

Q5

By and for the Downey Amateur Radio Club, Inc.



Volume XX Number 3

March 2001

Radio Frequency Safety Considerations For Amateur Radio

Art Sutorus, KQ6HF, ARRL Orange Section Technical Coordinator, will be the speaker at the March 1st General Meeting of the Downey Amateur Radio Club.

All life on Earth has adapted to survive in an environment of weak, natural low-frequency electromagnetic fields (in addition to the Earth's static geomagnetic field). Natural low-frequency EM fields come from two main sources: the sun and thunderstorm activity. But in the last 100 years, man-made fields at much higher intensities and with a very different spectral distribution have altered this natural EM background in ways that are not yet fully understood. Much more research is needed to assess the biological effects of electromagnetic radiation (EMR). Although Amateur Radio is basically a safe activity, in recent years there has been considerable discussion and concern about



**Art Sutorus, KQ6HF
March DARC Speaker**

the possible hazards of EMR, including both RF and power frequency (50-60 Hz) electromagnetic fields. The presentation will consist of a 20 minute videotape entitled *Electromagnetic Environment Awareness For Antenna Site*

Continued, see "Meeting", page 3

MARCH MEETING

The March meeting of the DARC will be held in the Cafetorium of South Middle School, 12500 Birchdale Ave., in Downey, beginning at 7:30 PM, Thursday, March 1.

W6TOI SCORES HIGH IN VHF QSO PARTY

Glenn Allen, KE6HPZ, operating from his home QTH as DARC's W6TOI, scored 9th nationwide in the September 2000 VHF QSO Party competition. Entered as a Multioperator station, Glenn had to operate alone after second op **Bill Heather, KB6WKT**, became ill and had to go home early in the party. Scoring this high was quite a feat since Glenn was covering the 6 and 2 meters, plus 144, 220, 440, 902, and 1296 MHz bands.

W6TOI's score, combined with those of two other DARC members who entered the party separately, earned the Club 3rd place nationwide in the Local Affiliated Club Competition category.

Glenn was among the top ten Multioperator stations when scored by number of contacts in the 902 and 1296 MHz bands and 3rd when scored by the Multiplier earned. Not enough? How's this: W6TOI was FIRST in the West Coast Region which consists of the ARRL NW and SW Divisions, Alberta, British Columbia and NWT and Yukon Sections!--W4HDC

DARC 440 MHz Repeater Up and Running

After years of work, the DARC finally has a 440 MHz repeater on its own frequency. Last week the old vertical antenna was changed to a new pair of 5 element Yagis, eliminating a lot of the multi-path distortion we were experiencing on the test pair, and the coverage is much better. Presently the repeater hears better than it transmits, but we will soon be increasing the output of the repeater up to 50 watts so it will be heard better. The repeater is on 445.640 (-) PL 156.7 Hz. and is located at 1725 feet in Altadena.

In an effort to reduce some of the jamming and other problems of the Rio Hondo machine, please don't announce the repeater's frequency on the air. The frequency is being publicized to all Club members. Please feel free to give it out to all your friends.--73 de KE6HPZ

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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: 445.640 (-) PL 156.7 Hz
* See Calendar for Net Skeds

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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:

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!

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March 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.



KE6NXZ	Yolane Craig	1
K6WHP	William Phinizy	3
WB6ZGF	Dave Buhler	5
W6AEJ	Robert Vitzelio	15

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

We have several things to report this month. Thanks to **Glenn Allen**, KE6HPZ, our new 440 MHz repeater has been installed and is functioning properly on its permanent frequency. Glenn is working hard trying to make sure there is good coverage throughout the City of Downey. We are having a special raffle at our March 1st meeting for a 2M-440MHz radio that would be just perfect for accessing the new repeater as well as the Rio Hondo machine. I hope you are the lucky winner!

Our Public Service season will be starting later this month with the Tour de Sewer. We had about 14 people sign up to work this very worthwhile event at the February meeting. We need almost double that number, so I hope we will have more sign-ups at the March meeting. We are off to a good start though, and I would like to thank everyone who has already signed up.

