

Q5

By and for the Downey Amateur Radio Club, Inc.



Volume XXI Number 1

Our 51st Year

January 2002

W6TOI Multi-Op VHF/UHF Team To Make Presentation at January Meeting

The team of **Glenn Allen**, KE6HPZ, and **Bill Heather**, KB6WKT, will be the speakers for the January meeting. They have developed a power point presentation with pictures of the current setup that they are using on Mt. Gleason. Glenn and Bill have been VHF/UHF contesting since 1996 and have become highly successful. They hold the records for most points for the West Coast for January's contest and for September's. Many of the Club's members and former members have become very active in the VHF/UHF contesting over the past several years.

This will be a great chance to see what Glenn and Bill set up for a contest.

Plan to join us as this will be a very informative meeting about an exciting aspect of our hobby. The meeting will begin at about 7:30 P.M. on Thursday, January 3rd.

JANUARY MEETING

The January meeting of the DARC will be held in the auditorium at Sussman (formerly South) Middle School, 12500 Birchdale Ave., in Downey, beginning at 7:30 PM, Thursday, January 3, 2002.

Calling All Elmers!

The success of any organization depends on having good leaders. The Board would like to help insure the continued success of our hobby by re-initializing our Elmer system. Elmering is a teaching process--someone who has a skill helping someone else learn that skill.

If there is area of the hobby that you have particularly devoted time to and would like to share your knowledge and expertise, please let **Bill Heather**, KB6WKT, know. We need members who are willing to become Elmers. A list is being developed and will be distributed to those new Hams who come to our Club. This is one way that you can give back to the hobby that has given so much to you.

Q5 Available as Email

During the December meeting **Joe Francis**, WB6SZK, gave me a copy of his computer club newsletter printed in full color. He said they had started sending the newsletter via email to save in postage and help eliminate any concerns about opening mail. The WSWSS (Western States Weak Signal Society) to which I also belong has started doing the same thing. So starting in February we will be offering the Q5 in pdf format emailed to you. This will be in full color to enhance the viewing on the screen and will require Adobe's Acrobat Reader to open. Acrobat is a free download and most systems will already have it installed. Using a pdf format also reduces the chance of virus that could be spread in a more non-secure format. Those still wishing to receive the Q5 via the postal service may do so without interruption. As for myself I will opt to receive it electronically and print it out on my color printer. I just like paper for reading some things. If you would like to sign up to start receiving the Q5 via email please send me a message with the email address to which you would like it sent and advise me if you would like to opt out of the paper copy as well. So help save the Club some money on printing and postage and enjoy full screen, easy-to-read electronic version of the Q5. Send your request to n6teb@arrl.net

NEW 440 CLUB NET

Beginning Tuesday, January 8th at 7pm, **Bill Heather**, KB6WKT, will commence operation of a new DARC net utilizing our 440 repeater. The purpose of this net will be two-fold: to help increase activity on our 440 machine, and to give members and guests alike a chance to test out their 440 stations.

Tuesday night was chosen so as to not interfere with our 2 meter net that runs on Thursdays; and 7pm so as not to interfere with prime time TV (good suggestions **Dave Buhler**, WB6ZGF). Preliminary plans call for a roll call format with guests getting on the roll after 3 successive checkins.

Bill will begin as net control and hold that position for a few weeks until volunteers step forward to fill the position on a permanent basis. Please contact Bill if you are interested. It will be a rotating assignment like our 2 meter net. So whether you're home or mobile, make sure you tune in and check it out. (Ed.--See Pg 2 for frequency and P/L).

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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 the remainder of 2001 is as follows:

Feb 16 Apr 20 June 15
Aug 17 Oct 19 Dec 21

The ARRL/VEC test fee is \$10.00 for all tests. 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 **Ray Fas**, KD6GRM. Previously ordered badges may be picked up at the Club 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 **Ray Fas**, KD6GRM, at any meeting or at (562) 861-6651
*Free to new members

**Saturday
Breakfast Location**

Many DARC Club members meet for breakfast each Saturday morning at 7:00 AM at **The Nordic Fox** 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".

