

Q5

By and for the Downey Amateur Radio Club, Inc.



Volume XX Number 2

February 2001

To See, Or Not To See Stealth Antennas at the February Meeting

Our speaker for the February meeting will be **Allan Avnet**, AB8AA, who will discuss the topic of "Stealth Antennas." According to Allan, there's always a way to incorporate an antenna into a residence, no matter whether one resides in a condominium, apartment, mobile home, or restricted neighborhood. He will bring some sample setups and discuss several options that are possible.

Allan Avnet, AB8AA, was first licensed as a Novice in 1954. Since then he's held several licenses with some periods of inactivity in the hobby. He currently holds an Extra Class license. However, he has always maintained an interest in antennas. He believes that if a ham says he can't have an antenna where he lives, then he really doesn't want one.

Allan brings a great deal of enthusiasm and knowledge to the hobby of Amateur Radio that he shares freely with many. He's most recently the past president, and former treasurer of the West Coast Amateur Radio Club. This club holds the designation of ARRL Special Service Club. With this club he has organized many special events and public service events. Each month for several years he has



hosted a monthly club workshop at his home. At these workshops, club members gain valuable suggestions in the operation and appreciation of Amateur Radio. He has conducted Amateur Radio classes and is a volunteer examiner.

For the past two years he has served as the chairman of the TASMA Technical Committee. He also serves as the chief technical officer for Fountain Valley RACES and is a member of ARRL. He shares his interest in ham activities with his XYL, **Jane**, K8JAA.

After the presentation, there will be a few Club announcements followed by our traditional refreshment break and social period. After the break, there will be the election of a Club secretary. We will also have an opportunity to volunteer and signup for several public service events. There will be some great raffle prizes and lots of good friends. Mark the date on your calendar, and don't miss it!

DARC Receives 440 MHz Repeater Pair

W6TOI Is Temporarily Off-The-Air While Being Tuned

After years of monitoring frequencies, months and months of work, and countless other years of wishful thinking, the Downey Amateur Radio Club has finally been granted a coordinated repeater pair for its 440 MHz repeater. We are finally on the air with our own repeater!

Glenn Allen, KE6HPZ, reports that he has received unofficial notification of the coordination via e-mail and is waiting for the official notification to arrive by regular mail. He has removed the current repeater so Yaesu can tune it to our permanent frequency. The repeater may be down for a few days to a few weeks. As soon as the repeater is re-installed on its permanent frequency that frequency will be reported here in the Q5 and via E-mail

FEBRUARY MEETING

The February 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, February 1.

Yard Sale Coming Up

Yes, once again it's time to start gathering together your used but unwanted treasures: white elephant gifts, pants that don't fit anymore after the holidays, and gifts that you can't use but can't return. Our DARC Yard Sale will take place some time in April. The exact date and place have yet to be determined, but we wanted to give members advanced notice for this event that is really our only fund raiser. Remember that all items should be in fair or better condition, clean and ready to sell. If you can put a price on them that's even better. Contact **John Powell**, KF6EOJ, for more information.

ON OTHER PAGES

About The DARC.....	2
President's Message.....	3
MIR's Execution Date Set.....	3
HRO Anaheim Grand Opening...4	
Minutes, Board Meeting.....	4
AO-40 Leader Optimistic.....	4
Minutes, General Meeting.....	5
"Mother of all Jammers" ..	5
Spotlight: Dell Jorgensen, NG6F...6	
DX Notes.....	7
Treasurer's Report.....	8
Tour de Sewer in March.....	8
Bill to Amend PRB-1.....	8
February DARC Calendar.....	9
DARC DXCC Count.....	10
Vibroplex Bibliography.....	10
Club Merchandise Available.....	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
2-Meter Repeater: 146.175+ no pl*
440 Repeater: Watch for new frequency!
* 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

VP Programs

Arlene Schwartz, KE6GFI
Phone: (562) 928-1775

VP Membership

Ginny Grudzinski, KF6UUT
Phone: (626) 336-3974
KF6UUT@arrl.net

VP Service

Frank Hornberger, N6ZDS
Phone: (310) 635-2222
n6zds@qsl.net

VP Ways and Means

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

Director (One Year)

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

Director (Two Year)

Yolande Craig, KE6NXZ
Phone: (562) 633-6374

Secretary

Open

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 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, 10924 S. Paramount Blvd., in Downey (1/2 mile south of Florence Ave.) 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
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
KE6IYH	Roberta Gobert	27
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: \$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

Q5 Staff

Editor:

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

Associate Editors:

- Doug Lyon, N6WZI
Phone: (562) 929-1441
Email: dlyon@catisle.net
- Warren Pope, W4HDC
Phone: (909) 657-4678
Email: wpoppe@pe.net
- Dave Buhler, WB6ZGF
Phone: (562) 861-6069
Email: wb6zgf@catisle.net

Publishing

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Larry Vaughn, KD6NZW

Well, I think we got the official first year of the 21st Century off to a good start. The presentation that **Tom VanBuskirk**, K6TV, made at the January general meeting was very interesting and informative. We have a lot of skill and talent in the Club. It was a very good meeting, made better by the fact that we actually got a volunteer for the open Board of Director's position of Secretary. **Dick Holmes**, WX6C, has already shown us how valuable a member of the Board he will be. I am so thankful we were able to fill the position, especially with someone of Dick's caliber. I hope the Club affirms his election at the February meeting, and think Dick will be an integral part of the Club for some time to come.

We received some very good news from the ARRL just after the Q5 went to press last month. Our request for a grant from the ARRL Foundation to help cover the cost of establishing the 440 MHz repeater was granted! Upon verification of the establishment of our repeater on a coordinated pair they will award us a check in the sum of \$1000. That will certainly help defray some of the costs. I would like to thank **John Powell**, KF6EOJ, VP-Ways and Means, for suggesting we apply for the grant, doing the necessary research, and even writing the draft of the grant request. I don't believe any of the rest of the Board (including myself) were aware that the ARRL did such things. Thank you, John. We do appreciate it!

Another John, **John Marsden**, KN6SE, also brought some money into the Club. Over a year ago the check for our part of the profits from HamCon 99 was lost, and we had requested a replacement check be sent out. We requested and requested, but got nothing. At the December Board meeting, John requested authority from the Board to try to obtain our money. He came through for us and we now have our money, about \$1400 worth, with possibly some more on the way. Thank you, John, for taking the time and making the effort for the Club. You are appreciated!

And could there be more good news? You had better believe it! A couple of weeks ago we received the notification that our request for a 440 MHz repeater pair has been granted!!! We are now officially coordinated! **Glenn Allen**, KE6HPZ, has taken our repeater temporarily off-line so it can be tuned to our new frequency. This should not take very long, and then...we have our very own repeater on our own frequency. How many years have we been waiting for this to happen? And yes, as soon as we are officially there, we will notify the ARRL, and should receive our grant money. All this in the last month. Unbelievable! Glenn Allen has been primarily responsible for the establishment of the repeater, including researching, ordering equipment, maintenance and installation, and submission of the necessary applications. We are all indebted to Glenn for the work he has done and continues to do for the Club.

There has been horrible news coming from India this past weekend, where they are cleaning up after a devastating 7.9 magnitude earthquake. The latest news says that probably over 16,000 people have been killed. What a tragedy. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all the victims, their families, and their country. I know Amateur Radio will be there in some form, helping out with communication, as we always do. I can't help wondering, though, how prepared we are for the quake that WILL hit here someday. That is all I am going to say about it.

Talking about Amateur Radio helping out, the Bell Garden's Lions Club will again be hosting the Tour de Sewer on March 17. This is one of the largest events the DARC supports and we will be needing many volunteers. Read the article in this month's Q5 and seriously consider volunteering for this most worthwhile cause. There will be sign-up sheets at both the February and March general meetings. There are three shifts available as it is an all-day event.

Good things are happening in the Downey Amateur Radio Club!



MIR'S EXECUTION DATE SET

According to news reports, two Russian space agencies have agreed that March 6 will be D-Day for the Mir space station—"Deorbiting Day," that is. The Russian space station has had Amateur Radio gear aboard. Over the years, countless hams on Earth have spoken directly with the crew—which, at times, has included US astronauts—or have accessed Mir's packet messaging system. Pictures transmitted via an SSTV experiment installed aboard Mir a few years ago also delighted earthbound amateurs.

While the ham gear was installed in part to help boost crew morale, it became a vital communication link after a nearly disastrous fire broke out and—not long after—when the space station's hull was pierced in a collision with a cargo rocket.

The more than 130-ton spacecraft will be pushed out of Earth orbit using a *Progress* cargo ship which will displace a *Progress* already docked to Mir. The second *Progress*—heavily loaded with fuel for the deorbiting mission—will dock January 22. In the event of docking problems, Russia is prepared to send up an emergency cosmonaut crew to complete the job.