The DARC e-mail reflector has shown much potential in the past month or so since it was introduced. I have seen quite a few messages going back and forth about Club events and other radio related topics. The reflector is new to many members, and there is somewhat of a learning curve involved in using it correctly. I would like to caution everyone to try to keep their messages on topics related to Amateur Radio. That is its purpose: Radio. Though it may be tempting to include messages on other topics, this would be a misuse of the list. Our members want and deserve to receive messages about the hobby. If you have other things you want to communicate on other topics, the appropriate place to do so is either on reflectors dedicated to those topics or in personal messages sent only to the people they are intended for. We must also be careful about just hitting "Reply" to messages from the reflector as that reply will be sent to everyone. (Please see the article in the next column.) People don't want a bunch of 'personal' messages meant for other people on their computer.

If we all stick to these few simple rules the reflector can be a great asset to the Club. I would like to invite those people who have removed themselves from the list to come back and participate in making the list into one the Club can be proud of. I would like to hear your opinions about this or any other topic. Give me a call in the evening or E-mail me at kd6nzw@DowneyARC.org. 73 de kd6nzw

W6TOI Special Event Station To Help DARC Commemorate 50th Anniversary

The Downey Amateur Radio Club will be hosting a special events station in May to commemorate the Club's 50th Anniversary.

A special event station is simply a station that is in operation for a limited period of time. W6TOI will be in operation between 1500GMT May 19, 2001 to 0100GMT May 21, 2001. This event has been submitted to the ARRL's QST magazine and will appear in the May issue, so we can expect hams from all around to try to contact us.

All Club members are encouraged to sign up to work the station. Sign ups are for two hour increments, but if you have a special time frame, just let us know. **Sam Lollar**, K1SL, has graciously invited us to use his shack for the event. The station will operate on a variety of HF bands including: 7.260MHz, 14.260MHz, 21.350MHz and 28.350MHz. We are not planning on operating on the UHF/VHF bands.

A special certificate will be used for the event. Designs are under consideration. If you have any design ideas, you can contact any of the board members with them. You can get this certificate by either contacting the special event station (see frequencies above) or volunteering to operate from the special event station. So, sign up at the next Club meeting, or call **Steve Grudzinski**, AD6HT, at (626) 336-3974, or email at AD6HT@ARRL.NET.

MISUSE OF INTERNET 'REFLECTOR' RAISES IRE OF SOME MEMBERS

The Club's relatively new Internet "reflector" is intended to allow a Club member to send an email message to all other Club members on the Internet without having to address them to each member individually or maintain his own membership file.

Seems like a good thing, huh? Well, it is, but it does have a peculiarity that causes much distress to those of us who already receive much more email than we want. The reflector contributes to unwanted mail by generating messages to unintended recipients.

This happens when the recipient of a 'reflected' message desires to reply to the originator and utilizes the "Reply to Sender" option. This sends the reply to the reflector which sends it to all Club members on the list. Obviously to avoid this, the reply message must be addressed to the original sender. This puts one obligation on the original sender: be sure your email program is set up to adequately identify you in the receiver's "From" box. Just "Warren" may not work. There may be ten Warrens in the Club (actually, there are only two).

Several Club members have already asked to be dropped from the reflector's distribution list. Maybe we can get them back if we all learn to properly use this fine new addition to our communication links. --W4HDC

Meeting, from page 1

Safety, followed by a presentation on RF safety considerations that Hams need to be aware of.

Following the presentation and question and answer period will be a few short announcements, and then the traditional DARC refreshment break where everyone can partake of good company, cookies, coffee and punch. The business portion of the meeting will be devoted to announcements of upcoming DARC special service projects, our calendar of events, and the special raffle drawing for the 2-meter/440 radio. This will be a great meeting and we hope you will be able to come---and bring a friend. See you there!

DARC Board of Directors Meeting, February 9, 2001

The meeting was called to order at 7:32PM at Downey Fire Station #1 by **Larry Vaughn**, KD6NZW, President. Board members present were **Ed Roos**, KC6ZHY, 1st Vice President; **Arlene Schwartz**, KE6GFI, VP Programs; **Ginny Grudzinski**, KF6UUT, VP Membership; **Frank Hornberger**, N6ZDS, VP Service; **John Powell**, KF6EOJ, VP Ways and Means; **Steve Grudzinski**, AD6HT, Director (One Year); **Yolande Craig**, KE6NXZ, Director (Two Year); **Dick Holmes**, WX6C, Secretary; and **Frank Myllo**, KC6YPV, Treasurer. Members **Dave Glenn**, N6TEB, and **Glenn Allen**, KE6HPZ, also attended. Absent was Tom Van Buskirk, K6TV, Trustee, W6TOI.

