

# Q5

## By and for the Downey Amateur Radio Club, Inc.



Volume XXI Number 2

*Our 51st Year*

February 2002

### February Meeting of the Downey Amateur Radio Club to be Held Thursday, February 7

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Downey Amateur Radio Club will take place at 7:30 PM on Thursday, February 7. As usual, the meeting will be held at the Sussman Middle School (formerly South) Auditorium. The meeting will begin with a guest speaker who is yet to be announced, and will feature a raffle, refreshments, and other activities. Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is encouraged to attend.

#### **FEBRUARY MEETING**

The February 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, February 7, 2002.

### Tour de Sewer March 16

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 on March 16, 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](mailto:wb6zgf@catisle.net).

### FCC REALLOCATION RETAINS AMATEUR RADIO'S 219-220 MHZ SLOT

Amateur Radio's secondary allocation at 219-220 MHz remains intact in the wake of an FCC spectrum reallocation of the 216 to 220-MHz band, among others. The FCC declined, however, to go along with ARRL's request to expand amateur access to 216 to 220 MHz. On a brighter note, the Commission potentially relieved spectrum competition for Amateur Radio at 2.3 GHz by making space available elsewhere. The FCC Order (ET Docket 00-221) reallocated 27 MHz of spectrum in seven bands from government to non-government use. Some of the spectrum will be put up for bid in public auctions. The Commission allocated the 216-220 MHz band to the fixed and mobile services (co-primary), although some government systems in the band will remain.

David Sumner, K1ZZ, ARRL Executive VP and Secretary commented that "While the limited secondary allocation to the Amateur Service at 219-220 MHz is being maintained, the more intensive use of 216-220 MHz by commercial services is likely to preclude amateur use of the band in many parts of the country." The amateur allocation at 219-220 MHz is secondary to the Automated Maritime Telecommunications System (AMTS). Within the 1 MHz of spectrum, Amateurs may install and operate point-to-point digital message-forwarding systems, but only under strict limitations that require coordination with and sometimes approval by AMTS licensees. The ARRL had hoped to expand opportunities for point-to-point digital messaging systems, but the FCC said amateurs already have access to other bands for that purpose. -- *The ARRL Letter*, 1/11/02

### 440 Net Off To A Good Start

The DARC's new net, held on the Club 440 MHz. repeater, appears to be accomplishing its mission of getting more members on UHF and populating the repeater. As was explained in last month's Q5, the net is conducted with a "roll call" format followed by Club Board member comments and a rag chew. After two consecutive check-ins, you become a "regular" and will be called during the roll call. All Club members are invited to participate and, of course, visitors are always welcome.

The DARC UHF repeater is on 445.640 MHz., negative offset, CTCSS (PL) tone of 156.7 Hz. The net is held weekly on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM; the present net control is Bill Heather, KB6WKT, who is spearheading this effort. Bill is looking for additional net control operators in a rotating format similar to the NCS schedule for our 2-meter net. If you would like to participate as net control please contact Bill by phone at 562/863-6607 or by e-mail at: [wheather@catalina-inter.net](mailto:wheather@catalina-inter.net).

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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](mailto: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".

**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.

KD6DIL	Ann Pope	3
KF6UEA	Ann Wright	7
KB6WKT	Bill Heather	7
KN6LM	Frank Tillmann	7
WB6GJW	Bob Wartenbe	20
K6DFP	Chester Beck	23
ASC	Irma Varney	25
W6LTJ	Dave Quintana	25
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**  
**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

What a great meeting we had last month. **Bill Heather**, KB6WKT, did an excellent presentation on mountain-topping featuring their usual spot on Mt. Gleason, a former Nike missile site. We also had two former long time members sign up again for active membership. Welcome back to **Wes Printz**, W3SE, and **Karen Mason**, K6FOO, both of whom have served on our board in the past and are very active in the Ham community. A few nights later at our January Board meeting **Arlene Schwartz**, KE6GFI, stopped by to bring us a listing of CW practice sponsored by **Gordon West**, WB6NOA, and airing on 144.330 in February and March. I would like to encourage anyone wishing to upgrade to take advantage of these CW sessions. I have had many people tell me they couldn't learn the code do just that with enough dedicated practice. The board meetings are always open to the general membership and I encourage anyone to follow Arlene's example and stop by.



