"All we know is we've got a problem," said AMSAT-NA President Robin Haighton, VE3FRH. "I've got all my toes and fingers crossed." Haighton said the problem may or may not be related to earlier difficulties getting AO-40's rocket motor to fire properly. Ground controllers adjusted the satellite's orbit earlier this week, but as a result of fuel-valve problems, AO-40 ended up in a higher-than-planned orbit. AMSAT reports that 2-meter telemetry transmissions from AO-40 stopped early Wednesday, December 13, while work on the rocket propulsion system was in progress.—Extracted from *The ARRL Letter*, December 15, 2000

Illinois Students To Make First Ham Radio Contact with Space Station

Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Md.

December 14, 2000

On December 19, 2000 at 3:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, students at the Burbank School in Burbank, Illinois, will close their textbooks, put on radio headsets, and use amateur radios to communicate with astronauts aboard the International Space Station (ISS).

Located in a Chicago suburb, the Burbank K-8 school will be the first school to use a ham radio to contact the Expedition 1 crew aboard the ISS. That crew—Soyuz Commander Yuri Gidzenko, Expedition 1 Commander Bill Shepherd and Flight Engineer Sergei Krikalev—were launched, Oct. 31, 2000, from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan and are the first residents to live on board the space station.

Rita Wright, a teacher at the Burbank school and the project coordinator, has been teaching science and math for thirty-one years in the southwest Chicago suburb school district. "If you walked into our school today and wandered down the halls, you would be surprised at the variety of topics, activities, and displays of work all centered around the ISS mission," Wright proudly states. "Our school is vibrating with excitement and activity." To prepare for the December 19th contact, first grade classes created two themes: "Flying High is Grade One," and "Adventures in Space." Second grade classes composed essays titled "Why I Want to be An Astronaut." The junior high classes created power point presentations, slide shows and simulated models of future ISS stations. The entire student body (700 students) developed questions and auditioned for the interview slots. Fourteen students were selected and they are from the 1st, 2nd, 5th, 7th, and 8th grades.

The seeds for this first-ever linkup were planted in 1996 when Rita Wright discovered that ham radios were excellent teaching tools for eighth graders interested in NASA and space exploration. In January 1996, Wright

See "Space Station", page 8

DARC Board of Directors Meeting, December 12, 2000

The meeting was called together at 7:36 PM by **Larry Vaughn**, KD6NZW, DARC President. Officers in attendance were 1st VP, **Ed Roos**, KC6ZHY; Treasurer, **Frank Myllo**, KC6YPV; VP-Programs, **Arlene Schwartz**, KE6GFI; VP-Membership, **Ginny Grudzinski**, KF6UUT; VP-Service, **Frank Hornberger**, N6ZDS; Director, One Year, **Steve Grudzinski**, AD6HT; Director, Two Year, **Yolande Craig**, KE6NXZ. Joining us after the VE test was VP-Ways and Means, **John Powell**, KF6EOJ. Absent was our Secretary, **Rosie Falcon**, N3IVO. Club member **John Marsden**, KN6SE, was also in attendance. Since Rosie was absent, Larry asked for a volunteer to take notes during the meeting.

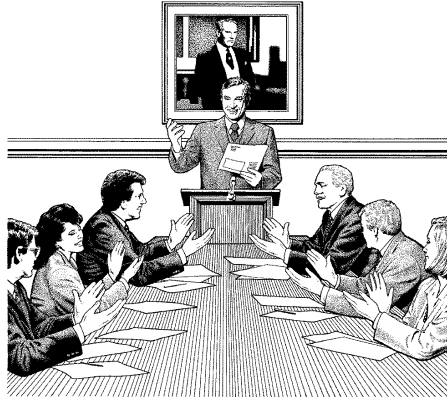
Officers reports: Larry felt the Luncheon had gone off very well and thanked everyone for their participation and help. He also mentioned that the ARRL had requested more information regarding our application for a grant for the 440 mHz repeater. He has already sent the requested information. Ginny stated that after a couple of years serving refreshments at the meetings it was time for someone else to take over, effective with the February meeting. Arlene will try to find someone else to provide refreshments. Frank Myllo provided copies of the Treasurer's report and answered questions. John had provided a merchandise report, which was read and discussed. Arlene informed us that she has several speakers lined up for various meetings during the year. January's speaker will be **Tom VanBuskirk**, K6TV, who will be talking to us about antique keys. We will discuss the meeting date and place for April at the next board meeting. Ed has been very busy, in and out of town and across the country, and has one more major trip scheduled. He has not been able to work on the membership problems, but will focus on those when things settle down. Frank Hornberger had some questions about upcoming events including the Special Olympics and Tour de Sewer. He also wondered where the VP-Service Binder was, as he never received it. We will ask **Dave Glenn**, KE6TEB, if he knows its whereabouts. Steve deferred his presentation until later in the meeting.