Officer's Reports: Larry reported that the Club did not receive any mail. He said that he thought the presentation at the February meeting was good but shorter than expected.

Frank, KC6YPV, discussed several items listed in the January Treasurer's report, such as money received from dues, merchandise and the \$1,396 check from HamCon as well as several expenses.

Arlene said that Allan Avnet, AB8AA, the speaker at the January meeting, offered his e-mail address for anyone to contact him about stealth antennas. She said Art Sutorus, KQ6HF, will speak on RF safety at the March meeting. No one has been scheduled for the April meeting. The speaker in May will be Bob Harrington, AA6PW, on the subject of logging and awards.

Frank, N6ZDS, reported that the ARC Walk event is in capable hands. Glenn commented that it would be good if it was known how many of the operators for the event have 440 MHz capability. He suggested that some of the communication holes could possibly be covered using that frequency.

John said that a polo shirt was sold at the February meeting. He distributed a merchandise inventory list dated February 6, 2001. He made contact with Majestic Trophy, received the badges that were ordered and now has one new order.

Dick said that he has not received the check-in list for the January General meeting. He requested that it be forwarded to him if located.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the January Board meeting as printed in the "Q5" newsletter. It was seconded and unanimously approved.

Planning Calendar: Steve said that he and Ginny will volunteer to chair the Field Day event. Some planning will need to be done regarding electrical, food, etc. They will submit an article for the "Q5" newsletter.

Larry reported that 14 operators have signed up for the Tour de Sewer event. The route will be changed to avoid Rosecrans. There is a new web page about the event and he will provide the link to it.

Larry said that he does not know how many operators have signed up to work the ARC Walk event.

Larry said that the date considered for the Club's Yard Sale conflicts with the Baker-to-Vegas event. There was some discussion between those present and the date of April 21st was selected. The location is still undecided. Larry said there needs to be an article in the newsletter about the event.

Larry said the Street Faire event will occur on May 5, 2001. Dave commented that a lot of people are expected.

Larry asked Arlene if there are any contests that should be noted in the newsletter. She said she did not know of any at this time.

Old Business: Steve said that he made an announcement about the Club's 50th Anniversary at the General meeting. He will write an article for the "Q5". The paperwork has been completed and will be sent in to have the event listed in "QST". **Sam Lollar**, K1SL, has offered the use of his shack. There will be a sign-up sheet available at the March meeting for 2 hour blocks of operating time. There was a discussion about certificates for the event. Ed suggested that it might be good to use a picture of the old McDonald's on the certificate. Frank, N6ZDS, suggested that a picture of the Apollo spacecraft might also look good. Certificate

Continued, see "Board Minutes", page 8

Field Day 2001

The weekend of June 23 & 24, 2001, is an Amateur Radio event called Field Day, during which radio operators and clubs compete among each other under simulated emergency conditions. This is done usually using field erected radio stations, emergency power sources and temporary antennas. The goal of the event is to practice radio and emergency preparedness skills, and to demonstrate this kind of operation to the public. Every Year W6TOI operates from South Middle School in Downey, and the public is invited.

The event begins Friday at noontime with Club members arriving at the school site to assemble the stations for the contest. Radios are set up in tents, trailers, or out in the open. Antennas are raised on towers or hung from trees. Emergency power sources are connected, usually gasoline powered generators, but also storage batteries, solar power, wind power, sometimes even human power is used to provide electricity for the radios during weekend.

At the designated hour (Saturday at 11AM in California), communication begins. Stations participate from all over the US and Canada, and to a limited extent from around the world. The stations are competing to make the highest number of contacts, using voice, Morse code, and digital communications. At times the action is fast. Good operators under good conditions can make 200 or more contacts per hour.

W6TOI traditionally holds a potluck on Saturday evening at the field. All Club members are invited. You may even want to run your own station this year. Or, during the contest, most operators will be happy to supervise while you make a few contacts yourself. This is a great time to work outside your License limitations. So come join us this year at Field Day!