The month of February hosts several holidays including Valentines Day. Every year my wife, Laura, (no call, but it's not because I haven't tried) prepares a meal for us that she made when we first dated. It's a heart shaped meatloaf covered with mashed potatoes and cheese. Not exactly low cholesterol but it serves as a reminder of our long time relationship. As I like to go all out for various Ham radio activities I have to earn my "kitchen pass" which usually involves being caught up on chores around the house. Ham radio is a fun, exciting hobby but it has to be balanced with household duties and work responsibilities. This is especially true during public service events, contests and the many projects we all seem to have going. I encourage everyone to take time out from your busy, hectic schedules and pay tribute to someone who helps and supports you this Valentines Day.

February also marks the return of our License class. Looks like the cost will be \$30 which will include all the study materials. There will be the usual \$10 fee for the test (if the student feels confident enough to take it at the end of the class). Make sure you get the word out to anyone who has asked you in the past how to get a Ham license. On another note, our 440 net has had over a dozen check-ins per evening in the first few weeks. Over days following the nets I noticed a marked increase in activity on our machine. I personally have had the privilege to chat with **Dave Herman**, WA4HTM, **Tom VanBuskirk**, K6TV, **Glenn Allen**, KE6HPZ, **Bill Heather**, KB6WKT, **John Powell**, KF6EOJ, **Larry Cude**, KE6EOL, **Greg Savage**, KG6EPM, and a new ham, **Mac Herrington**, KG6IPY, son in law of Tom Van Buskirk, K6TV. There are lots of good things in store for the next few months so keep the air alive. I'll see you at the next meeting. --N6TEB

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## FCC INVITES COMMENTS ON FOUR AR PETITIONS

The FCC is seeking comments on four Amateur Radio rule-making petitions filed recently. **Comments are due by February 7, 2002.** The petitions seek (1) to legally separate wideband and narrowband modes on 160 meters, (2) to allow hams to bequeath their call signs "in memoriam" to a specific club, (3) to expand HF operating privileges for Novice and Tech Plus operators, and (4) to permit retransmission on amateur frequencies of NASA manned spacecraft communications. Details may be found in the referenced source (see below) on <http://www.arrl.org>. Interested parties may comment on any or all of these petitions via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System <<http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>>.

-Extracted from *The ARRL Letter*, 1/11/02

## 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.

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## DARC Silent Key Sale

A variety of Amateur Radio equipment and books are being offered by the Downey Amateur Radio Club on behalf of the widow of former DARC member Jack Parks, N6RAZ, a silent key.

Minimum prices have been established by a DARC committee and bids are being solicited according to the rules shown in the box below. All proceeds go to Barbara Parks.

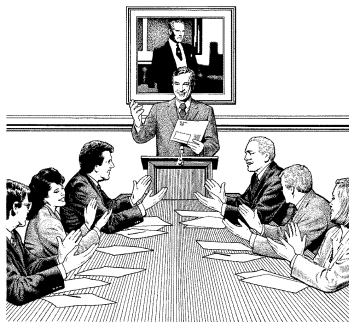
This is a second offering of these unsold items. You will note much reduced minimum bid prices. These reduced prices do not reflect the serviceability of the equipment with the exception of the TS-930S/AT. The Kenwood HF transceiver has several faults resulting in the fact that it is non-operational. My best guess is an internal power supply problem, but that has yet to be checked out. Physically, it's in great shape. The reduced price offers the buyer the opportunity to add as much as \$200 in repair costs and still have a cost-effective HF transceiver.

**HOW TO BID:** Bids must be submitted in writing and mailed or given to Doug Lyon, N6WZI, 11905 Cresson St.,

See "Silent Key Sale", page 4

## DARC Board of Directors Meeting, January 8, 2002

**Dave Glenn**, N6TEB, President, called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM at Downey Fire Station #1. Other Board members present were **Frank Hornberger**, N6ZDS, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; **Dave Buhler**, WB6ZGF, VP Service; **Bill Heather**, KB6WKT, VP Programs; **Ann Wright**, KF6UEA, VP Membership; **Steve Grudzinski**, AD6HT, Director, One Year and **Tom VanBuskirk**, K6TV, Director, Two Years. Also present was **Arlene Schwartz**, KE6GFI. Absent were **Ray Fas**, KD6GRM, VP Ways and Means; **Paul Metzger**, KQ6EH, Secretary, and **Jon Olesen**, KD6HXP, Treasurer.