Planning calendar: The Rose Float return in January is the only project pending, and is taken care of. Steve will write an article about Field Day and the planning required. Our meetings will begin in February. The Tour de Sewer is scheduled for March 17 and the Street Faire will be May 5, from 9 AM until 5 PM.

Old Business: Steve made a presentation about some ideas for celebrating the Club's 50th anniversary. These were outlined in a handout he provided. The Budget Committee will meet tomorrow at Frank Myllo's house and the report will be ready for the January Q5. John Marsden volunteered to try to get our money from the HamCon committee; the Board approved letting him represent the Club in this matter. The Board also appointed John to represent the Club in the upcoming HamCon committee meetings, along with at least one other Club member to be named later. Ed will work on the membership problems after the holidays. Since Rosie was not present, we will again put off looking at the Corporate Records until next month.

New Business: Steve brought up the point that occasionally our discussions during the Board Meetings get a little drawn out, and suggested we adhere a little more closely to Robert's Rules of order as outlined in the Club By-laws. We will try to do a little better. Larry will appoint an Audit Committee at the next Board Meeting.

(These minutes were done by memory several weeks after the board meeting and are accurate to the best of my recollection; any errors will need to be corrected at the next board meeting.) Respectfully submitted, **Larry Vaughn**, KD6NZW.



Budget

Continued from page 1

Supplies	\$20.00
Postage	\$650.00
<i>Committees</i>	
Award	\$75.00
Education/Awareness	\$30.00
Membership	\$50.00
Publicity & Public Relations	\$25.00
Sunshine	\$50.00
Equipment/Maintenance	\$150.00
<i>Events</i>	
Christmas Party	\$25.00
Field Day	\$750.00
Luncheon	\$1300.00
Picnic	\$50.00
Fund Raisers	\$50.00
DARC 50 th Anniversary	\$150.00
Other Events	\$20.00
Insurance	\$400.00
<i>Officers' Expenses</i>	
President	\$25.00
Secretary	\$25.00
Treasurer	\$25.00
<i>Other Organizations</i>	
Dues	\$20.00
RHARC Repeater	\$350.00
P.O. Box Rental	\$65.00
Refreshments, Meetings	\$200.00
Stationary, Copies	\$20.00
World Radio Listing	\$65.00
Total Expenditures	\$6,838.00

Respectfully submitted by the DARC Budget Committee: **Dave Buhler**, WB6ZGF; **Steve Grudzinski**, AD6HT; **Yolande Craig**, KE6NXZ; and **Frank Myllo**, KC6YPV.

FCC ADOPTS SOFTWARE-DEFINED RADIO RULEMAKING PROPOSAL

On December 15th, the FCC is proposed to categorize software-defined radios as a new equipment class with equipment authorization rules that "reflect the additional flexibility" built into such radios. The FCC also has proposed a formal definition for SDRs and says it wants to streamline SDR equipment authorization procedures.

—Extracted from *The ARRL Letter*, December 15, 2000

DARC General Meeting Minutes for December 7, 2000



The December General meeting is a time we celebrate being together by talking and eating. Many people bring goodies, which are all set out on a table to share. You can see some of our treasures here.

We had a guest this evening, **Bob Harrington**, AA6PW, who is seen here chatting with **Tom VanBuskirk**, K6TV.

Thanks to Dick Holmes, WX6C, for providing these pictures.



Dick Palmer, KD6JDH, and his wife, (our newest Ham), **Ann**, KG6EDB, were there enjoying talking to people. Ann made the DARC mug Larry is holding in the bottom picture, and will make mugs to order, personalized with a callsign, for any member who wants one.