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
K6ZCM	Robert Patterson	23
KE6AHS	Don Johnson	25
N6MY	Bill Jones	26
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**
1400 Masser Place
Montebello, CA 90640
Include your name(s), callsign(s), address, and phone number

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Dave Glenn, N6TEB

Christmas is over and we are off to a new year. I am looking forward to a great new year filled with many fun activities for our Club. One topic that keeps coming up is license classes. After much discussion your Board has determined we will be forming a new license class to take place in February. This class will be a real divergence from previous classes as this will be our first attempt at a no-code Tech only class. This is an area that has the most potential to attract new hams to our ranks and get them indoctrinated into our hobby. But this will only succeed with your help. One of the biggest problems I have heard from new hams is "Now that I have my license, what do I do?". We as a Club need to provide a solid pool of Hams willing to Elmer new hams so that they can become valuable assets of the fraternity of Amateur Radio. Think back when you first got on the air, without someone there to prod you along or kindly correct you from using "10" codes. Many of us may not have stuck with ham radio out of fear, embarrassment or just not knowing how to do it. I know there will be those who think we will be dumbing down the hobby by not teaching weeks worth of electronics and aiding people into becoming appliance operators. However, I feel our hobby has grown so diverse it has become almost impossible to really teach all the aspects of our hobby even if the class lasts several weeks. So why not help those who have a desire to learn the basics in operating practices and procedures then Elmer them along until they find their "nitch" in this every widening hobby. whether it's Microwave experimentation, Public Service, Antenna design, QRP and Kit Building or just chatting to friends on the way to and from work or school, there is a place for everyone in this hobby and everyone is welcome. Until next month, 73 and please let me hear your ideas for our Club.



DARC Looking For Project Manager

The DARC is looking for someone to serve as Project Manager of the communications support for the "Tour de Sewer" bicycle ride to take place in mid-March, 2002. Duties include recruiting and assignment of operators, coordination with Ride officials and supervision of the DARC activity on the day of the Ride. This is an excellent chance to be a part of the planning and implementation of a public service event that the Club has been doing for many years. We have documentation from previous rides, so not much pre-planning will be required.

For more information or to volunteer for this assignment please contact **Dave Buhler**, WB6ZGF, at 562/861-6069 or e-mail at wb6zgf@catisle.net.

de N6TEB – Dave

WB6ZGF

Downey Holiday Lane Parade A Big Success!

The Downey Holiday Lane Parade is now an institution in the community and the DARC has been there for many years providing communications support to the Downey Chamber of Commerce, which sponsors this annual event.

This year's parade was held on Sunday, December 2nd, and for a while it looked like Mother Nature was not going to cooperate as clouds and sprinkles before the step-off seemed to herald the kind of rain storm that drenched the parade a few years ago. But, as parade time approached, the sprinkles stopped, the clouds lifted and the parade went forward.

As usual, the DARC operators were stationed as "shadows" with some of the parade officials, assigned to the formation area, reviewing stands and other locations where communications would be necessary. Since this was the first parade to go down Downey Ave. following the reconfiguration of the street in the downtown area, much attention was focused on how well the units would navigate the narrower route. Particular concern was given to the Downey Rose Float (in it's traditional pre-Tournament of Roses appearance) since it could not turn towards the disbanding area at City Hall due to the narrow roadway. The Parade Committee had decided the float could continue south, back to it's float barn, through the crowd at 3rd St. With the help of the Downey P.D., this was accomplished with no problems and the Committee members (myself included) breathed a sigh of relief.

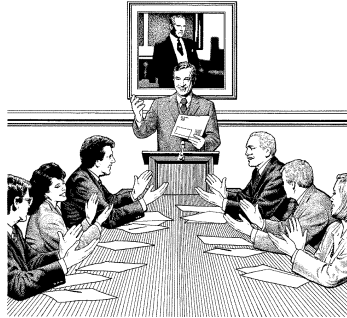
There was only one incident of note. One of the horses being ridden by an equestrian was spooked near the reviewing stand and threw the rider. He was not injured but the horse ran unsupervised through adjacent neighborhoods until the police were able to "corral" him a while later.

