

Q5

By and for the Downey Amateur Radio Club, Inc.



Volume XXI Number 10

Our 51st Year

October 2002

President's Message

So I bet you are wondering what happened to last months President's Message. I wish I could say my dog ate it, but I cannot tell a lie. I was gone fishing, literally. The day after our August meeting my family and the family of our friends, the Guier's, headed up to a week's worth of camping near Mammoth Lakes. Whenever I make the drive across Mojave, it makes me quiet aware of how desolate much of California is. Being an avid VHF/UHF contester, population density really helps the effort. With most of the heavily populated areas stretching from Ventura to San Juan Capistrano it's apparent why it so hard for us "West coast contesters" to place anywhere near the East Cost folks. Plus we've got that darn mountain range in the way.



Anyway, there we were, enjoying the scenery or lack thereof while driving from Mojave to Lone Pine when our car started to backfire. We pulled over and looked under to hood without finding anything obvious. Which much trial and effort we found I could turn the car off and coast for a little bit then start it up and it would go another mile or so. We spent the next 2 hours diving on the shoulder (you know where those little ridges are) averaging 30 miles per hour all the way to Lone Pine. The automotive shop there was no help and we limped into Bishop driving the shoulder all the way. We eventually got to the RV park by Mammoth and had a nice relaxing week catching fish with the kids and swimming in a hot creek. It only took us 5 hours to get home as opposed to the 14 hour drive there.

Once I returned home my focus shifted to replacing the Suburban "Rovermobile" with a new Ford Excursion. Not having enough time before the contest to equip the new car, I ended on up on the hilltop as the W6TOI 6 meter op for the contest.

I really enjoyed the September meeting and **Art Goddard**, W6XD, proved to be a very interesting speaker. I am looking forward to see who steps forward to help fill our Board for the next year, I can't believe my term as President is almost up. I have really enjoyed serving the Club in the top spot and wouldn't mind doing it again after someone else has had their chance for a year.

Until next month, keep the air alive. 73, de N6TEB

Club Elections to Be Held At Upcoming Meeting

It's that time again. Time to elect our new club officers of the upcoming year. Our nominating committee has been hard at work to bring you the best of the best of DARC members.

As always, we will also have open nominations, so if you've ever considered holding an office with the Downey Amateur Radio Club, here's your chance.

Be sure to attend this meeting, and make your vote count!

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October Meeting

The meeting will be held at the Cafetorium at Sussman Middle School, 12500 Birchdale Ave., in Downey, beginning at 7:30 PM, Thursday, **October 3, 2002**

**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

Club Officers

President

Dave Glenn, N6TEB
Phone: (562) 928-8560
dglenn@connect3.com

First Vice President

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

VP Programs

Bill Heather, KB6WKT
Phone: (562) 863-6607
wheather@catalina-inter.net

VP Membership

Ann Wright, KF6UEA
Phone: (562) 863-2708
kf6uea@juno.com

VP Service

Dave Buhler, WB6ZGF
Phone: (562) 861-6069
wb6zgf@catisle.net

VP Ways and Means

Ray Fas, KD6GRM
Phone: (562) 861-6651
jandrfas@earthlink.net

Director (One Year)

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

Director (Two Year)

Tom VanBuskirk, K6TV
Phone: (562) 861-3085
k6tv@compuserve.com

Secretary

Paul Metzger, KQ6EH
Phone: (562) 928-4332
paulmetzger@ieee.org

Treasurer

Jon Olesen, KD6HXP
Phone: (323) 728-5796
au186@lafn.org

Trustee, W6TOI

Tom VanBuskirk, K6TV
Phone: (562) 861-3085
k6tv@compuserve.com

VE Exams

The Downey Amateur Radio Club provides VE examinations for all classes of Amateur Radio licenses on the third Saturday of each even-numbered month. Exams are held at the Downey Fire Department Headquarters, 1222 Paramount Boulevard, beginning at 8:30 AM. The exam schedule for the remainder of 2002 is as follows:

Oct 19 Dec 21

The ARRL/VEC test fee is \$10.00 for all tests. The 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 call sign 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	8.00	On Order
Jackets	Yes	25.00	On Order
T-shirts	Most Sizes	10.00	On Order
Polo Shirts	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

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 the "DARC Q5".

October 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.