Tom Van Buskirk, K6TV, his wife Penny, & **Ann Wright**, KF6UEA. **Dave Buhler**, WB6ZGF, **Yolande Craig**, KE6NXZ, and **Frank Myllo**, KC6YPV, also enjoyed the party.



Here is D A R C President, **Larry Vaughn**, KD6NZW, wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



E-Mail, Continued from page 1

which presume that any e-mail with more than 30 or so addresses is an unwanted commercial solicitation.

At this time the reflector is open to all, since a secondary purpose of the reflector is outreach to potential hams. The reflector can be moderated or restricted if the need arises at almost any time.

In about mid-January, every Downey ARC member with a known email address will be subscribed to the e-mail reflector. If you wish to join before that time, send an email to DowneyARC-subscribe@egroups.com or go to the EGroups web page at <http://www.egroups.com> If you look around the EGroups home page, you will discover that we're not the only club doing this, and there are other ham interest group reflectors and even an Elmer reflector on EGroups!

To start sending messages via the reflector, simply send email to

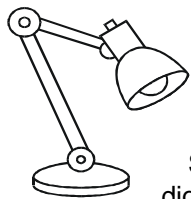
DowneyARC@egroups.com

To unsubscribe from the reflector, send an email to

DowneyARC-unsubscribe@egroups.com

John Marthens, NU6A, and **John Powell**, KF6EOJ, were really enjoying all the people watching that night as well. The only business taken care of was the accepting of the minutes from the last meeting.





Spotlight on

Steve Grudzinski, AD6HT

Steve is a relative newcomer to the ranks of Amateur Radio having received his first ticket in January of 1998. Since then, he pushed his way rapidly up through the ranks of the Amateur Radio licenses and now sports an Extra Class - an Extra which, at the time he took the exam, included a 20 word per minute code test.

In earlier days ('72 more or less), Steve had been an enthusiastic CBer. Those with the same background will remember his antenna, a "Moon Raker" with four vertical and four horizontal elements. Even then he wanted to move on to Amateur Radio, but having no one with whom to practice, the code proved an insurmountable obstacle.

Some time passed, and in 1978 Steve went to work as an electronics technician for a small electronics company in Burbank called Comco. Comco manufactures computer-controlled equipment used by electronic component manufacturers in their processes. Perhaps feeling somewhat limited, Steve enrolled at Cal State, Northridge, and in the early 80s, earned a EE degree in electronics, simultaneously earning a promotion to Design Engineer.

In late '97, Ginny, then just his wife, but now his XYL, suggested maybe he should get back into his radio hobby (isn't that a switch?) and suggested CB. They went together to HRO, Burbank, near where Steve worked, to look at all the cool gear and Steve talked Ginny (now KF6UUT and Club VP-Membership) into thinking maybe ham radio would more fun.

Both Ginny and Steve started studying. Using a Gordon West's code tape, Steve got his code speed up enough to squeak by the 5 WPM test. During 1998, Steve took and passed the General and Advanced theory exam elements but once again ran into code trouble. As '98 drew to a close, Steve was faced with CSCEs about to expire. Perhaps with a bit of desperation, Steve switched to "Code Quick", and went from 5 WPM to 20 WPM in two or three weeks! In early '99, he passed the remainder of the exam elements to earn his Extra. About the same time, Ginny used Code Quick to go from zero to 5 WPM in two weeks and scored almost 100% on her code test.

Steve and Ginny have quite a collection of equipment. When you see their gray van, you will certainly suspect it belongs to a ham, or perhaps a porcupine. It has "the loops and other antennas on the roof" and the long whip on the rear. In the van they have an ICOM 706 Mark 2G, which covers all of HF, 6 meters, 2 meters and 440. At home they use a Kenwood 430 and a Cushcraft 7000 with the 80-meter kit and, as a backup, a Butternut.

Looking for an antenna in late '98, Steve dropped into a local radio store and happened to see a copy of the then current Q5. He joined the DARC in January and, only nine months later, was elected to the Board of Directors as a Director for the years 2000 and 2001. He also serves as District Communications Officer of the Industry Station of the DCS.