On behalf of the Chamber of Commerce Parade Committee, my thanks to the following for giving of their time and talents so this parade could be another success: **Ed Roos**, KC6ZHY; **Dave Glenn**, N6TEB; **Doug Lyon**, N6WZI; **Ray Fas**, KD6GRM; **Larry Vaughn**, KD6NZW; **Bill Heather**, KB6WKT; **Greg Savage**, KG6EPM; **Glenn Allen**, KE6HPZ; **John Powell**, KF6EOJ; **Ginny Grudzinski**, AJ6CW; **Steve Grudzinski**, AD6HT; **Chuck Anna**, KE6TBC and **Frank Hornberger**, N6ZDS.

--WB6ZGF

DARC Board of Directors Meeting, December 12, 2001

Dave Glenn, N6TEB, President, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM at Downey Fire Station #1. Other board members present were Frank Hornberger, N6ZDS, First Vice President; Bill Heather, KB6WKT, VP Programs; Ann Wright, KF6UEA; Dave Buhler, WB6ZGF, VP Services; Ray Fas, KD6GRM, VP Ways and Means; Tom VanBuskirk, K6TV, Director (Two Year) and Trustee, W6TOI; Paul Metzger, KQ6EH, Secretary; Jon Oleson, KD6HXP, Treasurer. Also present was Arlene Schwartz, KE6GFI. Absent were Steve Grudzinski, AD6HT, Director (One Year).



Officer Reports: Jon said he is having difficulties in being granted access to the Club's bank account and that he will research this issue with the bank. He asked about possible refunds for the 5 individuals who did not show for the November luncheon. The board agreed that there will be only one refund, and that to the widow of our late Secretary, Dick Holmes, WX6C.

Bill said the program for January will be presented by himself and Glenn Allen, KE6HPZ on the topic of the W6TOI Contest group and their adventures on Mt. Gleason. Dave Glenn suggested some additional possible topics for future programs, including a Tail Gate Party, Project Building, having the old timers speak on the early days of radio, or possibly inviting Clinton Walker, W1LP, who is a big gun maritime mobile VHF+ operator as a guest speaker.

Ann said she is working on a new DARC brochure/pamphlet.

Dave Buhler said he would like to have a project manager for the upcoming Tour De Sewer, which is scheduled for some time in late March. He also informed the board of other upcoming events, those being the ARC Walk, scheduled for April 20th; the Downey Street Fair, and Fire Service Day.

Ray Fas said he would like to come up with some new club merchandise (wearable items) in order to help serve the club more effectively as a fund raising tool.

Planning Calendar: Dave Glenn advised that the next VE testing session will be February December 15.

Old Business: Licensing classes—Tom was assigned the position of License Class Chairman (for the duties of administering classes for those interested in becoming licensed Amateur Radio operators). Tom and Dave Glen talked about the structure and planning of those classes. Although not in yet not final, the structure appears as follows: Two Saturday classes to be scheduled for some time in February. These classes will be targeted at those who are interested in attaining their no-code technician license. The first Saturday class will be 4 hours in length and dedicated to the in-depth study of the learning material. The second Saturday will be a whole day affair, with more in-depth studying, and reviewing, and ending the day with license examinations. Ann inquired as to how the general public would become informed of the classes we are to offer. They suggested flyers, and further discussed avenues in which to deploy them to.

New QSL Cards: Dave Glenn informed the group that he has not yet received the newly redesigned club QSL cards.

Q5 Editor: Dave Glenn reported that we are still looking for a new Q5 editor. And as far as the DARC web site goes, he agreed to maintain that for the time being.

Elmering, membership: Bill suggested we could help build interest in the Club by encouraging members to become more involved in both supporting & initiating the active participation of others in our hobby. We could also develop a current list of members and their particular fields of expertise/knowledge within the hobby, which could be used as a resource for others who are interested in these areas. Tom mentioned the sponsoring of new members. Bill will write an article addressing this issue.

Swap Meet Heaven

No matter where you live in California, you are bound to be within an hour or so drive from at least one swapmeet that is geared towards the wants and needs of ham radio enthusiasts. Here in Southern California we have our two mainstays: one on the 3rd Saturday of the month at the CalPoly Pomona campus and one on the last (not necessarily the 4th) Saturday of the month held at TRW (2 miles south of LAX on Aviation Blvd.) If you feel like a bit more of a drive you can go to Fontana on the 2nd Saturday of the month. These three usually have a good assortment of radios, parts, test equipment and the ever-present computer fare. But the early bird gets the worm and the best chance for the "find of the day".