Minutes of the December meeting were approved by unanimous consent. Officer's reports:

**President:** Dave, N6TEB, said he had enjoyed the last Club meeting and noted that former members **Wes Printz**, W3SE, and **Karen Mason**, K6FOO, had re-joined the Club.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Frank, N6ZDS, had nothing to report.

**VP Membership:** Ann, KF6UEA, asked about modifying certain information on the Club web site. A procedure to do that was explained. As soon as she obtains the equipment from the previous VP she will be issuing membership cards. She has been working on updating the Club brochure and asked for Board input. Other duties and responsibilities of the VP Membership were reviewed.

**VP Programs:** Bill, KB6WKT, reported the first net was held this evening on the Club 440 repeater with fifteen members checking in. He then suggested a format for this net to distinguish it from the Clubs 2 meter net and also possibly track member check-ins on both nets for recognition and/or possible rewards. He will work out the details with **Ray Olesen**, AD6AF, our net coordinator.

**VP Service:** Dave, WB6ZGF, said he would discuss items when they come up under the planning calendar section of the agenda.

**Director – One Year:** Steve, AD6HT, reported on procedures used for our meetings which are a more relaxed form of Roberts' Rules of Order so that they move along more quickly.

**Director – Two Years:** Tom, K6TV, will check with the school to verify we have a permit for the upcoming Field Day. The problem with locked facilities for the previous regular meeting was noted.

**Planning Calendar:**

1. **Tour de Sewer:** Dave, WB6ZGF, reported he has not had any response on his request for a project manager for this event. He will continue to pursue this.
2. **ARC Walk:** Dave will manage this project, which is scheduled for early April.
3. **VE Exams:** Next date will be Saturday, February 16.
4. **Shed Cleanout Day:** Item tabled until the next Board meeting.

**Old Business:**

1. **License class:** Various dates for the classes were discussed, as were the materials to be used and the pace of the instruction. Tom, K6TV, will investigate costs and delivery of the instructional materials which will influence the actual dates of the classes.

2. **New QSL cards:** At the last Club meeting the membership in attendance chose the card with photos of the "Oldest McDonald's" stand and the Space Shuttle lifting off. Steve, AD6HT, will research vendor prices and report back.

3. **Q5 Editor:** The search for an editor will continue.

4. **Elmering/Membership:** No one has come forward yet. Discussion on the responsibilities and scope of Elmering.

Continued, see "**Board Minutes**" on page 5

## Silent Key Sale

Continued from page 3

Norwalk, CA 90650. The bids should be in a sealed envelope with the word "**BID**" prominently written on the outside.

Clearly identify on your bid sheet the piece(s) of equipment desired and a bid price for each. Include your name, address and telephone number. Bids less than the minimum bid price shown will be considered, but may be refused.

The format for the listings is as follows:  
MANUFACTURER MODEL DESCRIPTION CONDITION MINIMUM PRICE

Condition Codes:

E-excellent; N-new; G-good; P-poor

KENWOOD TS-930S/AT HF  
TRANSCEIVER W/AUTO ANTENNA  
TUNER E \$100

KENWOOD SP-930 SPEAKER  
W/AUDIO FILTERS E \$25

KENWOOD MC-60 DESK  
MICROPHONE E \$20

PALOMAR R-X NOISE BRIDGE  
(NEW IN BOX) N \$25

MFJ MFJ-949D 300W ANTENNA  
TUNER NEW IN BOX) N \$50

B & W 381C ELECTRONIC TRANS-  
MIT/RECEIVE SWITCH G \$7

LARSEN LM-150 2-METER COIL AND  
ANTENNA W/WRENCH P \$7

Jack Parks had an extensive library of Amateur Radio books – probably one of just about everything found on the bookshelves at HRO. All of the books are in very good to excellent condition. I've priced them at approximately 10% of their original printed prices. These lower prices make them quite economical for the ham and will keep them in circulation within our community. I'll bring them to the next few Club meetings, so bring your loose change. Price lists will be available at the meeting also.