Mir's attitude control system will be disabled. Then, on March 4 and 5, the *Progress* will fire its engines and brake the station's orbital velocity. On March 6, the *Progress* will deliver the killer blow, firing to decrease Mir's velocity to the point where it will drop out of orbit. What's left of the space station after it passes through Earth's atmosphere will plunge into the Pacific later that day. It's expected that the scuttling of Mir will generate a shower of debris that could reach Earth's surface.

Over the years, Mir has become a fixture in orbit and the focal point of pride for the Russian space program. The initial module of the space station was launched February 20, 1986.

---Extracted from *The ARRL Letter*, Jan. 19, 2001

DARC Board of Directors Meeting, January 9, 2001

President **Larry Vaughn**, KD6NZW, called the meeting to order at 7:53PM at Downey Fire Station #1. Board members present were **Arlene Schwartz**, KE6GFI, VP Programs; **Frank Hornberger**, N6ZDS, VP Service; **John Powell**, KF6EOJ, VP Ways and Means; and **Frank Myllo**, KC6YPV, Treasurer. Absent were **Ed Roos**, KC6ZHY, First Vice President; **Ginny Grudzinski**, KF6UUT, VP Membership; **Steve Grudzinski**, AD6HT, Director (One Year); **Yolande Craig**, KE6NXZ, Director (Two Year); and **Rosie Falcon**, N3IVO, Secretary. **Dick Holmes**, WX6C, also attended.

Officer's Reports: Larry reported that Rosie submitted her resignation as Secretary. He explained that she has moved to San Diego. A motion was made that the resignation be accepted and it was seconded and approved.

Larry said that **John Marsden**, KN6SE, received a check from the 1998 HamCon and submitted it at the general meeting. A motion was made to commend John for his time and effort in obtaining the check from HamCon. The motion was seconded and approved.

Frank, KC6YPV, reported that there were not many transactions during December 2000 for the Club treasury. He pointed out that the liability insurance for this year has been paid. The items on the Treasurer's Report for December 2000 were discussed. He said the Club came in \$2,056.91 over budget for last year. Frank, KC6YPV, and Larry discussed the annual audit of the Club treasury. Frank, N6ZDS, and Arlene volunteered to assist with the audit. Larry will seek a third volunteer and Frank, KC6YPV, will arrange for a time and place for the audit.

Frank, N6ZDS, did not have anything to report for Club service. He and Larry discussed the upcoming Tour de Sewer and the need for radio operators for that event on March 17, 2001. Larry said that he would take care of that event. Also, the Club needs information about the upcoming Special Olympics event.

John, KF6EOJ, reported that a DARC jacket and T-shirt were sold at the general meeting. He said badges were ordered for members on December 8, 2000. The two attempts to learn the disposition of the badges have failed. Larry recommended sending a fax to the company.

Larry said that DARC has received a letter from the ARRL. It indicates that the ARRL will grant \$1,000.00 to support the DARC 440 MHz repeater as soon as the repeater arrangements are secure.

Arlene reported that the first program for the year was presented by **Tom Van Buskirk**, K6TV, and that he did a wonderful job talking about the telegraph keys. The program for next month's general meeting will be given by **Allan Avnet**, AB8AA, speaking on stealth antennas. **Bob Harrington**, AA6PW, will speak at the May general meeting about awards and a logging program. She said that **Sam Lollar**, K1SL, has been contacted to arrange an outdoor meeting to show off mobile radio installations during the summer. An ice cream social may be combined with the outdoor meeting.

The planning calendar was reviewed. The ARRL VHF/UHF Sweepstakes contest will be held on January 20 and 21, 2001. There are three weekend contests in February. The Tour de Sewer event will be held on March 17, 2001. A DARC Yard Sale may be planned on or around April 7, 2001. Arlene will try to find out the exact dates of the Baker-to-Vegas event and will advise.

Old business: The check from the 1998 HamCon has been received. The Audit Committee has been discussed. Larry said that we need to follow Robert's Rules of Order during the meetings.

New business: Frank, KC6YPV, said that he has a stack of membership cards that are waiting for the Secretary's signature. Larry said they will have to wait until a new Secretary is elected next month. Also, there was a short discussion about how to produce future membership cards.

Frank, KC6YPV, said that he will prepare the new Club roster and it will be ready to include with the next "Q5" newsletter. The meeting was adjourned at 8:53PM. Respectfully submitted, Dick Holmes, WX6C, Member.

HRO Anaheim Back At Old Location February 1

The following message was provided by HRO

Ham Radio Outlet has announced that the Grand Opening of their Anaheim store, back at their old 933 N. Euclid address (same shopping center) will take place on Saturday, March 17th.