The one we refer to as the CalPoly Swap has three bonus features which make it the reason why several of the spouses accompany their mates to this particular meet. The features are:

1. An antique/collectibles swap taking place in the adjoining parking lot
2. The Kellogg Arabian Horse breeding ranch on campus. You can walk over and see the horses up close and personal. It is especially fun when all the foals start appearing.
3. And last, but not least by any means, real bathrooms.

The Lake Perris QRP Society usually sets up a working station and gather around & under the blue canopy between their forages back to the aisles to look for buried treasure. Although 7 AM is the "official" starting time, the real treasure hunters have been spotted as early as 6:15 – sometimes with flashlight in hand! Somewhere around 11-11:30 the group takes down the antenna, folds up the chairs and heads to the Sizzler in Diamond Bar for a leisurely lunch, show & tell and discussion of worthy topics.

By 2 o'clock everyone is on their way home only to reconvene in 1-2 weeks for the TRW swap. But more about that one next time.

Dick Palmer,
WB6JDH

DARC General Meeting Minutes for October 5, 2001

The general meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by **Dave Glenn**, N6TEB, President. Dave then led group into the Pledge of Allegiance.

Other Board members in attendance were **Ann Wright**, KF6EUA, VP Membership; **Dave Buhler**, VP Services; **Tom VanBuskirk**, K6TV, Director (Two Year) & Trustee (W6TOI); **Paul Metzger**, KQ6EH, Secretary; and **Jon Olesen**, KD6HXP, Treasurer.

A total of 34 persons were in attendance.

Dave Buhler, touched briefly on how surprisingly smooth the Downey Holiday Lane Parade had proceeded. Although difficulties were expected due to this being the first parade since the renovation of the downtown area of Downey, the parade went surprisingly smooth which emphasizes the efficient planning of the event.

Motions to approve both the minutes and Treasurer's Report for November were presented, seconded, and approved.

Dave Glenn, asked the members in attendance to participate in an ARRL club survey. The club survey (which has been sent to the ARRL affiliated clubs) will serve the ARRL with information pertaining to club membership, activities, interest, fundraising, recruitment, goals, and what the more the ARRL can do for us as a club.



Dave Glenn pointed out the stack of free goodies had been donated by **Warren Pope**, W4HDC, and **John Powell**, KF6EOJ. The items included were a 14" color computer monitor, several pieces of computer hardware, software, books/manuals, and an assortment of electronic components and hardware.

Dave Glenn described the raffle prizes that were on display at the front table, and in doing so, also thanked Ann Palmer, KG6EDB, for designing and donating a commemorative coffee mug in memory of the WTC tragedy.

Ann Wright, introduced the new guests. **Grant Harr**, who is working along with his son Steve to attain their first Amateur Radio licenses, and **Jeffrey Toussieng**, KF6OAY, who was actually working on the auditorium's stage lighting system for the school — a coincidence of sorts.

The \$5 attendance prizewinner was **Margo Hoffman**, KE6ZYG, who was not present. It's value next month will be \$10.

Raffle prize winners for the monthly meeting drawing were **Warren Pope**, multi-storage tool box with 13 pocket tool bag; **David Buhler**, ARRL 2002 Handbook; **Paul Metzger**, 1 year world radio subscription; **Dave Glenn**, 1 year world radio subscription; **Ed Roos**, KC6ZHY, a commemorative coffee mug; **Ann Palmer**, a Summer 2001 QRZ cd-rom. At the conclusion of the very short business portion of the meeting everyone enjoyed all the Christmas goodies that people had brought. The good food and fellowship lasted until the meeting ended about 9 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Paul Metzger, KQ6EH, Secretary



Board Minutes

Continued from page 4

New Business: Legality of the raffle— To maintain our tax-exempt status on the sale of raffle tickets, we will allow non-members to purchase raffle tickets only twice a year. In general, a social club is expected to receive its support from membership fees, dues and assessments.

Dave Glenn informed the group that Dick Palmer, WB6JDH has filled the position of raffle chairman.