AD6AF	Ray Olesen	1
KD6NZW	Larry Vaughn	8
KN6SE	John Marsden	10
KD6UNR	Richard Kitchen	19
KG6IPY	Mac Herrington	20
WA6OUD	Margaret Gauthier	24
K6ICS	Michael Gauthier	28

Check out the Downey Amateur Radio Club **World Wide Web** site. It has more than just the articles from this news letter. 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 checks payable to "DARC",
Send to: **DARC Membership**
1400 Masser Place
Montebello, CA 90640
Include your name(s), callsign(s),
Address, and phone number

Q5 Staff

Editor:

Ginny Grudzinski, AJ6CW
Phone: (626) 336-3974
Email: AJ6CW@arrl.net

Associate Editors:

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

Publishing

Art Varney, WA6OZQ (562) 869-6471
Joe Francis, WB6SZK
Chuck Anna, KE6TBC
Clem Patocka, KB6ACJ

Minutes of the D.A.R.C. Board of Directors meeting – September 10, 2002

Dave Glenn, N6TEB, President, called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM at Downey Fire Station #1. Other Board members present were **Frank Hornberger**, N6ZDS, 1st Vice President; **Jon Olesen**, KD6HXP, Treasurer; **Dave Buhler**, WB6ZGF, VP-Service; **Ray Fas**, KD6GRM, VP-Ways and Means; **Steve Grudzinski**, AD6HT, Director-One Year and **Tom VanBuskirk**, K6TV, Director-Two Years. Absent were **Paul Metzger**, KQ6EH, Secretary; **Bill Heather**, KB6WKT, VP-Programs and **Ann Wright**, KF6UEA, VP-Membership.

Officers' Reports:

Dave, N6TEB, noted how fast the Club year has past and said the Nominating Committee has been formed consisting of Dave, WB6ZGF, **Glenn Allen**, KE6HPZ and **Chuck Anna**, KE6TBC. Jon, KD6HXP, submitted the Treasurer's report noting the account balance is slightly over \$1,600. He also asked anyone with bills to be paid to get them to him by the next General Meeting as he will be going on vacation and won't be at the next Board meeting. Dave, WB6ZGF, reported he has resigned from the Holiday Lane Parade Committee of the Downey Chamber of Commerce. He explained that the Committee was forced to accept a new Chair who immediately brought eight new people into it's ranks, moved the sponsor lunch back to the day of the parade, attempted to dismiss the long-time producer and other actions. Dave said he could not stay on the Committee under those conditions. Our communications support of the Parade will not be affected by these events. Frank, N6ZDS, had no report. Ray, KD6GRM, reported he had sold 20 new Club hats so far. The Club Yard Sale will be on Saturday, September 28.

Old Business:

Ham of the Year Committee: Following tradition, Glenn, KE6HPZ, will be the Chair. He will need to be notified. **Annual Luncheon:** Bill, KB6WKT, was to speak with the manager of Granada's about returning there. Item tabled until Bill can be contacted about this. **Refreshments:** We still have no one to fulfill this. Following discussion, the Board decided to suspend refreshments at the General Meeting until someone volunteers to take this responsibility. **ARRL Convention:** We will need to provide moderators for the Technical Forums. Dave, N6TEB, reported that **Buck Kerns**, AE6DT, has volunteered to be Club liaison to the L.A. Council of Amateur Radio Clubs. **Club Domain Name:** Dave, N6TEB, has been leaving voice mails for **Terry McClain**, WB7UFX, of Catalina Internet to renew the domain name and he has not yet responded. If necessary, Dave will call Verisign directly and attempt to renew it. **Q5 Advertising:** The issue of billing Ford Electronics for their ad in the Q5 was brought up, as it is time to bill. The procedures for billing advertisers need to be standardized for the future.

Other Business:

Dave, N6TEB, mentioned Art Goddard's suggestion that our Club attempt to get additional Congressional co-sponsors for HR-4720 regarding C.C.&R restrictions on antennas. As Congressman Steve Horn still represents this area until November, Dave, WB6ZGF, will contact his aide and request the Congressman's help.

The Minutes of the August Board Meeting were approved as they appeared in the Q5.

License Classes:

Tom, K6TV, reported he has had only two people ask him about classes. This initiated a discussion about teaching methods and whether the classroom environment is the best model. Following discussion the Board agreed that any

future classes be conducted on a one-on-one basis using the League tapes or CD's.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM. Respectfully submitted.

