

# Q5

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



Volume XXII Number 2

*Our 52<sup>nd</sup> Year*

February 2003

### What is SSTV?

Well, you will have to come to the February meeting to find out. Our guest speaker this month will be **Paul Avery**, KK6BY. This will be your opportunity to learn about SSTV as it is used with HF from one of the avid players in the field.

Paul sports an Extra Class License and enjoys HF, APRS, ATV and SSTV. Paul has the WAS and DXCC on 10 meter phone, and is a member of the South Bay ARC in Torrance.

You can find Paul teaching Electronics and Mathematics at DeVry as he is currently a University Professor. He also holds a BSEE and MS in Management. Prior to joining the teaching ranks, Paul spent over 20 years as an automotive engineer at Nissan Technical Center. His hobbies include drag racing, robotics and all things electronic.



### DARC Supports ARC Walk

One of the most gratifying public service events the DARC supports is the ARC Walk for Independence, which is a fundraising event for ARC of Southeast Los Angeles County. ARC (formerly known as the Association for Retarded Citizens) works with those who have mental retardation or other developmental disabilities and brings them to their highest functional level, some even to independent living. Only about 40 % of ARC's funding is from grants and government programs, many of which are being cut back, and ARC has to make up the difference so it can continue to do its important work in our communities.

### DARC Offers Technician Classes

The Downey Amateur Radio Club will be hosting a Ham Radio Technician License Class. Here's your invitation to a friendly, high-tech hobby that's got something fun for everyone! You can become an Amateur Radio operator--no matter what age, gender or physical ability. People from all walks of life pass their entry-level exams and earn their Amateur (Ham) Radio licenses.

Getting started in ham radio has never been easier! We invite you to attend a Ham Radio Technician License class to gain skills you will need to pass your FCC Technician license test!

Already have your Ham license? Then this would be an excellent opportunity to get that next door neighbor into Ham radio, rather than just filtering his TV.

Classes run two consecutive weeks starting on Saturday, April 5th with VE testing on the morning of April 19th. All classes will be held starting at 9 AM the First Baptist Church of Downey in room 112.

The material cost is a nominal \$35. You must Pre-Register & Pre-Pay.

For more information about the Ham Radio Technician License Class, or to reserve your space, contact **Tom VanBuskirk**, K6TV, Phone 562-861-3085.

### February Meeting

The February meeting of the DARC will be held in the Cafetorium at Sussman Middle School, 12500 Birchdale Ave., in Downey, beginning at 7:30 PM, Thursday, **February 6, 2003**

The Downey Amateur Radio Club has supported this event, providing logiti-

*(Continued on page 4)*

### March Meeting

Our guest speaker at the March meeting will be **Randy Hammock**, KC6HUR, who will be speaking on the subject of IRLP. Mark your Calendars.

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

**Club Officers**

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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:

Feb 15 Apr 19 Jun 21  
Aug 16 Oct 18 Dec 20

The ARRL/VEC test fee is \$12.00 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 **Steve Grudzinski**, AD6HT, at (626) 336-3974, or AD6HT@arrl.net prior to the test. This contact is appreciated but not mandatory. After the test secession please wait 10 days before contacting the ARRL at (860) 594-0300 or <http://www.qrz.com/callsign> 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".

**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
WA6SCA	Herb Rulon	19
WB6GJW	Bob Wartenbe	20
K6DFP	Chester Beck	23
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 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), call sign(s),  
Address, and phone number

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Clem Patocka, KB6ACJ

# President's Message

Well, 2003 is off to a great start. We have a full lineup of special events with plenty of opportunities for you to practice your radio skills! If you've never participated in any of these events, make 2003 the year you do! The first event is Tour de Sewer on March 15th (see the back cover of this issue for more details), and following that is the ARC walk on March 29th. Both events need many volunteers to run smoothly. I am very proud to be a part of a club that offers their services to the community in this way.



Our 2 meter simplex net is off to a great start. We have had an average of 12 members checking in each time. Meet us on the air every Thursday evening at 7:30 P.M. (except Club meeting nights) and join the fun. That's 145.595MHz on your dial! This is the Club simplex frequency, but guests are invited to check in as well. I hope to hear more of you out there.

The 2003 ARRL Southwest Convention is coming this September to the Hilton Long Beach. As you probably know, W6TOI is responsible for the speakers this year and it would be great if we had a good turnout of Club members. Attending the Convention is a great place to hear from some talented speakers, meet new and old friends, see some of the latest technology and add a great Pin to your collection! You can still receive early bird registration at \$10 per person till April 30th. This includes one logo pin. You can contact **Larry Vaughn**, KD6NZW, for more information.

**Buck Kerns**, AE6DT, has donated two solar panels that will be auctioned off at the February Club meeting. See the article in this month's Q5. That, along with a great speaker, will make this meeting fun and exciting. I am looking forward to seeing you there.

73,  
**Steve**, AD6HT

## Hunting the Monster

— Part One —

It was New Year's Eve and after talking with a few stations on VHF I decided to go over to HF and do a little short wave listening. Uh oh, what was this?

Guzhh, guzhh, guzhh...