Termites in The Shed: Dave Buhler said that he was informed by **Glenn Allen**, KE6HPZ, that Glenn had found termite droppings the last time he was in the shed. While the group discussed a plan of attack, Dave Glenn added that an inventory of the shed was also required. Bill and Ray agreed to see to it that the shed be both inventoried and sprayed for termites at the same time. This to be scheduled for sometime in January after the Holidays.

Electronic Delivery of The Q5: Dave Glenn mentioned how several other clubs and organizations are sending their newsletters via e-mail. This could cut back on the costs of printing, stationary, and postage. Dave Buhler noted how nice it is to walk to your mailbox and read it on hard copy. Then again, how nice it would also be to have it on your computer in full color, and being able to print as many copies as you'd like. After further discussion, the board moved, seconded, and approved to make the option (paper or e-mail) available to the current readers of the Q5 club newsletter.

Field Day Power Distribution Box
Continued, see "**Minutes**" page 6

Wanted: Q5 Editor

The Downey Amateur Radio Club is looking for someone to take over the duties of Editor of the Q5. This position requires familiarity with computer desktop publishing and the use of e-mail. The 10-page Q5 is printed once each month and most of the articles are written by Club members. If you would be interesting in filling this important position, please contact **Dave Glenn**, N6TEB.

A Nicer Place for the Club's Saturday Breakfasts

A dozen or two members of the Club have been gathering at Foxy's for Saturday morning breakfast for several years. There are those who drop in once in a while and others who hardly ever miss a Saturday morning.

When I first took Ann and my kids to breakfast at Foxy's in the early 60s, it was a special treat, and we loved the decor and the tables with toasters built in. Unfortunately, over the years, the facilities and the high quality of the food deteriorated. Foxy's was sold and the facilities and food quality continued to deteriorate. Even so, the Club found it a good place for their breakfasts because the management tolerated our assembling many small tables to make one table long enough to seat us all and the menu continued to be inexpensive.

Coming Up in Next Month's Spotlight

You will find the format of next month's *Spotlight* column changed. This coming change is to allow the **Q5** to tell you about some of our members who don't have a long history as hams or a large inventory of multiband equipment and antennas. We may find a few members who have never actually been on the air, or perhaps some who have been long associated with amateur radio, but never gotten their licenses.

We will do this by including several members each month, perhaps in separate paragraphs or perhaps mixed together. Anyway, we think it will be fun to tell you about the background of people you know now only as names and faces, or maybe only names and calls. Of course, if we run across a member now and then who has more extensive background than can be accommodated in this format, we can always go back to the single subject for a month.

The Q5 looks forward to this change, and we think you will enjoy it, too.

NEW SECTION MANAGER FOR SAN DIEGO SECTION

In the ARRL San Diego Section, Kent Tiburski, K6FQ, of San Diego will step into the post of Section Manager now held by Tuck Miller, NZ6T, who was just elected ARRL Southwestern Division Vice Director. The change is effective January 1st. Miller has served as SM since April 1998. Tiburski has served as an Assistant Section Manager, District Emergency Coordinator and Technical Coordinator for the section.

Now things have taken a turn for the better. Last month Foxy's was sold again. The new owner, who lives just across the street, has aggressively begun refurbishing the whole restaurant. The tables have been stripped and refinished and are surrounded by new Captain-style chairs. The booths have been reupholstered. Food is served hot on new, pre-warmed dishes and cold drinks are served cold in new glassware. The ropes, which formed a large part of the décor are gone; new curtains grace the windows. A salad bar has been added. The old Foxy's is gone; it's now called the Nordic Fox.

New items have appeared on the breakfast menu, things like Swedish Pancakes with Lingonberries, and Danish Pancake Balls. For lunch, if you choose, you can get Yellow Swedish Pea Soup. How about Swedish Cabbage Balls for dinner, or maybe Swedish Meatballs, and perhaps sides of Pickled Herring or Pickled Cucumber? The menu has a section for Mexican Specialties, for Seniors' Dishes and a Children's Corner. Of course, those into less exotic dishes can still get their breakfasts of eggs, pancakes or a waffle and bacon, or Ann's choice, a Veggie Omelet.