When a four-alarm fire destroyed the store January 23rd last year, HRO set up temporary shop a few doors away at 947 N. Euclid five weeks after the blaze. After a year in somewhat cramped quarters, employees and customers alike will relish the spaciousness of the new bigger and better-than-ever store location. Telephone and fax numbers will remain the same.

They invite you to come visit with manufacturer's reps, partake of refreshments, enter the drawings for hourly prizes, or just stop by to see the new store and say hello. Store hours will be 10:00AM to 5:30PM on Saturday, March 17th. (No purchase necessary and drawing winners need not be present to win)

Their current plan is to move into the new location and be open for business before February 1st, which should give customers plenty of time to refamiliarize themselves with the new store, and give employees time to prepare for the big Grand Opening on Saturday, March 17th.

AO-40 LEADER OPTIMISTIC BUT ANTENNAS MAY BE DAMAGED

The AO-40 Project Leader expressed confidence that, despite its problems, the satellite will be functional in the future—although its mission likely will be different from the one planned prior to launch. "Personally, I am optimistic, and I believe that the command and engineering team stands a good chance of turning AO-40 into an extremely useful Amateur Radio satellite," he said.

Later information from the AO-40 recovery effort suggests that the satellite may have suffered antenna system damage when it went silent last December 13. It stopped transmitting while

Continued, see "AO-40", page 5

DARC General Meeting Minutes for January 4, 2001

The meeting was called to order at 7:35PM by **Larry Vaughn**, KD6NZW, President, in the Auditorium of South Middle School in Downey. Larry led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Other Board members in attendance were **Arlene Schwartz**, KE6GFI, VP Programs; **Ginny Grudzinski**, KF6UUT, VP Membership; **Frank Hombberger**, N6ZDS, VP Service; **John Powell**, KF6EOJ, VP Ways and Means; **Steve Grudzinski**, AD6HT, Director (One Year); and **Frank Myllo**, KC6YPV, Treasurer.

A total of 46 people were at the meeting.

Arlene introduced the featured speaker for the meeting, **Tom Van Buskirk**, K6TV. Tom gave an excellent presentation about the history and use of semiautomatic, automatic and hand keys. He displayed a large collection of keys, showed slides as he pointed out certain mechanical aspects of the keys and called attention to various books of interest to the telegraph key collector.

John Marsden, KN6SE, presented a check from the 1998 HamCon in the amount of \$1,396.00 to Larry explaining that it is a replacement for the original check that was lost. Larry passed the check on to Frank, KC6YPV, to be added to the Club treasury.

Larry advised the membership that a fellow DARC member, **Ron Mushin**, W6GLU, passed away and the funeral was held earlier today. Ron was a long-time member and will be missed.

Guests **Bill Leslie**, WA6POK, **Larry Howe**, KE6KGX, and **Mark Niehaus**, KC6OFR, were introduced.

Larry announced that **Rosie Falcon**, N3IVO, Secretary, has resigned her position. She has accepted a new job in San Diego and will not be able perform the Secretary functions from that location. He pointed out that Rosie served the Club well as Secretary. He said the vacancy would be discussed later in the meeting.

John, KF6EOJ, advised the membership that he has a supply of DARC jackets and T-shirts available for purchase.

Dave Glenn, N6TEB, called attention to the raffle prizes that were displayed on the table at the front of the room. He also said that a 3-month raffle would be conducted in addition to the monthly raffle and surveyed the membership about products that they might like to have as a prize.

Arlene reminded everyone that she needs to know the scores obtained by members in radio contests. She said that she has 10-meter contest forms now that should be completed and returned to her within a week.

Glenn Allen, KE6HPZ, reported that W6TOI would be on the air during the VHF/UHF contest on January 20 and 21, 2001.

Dick Palmer, WB6JDH, announced that **Jay Chamness**, W6JAZ, who gave a presentation to the DARC membership about six months ago, is seriously ill in the hospital. Dick brought a get-well card to Jay for the members to sign.

Larry called for a fifteen minute break at 8:35PM and called the meeting back to order at 8:50PM.

Larry explained that no business was conducted at the December 2000 meeting so there are no General Meeting Minutes to be approved. The pictures and notations printed in the January "Q5" newsletter described the meeting and replaced the normal notes that would have been taken. He thanked **Dick Holmes**, WX6C, for the pictures.

A motion was made to accept the November, 2000 Treasurer's Report; it was seconded and approved.