Dave Buhler,
WB6ZGF,
Substitute Secretary

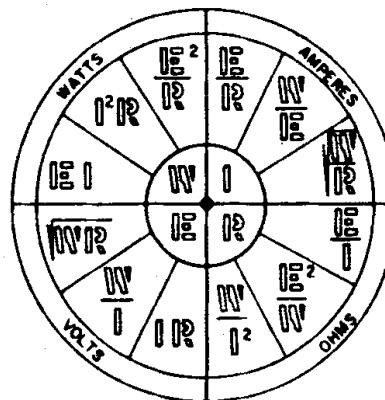
Mon. - Fri. 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM
Sat. 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Tel: (714) 521-8080
Fax: (714) 521-8920

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Email: sales@fordel.com



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D.A.R.C. General Meeting Minutes – Sept. 5, 2002

Dave Glenn, N6TEB, President, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM with 47 persons in attendance. He then led the Pledge of Allegiance. **Dave Buhler**, WB6ZGF, VP-Service introduced our speaker **Art Goddard**, W6XD, ARRL Southwestern Division Director.

Art spoke of the importance of public service in keeping our frequencies, citing recent examples such as the fires in San Diego and Arizona, the Metrolink train crash in Orange County, the search for Danielle Van Dam, the L.A. Marathon and the Baker-To Vegas Run. These and other public service events have enabled the League to receive a federal grant of approximately \$500,000 over three years to train 1,700 hams in emergency communications. He stressed the importance of getting more young people into Amateur Radio and reported on the progress of several schools in a pilot program.

With regard to protecting Amateur Radio, Art reported a growing problem with C.C.& R. (Conditions, Covenants and Restrictions) as they apply to outside antennas. While PRB-1 helps in dealing with local governments, it does nothing for those facing C.C.& R. problems. Art explained there is now a bill before Congress, HR4720, which addresses Amateurs rights to erect antennas without regard to C.C.& R. limitations and urged the Club to contact local members of Congress to become co-sponsors of the bill.

In the area of frequency defense, Art mentioned a growing dilemma with unlicensed "Part 15" low power devices, especially those on 433.9 MHz. which is well within the Amateur UHF "440" band. The proliferation of these devices will eventually raise the noise floor in that portion of the spectrum and affect Amateur Radio negatively. The League has a program to identify these devices and will present evidence of this problem to the F.C.C. and is prepared to take legal action, if necessary.

Art covered operating issues and future trends such as more software defined radios and digital technologies. He urged Club members to attend the 2003 Division Convention in Long Beach and to help the Club in its participation. He also requested those who were interested to join or renew their memberships in the ARRL to do so on this night. In response to questions, Art said California PRB-1, which Governor Davis vetoed, would be re-introduced in the future; the ARRL has an ongoing frequency protection project and he commented on what appeared to be fewer vendors at the last convention in Escondido.

Ray Fas, KD6GRM, VP-Ways and Means, reported the new Club hats have been received and he has them at the meeting for sale at \$8.00 each.

Bill Heather, KB6WKT, VP-Programs, reminded the members the annual yard sale would be on Saturday, September 28, at his home in Norwalk; and asked that Club members collect sale items and assist on the day of the sale.

Arlene Schwartz, KE6GFI, announced the September QSO Party will be on September 14-15 and **Gordon West**, WB6NOA, will be transmitting code practice weekly beginning October 8 on the Catalina repeater at 7:00 PM. Dave, N6TEB, announced the Western States Weak Signal Society convention will be October 11, 12 and 13 in Cerritos. Additional information will be in the next Q5. It was also noted that the California QSO Party will be on October 5-6. **Larry Vaughn**, KD6NZW, gave an update on the Clubs participation in the 2003 League convention. Our Club will be in charge of the technical forums and he will need Club members to serve as moderators.

Ed Roos, KC6ZHY, asked for a show of hands of those who would be interested in purchasing Club license plate holders. He will be offering them in the near future. Following the break, the June Treasurer's Report and July General meeting minutes were approved as they appeared in the August Q5.