Steve Grudzinski, AD6HT and **Ginny Grudzinski**, AD6VF, have volunteered to co-chair this years Field day. If you are interested in being a station manager this year, we will be glad to hear from you. Our first Field day meeting will be in March. Steve, AD6HT, at (626) 336-3974, or email at AD6HT@ARRL.NET.

DARC General Meeting Minutes for February 1, 2001

At 7:37PM the meeting was called to order by **Larry Vaughn**, KD6NZW, President, in the Auditorium of South Middle School in Downey. He led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Other Board members in attendance were **Ed Roos**, KC6ZHY, 1st Vice President; **Arlene Schwartz**, KE6GFI, VP Programs; **Ginny Grudzinski**, KF6UUT, VP Membership; **Frank Hornberger**, N6ZDS, VP Service; **John Powell**, KF6EOJ, VP Ways and Means; **Steve Grudzinski**, AD6HT, Director (One Year); **Yolande Craig**, KE6NXZ, Director (Two Year); **Dick Holmes**, WX6C, Secretary; **Frank Myllo**, KC6YPV, Treasurer; and **Tom Van Buskirk**, K6TV, Trustee, W6TOI.

A total of 43 persons were at the meeting.

Arlene introduced **Allan Avnet**, AB8AA, the featured speaker. The topic of his presentation was "Stealth Antennas". He suggested a number of ways that antennas can be concealed and/or camouflaged as well as temporary antennas that can be quickly set up then removed. As examples he showed an Outbacker mobile antenna on a stand that could be used on a patio, a rail clamp and whip antenna that would work well on a balcony, and a 10 meter dipole antenna that can be mounted in a room or on the eve of a building. He concluded with a question and answer session.

Glenn Allen, KE6HPZ, said that the 440 MHz repeater is presently being tuned and may be ready next week. He said that he will advise everyone by e-mail when it is placed into operation.

Dave Glenn, N6TEB, displayed and described the raffle prizes. He then explained that a drawing would be done at the April meeting from a three month collection of raffle tickets for an ADI mobile radio.

Frank introduced guests **Steven Harr** (no license yet) and **Hugo Martin**, KE6EPL.

Dave Buhler, WB6ZGF, talked about the upcoming "ARC Walk" event sponsored by the ARC of Southeast Los Angeles County. It will be held on March 31st from 8:00AM to 10:00AM. Usually 12 to 15 operators are required to cover the event. A simplex frequency will be used. Operators only need a 2 meter handheld radio and spare batteries. He said the sign-up sheet will be available this meeting and next month and requested volunteers.

Larry said that the "Tour de Sewer" event on March 17th is sponsored by the Lion's Club. It will be the same as in the past except for a minor route change to use Gardendale instead of Rosecrans. He said a lot of help will be needed. There will be two shifts of operators, 8:00AM to 12:00PM and 12:00PM to 4:00PM. Participants are fed at the conclusion of the event. The sign-up sheets will be available this meeting and next month and volunteers are requested.

Steve advised that the Club will operate W6TOI as a special event station from 7 AM, Saturday, May 19, 2001 until 5 PM Sunday, May 20, to celebrate the Club's 50th anniversary. Operators will work 2 hour shifts. We would like to invite everyone in the Club to participate. There will be sign-up sheets at the next meeting.

Larry reminded everyone to write their name or call sign on the raffle tickets because it makes it much easier to call the winners.

After the break Larry announced that 14 persons had already signed up for the "Tour de Sewer" event and 8 had signed up for the "ARC Walk" event.

Larry said, as additional information for the "Tour de Sewer" event, operators on bicycles are also needed.

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the January General Meeting and the December Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded and approved.

Larry opened the floor to new nominations for the Club Secretary position but there were none. A show-of-hands vote by those present was taken to accept Dick for the position. The majority voted to accept and no one opposed.