--N6WZI

## DARC General Meeting Minutes for January 3, 2002

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

Other Board members in attendance were **Frank Hornberger**, N6ZDS, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Pres; **Bill Heather**, KB6WKT, VP Programs; **Ann Wright**, KF6UEA, VP Membership; **Dave Buhler**, WB6ZGF, VP Service; **Ray Fas**, KD6GRM, VP Ways and Means; **Steve Grudzinski**, AD6HT, Director (One Year) **Tom VanBuskirk**, K6TV, Director (Two Year) & Trustee (W6TOI); **Paul Metzger**, KQ6EH, Secretary; **Jon Olesen**, KD6HXP, Treasurer.

A total of 35 persons were in attendance.

Dave Glenn then introduced the guest speaker to the group, **Bill Heather**, WB6WKT. Bill gave a superb PowerPoint presentation on his VHF+ Mountaintop contesting ventures of past and present. Although Bill's presentation was primarily focused on his last mountain-top venture this past September atop Mt. Gleason, he did an excellent job of incorporating stories of past contests as well. He shared the history of Mt. Gleason, as it was one of the original NIKE missile Radar sites that surrounded the Los Angeles area. The site was operational from 1955 to 1974 and its elevation is 6,532 feet. A description of the equipment that Bill and **Glenn Allen**, KE6HPZ, utilize for their contesting adventures would probably fill this page by itself. In brief, they utilize 4 towers (one tower trailer), 26 antennas, 50 gallons of water, 35 gallons of gasoline, 5 radios, 3 transverters, and 4 amplifiers. The effort Bill and Glenn put into each contesting event is unbelievable. Bill shared with the group how, during one of their contests on Mt. Gleason, along with his dog, Lady, and fellow contesteer, Glenn, they captured an escaped prisoner who had escaped from a fire prison camp just three miles down the road. He also related how they once made a 10mw FM contact into Whittier from Mt. Gleason. The total score from their last VHF+ contest from Mt. Gleason was 110,280 points.

Ann introduced guests, including **Bill Schebeck**, KG6IMD, who became a member at the meeting.

Dave Buhler announced that he would like to see someone step forward to accept the duties as project manager for the "Tour De Sewer". He also informed the group that the Downey Rose Float Association's float won the Founders Trophy, awarded for the most beautiful of the self-built and decorated floats.

Tom announced that the Downey Amateur Radio Club will be starting its No-Code Technician license classes the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of February at the 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church in Downey. They will consist of two 6 hour sessions. For more information, please contact Tom VanBuskirk at (652) 861-3085 or k6tv@compuserve.com.

**Ed Roos**, KC6ZHY, asked the group to consider bringing others who have shown interest in the hobby of Amateur Radio, electronics, or other relevant fields to the DARC meetings.

**Larry Vaughn**, KD6NZW, announced that Gordon West will be offering free Morse code practice on two meters. The practice sessions will be held every Monday & Tuesday between February 25<sup>th</sup> to March 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:00PM-7:00PM on 144.330 simplex. These practice sessions are designed to bring code speed up to the 5 WPM.

Dave Glenn asked those who would like to receive their Q5 Newsletters as an e-mail attachment/link to please inform him. This option would help the Club reduce expenses. Those who would like to continue to receive their Q5 in its hard copy form may continue to do so.

Bill asked the members' assistance in compiling a list of Elmers for the benefit of new or prospective Amateurs/Club members. As many of us in the past had someone who helped us, so should newcomers today have someone to help them.

Dave Glenn made a request for volunteers to fill the position of Refreshment Committee.

After the break motions to approve both minutes and Treasurer's Report for

Continued, see "**Meeting Minutes**", page 6

## Board Minutes

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5. Termites in the equipment shed: Item tabled until next Board meeting.
6. Q5 delivery options: Electronic delivery of the Q5 has been proposed.

Discussion was held regarding sending it as an e-mail attachment or just making it available on the Club web site. There are others who will choose to continue to receive it by regular mail. Item continued until next Board meeting.