The attendance drawing was held and, since **Jim Weaver**, KB6YEM, was not present, the prize rises to \$50 next month. The raffle was conducted by **Dick Palmer**, WB6JDH, with the following winners: **Art Varney**, WA6OZQ, an electronic screwdriver; **Joe Francis**, WB6SZK, an ARRL Antenna Book donated by Art Goddard; Dave Glenn, N6TEB, a first aid kit and "**Nik**" **Nikolaidis**, KQ6LS, a soldering iron.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Buhler, WB6ZGF,

Treasurer's Report August 2002

SUMMARY

Bank Balance as of 7/31/2002 \$2,514.04
 Income \$206.00
 Expenditures (\$1,145.30)

Bank Balance as of 8/31/2002 \$1,574.74
 Raffle Holding Fund \$559.06

INCOME	This Month	Year to Date	Annual Budget	(Over) Under Budget
Club Merchandise		65.00	315.00	250.00
DARC Dues	90.00	880.00	2100.00	1230.00
Interest on Savings		11.03	40.00	28.97
Luncheon Reserv.		0.00	800.00	800.00
Misc Income	116.00	1939.75	1580.00	(359.75)
Fund Raisers		0.00	800.00	800.00
Totals	206.00	2,885.78	5,635.00	2,749.22

EXPENDITURES

	This Month	Year to Date	Annual Budget	(Over) Under Budget
Attend. Prizes		0.00	55.00	55.00
Autopatch, Rptr.	17.89	160.60	240.00	79.40
Club Merchandise	459.00	459.00	400.00	59.00
Club Bulletin				
Printing	170.17	1104.77	1500.00	395.23
Supplies	8.69	17.34	20.00	2.66
Postage	19.55	361.35	650.00	288.65
Committees				
Awards		0.00	75.00	75.00
Education		332.92	30.00	(302.92)
Membership		26.91	50.00	23.09
Pub & Pub Rel		0.00	25.00	25.00
Sunshine		46.56	50.00	3.44
Equip Maint.		100.00	150.00	50.00
Events				
Christmas Party		0.00	25.00	25.00
Field Day	198.47	539.03	400.00	(139.03)
Luncheon		0.00	800.00	800.00
Picnic		0.00	50.00	50.00
Fund Raisers	200.00	200.00	50.00	(150.00)
Other Events		558.75	20.00	(538.75)
Insurance		0.00	400.00	400.00
Misc. Expenses	29.07	791.32	0.00	(791.32)
Officers Expenses				
President		0.00	25.00	25.00
Secretary		0.00	25.00	25.00
Treasurer	6.98	10.22	25.00	14.78
Other Organizations				
Dues		0.00	20.00	20.00
RHARC Repeater		0.00	200.00	200.00
PO Box		80.00	65.00	(15.00)
Refreshments	35.48	35.48	200.00	164.52
Stationary, Copies		0.00	20.00	20.00
World Radio Listing		65.00	65.00	0.00
Totals	\$1,145.30	\$4,889.25	\$5,635.00	\$745.75

Misc. Expenses \$783.32 Raffle, WM Service Charge \$8.00

Jon Olesen, KD6HXP
Treasurer

Downey Holiday Lane Parade

The calendar may say September but the Downey Holiday Lane Parade is right around the corner on Sunday, December 8. The DARC has been supporting this event for about 20 years and for the last 15 years the Downey Chamber of Commerce has sponsored it as a kick off to the holiday season.

We will need approximately 15 radio operators to staff the various locations, some are roving, some fixed and we also have a few "shadow" positions where the operator stays with the person he/she is assigned to. Even if you're new to ham radio, don't have your license yet or don't have a radio, please sign up. We'll find a place for you!

We will start with a briefing at 11:30 AM, the parade steps off at 1:30 PM and we should be finished by 4:00 PM, hopefully earlier. I will have a sign up sheet at the October meeting (the only chance to sign up in person due to the Annual Luncheon in November), call me at (562) 861-6069 (leave a message if I'm not there) or e-mail at wb6zgf@catisle.net.

There may be some changes this year so please sign up, as we will need all the assistance we can get. Thanks in advance.

Dave Buhler, WB6ZGF
VP-Service

FLORIDA MAN IMPRISONED, FINED FOR DELIBERATE INTERFERENCE

Florida Citizens Band enthusiast William "Rabbit Ears" Flippo, 60, will spend a total of 15 months in federal prison--including two months already served--and pay a \$25,000 fine for jamming Amateur Radio communications and transmitting without a license. He'll also spend a year on supervised probation following his release, during which he cannot own radio [presumably transmitting] gear or firearms.