Arlene said that she will provide the e-mail address of Allan in the March issue of the "Q5" newsletter. She said he will be happy to correspond with anyone about his presentation on "Stealth Antennas". The program at the March meeting will be

AO-40 FUTURE RESTS ON REDUCING SPIN, REGAINING ATTITUDE CONTROL

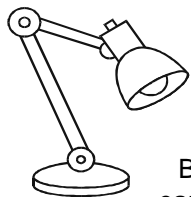
The keys to placing the AO-40 satellite in service are matters of reducing its spin and regaining the ability to adjust its attitude (the angle of its spin axis). AMSAT says the current problem is a lack of accurate AO-40 attitude data — data required to change it and correctly aim AO-40's high-gain antennas toward the earth.

Ground controllers have had no luck hearing AO-40's transmitters on the omnidirectional antennas on 2 meters, 70 cm or 1.2 GHz. Since the satellite's computer was reset and telemetry resumed December 25, the AO-40 ground team has been analyzing telemetry sent via the 2.4 GHz beacon—the only transmitter now operating.

In its latest dispatch on AO-40, AMSAT-Germany waxed nearly poetic in describing the satellite's present situation. "AO-40 is currently like a ship that's lying on a sandbar in the fog at low tide." AMSAT-DL said AO-40 was "in the fog" because the high angle of its spin axis with respect to the sun temporarily prevents the sun sensors from providing attitude data. It's "at low tide" because the steep solar angle means less illumination of the solar panels and less energy produced. And it's "on a sandbar" because the satellite can't be set free from its present situation without some effort.

Ground controllers are hoping that a "de-spinner" programming routine could permit AO-40 spin control without having to rely on the sun sensors. But even if the programming fix fails, by April the satellites sensors will again see the sun and "thanks to magnetorquing, spin and attitude can be actively improved. Once the spin is reduced, sun angle improved, and antennas pointed, testing can resume.

- Extracted from the **ARRL Letter**, February 2, 2001



Spotlight on

Buck Kerns, KD6PUI

Buck first became interested in Amateur Radio way back in the early '50s. His interest developed from listening to short wave transmissions on an old Philips "all band" receiver — a present from his grandfather. This was in the days of the green tuning "eye" which stared from radios at their listeners and narrowed their irises in satisfaction when tuned to a strong signal. Also encouraging his interest in communications was an uncle who was in that specialty in the Marine Corps.

Buck spent 20 years in the Navy and served a large part of this time on a nuclear-powered submarine. He entered the navy as an enlisted man and eventually retired as a Warrant Officer in 1980. Promotion from enlisted to officer status — particularly on a nuclear sub — was a very unusual event and resulted in a pre-assignment interview with Admiral Rickover, generally considered the "father" of the US nuclear submarine fleet.

After leaving the Navy, Buck went to work but was laid off in 1990, an event which he considers fortuitous because it gave him time to study and to pursue his soon-to-be consuming hobby of amateur radio. He now works for Solec International, a wholly owned subsidiary of Sanyo North America. Solec is a manufacturer of wafers for the solar cell industry in Japan.

But it wasn't until 1991 when Buck met **Tom VanBuskirk**, now K6TV, that he got on the path to the DARC's classes and his first ticket — a Novice. Instructors then were the late **Ken Wahrenbrock**, KF6NC; **Joe Francis**, WB6SZK; **Art Varney**, WA6OZQ, occasionally **Bob Farrow**, N6OPR, and **Wes Printz**, W3SE. Shortly after, in early 1992, Buck got his Technician license and joined the Club in late '91 or early '92.

As a new Club member, he hit the deck running and was quickly involved in the J antenna workshops, helping many members to build their first Js. Even before that series of workshops was over, Buck was also involved in setting up net control stations for public service events, perhaps his favorite activity. When it was suggested that the Club's storage shack needed inventorying and rearranging, there was Buck, right in the middle of it.

Buck's first ham equipment was a Radio Shack 202 HT, but that was just the beginning of his present extensive collection of equipment. His second transceiver was a used Kenwood TS-700 all-mode 2-meter rig. On a trip to Vegas in '92, Buck found a used Yaesu 757 HF transceiver and, using it on 10 meters, entered and won the Novice Roundup for Southern California. Pretty good for a beginner!