Contesting is one of the activities that Steve enjoys, and he has joined **Bill Heather**, KB6WKT, and **Glenn Allen**, KE6HPZ, "up on the hill" for the UHF/VHF contests. Last September, Steve was supporting some Route 66 festivities using his mobile HF gear. The organized support had a Special Event station in each of the seven cities mentioned in the song "Route 66". On 20 meters, Steve contacted the station in Chicago, the most distant of the seven.

Steve is enthusiastic about the Club and its activities and I, for one, look forward to his assuming more Club responsibilities in the future.



CQ INTRODUCES AMATEUR RADIO HALL OF FAME

CQ magazine has announced the establishment of the "CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame." The new hall of honor joins CQ's "DX Hall of Fame" and "CQ Contest Hall of Fame." **CQ** says the dual goals of the new program are to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions and to focus public attention on the far-reaching and longstanding value of Amateur Radio in society.

Nominees will be judged on the basis of qualifying in one of two broad areas: Individuals, licensed or not, who have made significant contributions to the Amateur Radio hobby; and radio amateurs who have made significant contributions to society in general. CQ is accepting nominations for the inaugural class of the Amateur Radio Hall of Fame until March 31, 2001. A nomination form, along with full details, will be available on the CQ Web site, <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com>. Initial selections will be announced at the 2001 Dayton Hamvention next May.—CQ news release

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>.

January PROPAGATION OUTLOOK

Winter is here and the bands are quiet. DX is hot during dark hours on the 30-160 meter bands. High sunspot numbers will keep 10 and 12 meters open most days. 15 to 20 meters will remain very good. Work that DX now before the sunspot cycle drops too far down.

DX Action

ANGOLA, D2. Hossam, SU1HM/D2, is QRV on 20 meters SSB until February, 2001.

CAMBODIA, XU. Jani, XU7AAP, has been QRV using RTTY on 21084 kHz from 0700 to 0900z. QSL via N2OO.

CAMEROON, TJ. Dave, TJ1PD, is usually QRV on 21355 kHz just prior to 1800z. QSL via N5DRV.

FALKLAND ISLANDS, VP8. Rees, VP8DCD, has been active on 20 and 15 meters around 2300z. QSL via operator's instructions.

GEORGIA, 4L. Mamuka, 4L2M, has been QRV on 3795 kHz around 0400z.

INDIA, VU. Pai, VU2PAI, has been QRV on 1830 kHz between 2100 and 2200z.

IRAN, EP. Mohsen, EP3SMH, has been QRV on 40, 20 and 15 meters between 1230 and 1800z.

KYRGYZSTAN, EX. Vlad, EX8F, has been QRV on 10105 kHz just before 0230z.

LAOS, XW. XW0X has been QRV on 40 meters before 1600 and 2100z. QSL via operator's instructions.

MINAMI TORISHIMA, JD1. Katumi, JD1BCK, has been QRV on 21190 kHz just after 1000z. QSL via JM1TUK.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA, P2. Steve, VK4EMS, is QRV again as P29BI from Bougainville Island, IOTA OC-135, for two months. Activity is mostly on 20 meters SSB only in his spare time. QSL via VK4EJ.

SCOTLAND, GM. Look for Pete, MM5PSL, to be QRV from the Sumburgh Head Lighthouse on the Shetland Islands, IOTA EU-012, from December 18 to January 2, 2001. Most activity will be near the usual lighthouse frequency of 14270 kHz. QSL via WA7OBH.

SOUTH KOREA, HL. Lee, DS4CNB, has been QRV on 1825 kHz from 1130 to 1230z working split.

UKRAINE, UR. A group of Ukraine operators are QRV as EN23RW from the town of Slavutich to commemorate the last energy block being removed from the Chernobyl power plant. QSL via UX2RY.

Contest Corner, by Arlene Schwartz, KE6GFI

During the third weekend in January, the ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes will take place. The contest begins Saturday at 1900 UTC, and ends at 0400 UTC Monday (January 20 -22, 2001) The categories for this year have been expanded to include single operators in low and high power, an additional category of single operator portable as well as rovers, multioperator and limited multioperator category. The bands that may be used include 50, 144, 222, 432, 902, 1296 and 2304 and up, including SSB and FM simplex. Entries for this contest must be submitted by February 21, 2001. For complete contest rules refer to QST, Dec.2000, page 112 and QST, Nov. 2000, pages 96-97).