Continued, please see "January Meeting", page 6

"MOTHER OF ALL JAMMERS" CONTINUES TO PLAGUE 40 METERS

It turns out that the 40-meter "wobble-and-buzz jammers" heard by many in the US over the past year or so are Iranian stations that are attempting to block Iraqi stations. SWL reports indicated that the signals typically operate in the range from 7020 to 7090 kHz, on multiples of 10 kHz, occupying some 10 kHz of bandwidth. IARU (International Amateur Radio Union) Region 2 Monitoring System Coordinator Martin Potter, VE3OAT, says the jammer often puts "a thundering great signal into my antenna."

The ARRL's sources said that the object of the jamming is an Iraqi pirate station broadcasting in Persian into Iran on various 40-meter frequencies as well as in the Aeronautical Band. The pirate station operates on a specific frequency until it's spotted by the Iranians, who then attempt to jam the signal. The broadcaster then hops to another frequency to avoid the jamming, which explains why the jammer will suddenly pop up on a frequency for several minutes at a time and then disappear.

The Iranian and the Iraqi governments are reported to have ignored complaints by the US and the United Kingdom. In light of the strained relations between the US and both Iran and Iraq, there's not much hope that the problem will be resolved anytime soon.

---Extracted from *The ARRL Letter*, Jan. 12, 2001

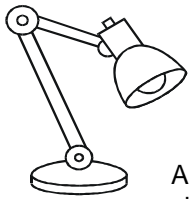
AO-40

Continued from page 4

ground controllers were testing the propulsion system. Although the telemetry indicated the 2-meter transmitter was working, no signal was heard at receiving sites. The only transmitter operating was the 2.4 GHz beacon. Telemetry also indicated that the 2-meter, 70 cm and 1.2 GHz receivers are working on the high-gain antennas, but none of them receive signals using the omnidirectional antennas. This indicates to the team that the omni antennas themselves, or the cabling or the relays are damaged. - *The ARRL Letter*, 1/7, 1/12



Frank Myllo, KC6YPV, giving the Treasurer's Report at the meeting



Spotlight on

Dell Jorgensen, NC6F

Although Dell, like many of us, first became interested in amateur radio while still in high school, he didn't really get into it until '79 — only three years before he retired from Rockwell. There Dell was more than a little busy working in Advanced Systems, an organization Rockwell Space used to investigate promising techniques for future programs and studying their feasibility. Busy or not, when Amateur Radio called, Dell responded. The source of the call was a group of friends who were retiring, owned sailboats and wanted a dependable land communication terminal.

Having had a little prior amateur experience (see below) and having served in WWII as a communications sergeant, Dell didn't expect to encounter much trouble with the code, but he did. With a little help from Gordon West's tapes, the problem was overcome. He got his Novice, Advanced, and Extra class licenses. Soon a self-supporting tower grew in his back yard and atop it an imposing HF beam. The tower is hinged in the middle, allowing the beam to be worked on while the workers stand on a relatively safe mother earth.

Dell's first rig was an ICOM 720, but it was soon replaced with a Kenwood 830 which was mostly transistorized but had vacuum tubes in the final. When invited to go sailing, Dell purchased a Yaesu 757 to put on the boat. The Yaesu and Dell put in about 10,000 miles of sailing over a three-year period. When one of his sailing friends died, Dell rounded out his trio of HF rigs by purchasing his late friend's Kenwood 930. To put some oomph behind his signal, he has a Dentron full-KW HF amplifier. It uses a pair of 755 miniature ceramic tubes which sell for about \$750 each. Wow. Somewhere along here he added an 80-meter inverted V to his antenna collection.

Although Dell doesn't chase DX, he regards DX stations as targets of opportunity if and when the occasions arise. Those he encountered have been largely Japanese and Korean stations, and when the Chinese stations were allowed back on the air, Dell snagged quite a few. Admitting to having not been very active over the last few years, Dell has plans for getting NG6F back on HF soon (as I do for W4HDC). He's also thinking about trying out satellite. "I'm thinking", he says.

A Yaesu 530 dual band HT, a Realist HT, and a TR-751A 2-meter all-mode transceiver comprise his collection of VHF/UHF rigs. "Of course," he says, "I'll need to buy another for satellite".

Over the years, Dell has served the Club in a number of ways. He has participated in a large number of Club public service events. While the "MOB" — the Club's "Mobile on Bicycle" group — was active, he was not only a leading member of the group but also wrote a monthly Q5 column on MOB activities. He was Chairman of the Board of Advisors (the predecessor to the current Board of Directors) in 1989 and became the Club's first First VP (a then newly created office) in 1990 and 1991.