At the October 1994 general meeting, Buck was elected VP-Service, replacing **Ray Hendrickson**, N6VZN. Buck was reelected in 1995, and that same year he was named DARC Ham of the Year. After two year's service as a Club officer, Buck spent the next two years participating in almost every activity in which the Club was involved. He continued looking after the storage shed and was joined in this task by **Glenn Allen**, KE6HPZ. Somewhere he found time for a little T-Hunting, and never missed performing a significant function at the annual Field Days. He was at the NCS of several July Hawaiian festivals, he participated in several Boy Scout Campouts and Jamborees and a number of Fire Service Day events. In October 1998, Buck was elected to be a DARC Director; that two-year term ended in October 2000.

During all this time, Buck managed to find time for on-the-air operation. He operated 2 and 10 meters until he got his General on April 15, 2000. By that time, his inventory of ham equipment had almost reached the awesome stage. He now has two Yaesu 757 HF rigs, a Swan 250, "three or four" two-meter rigs, two 220 MHz ICOM 37 mobile transceivers, two 440 HTs, a 440 rig in his truck and a Kenwood 733 2 meter/440 MHz dual bander. His collection of equipment includes a total of six or seven HTs. This extensive inventory allows him to support public service events without disassembling his home station.

To support the rigs at his home, he has a Butternut HF vertical, a wire cut "pretty close to a G5RV", a Ringo Ranger for 2 meters, a 2-meter/440 MHz vertical, and a 220 vertical. To these Buck will add a new tri-bander Comet when he moves his station from his backyard shack to a ham radio/computer room inside the house. Not up yet is a pair of 13-element 2-meter beams, and a Mosley 20/15/10 meter beam.

If you are ever looking for a really active ham or a really active Club member, you need to look no further than Buck. -W4HDC



January Meeting (continued from page 5)

given by **Art Sutorus**, KQ6HF, on the subject of RF safety. She called attention to the contests that were listed in the February issue of the "Q5" newsletter as well as the YL-OM contest, Novice Round-Up, Crystal Radio DX Contest and the Thinking Day contest, all taking place during February.

Larry said that VE testing by DARC would be done on February 17th.

Ray Olesen, AD6AF, reminded everyone that the net is held every Thursday. He said additional control operators are needed. He explained that experience as control operator can be very valuable, particularly in public service com-

Continued, see "**Minutes**", 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>.

March PROPAGATION OUTLOOK

We are headed for spring and the bands are still 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. The most recent smoothed sunspot number (SSN) data for Cycle 23 indicates we may be seeing the peak of Cycle 23 as it hovers around 120. Only time will tell if this is just a plateau toward a slightly higher peak or indeed it's the peak. Historically the SSN of a solar cycle of a magnitude of 120 will remain somewhat constant for a couple more years (as Cycle 20 did). So take advantage of the excellent worldwide propagation opportunities on the higher bands, 15, 12, and 10 meters, while you can.

DX Action

CURACAO, PJ2.- Larry, K6RO and Charlie, W6KK will operate (on all bands CW and SSB) as PJ2/home call from Curacao (SA-006) from 27 February to 5 March. Larry will be PJ2K in the ARRL SSB DX Contest (not PJ2R as this call has been issued to someone else). QSL PJ2K via K6RO and PJ2/ via home calls.

MACEDONIA, Z3. Zoki, Z31GB, is signing Z33F. He is active on all bands and modes, including the newer bands. QSL via NN6C.

NORFOLK ISLAND, VK9N. Nick, VK2ICK, and Bill, K6KM, are QRV as VK9LX/9 and VK9NOO, respectively. QSL to home calls.

PAKISTAN, AP. Robert, S53R, will be active from club station AP2ARS using CW. Activity is on 40 meters and up, including the newer bands, mostly during the weekends due to his work commitments. QSL to home call.

TAJIKISTAN, EY. EY8/RX3QY has been QRV on 20 meters CW from 0200 to 0300z. QSL via RA3OO.

San Ambrosio, CE0. Marco, CE6TBN reports the Chilean authorities have once again authorized the use of CE0XT for the upcoming operation from San Ambrosio (previously announced as CE0ZT). US QSL via N6MZ (Michael A. Mraz, 15526 Se 50th St, Bellevue, WA 98006-3611, USA); others via CE6TBN, Marco A. Quijada, P.O. Box 1234, Temuco, Chile.

SAO TOME, S9. Tom, S92TX, is mainly active on 20, 15 and 10 meters using SSB. He expects to be on 6 meters soon. Tom is on assignment for the Voice of America and will be here for two years. QSL via W7KNT.