A new and terrible interference was loud and clear at S2 and even listening to some of the more robust broadcasters was troubled by this dreadful noise. The following day I discovered that this new interference could be heard on all HF bands at all hours of the day or night and even affected the AM broadcast band.

Living here in Hooper, I have enjoyed a certain freedom from RFI. Times, they are a changing with the demographics evolving from cattle, corn and onions to houses. With the increase of new homes in the area an increase in the RF noise floor has occurred over the past couple of years. However, I was convinced that this new interference was that of a new radar system.

Sitting at my computer in my frustration it occurred to me that I could turn to the powerful resource of fellow Hams. As a member of both DARC and UARC I decided that Amateurs nearer to my QTH might also be hearing this interference. A quick mass E-mail with a sound clip attachment was sent to all DARC club members resulting in several responses, all of which lead me to believe that my problem was not radar related (one fellow suggested that it was an Alien Invasion). Various suggestions and offers to assist in tracking down the source of the interference flooded in. I was no longer alone in my troubles and was getting good advice.

An E-mail from **Earle**, NT7Y, caught my attention. Earle had listened to the sound clip and identified the interference. Labeling it as the "Monster" with the source being a farmer's electric fence, NT7Y gave some reasons how a simple device can become

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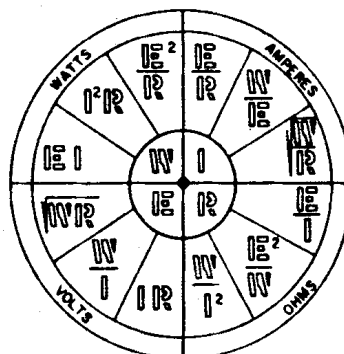
Mon. - Fri. 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM  
Sat. 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

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

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Electronic Parts Distributor  
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Network Equipment

8431 Commonwealth Ave., Buena Park, CA 90621-2527  
Email: [sales@fordel.com](mailto:sales@fordel.com)



OHMS LAW

## AUCTION

The DARC will be auctioning two 12 WATT solar panels, to be offered in two separate auctions. There is no warranty on the panel as they are without a frame and connection box. Instructions will be given to the winners on how to use them, if requested. Chargers can be found in the ARRL handbook



The specifications for the panel are: 12 watts; maximum voltage open connection is 21.3 volts; maximum short circuit current ( ISC ) is 0.75 amps; full load voltage is 17.1v at 0.70 amps. This specification is at optimum sunlight.

These panels are excellent for keeping your batteries charged.

**Buck, AE6DT**

*(Continued from page 1)*

## DARC supports ARC Walk

cal and safety communications, since the first walk seven years ago. This year the Walk will be on Saturday, March 29. It begins at approximately 8:00 AM, and ends at approximately 10:00 AM and complementary breakfast burritos and drinks will be served, courtesy of Alcapulco Restaurant.

The Walk consists of two routes, a one-mile and a three-mile, centered on Stonewood Mall at Firestone Blvd. and Lakewood Blvd. in Downey. We will need operators as "shadows" for officials and as stationary operators at various sites along the routes to watch the walkers, many of whom are ARC clients and may be vulnerable to hazards along the way. Since this is a short-range event, 2-meter simplex operation has proved effective in the past so a 2-meter HT with spare batteries and a headset or speaker/mike will be the necessary equipment to bring along.

A sign up sheet for this event will be provided at the February meeting or contact **Dave Buhler, WB6ZGF**, at 562/861-6069 or e-mail at [wb6zgf@catisle.net](mailto:wb6zgf@catisle.net).

WB6ZGF

## Internet - Friend or Foe?

Over the past several years I have heard it said that the Internet would bring the end of Ham Radio. After all, why would anyone want to struggle to get a license and buy the gear to talk to someone when they can do the same on the Internet without the expense and struggle? While the basis of the above statement is true, I find that the Internet actually complements Ham Radio by providing us with a powerful information tool. When I first got started in radio, it would take days to run down an odd part or schematic or get an answer to a tough technical question. I can do this now using a web search engine such as [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) providing me an answer almost instantly. I no longer have to own a Callbook to find out where other hams live to QSL, not to mention the data found online is much more up to date.

There is no end to the projects and designs that can be found online relating to our hobby. Elmering is not limited to someone local who can help when you can post a question on many of the many newsgroups and reflectors. Lets not forget the DX clusters that give us a clue where to look <http://oh2aq.kolumbus.com/dxs/>. There is also all the free software that has been written by hams for hams and distributed via the Internet. Ham Radio allows me to experiment with different forms of communication such as ATV, FM, AM, SSB and Digital modes and the effects of propagation on radio signals. Ham Radio still gives me a thrill when making a DX contact or meeting new people and finding out about the world they live in. Ham Radio gives me a feeling of satisfaction when I see my contest score improve or when I build something myself for use in the shack.

So all in all I see the Internet as a great boost to our hobby. Currently Ham Radio licenses are at a 10-year high and I feel that the Internet has helped spread the word and aided many in obtaining licenses.

Here are some Ham Radio related links I have found useful.