Going back a ways, Dell grew up on a farm in Utah and had the daily duty of milking cows. Claiming to have gone to college largely to get off the farm, he graduated with a degree in Physics from Utah State. He supported his family by working in the field of atomic energy electronics, except as he says, for the final 30 years when he worked in aerospace. It doesn't sound like he spent much time in atomic energy electronics.

He had a brief fling with Amateur Radio prior to the war, obtained an Amateur "Class B" ticket (about equivalent to the current General license), but limited by funds, operated mostly from his cousin's station. In the days during and following the war, he allowed that ticket to expire.

Dell says he recalls his experiences as a communications sergeant with great clarity and those experiences really taught him the value of communications. Get him to tell you about the landing at Normandy.---W4HDC

January Meeting (continued from page 5)

Frank, KC6YPV, spoke about the proposed DARC budget for 2001. He pointed out that the amount of funds for Field Day was increased from \$600 to \$750 as the event was shortchanged last year. He explained that the expenditures were allowed to be more than the total income because it was known the check from HamCon would be received. There may be some additional expense for repeater telephone line charges. The budget can be changed or adjusted. It was moved and seconded to accept the budget and it was approved. Larry thanked Frank, KC6YPV, **Dave Buhler**, WB6ZGF, Steve, and **Yolande Craig**, KE6NXZ, of the Budget Committee for their work.

Larry again referred to the resignation of Rosie as Secretary and discussed some of the responsibilities of the position. He opened the floor for nominations and **Dick Holmes**, WX6C, was nominated. Larry said that more nominations can be made at the February meeting; and then the members will vote.

Arlene announced that the speaker for the meeting on February 1st will be **Alan Avnet**, AB8AA, who will give a presentation on "Stealth Antennas".

Larry reminded the membership that there will be VE testing on February 17, 2001.

Steve said that DARC needs a Field Day Chairman for this year. Larry added that a lot goes into the Field Day event and, although much of it happens automatically, someone needs to coordinate the event.

Larry reminded the membership that the Tour de Sewer event will be held on March 17, 2001, St. Patrick's Day. It is sponsored by the Lions Club. A lot of operators are required to cover the long distance. DARC performs an important health and safety service for the event.

Larry said that volunteers are needed next month to provide the refreshments for the meeting. It normally involves providing coffee, punch, and cookies. The Club reimburses the cost. Anyone interested should contact

Continued, see "Raffle", page 7

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 PROPAGATION OUTLOOK

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

DX Action

ALBANIA, ZA. Ben, ZA1K, has been QRV on 21005 kHz just prior to 1100z. He has also been found on 28037 kHz just before 1500z.

BAHRAIN, A9. Gus, A92ZE, has been QRV on 160 meters just before 0100z. He has also been QRV on 3501 kHz just after 0300z. QSL via K4SXT.

COMORES, D6. After the preparations by Don, D68/G3OZF, the 5Star DXer Association will hit the airwaves as D68C with at least six stations operating simultaneously in SSB/CW/RTTY/PSK31/FM on 6-160m from Feb 8-28. John, G3WGV (g3wgv@aol.com), is collecting donations to cover the high costs and Martin, G3ZAY, will be the chief pilot station and taking care especially of Europa and Africa. Check their homepage: <http://www.dxbands.com/comoros/>. QSL via Phil, G3SWH, via bureau, CBA or e-mail.

DJIBOUTI, J2. Patrick, J28LP, is QRV from here until June, 2001. QSL via F8UNF.

EGYPT, SU. Jaro, SU9ZZ, has been QRV on 1821 kHz just after 2200z.

GAMBIA, C5. Mike, DL2OE, and Hans, DL7CM, will be QRV possibly as C56/homecalls in RTTY/CW/SSB on 160-6m between Feb 20 and Mar 4. QSL via homecalls

NAURU, C2. Uwe, C21HC, has been operating QRP on or near 21020 kHz and 14020 kHz around 0600 to 0700z. QSL via DL9HCU.

NORFOLK ISLAND, VK9N. Jim, VK9NS, has been QRV on 10108 kHz around 1930z.

SAN FELIX ISLAND, CE0/x. Marco, CE6TBN (ce6tbn@d Expedition.org), CE6NE, CE6SAX, CE3AQI/NP4IW, OH1EB, OH2BH, OH2RF, DJ9ZB and K0EU will be on the air signing CE0XT from San Ambrosio (SA-013) for one week starting mid February. They will run three or four 1kW stations in SSB/CW/RTTY/PSK on 10-160m. Homepage is <http://www.qsl.net/ce0xt/>. QSL via CE6TBN.