7. Audit Committee status: Dave, WB6ZGF, reported that Warren, W4HDC, is willing to serve on this Committee and it will meet as soon as possible.
8. Field Day Committee: A chair needs to be selected

New Business:

1. Yard Sale: Due to the activities of the spring and summer it was decided to postpone a yard sale until the July/August time frame.

2. Flyer for class: Various sources for this were discussed. Dave, N6TEB, suggested modifying an ARRL flyer for this purpose. This item will be revisited. Other Business: Arlene, KE6GFI, supplied the board with a schedule of CW practice nets by Gordon West, WB6NOA, on two meters. This will be published in the Q5.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dave Buhler, WB6ZGF  
Substitute Secretary

### 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 interested in filling this important position, please contact **Dave Glenn**, N6TEB.



### Spotlight on

## Bill Schebeck, KG6IMD Steve Harr, and Clem Patocka, KB6ACJ

**Bill Schebeck**, KG6IMD, an import at an early age from Kalamazoo, is a newly licensed amateur and a new member of the DARC. By way of the DARC VE exams, he's had his new Technician license only a few weeks and attended his first DARC meeting in January, but he doesn't talk like a new ham. Here's why:

His interest in Amateur Radio was inherited from his grandfather who not only was a ham but attended college at a long-past time when glass blowing was a required course for an EE degree. Bill says there still exists some gear which contains tubes that his grandfather made for himself, but is unfortunately in the hands of a cousin who no longer lives in Downey.

So Bill's interest in Amateur Radio has been long standing. He took a radio course at La Mirada High before the days of integrated circuits and later studied Computer Science at UCI. He worked at several electronic jobs, both before and after twenty-five years in the banking and investment banking businesses – a diversion triggered by the decline of the space era. After updating his computer skills, Bill returned to electronics and is currently a computer network engineer whose job it is to "help keep the Internet running."

For a new ham, Bill has a good start on his collection of equipment: an Alinco DJ-596, a 2-meter/440 MHz, 5-watt HT and an Alinco DR-1200, another 2-meter rig. Starting off right, Bill has constructed a 2-meter/440-MHz J-Pole, which he plans to put up soon. Although he lives somewhat in a depression (altitude, not mental or fiscal), he receives the DARC's 440 and the Rio Hondo Club's 2-meter repeaters without difficulty. If you hear him on, give him a call. Ask him who Fannie Mae is.

**Steven Harr** joined the Club late last year. His interest in Amateur Radio originally came from a neighbor in Idaho who was a ham, but that interest of almost 20 years ago faded until he moved with his family to South Gate. Here, thinking about that ham radio exposure, Steve stopped by Halcon Communications in Paramount where he came across a copy of the **Q5**. Deciding he would be interested in visiting the Club, Steve contacted **Tom VanBuskirk**, K6TV, who provided a ride to the next meeting.

Steve has ambitions to take his Technician License exam in the near future, perhaps as soon as February. He then plans to go on and get a General. Steve is also plotting to get his dad, **Grant Harr**, interested enough to come to the meetings with him. He's already been to one.

Steve has a Rexon HT that he plans to put to good use as soon as he can get his ticket.

**Clem Patocka**, KB6ACJ, was living in North Dakota in 1937, a year out of high school and working as a farm laborer. His employer's son, a ham, about a year younger than Clem, sparked Clem's interest by demonstrating contacts all over the globe, mostly on CW using equipment which he had built himself. He gave Clem a discarded receiver which Clem fired up using a 6 volt battery and some "B" batteries. But Clem was distracted from Ham Radio by other interests which included buying a farm and being drafted for WWII.

He was trained as an Airplane Mechanic and Instrument Repairman and served

Continued, see "Spotlight", on page 7

### Meeting Minutes

Continued from page 5

December were presented, seconded, and approved.

Bill, announced the start of the clubs 440 net will begin on Tuesday January 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM. The net will be conducted regularly every Tuesday night at 7:00PM with the check in format being that of "roll call".

The \$5 attendance prize winner was **Roy Johnson**, WA6GCV, who was not present. Which will bring next months prize to \$10.