When Club members walked in at 7 AM Saturday following the overhaul, there were "Hey, are we in the right place?" kind of jokes. And when the food was served, the jokes were repeated. Better join us next Saturday! You will find the changes to your liking.

Goodbye, Foxy's, we enjoyed our breakfasts for many years, but now you're gone. Long live the Nordic Fox!

-W4HDC

Minutes

Continued from page 5

Fixes: Attention to this matter was brought to Dave Glenn by John Powell, KF6EOJ. The exact issue is the badly frayed interconnecting power cables. Recommendations will be asked of **Bill Livingston**, WA6QLW.

Filed Day Committee: Dave Glenn addressed the need to start organizing a Field Day Committee. Steve has been Field Day Chairman for the past two years and would like to take this year off.

Audit Committee: Dave Glenn asked both Dave Buhler and Tom if they were willing to accept the duties as 2/3rds of the audit committee. They both agreed to such. The third position is still open and will be filled by a club member shortly.

440 Repeater Net: Bill brought to attention that the 440 repeater has been on the air for over a year now, but still does not have a weekly net. He noted that the machine is under-utilized and that a weekly net would not only promote activity by current owners of 440 radios, but entice others to acquire the equipment. The board agreed that the net will be held on Tuesday nights at 7:00 PM with a role call format. This will not interfere with clubs existing 2 meter net. Bill agreed to be the first control operator and to write an article for the Q5.

Assistant ARRL Director: Since Fried Heyn's tenure as the ARRL Southwest Division Director is up, so is the Assistant Directors. Bill was chosen to write an e-mail to Fried Heyn re-affirming our endorsement of our Assistant Director, in this case, Bill himself.

440 Repeater Duplexer: Bill motioned that Dick Palmer be reimbursement for the 440 duplexer that he had purchased for the club while attending a local electronic swap meet. Dave Buhler noted that the repeater is already \$347.00 over budget. The reimbursement of Dick Palmer was seconded by Frank and approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Metzger, KQ6EH, Secretary

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>.*

Please send me your updated DX totals!

January Propagation Outlook

Winter is here and the background noise is dropping. DX will be its best during dark hours on the 30-160 meter bands. Good sunspot numbers will keep 10 and 12 meters open most days. 15 to 20 meters will remain very good. Average daily solar flux values for December were up slightly from the previous month, and were a fairly high monthly value for the year. Average daily solar flux for January through December was 167, 147, 178, 178, 149, 174, 131, 163, 234, 208, 213, and 220. Here is a great web site for real time propagation information: <http://dx.qsl.net/propagation/>

DX Action

Antarctica, ZS7ANT by Anton, ZS4AGA from Sanae Base on Princess Martha Coast, IOTA AN-016, until February 2002. QSL via operator's instructions.

Balearic Islands, EA6/DL6KAC by DL6KAC from Mallorca (EU-004); 40-10m (perhaps 80m); mainly SSB, CW available; 350w; wire antennas; holiday style operation; QSL OK via DARC Buro or direct. Till Jan 5, 2002.

Belau, T88/JK1FNN by JK1FNN and 7L1MKM from OC-009; all bands; CW SSB RTTY. Till Jan ?, 2002.

Fernando de Noronha, PY0FT by PY8IT; emphasis on digital modes: RTTY PSK31 SSTV . Till Jan 6, 2002.

Guinea (Republic), 3XY/VE2XO, by VE2XO from Conarky Island (Dec 26-27/Jan3-5); as 3XY6A and from Roume Island (AF-051) (Dec 28-Jan 2); and as 3XY8A; 20-10m; SSB PSK31; Till Jan 3, 2002. Holiday style operation.

Rotuma Island, 3D2AG/R, QSL to 3D2AG, Callbook address. Till Jan10, 2002.

Sierra Leone, 9L1BTB, by Zbig, SP7BTB will be active for the next 9 months as he is working here for the UN in Freetown. Activity is on 40 to 12 meters using SSB. QSL via SP7CDG.

Thailand, HS0GBI by HS Team from Tarutao Island (AS-126); IOTA frequencies; CW SSB RTTY PSK31 SSTV FM; QSL: Cherdchai Yiwlek, P.O. Box 1090 Kasetsart, Bangkok 10903, Thailand. Till Jan 4, 2002.