Flippo was convicted in federal court earlier this year on four counts of operating without a license and four counts of deliberate and malicious interference. He already faces a \$20,000 fine levied in 1999 for unlicensed operation, willful and malicious interference to Amateur Radio communications. Flippo reportedly was led into and out of the courtroom in shackles and leg irons.

The trial required four and a half days and the jury's deliberation 30 minutes. Hams were generally surprised by the severity of the sentence.

-Extracted from *The ARRL Letter*, August 30, 2002

DXCC ANNOUNCES 30-METER AWARD

The ARRL DXCC Desk has announced the addition of a 30-meter (10-MHz) single-band DXCC award. Applications for this award will be accepted starting October 1.

The 30-meter DXCC certificates will be dated but not numbered. Thirty-meter credits will count toward the DeSoto Cup competition and included in the DXCC Annual List totals for the period ending September 30, 2003. A 30-meter endorsement to 5-Band DXCC also will be available.

The 30-meter band was added to the standard DXCC printout in January 2002. If you have received a copy of your record since then, you already have a copy of your 30-meter credits. If you don't have a record of your 30-meter credits, contact DXCC for a copy. These are also available as Adobe PDF documents from DXCC via an e-mail request <dxcc@arrl.org>;. Hard copies are available from DXCC (\$2 US and Canada; \$4 elsewhere) by writing to DXCC Desk, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. For more information, contact DXCC via e-mail <dxcc@arrl.org>;.

-Extracted from *The ARRL Letter*, September 6,

Reminder—! The New Club Hats Have Arrived

Our new Club hats have arrived, and several members have purchased them, and, if you can believe it, like them better than our old Club hats!



These hats are solid cotton twill construction (no more mesh in the back!), offering better comfort and sun protection than our old hats. They are khaki with a royal blue bill, and our official DARC logo is embroidered (not screen printed!) on the front in royal blue and red.

They will be available for purchase at the October meeting. You may also purchase hats by calling or emailing **Ray Fas**, KD6GRM. The price is only \$8 each, so get yours while they last!

AMATEUR RADIO-CARRYING ROCKET FLIGHT RESCHEDULED

A group of Amateur Radio operators and amateur rocket enthusiasts, hoping to make aerospace history this month (September), will try again to put the first amateur rocket into space from the Nevada desert. The Civilian Space Xploration Team (CSXT) sub-orbital vehicle will carry several Amateur Radio payloads to assist in documenting that the rocket reaches an altitude of more than 60 nautical miles—which is considered to be the edge of "space."

The group of space enthusiasts last month got final clearance for the September launch from the Federal Aviation Administration and the Bureau of Land Management.

This month's attempt will mark the third by the group. High winds scuttled a launch planned for late June, turning it into what was characterized as "a very expensive dress rehearsal." An attempt in 2000 got off the ground but just missed its mark.

According to a team news release, its Primera rocket "is the most powerful amateur rocket ever created." It will carry mementos to commemorate the victims of September 11 plus some personal items. Much of the avionics aboard the vehicle is Amateur Radio technology, and many on the CSXT crew are avid hams. A live color TV transmitter will transmit throughout the flight.

At 17 feet tall and weighing just over 500 pounds, the rocket will reach Mach 5 (five times the speed of sound) in just 15 seconds. Moving at more than 3200 MPH, it will reach space in just a minute and a half. Funding has come largely from team members' pockets, with estimated costs to date approaching \$100,000.

-Extracted from *The ARRL Letter*, September 13, 2002

CC&R BILL HR 4720 AT- TRACTS ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

Five more cosponsors now have signed aboard HR 4720, the bill in Congress aimed at providing relief to amateurs faced with private deed covenants, conditions and restrictions (CC&Rs) which restrict antennas. The list is now up to 23 members of the US House of Representatives who have agreed to cosponsor the measure. It includes two amateurs--Oregon Republican **Greg Walden**, WB7OCE and Arkansas Democrat **Mike Ross**, WD5DVR. Walden and Ross are believed to be the only Amateur Radio licensees in the US House of Representatives. Ken Calvert, Republican, is presently the only California cosponsor.