Tom, recognized and congratulated members who had upgraded their Amateur Radio license to a new class. **Hugo Martin**, AE6BC, who upgraded to Extra; **John Powell**, KF6EOJ who upgraded to General.

**Dick Palmer**, conducted the Raffle. Raffle Prize winners for the monthly drawing were Dave Glenn, a commercial grade 60' extension cord; **Jack Jones**, W3OB, an ARRL 2002 CD-ROM Handbook; **Joe Francis**, WB6SZK, Eveready Super Heavy Duty 6V lantern flashlight; Tom, 2002 Southern California repeater directory location guide; **Doug Lyon**, N6WZI, CQ Amateur Radio calendar; Frank, N6ZDS, ham radio parking sign. The meeting was adjourned at 8:58PM.

--**Paul Metzger**, KQ6EH, Secretary

### \$10,000 FINE IN AMATEUR-BAND PIRATE CASE

The FCC has fined a Texas man \$10,000 for transmitting without a license on an Amateur Radio band. Following a Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL) issued in September, the FCC affirmed the \$10,000 fine in a December 26 Forfeiture Order to David Edwin Merrell of Wichita Falls. The FCC said Merrell did not respond to the NAL. The FCC said it was acting on "numerous complaints" from the amateur community that an unidentified station operating on 7235 and 7238 kHz in the 40-meter band was causing "intentional interference to authorized communications."

Last June, agents in the FCC's Dallas office monitored an unidentified sta-

See "\$10,000 Fine", page 6

## 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!**

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### February PROPAGATION OUTLOOK

We are in the middle of winter and the background noise is as low as it is going to be. Watch the lower bands 160-40 meters for great DX openings. Work the "gray line". Good sunspot numbers are continuing. This will keep 10 and 12 meters open most days. 15 to 30 meters will remain very good.

Have you checked out this great web site for real time propagation information?

<http://dx.qsl.net/propagation/>

#### DX Action

**BELAU**, T88SI. Feb 8-11 IT9YRE, IZ1CRR, & G3KHZ from Sonsorol Is; 20 15 10m; mainly SSB; QSL: Ferdinando Rubino, P.O. Box 30, 96012 Avola - SR, Italy  
**BELGIUM**, ON. UBA club section Gulden Spoor KTK members are QRV until December 31, 2002, as OPOGS to celebrate the 700th anniversary of the Battle of the Golden Spurs at Kortrijk. QSL via ON4ON.

**BELIZE**, V3. Gerd, DJ4KW and Gisela, DK9GG are QRV as V31YN and V31GW, respectively, for about one month. Activity is on all bands using CW, RTTY and PSK31. QSL to home calls.

**COSTA RICA**, TI2. Feb 4-11 AA1M (CW) and W1USN (SSB) likely as TI2/homecall; QSL OK via US Buro or CBA.

**EASTER ISLAND**, CE0. Feb 24-Mar01 DM5TI as (CE0?) from SA-001; mainly RTTY PSK31 SSTV PACTOR 1/2, some SSB/CW; vacation style operation

**ECUADOR**, HC. Feb 12-16, NE8Z /HC1 from Tumbaco; also as /HC1 from Pichincha Volcano, /HC3 from Loja, /HC4 from Sua, /HC4/p from SA-056, /HC5 from Cuenca; 80-10m; CW SSB.

**JERSEY**, GJ6UW. Feb 15-17 G3ZAY from EU-013; 160-10m; SSB CW; 160m QRV w/ 160m dipole, on 750' cliff overlooking salt-water

**MARIANA ISLANDS**, KH0. Feb 7-10 JA6BTO (KH0/JA6BTO), JA6HJP (KF4LX/AH0), JA6LZN (KH0/JA6LZN), JA6PBO (KK7UB/KH0), JA6VQA (WH0B), & JH6ALF (AB2GA/KH0); focus on low + WARC bands + 6m; CW SSB SSTV RTTY; QSL OK via JARL Buro or direct.