FCC Registration Number Now Mandatory

Anyone filing an Amateur Radio application now will be asked to supply a 10-digit FCC Registration Number (FRN) issued by the FCC's new Commission Registration System, or CORES. The requirement applies to FCC applications filed on-line or on paper. The FCC also has supplanted Universal Licensing System (ULS) registration with "CORES/Call Sign" registration, so applicants no longer need to register separately in both systems. Most, if not all, hams who registered previously with the ULS already have an FRN, although they may not know it yet.

Amateurs can learn their FRNs by doing a license search on the FCC's Universal Licensing System page <<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>>. FRNs also are displayed via the ARRL call sign server on ARRLWeb <<http://www.arrl.org>>.

- Extracted from *The ARRL Letter* 12/07/01

ARRL ISSUES QRP DXCC PROGRAM RULES

The ARRL has issued rules for its new QRP DXCC Award. Applications will be accepted starting January 2, 2002.

The ARRL Board of Directors approved the new QRP DXCC Award at its July 2001 meeting. The QRP DXCC Award is given for working 100 different "entities" (formerly "countries") on The DXCC List while operating with an output power of 5 W or less.

Standard DXCC rules which may be found at <<http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/>> also apply to this new award. Contacts made since November 15, 1945, are acceptable. The award is available to Amateur Radio operators worldwide.

Application forms and additional information are available on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/qrp/index.html>>, via e-mail to dxcc@arrl.org, fax 860-594-0259, or mail to ARRL DXCC, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

- Extracted from *The ARRL Letter* 12/07/01

KIDS' DAY

Tune up the radio and turn on the kids: Are you ready? Here comes Kid's Day! On Saturday, January 5, sit down at your radio, tune it up, and share it with the younger generation. Let them talk about Pokemon, school, games, Harry Potter, computers, friends and other kid stuff, while you manage the technical aspects and just watch and listen for a change.

Kid's Day is always lots of fun for all ages, and it's a terrific opportunity for parents, clubs and individual amateurs to show youngsters what great fun ham radio can be. For more information about Kid's Day, visit the Kid's Day Rules page on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/ead/kd-rules.html>>.

- *The ARRL Letter* 12/14/01

Treasurer's Report November 2001

NEW KIND OF REPEATER

SUMMARY

Bank Balance as of 9/30/2001	\$5,433.50
Income	\$904.00
Expenditures	(\$2,820.22)

Bank Balance as of 11/30/2001	\$3,523.98
Raffle Holding Fund	\$95.31

INCOME	This Month	Year to Date	Annual Budget	(Over) Under Budget
ARRL Memberships		184.00	373.00	189.00
Club Merchandise		314.05	700.00	385.95
DARC Dues	255.00	1,725.00	2,100.00	375.00
Interest on Savings		38.34	75.00	36.66
Luncheon Reserv.	198.00	810.00	1,300.00	490.00
Misc. Income	451.00	4,749.83	0.00	(4,749.83)
Fund Raisers		639.85	1,500.00	860.15
Totals	\$904.00	\$8,461.07	\$6,048.00	(2,413.07)

EXPENDITURES

	This Month	Year to Date	Annual Budget	(Over) Under Budget
ARRL Memberships		171.00	353.00	182.00
Attend. Prizes		40.00	55.00	15.00
Autopatch, Repeater	17.93	177.61	240.00	62.39
Club Merchandise		29.43	400.00	370.57
Club Bulletin				
Printing	129.28	1,127.03	1,200.00	72.97
Supplies		68.00	20.00	48.00
Postage		469.50	650.00	180.50
Committees				
Awards	75.60	75.60	75.00	(0.60)
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		497.02	150.00	(347.02)
Events				
Christmas Party		0.00	25.00	25.00
Field Day		523.26	750.00	226.74
Luncheon	752.33	752.33	1,300.00	547.67
Picnic		44.00	50.00	6.00
Fund Raisers		44.64	50.00	5.36
DARC 50th An.		49.61	150.00	100.39
Other Events		0.00	20.00	20.00
Insurance	332.00	386.00	400.00	14.00
Misc. Expenses	1,123.08	2,335.01	0.00	(2,335.01)
Officers' Expenses				
President		0.00	25.00	25.00
Secretary		0.00	25.00	25.00
Treasurer		20.00	25.00	5.00
Other Organizations				
Dues		20.00	20.00	0.00
RHARC Repr	350.00	350.00	350.00	0.00
PO Box	40.00	80.00	65.00	(15.00)
Refreshments	126.00	126.00	200.00	74.00
Stationery, Copies		0.00	20.00	20.00
Worldradio Listing		65.00	65.00	0.00
Totals	\$2,820.22	\$7,451.04	\$6,838.00	(\$613.04)