SOUTH SHETLANDS. Oleg, UA1PBA, is currently signing CE9/R1ANF from the Chilean Antarctic station Ripamonti on Ardley Island. QSL via RK1PWA.

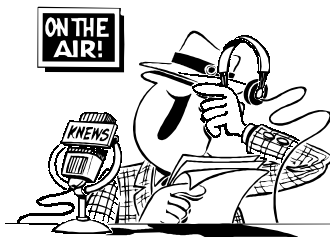
VIETNAM, 3W. Tom, 3W7CW, has been QRV on 20 and 30 meters from 1530 to 1600z, and 1630 to 1800z, respectively. QSL via SP5JTF.

DX worked by DARC Members:

10 meter band: 9A2YK, SM5CAK, IH9/I8ULL, DH0DX, VA7TT, S53EO, 9A3GW, 9A9A, IK4GRO, S57NMQ, G0TIC, HB9AOF, IK1MTZ, IK5WWB, S53EO, GI0KVQ, F6IPQ, GM0EWX, S53EO, IK4GRO, S57NMQ, IK5WWB, G0TIC, HB9AOF, IK1MTZ, S53EO, & GI0KVQ

15 Meter band: 9A7A, I69A, DF0HQ, DL2NBY, RW2F, OH0Z, SN2B, F6HMQ, OM3A, 9A3GW, S51TA, OH5LF, F9FE, CQ7DIZ, EA8AH, EA1EY, 7S5AF, RU1A, OH8VJ, SK3W, VP5L, & XE1CRO

20meter band: 9A2VR, S58A, 6WXXD, FG5BG, CN8WW, UP4L, FY5KE, IG9A, S58A, FM6GU, V62B, CE3DJ, CE8EIO, LOOD, V47KP, CE8EIO, 9Y4Z, LU4FM, LY3MR, CQ9E, FG5BG, XQ1IDM, ZF2DR, DU9RG, ZF2DR, DU9RG, JA5BJC, ZL3DX, VK6GN, OZ5SEB, RW2F, LZ7G, EW1WZ, OT0A, AH2R, VK4IL, ER2000D, A43MF, HS1NGR, UA1OMX, & JW0HR.



Mind teaser: What's the anagram for **The Morse Code**?

For answer go to page 8

Raffle

Continued from page 6

Arlene.

Larry said that the DARC radio classes have been completed and it is hoped more classes can be held next spring. The classes resulted in four new hams and six others passing the written exam.

Don Chorpensing, WD6FRQ, was selected for the monthly attendance prize but was not present. The prize will increase to \$10.00 next month. Raffle prize winners were: **Dave Glenn**, N6TEB, Police Call Book; **David Brackett**, KE6OPK, MFJ speaker and a roll of coax cable; **Frank Myers**, N6ATU, 2001 ARRL Handbook; **Jack Jones**, W3OB, World Radio magazine subscription; **Roberta Gobert**, KE6IYH, W6TOI coffee mug; and **Ray Fas**, KD6GRM, World Radio magazine subscription.

The membership wished Frank, N6ATU, a Happy Birthday which is celebrated on this date.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dick Holmes, WX6C, Member

Treasurer's Report December 2000

SUMMARY

Bank Balance as of 11/30/2000	\$3,033.09
Income	\$585.00
Expenditures	(\$1,121.24)
Transfer from Savings	
Bank Balance as of 12/31/2000	\$2,497.73
Raffle Holding Fund	\$355.23

INCOME	This Month	Year to Date	Annual Budget	(Over) Under Budget
ARRL Memberships	28.00	401.00	200.00	(201.00)
Club Merchandise	45.00	566.00	500.00	(66.00)
DARC Dues	325.00	2,127.00	2,500.00	373.00
Interest on Savings	2.88	58.09	100.00	41.91
Luncheon Reserv.	42.00	985.00	1,300.00	315.00
Misc. Income	143.00	3,060.20	0.00	(3,060.20)
Q5 Ads		0.00	0.00	0.00
Fund Raisers		659.62	1,200.00	540.38
Totals	\$585.88	\$7,856.91	\$5,800.00	(\$2,056.91)