VIETNAM, 3W. Hans, WA1LWS expects to be active again as 3W2LWS from Vietnam between 17 February and 6 March, including an entry in both the ARRL DX contests.

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munications, and requested that interested persons contact him.

Luis Manrique, KD6PMP, was selected for the monthly attendance prize but was not present. The prize will increase to \$15.00 next month. Raffle prize winners were: **Dave Buhler**, WB6ZGF, Police Call Book; **Peter Generosa**, W6INC, 2 meter / 440 MHz roll-up J-pole antenna; **Jon Olesen**, KD6HXP, ARRL Antenna Book; **Clem Patocka**, KB6ACJ, "QRZ" CD; Frank, subscription to *WORLD RADIO* magazine; and Larry won the packet of antenna parts.

Steve was pleased to announce that Ginny passed the Extra class examination and has applied to change her call sign.

Larry reminded everyone that the next General Meeting will be on March 1st. He adjourned the meeting at 8:55PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dick Holmes, WX6C, Secretary

ARRL OFFERS NEW FIVE-YEAR MEMBERSHIP

With a membership dues increase going into effect July 1, 2001, the ARRL is offering a special five-year membership plan until then, so members can lock in at the current lower dues rates.

Effective immediately, current or prospective ARRL members in the US and US possessions can obtain a five-year renewal or membership for \$146 (\$122 for those 65 or older)—a saving of \$24 (\$18 for those 65 or older) from the cost of year-to-year renewal at current rates. Due to postal considerations, this offer cannot be extended to those living in other countries. The special five-year membership offer expires June 30, 2001, the last day the present dues schedule is in effect. After that, annual dues will increase to \$39 for individuals (\$34 for those 65 and older). Another option is to apply for an ARRL Life Membership for \$850. Special discounts apply to senior and visually impaired applicants. A complete rate schedule and application form is available on the ARRL Web site at:

<http://www.arrl.org/join.html> .

- Extracted from *The ARRL Letter*,
February 9, 2001

CODELESS TECH LICENSE TURNS TEN

Valentine's Day, February 14, marked the 10th anniversary of the elimination of the Morse code requirement to obtain a Technician license. For the first time, starting on February 14, 1991, applicants could obtain an Amateur Radio license in the US without having to take a Morse code examination. The ARRL was among several petitioners for a codeless license—quite a controversial issue at the time. The Technician license has proved popular over the years, and Technician and Tech Plus licensees far outnumber other license classes today.

- Extracted from *The ARRL Letter*,
February 16, 2001

Treasurer's Report January 2000

SUMMARY

Bank Balance as of 12/31/2000	\$2,497.73
Income	\$1,741.22
Expenditures	(\$255.66)
Transfer from Savings	
Bank Balance as of 1/31/2001	\$3,983.29
Raffle Holding Fund	\$366.49

INCOME	This Month	Year to Date	Annual Budget	(Over) Under Budget
ARRL Memberships		0.00	373.00	373.00
Club Merchandise	35.05	35.05	700.00	664.95
DARC Dues	185.00	185.00	2,100.00	1,915.00
Interest on Savings	3.17	3.17	75.00	71.83
Luncheon Reserv.		0.00	1,300.00	1,300.00
Misc. Income	1,518.00	1,518.00	0.00	(1,518.00)
Fund Raisers		0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Totals	\$1,741.22	\$1,741.22	\$6,048.00	\$4,306.78

EXPENDITURES

	This Month	Year to Date	Annual Budget	(Over) Under Budget
ARRL Memberships		0.00	353.00	353.00
Attend. Prizes		0.00	55.00	55.00
Autopatch		0.00	240.00	240.00
Club Merchandise	9.72	9.72	400.00	390.28
Club Bulletin				
Printing		0.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
Supplies		0.00	20.00	20.00
Postage	68.00	68.00	650.00	582.00
Committees				
Awards		0.00	75.00	75.00
Education		0.00	30.00	30.00
Membership		0.00	50.00	50.00
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	25.00	25.76
Field Day		0.00	750.00	750.00
Luncheon		0.00	1,300.00	1,300.00
Picnic		0.00	50.00	50.00
Fund Raisers		0.00	50.00	50.00
DARC 50th Anniversary		0.00	150.00	150.00
Other Events		0.00	20.00	20.00
Insurance	54.00	54.00	400.00	346.00
Misc. Expenses	110.74	110.74	0.00	(110.74)
Officers' Expenses				
President		0.00	25.00	25.00
Secretary		0.00	25.00	25.00
Treasurer	13.20	13.20	25.00	11.80
Other Organizations				
Dues		0.00	20.00	20.00
RHARC Repr		0.00	350.00	350.00
PO Box		0.00	65.00	65.00
Refreshments		0.00	300.00	200.00
Stationery, Copies		0.00	20.00	20.00
Worldradio Listing		0.00	65.00	65.00
Totals	\$255.66	\$255.66	\$6838.00	\$6,582.34