**MARTINIQUE**, FM5. Feb 19-Mar F5SGI from NA-107 as FM5/F5SGI; HF bands; mainly CW; QSL OK via REF Buro or direct.

**NAMIBIA**, V51. Feb 15-18 By DL2SL SP6IXF as V51/homecall; 160-6m ARRL DX CW Contest (Feb 16-17, 2002)

**NICARAGUA**, YN. Feb 18-Mar 8 DL7CM, DL2OE, & DL3DXX as YN/homecall; 160-6M; emphasis on low bands; CW RTTY.

**NIGER**, 5U. Feb 3-18 7 operators; 160-6 M; CW SSB RTTY PSK31; 3 stations  
 SAO TOME, S9LA. Feb 4-10 LA2N, LA9VDA, et.al., 160-6m; CW SSB PSK31 RTTY SSTV; amps + extensive antenna farm; at least 2 stations, 24 hr/day.

**SIERRA LEONE**, 9L1BTB, Zbig, SP7BTB will be active for the next 8 months as he is working here for the UN in Freetown. Activity is on 40 to 12 meters using SSB. QSL via SP7CDG.

**SOUTH GEORGIA**, VP8SGK. Mar 04-06 GM0HCQ from King Edward Point, Cumberland Bay West.

**SOUTH ORKNEY ISLANDS**, VP8SIG. Feb 27-Mar 2 GM0HCQ from Factory Cove, Borge Bay, Signy Island

**TURKS/CAICOS**, VP5. Feb 2-9 NF7T from Caicos (NA-002); 160-10m; SSB CW.

## Spotlight

(continued from page 6)

with the Eighth Army Air Force for two years in England. Upon returning to the U.S., he married a California native and went to school to learn radio and TV. He then went to work for North American Aviation testing communication systems and building training units for the Air Force, later transferring to the Aerophysics Laboratory (in Downey) which eventually split into the Space Division, Rocketdyne and Autonetics.

During this time, Clem went to college, earned a BS degree and continued to work as a Test Engineer on many of the company's programs, ending up on the Space Shuttle. As retirement neared in 1984, Clem's XYL urged him to join DARC, having seen an article in the paper about the Club's license classes. He joined, attended the classes and got his Technician license that year.

Clem was elected Club Secretary for 1988 and reelected for 1999, serving with two presidents, the late **Fred Hart**, KB6MJQ, and the late **Ken Wahrenbrock**, KF6NC. He became involved in many Club activities including the Helping Hams, the Special Olympics and many years with the Tour de Sewer bike rides. Until just a few years ago, he rode a bike himself usually taking along his trusty HT, a Kenwood 2500. He also has a base station rig, now out of operation because of a burned out no-longer-available meter.

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### \$10,000 Fine

Continued from page 6

tion on 7220 kHz and determined that the transmission was coming from Merrell's residence. During a station inspection, Merrell "admitted to the transmissions and stated that he did not have a station operator license," the FCC said.

Unconfirmed reports to the FCC indicate that Merrell may have continued to occasionally transmit on 40 meters following the FCC visit. "Considering the entire record and applying the statutory factors listed above, this case warrants a \$10,000 forfeiture," the FCC concluded.

-Extracted from *The ARRL Letter*, 1/18/02

## Treasurer's Report December 2001

## FREE 2 METER CW CLASSES FROM WB6NOA

### SUMMARY

Bank Balance as of 11/30/2001 **\$3,523.98**  
 Income \$288.00  
 Expenditures (\$237.05)

Bank Balance as of 12/31/2001 **\$3,577.61**  
 Raffle Holding Fund \$203.31

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	180.00	1,905.00	2,100.00	195.00
Interest on Savings	2.68	41.02	75.00	33.98
Luncheon Reserv.		810.00	1,300.00	490.00
Misc. Income	108.00	4,857.83	0.00	(4,857.83)
Fund Raisers		639.85	1,500.00	860.15
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$290.68</b>	<b>\$8,751.75</b>	<b>\$6,048.00</b>	<b>(2,703.75)</b>