Misc Expenses: \$1,123.08, raffle
Bank Service Charge \$8.00
Domain Registration \$35.00

Frank Myllo III, KC6YPV
Treasurer



The Washington [DC] *Times* reported in their December 28, 2001 edition that DC Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel were encountering widespread holes in the coverage of the Fire Department's new 800 MHz. communications system. The EMS uses the communications system recently installed for and used by the Fire Department. An assistant Fire Department Chief said the problem is because they have installed only four of the 19 "radio towers" needed to relay signals.

Although the problem is certainly a serious one, there were a couple of humorous aspects to the *Times* article. The HTs carried by FD and EMS personnel emit a "honking sound" when they lose the received signal. This leads to a new term (the *Q5* notes) to our hobby's vocabulary, that of "being honked out." EMS personnel report that in the underground Metro stations they are honked out most of the time.

Fire Department personnel report that next week (this week by the time you read this), they will test a prototype portable briefcase-size repeater that could be used at the sites of emergencies. The *Times*, apparently wanting to ensure that its readers understand technically complex terminology, defines a repeater as "a small antenna about the size of a briefcase."

Why is our repeater so big and complex, Glenn?

- W4HDC

HAM-SAILOR COMPLETES "THE BIG ROUND TRIP"

David Clark, KB6TAM—the oldest person to sail solo around the world—arrived back in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, December 7 to a huge welcome. He'd been on the high seas for two years. "They made a big deal out of it," said Chuck Baer, W4ROA, an ARRL Assistant Southeastern Division Director who followed Clark's journey and was on hand for the Florida homecoming. "The Guinness Book of World Records people were there to declare it official." Baer said Clark, 77, was in high spirits and glad to be back on solid ground.

In Fort Lauderdale, Clark was reunited with his wife, Lynda, and other family members whom he had not seen since setting sail in 1999. Baer said a crowd of around 300 people—including news media—was on hand.

Clark used Amateur Radio throughout his two-year odyssey to keep in touch with his family. Having the radio aboard also may have saved his life. When his boat began sinking off South Africa, Clark put out a distress call that was relayed to maritime authorities. The crew of a commercial vessel plucked him out of the water to safety.

Clark in part supported his adventure with corporate sponsorship, but he funded much of the trip through Social Security earnings and occasional clarinet gigs. Hams along the way also provided financial assistance.

- Extracted from *The ARRL Letter* 12/14/01

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

HAM WINS ANTENNA LAWSUIT

In one of the most favorable PRB-1 court rulings in years, a New York amateur has won a three-year battle to erect a tower on his property. The US District Court for the Northern District of New York has ordered the Saratoga Springs Planning Board to grant Randall J. Palmer, N2NVH, a special use permit for a 44-foot antenna support structure. PRB-1 is the limited federal pre-emption that requires localities to reasonably accommodate Amateur Radio communication.

In a 20-page decision issued December 3, US District Judge Norman A. Mordue found that "the planning board did not attempt to negotiate a satisfactory compromise" with Palmer. As a result, Mordue, said, the town failed to reasonably accommodate Palmer's amateur communication needs pursuant to PRB-1. The judge found that "the planning board engaged Palmer in a strictly one-sided negotiation consisting of inflexible demands and the construction of hoop after hoop for Palmer to jump through." Mordue found that the record "clearly proves" the planning board made no attempt to negotiate a satisfactory compromise. On the other hand, the judge asserted, Palmer complied with many of the planning board's numerous requests and even made concessions on his own initiative. Mordue said that since the town already understood its obligations under PRB-1, he was directing the planning board to immediately grant Palmer's application. It's not known if the town will appeal.

-Extracted from *The ARRL Letter*, 12/07/01

FIRST CLASS



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