Misc Income: \$1,396.00 Hamcon; \$122.00 Raffle
Misc Expense: \$110.74 Raffle

Frank Myllo III, KC6YPV, Treasurer



Board Minutes, continued from page 4

design has not been decided.

Ed says he has been considering a "Worked All Downey" award event. There was some discussion about dividing the map of Downey into sections that could be contacted to qualify for the award.

Larry informed Ed that Dick holds an envelope containing past information on contacting former members that did not renew.

Larry and Frank, KC6YPV, discussed the annual audit of the Club treasury. Larry will seek a third member for the Audit Committee.

Frank, KC6YPV, said the new roster will be included with the next "Q5" newsletter.

New Business: Glenn reported that we have the pair of frequencies for the 440 MHz repeater. Currently he is waiting for the duplexers to be tuned. He explained that some repeater equipment needs to be changed, such as installing two Yagi antennas to replace the vertical and obtaining better duplexers. He said a larger power supply is also needed. Larry said that he could use the Club's Astron 35M power supply. There was a discussion about the cost of items that are needed. A motion was made to make up to \$400 available for the repeater. The motion was seconded and approved.

Dave, while on the subject of the repeaters, said that the 2 meter autopatch has been having trouble processing calls to a certain area. He explained the problem in detail and said he will submit an article about it for the "Q5".

Larry advised the Board members that Dick inventoried the large amount of Club papers and records that are stored in two large plastic containers in his possession. He requested the Board members study the list to determine if there are any items that can be discarded. The subject will be discussed at the next Board meeting. He gave Arlene a hard copy of the list and Dick will e-mail a copy of the list to other Board members.

Dick discussed his interpretation of his duties as the new Secretary with the Board members. It was decided that the duties should remain the same as last year, coordinated with the Treasurer. Larry commented that the duties of all of the positions in the Constitution and Bylaws should be reviewed some time.

Dick, in reference to the Club's shortage of membership cards, distributed some samples of card stock that are available and card designs to Board members for their consideration. The samples will be addressed at the next Board meeting.

Larry and Dick, in reference to the change of some Board members and the year, distributed sample letterhead stationary to Board members for their consideration. It was decided that Dick will provide 100 sheets of letterhead stationary with updated information and the Club's logo to Larry for distribution as needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:36PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dick Holmes, WX6C, Secretary

DARC 2-Meter Simplex Autopatch Update

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

For those of you who use the DARC simplex autopatch, you might have noticed a voice recording when the called number is busy. The autopatch is located at a member's house that is in the Pacific Bell area. For those that don't live in Pacific Bell's area, this recording will be new to you. I have noticed some confusion for people that are not used to this. It says, "That line is busy, for \$0.95 repeat dialing will try to make the call for the next 30 minutes. If you already subscribe to repeat dialing there is no additional charge. To activate repeat dialing simply press 3." Then it repeats the message in Spanish. The autopatch has a busy signal detection circuit but since there is no busy signal anymore, the autopatch does not automatically hang up like it used to do. You will have to wait until the message ends to hit the "#" key on your radio to disconnect from the telephone line. Please remember that this is a simplex autopatch so the autopatch can NOT hear your commands until it stops transmitting. Sometimes the message will repeat one second later, so you will have to jump in on that one second drop to shut down the autopatch. Please DO NOT try to use this new telephone company service, it will not work. This is because the autopatch will NOT receive incoming phone calls.

Thanks -- 73 de KE6HPZ Glenn

FIRST CLASS



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