### EXPENDITURES

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	17.74	195.35	240.00	44.65
Club Merchandise		29.43	400.00	370.57
Club Bulletin				
Printing	124.74	1,251.77	1,200.00	51.77
Supplies	14.03	82.03	20.00	(62.03)
Postage	34.00	503.50	650.00	148.50
Committees				
Awards		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	46.54	798.87	1,300.00	501.13
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		386.00	400.00	14.00
Misc. Expenses		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	0.00
PO Box		80.00	65.00	(15.00)
Refreshments		126.00	200.00	74.00
Stationery, Copies		0.00	20.00	20.00
Worldradio Listing		65.00	65.00	0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$237.05</b>	<b>\$7,688.09</b>	<b>\$6,838.00</b>	<b>(\$850.09)</b>

For Southern California "TERMINAL TECHS" who just can't seem to learn the Morse Code, **Gordon West**, WB6NOA, will be offering on-the-air, FREE 2-meter, code-learning classes. "The 2-meter signal will be plenty strong throughout ALL of Southern California," claims Gordon West, WB6NOA, who will be transmitting through the WA6TWF UHF uplink to the 2-meter band high atop Santiago Peak. "This link, plus the modulated CW practice, will allow me to stay in touch with all of my code-learning students from San Diego to Ventura. Instead of students having to pay a community college fee and come to a classroom, the class is for anyone with a 2-meter transceiver or a scanner. And of course, it's FREE," adds West.

The classes will be held on the following dates: Monday, Feb. 25; Tuesday, Feb. 26; Monday, Mar. 4; Tuesday, Mar. 5; Monday, Mar. 11; and Tuesday, Mar. 12. All classes begin at 6:00 PM and end at 7:00 PM. The simplex listening frequency will be 144.330 MHz.

The code practice will be narrated and generated on the 2-meter band so no special receiving equipment is necessary. The code pitch, character rate and word speed will be identical to 5 wpm test standards required by the Federal Communications Commission. All students checking into the code practice will be eligible for the following 5 wpm and General theory testing session: Sunday, March 17, 4:00 p.m. - American Red Cross, Anaheim Room, Golden Circle Drive, in Santa Ana. The Gordon West on-the-air, 2-meter, Southern California, 3-week, 6-session, code course is specifically intended for students who have wanted to take an actual code class, but lacked transportation or the class fee. The only fee associated with this program will be the VEC standard test fee of \$10. The code instruction precisely follows ARRL and Gordon West Radio School letter and word progressions, beginning with E-T-M-A-N-I, R-U-D-C-5-0, etc. The 15 wpm Farnsworth rate at 5 wpm word rate will be identical to the actual code test on Sunday. **Students should begin learning the code ahead of the 2-meter, on-the-air class through numerous CW training programs available at 800/669-9594 in Dallas, Texas.** A brief review of required General class theory hints will be discussed on the air after the Monday and Tuesday evening code session. Registration takes place on the air. For additional information, contact **Gordon West**, WB6NOA, during the day at (714) 549-5000. This free code class is offered just twice a year.

### Sequence of Lessons

2/25 Lesson 1 E T M A N I S O SK Period  
 2/26 Lesson 2 R U D C 5 Ø AR Question Mark  
 3/4 Lesson 3 K P B G W F H BT Comma  
 3/5 Lesson 4 Q L Y J X V Z DN 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9  
 3/11 Lesson 5 Random code with narrated answers  
 3/12 Lesson 6 A typical 5-wpm code test

Jon Olesen, KD6HXP  
 Treasurer





**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



**ARRL PRESIDENT  
HAYNIE RE-ELECTED;  
FRIED HEYN ELECTED  
THIRD VP**

As expected, the ARRL Board of Directors has unanimously re-elected President **Jim Haynie**, W5JBP, to a new two-year term. "We have a great role we could

play in homeland security," Haynie said. "The problem we have is getting Amateur Radio introduced to the proper agencies." He said federal agencies "need a big education on what Amateur Radio does."

Meeting in Fort Worth, Texas, January 18 and 19, the Board also elected former Southwestern Division Director **Fried Heyn**, WA6WZO, as Third Vice President. Heyn will replace incumbent Third VP John Kanode, N4MM, who also was a candidate. All other ARRL officers were re-elected unanimously. The Board elected Rick Roderick, K5UR, to replace Heyn on the ARRL Executive Committee.

-Extracted from *The ARRL Letter*, 1/18/02

(Editor--It's nice to know that Fried is still out there working for us. Good luck, Fried!)



**FIRST CLASS**



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