HR 4720, the "Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act" would require private land-use regulators (such as homeowners' associations) to "reasonably accommodate" Amateur Radio communication consistent with the PRB-1 limited federal preemption. PRB-1 now applies only to states and municipalities.

Write Your Representative Service Web page, www.house.gov/writerep/ for information on how to contact your representative. The ARRL requests those writing or e-mailing members of Congress--whether or not they are supporting this legislation--to copy ARRL on their correspondence--via e-mail to ccr-bill@arrl.org or via US Mail to *CC&R Bill, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111*. Correspondents should include the bill number, HR 4720, as well as their name and address on all correspondence.

For more information, visit the HR 4720, The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act of 2002 page on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/hr4720>>.

-Extracted from *The ARRL Letter*, Sept 13, 2002

Do you have an idea for an article for the Q5? Remember guys, this is OUR newsletter, about OUR hobby. If you would like to submit an article to the Q5—please forward it to **Ginny Grudzinski**, AJ6CW (see page 2 for email address).

October 2002 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sept 29	Sept 30 7:15 PM Downey DCS Net	1 7:00 PM 440 Net on 445.640- pl 156.7	2	3 7:30 PM General Meeting	4	5 7:00 AM Club Breakfast
6	7 7:15 PM Downey DCS Net	8 7:00 PM 440 Net on 445.640- pl 156.7 7:30 PM Board Meeting	9	10 7:30 PM 2m Net on 146.175+ KD6NZW	11 Q5 Deadline. Please Have your articles in on Time	12 7:00 AM Club Breakfast
13	14 7:15 PM Downey DCS Net	15 7:00 PM 440 Net on 445.640- pl 156.7	16	17 7:30 PM 2m Net on 146.175+ K1SL	18	19 7:00 AM Club Breakfast VE Testing
20	21 7:15 PM Downey DCS Net	22 7:00 PM 440 Net on 445.640- pl 156.7	23	24 7:30 PM 2m Net on 146.175+ N6TEB	25	26 7:00 AM Club Breakfast ARRL International EME Competition
27 ARRL International EME Competition	28 7:15 PM Downey DCS Net	29 7:00 PM 440 Net on 445.640- pl 156.7	30	31 7:30 PM 2m Net on 146.175+ AD6HT	Nov 1	Nov 2 7:00 AM Club Breakfast
Nov 3	Nov 4 7:15 PM Downey DCS Net	Nov 5 7:00 PM 440 Net on 445.640- pl 156.7	Nov 6	Nov 7 7:30 PM General Meeting	Nov 8	Nov 9 7:00 AM Club Breakfast

View from the Hilltop Day One

The contest is slow so I have some time to write about the W6TOI mountaintop effort for the ARRL September VHF contest. It's about 7:30 in the evening and I can smell the stew that's been brewing in the crock-pot since late morning. As contests go this VHF/UHF contest is going somewhat slow but we have about 300 QSO's across 60 grids so far and we got almost 24 hours to go. At some point we will sleep, at least, for a little while.

I came up Friday afternoon to meet **Glenn**, KE6HPZ, **Bill**, KB6WKT, and **Sam**, K1SL. By the time I got here several of the towers were already up, but with as much hardware that goes in the air at our Club site on Mt. Gleason, there was plenty of work to do. We worked until about 10 PM putting up towers and got everything up except the tower trailer and the computer network. Saturday morning we got everything finished and were on the air by the start of the contest. About an hour into the contest, we where looking out the screen and noticed a big plume of smoke in the not so far distance. Even though we are all diehard testers, sanity prevailed and we actually stopped contesting and tuned into the forest service. We drove to a vantage point where we could observe the tankers dropping water on the fire. We determined with the wind direction and distance we were pretty safe to get back on the air. But, not without notifying Club members of our possible predicament. **Doug**, N6WZI, **Art**, WA6OZQ, and **Dave**, WB6ZGF, were all ready in case we needed help. Thanks guys.

Back on the air, we resumed the contest at an easy pace. As of this writing 6 meters never "opened" so were are limited to close in grids. But at 6000 ft that includes Las Vegas, Fresno and San Diego. The bands are dying down so I must go QRT until the morning in hopes of catching some "openings".

73,
Dave, N6TEB

FIRST CLASS



The Downey Amateur Radio
Club, Inc.
P.P. Box 207
Downey, CA 90241.0207