EXPENDITURES

	This Month	Year to Date	Annual Budget	(Over) Under Budget
ARRL Memberships	26.00	379.00	175.00	(204.00)
Attend. Prizes		50.00	55.00	5.00
Autopatch		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	561.44	650.00	88.26
Committees				
Awards		71.09	50.00	(21.09)
Education		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	17.24	17.24	50.00	32.76
Field Day		643.15	600.00	(43.15)
Luncheon	23.00	1,307.67	1,300.00	7.67
Picnic		115.48	50.00	(65.48)
Fund Raisers		0.00	50.00	50.00
Other Events		12.07	20.00	7.93
Insurance	329.00	383.00	400.00	17.00
Misc. Expenses	693.00	6,581.44	0.00	(6,581.44)
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	0.00
PO Box		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	\$1,121.24	\$11,922.10	\$5,900.00	(\$6,022.10)
Repeater		3,493.36	3,200.00	(293.36)

Misc Income: \$143.00 Raffle
 MiscExpense: \$641.00 Raffle
 \$52.00 Checks w Book

Frank Myllo III, KC6YPV, Treasurer



The Tour de Sewer will take place on March 17 TOUR DE SEWER ??? What on earth is that???

The other day I was asked for a definition of the phrase, "Tour de Sewer". Those of us who have been involved in supporting this event in years past tend to forget that many hams, either recently licensed or new to the Club, don't have the slightest clue as to its meaning. I can envision thoughts of something being held underground! Nope, not quite. Here's a brief overview of the event and I hope it will pique your interest in participating with DARC this year.

The annual event held each March is a bicycle ride sponsored by the Bell Gardens Lions Club. Participants pay an entry fee and, together with profits from the sale of shirts, the club donates these monies to the support of their eye bank program. For serious bicycle riders as well as recreational cyclists, the event provides a varied and challenging venue and is a major bike ride event in the southern California area. The different routes partially follow the concrete riverbeds of the Los Angeles, Rio Hondo and San Gabriel rivers. Because these rivers also provide for rainwater runoff, hence the term "sewer" evolved. The routes vary in length from 15 to 62 miles in length. Not all of the routes parallel only the riverbeds; the longer routes include surface streets in a number of cities. The tour starts and finishes at Ford Park in the city of Bell Gardens. It continues (on the long route, anyway) through the cities of Montebello, Pico Rivera, Whittier, City of Industry, Santa Fe Springs, Norwalk, Paramount and Downey.

Because the ride encompasses a rather large area, radio communications from any point on the route back to Ford Park is imperative.

The DARC in the past has established 16 or more locations along the route staffed by Club members in addition to a net control set up at Ford Park. Part of the area is out of sight of the Rio Hondo repeater, so we will set up a remote repeater to be sure we have complete coverage. This is probably the largest event the DARC supports in number of participants, area and number of radio operators. We try to have three different shifts so no one person needs to work the entire day. We can always use all the help we can get. There will be sign-up sheets at the February and March regular Club meetings, or you can call or e-mail **Larry Vaughn**, KD6NZW, to volunteer for this very worthwhile cause.

BILL INTRODUCED TO AMEND PRB-1 IN STATE OF WASHINGTON

Two State of Washington lawmakers have introduced a bill to amend sections of the Revised Code of Washington to strengthen that state's PRB-1 law. Washington incorporated the federal preemption known as PRB-1 in 1994. The proposed amendment would specify that local governing bodies could not restrict antenna height to less than 70 feet without a clearly defined health, safety, or aesthetic reason. Washington is one of 10 states that have adopted PRB-1 laws of their own. Only three states—Oregon, Virginia, and Wyoming—include minimum regulatory height limits.

---Extracted from *The ARRL Letter*, Jan. 19, 2001

Answer to anagram: **Here come Dots**

Vibroplex and Keys Bibliography

DARC Members

DXCC count:

WA6RTA 326 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 305 Mixed, 60 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

At the January meeting, **Tom Van Buskirk**, K6TV, made a presentation about the history and use of the Vibroplex keys. For those interested in pursuing this segment of amateur radio, Tom provided a brief bibliography of titles that might spark your interest in keys and the code.

French, Tom. (W1IMQ) *Vibroplex Collector's Guide*, 2nd ed. Stow, MA, 1996
 ISBN number: 1-890024-04-X

Ingram, Dave. (K4TWJ) *Keys Keys Keys : A Visual Celebration of Amateur Radio's Favorite Accessory*. CQ Communications, 1991
 ISBN number: 0-943016-02-9

Standage, Tom. *The Victorian Internet*, New York, Walker & Co., 1998
 ISBN number: 0-8027-1342-4

Club Merchandise Available

Getting a bit cold lately? DARC has some very nice lined jackets available at \$25 each. We only have two each in Medium and XLarge on hand, so first come, first served. Other items, such as polo shirts and "T" shirts as well as caps and mugs are also available. See John Powell, KF6EOJ at regular meetings to buy your items or place an order for the future.

FIRST CLASS

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

Q5