Note that rovers that submit scores to be included for club competition, will need to submit a second log and summary if any contacts are made from outside of the club territory. (Refer to QST, Nov. 2000, page 95 for additional details.)

During the month of December, there were two ARRL sponsored contests in which participation may also include the club competition category. There was the 160-meter contest and the 10-meter contest. Club members that participated should let the Club secretary know so that additional documentation can be sent to ARRL headquarters.



ARRL'S "RADIOS ON-LINE" SERVICE FREE TO MEMBERS

Listing a classified ad to buy and sell Amateur Radio-related equipment on the ARRL's Radios On-Line service will continue to be available for viewing by everyone, but only League members may post ads. The free ads may be up to 100 words—subject to a few rules.

Members first must register for access to the ARRL members-only pages and be logged on as a member in order to post ads. Classifieds listed on Radios On-Line will remain posted for 30 days unless canceled earlier. Radios On-Line is for noncommercial, personal use The service provides for listings in more than two dozen categories. The site includes a search engine to look for specific items. The ARRL obviously does not warrant any items offered.

—Extracted from *The ARRL Letter*, December 8, 2000

Treasurer's Report November 2000

SUMMARY

Bank Balance as of 10/31/2000	\$3,476.96
Income	\$1,188.81
Expenditures	(\$1,632.68)
Transfer from Savings	
Bank Balance as of 11/30/2000	\$3,033.09
Raffle Holding Fund	\$853.23

INCOME	This Month	Year to Date	Annual Budget	(Over) Under Budget
ARRL Memberships	96.00	373.00	200.00	(173.00)
Club Merchandise	99.00	521.00	500.00	21.00
DARC Dues	220.00	1,802.00	2,500.00	698.00
Interest on Savings	8.81	55.21	100.00	44.79
Luncheon Reserv.	138.00	943.00	1,300.00	357.00
Misc. Income	627.00	2,917.20	0.00	(2,917.20)
Q5 Ads		0.00	0.00	0.00
Fund Raisers		659.62	1,200.00	540.38
Totals	\$1,188.81	\$7,271.03	\$5,800.00	(\$1,471.03)

EXPENDITURES

	This Month	Year to Date	Annual Budget	(Over) Under Budget
ARRL Memberships	90.00	353.00	175.00	(178.00)
Attend. Prizes		50.00	55.00	5.00
Autopatch	17.52	81.33	0.00	81.33
Club Merchandise		140.73	400.00	259.27
Club Bulletin				
Printing		894.84	900.00	5.16
Supplies		10.81	0.00	(10.81)
Postage	33.00	528.44	650.00	121.56
Committees				
Awards	34.56	71.09	50.00	(21.09)
Education	41.11	41.11	30.00	(11.11)
Membership		34.05	50.00	15.95
Pub & Pub Rel		0.00	25.00	25.00
Sunshine		0.00	50.00	50.00
Equip Maint		0.00	150.00	150.00
Events				
Christmas Party		0.00	50.00	50.00
Field Day		643.15	600.00	(43.15)
Luncheon	974.69	1,284.67	1,300.00	15.33
Picnic		115.48	50.00	(65.48)
Fund Raisers		0.00	50.00	50.00
Other Events		12.07	20.00	7.93
Insurance		54.00	400.00	346.00
Misc. Expenses	59.80	5,888.44	0.00	(5,888.44)
Officers' Expenses				
President		0.00	25.00	25.00
Secretary		0.00	25.00	25.00
Treasurer		0.00	25.00	25.00
Other Organizations				
Dues		0.00	20.00	20.00
RHARC Repr	350.00	350.00	350.00	0.00
PO Box	32.00	64.00	65.00	1.00
Refreshments		118.65	300.00	181.35
Stationery, Copies		0.00	20.00	20.00
Worldradio Listing		65.00	65.00	0.00
Totals	\$1,632.68	\$10,800.86	\$5,900.00	(\$4,900.86)
Repeater		3,493.36	3,200.00	(293.36)

Misc Income: \$427.00 Raffle
\$200.00 luncheon
MiscExpense: \$59.80 Officer's Badges

Frank Myllo III, KC6YPV, Treasurer



Space Station, Continued from page3

completed the ARISS (Amateur Radio International Space Station) application, and submitted an Educational Proposal to The American Radio Relay League, hoping that amateur radio would attract eighth graders to science. After four years, patience and a lot of hard work has finally paid off for Wright and the students at the Burbank school.

Frank Bauer, chief of the Guidance, Navigation and Control Center at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md., and the vice president for the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation's (AMSAT) human spaceflight division, spearheaded the initial development effort to get the ham radio on the space station. "The contact itself is just the tip of the iceberg," Bauer said. "Rita Wright's diligence for the past four years is remarkable. She has kept NASA's team up to speed and has maintained the students' interest. We at NASA are really excited this educational outreach opportunity and we're even more excited about the enthusiasm of their students."

Planning for the deployment and use of the ham system aboard ISS has been an international effort coordinated by Goddard. The project began in 1996 with the formation of an organization called ARISS to design, build and operate the equipment. ARISS is made up of delegates from major national amateur radio organizations and from AMSAT.

Hams, as amateur radio operators are often called, use radio transmitters and receivers to talk to other hams all over the globe, as well as those in space. There are more than 1.5 million licensed hams worldwide, including more than 660,000 Americans.

Hams around the world will be listening in on the Burbank school's call to the ISS crew on the 19th. The contact will occur on the ISS amateur radio downlink—the 145.80 MHz public frequency. For additional information about amateur radio contact and the Burbank School ISS mission go to:

<http://ariss.gsfc.nasa.gov>

For more about the International Space Station, visit:

<http://spaceflight.nasa.gov>

FCC OPENS DOOR TO INCREASED TEST FEES FOR 2001

The FCC has suspended its regulatory limit on the reimbursement fee for Amateur Radio examinations, and the ARRL VEC says a new \$10 test fee will go into effect January 1. An FCC Public Notice released December 4 explained that the Commission did not plan to announce a maximum reimbursement fee for 2001 since the requirement to do so no longer appears in the Communications Act. Some, if not all, of the nation's other Volunteer Examiner Coordinators are expected to follow suit, although at least one VEC charges no test fee whatsoever. The new, higher fee reflects the fact that the ARRL VEC is doing more of the work on behalf of the FCC than was originally envisioned when the provision was included in the Communications Act. That effort includes data entry for all new and upgrade license applications once done by FCC staffers. ARRL VEC volunteer examiners will continue to charge applicants \$6.65 through the end of 2000. *The ARRL Letter*, December 15, 2000

DARC Members**DXCC count:**

WA6RTA 324 Phone (AM & SSB) **KK6T** 297 Mixed, 264 CW, 235 SSB, 137 RTTY, 80 Meters 100

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

KK6K 250 Phone, 200 CW

KB6ATT 246 Mixed, 30 CW

N6WZI 10 Meters 198 Phone

K6TV 180 SSB, 31 CW

KE6ARF/Mobile 142 SSB

WA6OUD 10 meters 129 Phone

W6TOI 102 Mixed

KQ6EH 30 Meters 57 CW

Rosie Falcon, N3IVO, DARC Secretary, Resigns Position

Rosie Falcon, N3IVO, DARC Secretary for the past year, has resigned her position, effective immediately. She has accepted a very fine job offer from a pathology group in San Diego and will be starting that job in less than a month. Citing all the paperwork she must complete associated with her current position at Kaiser, and the necessity to find a place to live, move, and get settled at a new apartment in a new area, she felt she could no longer fulfill her duties as secretary.

Rosie has been active with the Club for several years now, and even made a presentation about the National Traffic System at a Club meeting last year. She did a wonderful job as secretary and will be sorely missed. The Board is expected to accept her resignation at its next meeting, and will then begin looking for a replacement (Any volunteers??). Good luck Rosie; we will miss you.

BETTER CHECK THAT EXPIRATION DATE ON YOUR TICKET

The FCC has denied another Petition for Reconsideration from a former ham who filed for license renewal beyond his two-year grace period, saying that ignorance of FCC rules was no excuse, and that the applicant should have known he needed to renew his ticket on time.

—Extracted from *The ARRL Letter*, December 15, 2000

FIRST CLASS

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

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