Ham Radio Selling Prices –

[www.aade.com/hampedia/prices2.htm](http://www.aade.com/hampedia/prices2.htm)

Equipment Photos – [www.rigpix.com](http://www.rigpix.com)

Callsign lookup, Sample Tests [www.qrz.com](http://www.qrz.com)

Software – <http://www.ac6v.com/software.htm>

Ham Palm Software –

<http://www.qsl.net/va3pkh/palm-ham.htm>

Soundcard interfacing <http://www.qsl.net/wm2u/interface.html>

Radio to Computer interface drawings and kits. <http://www.sedan.org/tnc2rad.htm>

The next time someone says to you that the internet will replace Ham Radio, ask him "how he plans to work Moon-Bounce from the Web or how exactly does the internet work in disasters when power and communication lines are down".

**Dave, N6TEB**

## DARC Board of Directors Meeting, January 14, 2003

**Steve Grudzinski**, AD6HT, President, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM at Downey Fire Station #1. Other Board members present were, **Dave Glenn**, N6TEB, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; **Ray Fas**, KD6GRM, VP-Ways & Means; **Ginny Grudzinski**, AJ6CW, VP- Programs; **Tom VanBuskirk**, K6TV, Director-One Year; **Buck Kerns**, AE6DT, Director-Two Years; **Jon Olesen**, KD6HXP, Treasurer; **Bill Heather**, KB6WKT, Secretary; **Dave Buhler**, WB6ZGF, VP-Service, and **Ann Wright**, KF6UEA, VP-Membership.



### Officers' Reports:

Steve, AD6HT, reported that the letter was sent to Rio Hondo Amateur Radio Club thanking them for the many years of use of the W6GNS repeater and that the DARC will no longer be utilizing their repeater for public service events or providing the annual donation to the club for its use. Also reported was that at the General meeting, the members were polled on several aspects of Field Day. There was about a 50/50 split regarding the question to stay at Sussman middle school grounds or move the event to another location.

Ann, KF6UEA, will have about 25 new membership cards. She said that she is in the process of comparing prices and will provide a report at next board meeting. Dave, WB6ZGF, reported that the float return was a success. The Club's repeater was utilized as well as APRS. Bill, KB6WKT, set up at the Embassy Suites Hotel for the Downey Rose Float Association. Also provided were two chase vehicles for communications to the hotel.

Ray, KD6GRM, reported that about half of the inventory on Club hats have been sold as of this date. Ray also reported that several members were inquiring about Club jackets. If new Club jackets are going to be made, pre-payment will be necessary. Ray will investigate different options and provide a report to the Board at February's meeting. Jon, KD6HXP, reported that the membership dues are trickling in. At the present, there are 101 members on the current roster. For those members that have not renewed, their last Q5 was mailed to them in December.

Steve, AD6HT, commented that in order to help remind everyone of when their membership dues are up, we should highlight the expiration date on the mailing address label for the Q5. Ginny, AJ6CW, reported that for those who requested not to receive the Q5 by mail, she will remove the labels before they are turned over to the Q5 publishing crew.

The minutes from the November and December Board meeting were moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

### Planning Calendar:

February's Speaker **Paul Avery**, KK6BY, will be speaking to the Club about Slow Scan Television. Steve, AD6HT, commented that use of an overhead projector or computer projector will be needed and will ask Dave N6TEB, to see if we can borrow his projector for the meeting.

Tour de Sewer – Dave, WB6ZGF, reported that the event will be on March 15<sup>th</sup> and is currently looking for a coordinator for the event. Dave mentioned that in order to get enough volunteers for the event they will have to be personally contacted otherwise there will not be enough volunteers.

ARC Walk - The event is scheduled for March 29<sup>th</sup>. Dave, WB6ZGF, reported that he spoke with Kevin McDonald at ARC and the Club is definitely on board for this event. Dave also said that he would have an article for the February edition of the Q5.

### Old Business:

Field Day – Steve opened the discussion regarding the Club's Field Day activities. Dave, WB6ZGF, commented that it would take efforts on asking people to participate not just call for volunteers. Ann, KF6UEA, wanted it to be a learning experience for members of the Club. Bill, KB6WKT, noted that DARC does not seem to be as radio active as other groups. Buck, AE6DT, suggested that perhaps the reason that the Club is not as radio active is because the Club is very heavily involved in public service events, more so than most other groups. Dave, N6TEB, suggested the Club consider staying in Downey, but move to a different site in Downey that provides more traffic by the event. Tom, K6TV, offered that idea that the Club needs to revamp the way it does Field Day. Perhaps going QRP. Many different ideas were provided by the Board; and Steve, AD6HT, called for a volunteer to chair Field Day. No one volunteered at this time.

Database Research - Dave, N6TEB, performed the research with an online database to locate all the Hams in the city of Downey. Dave will provide Ginny, AJ6CW, the list to allow a few Q5's to be mailed each month to attract those Hams who are not members of the Club.

## DARC General Meeting Minutes for January 9, 2003

**Steve Grudzinski**, AD6HT, President, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM with 34 people in attendance. Steve then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

VP Programs **Ginny Grudzinski**, AJ6CW, introduced Deputy **Ira Bornstein**, N6AKI. Ira is currently the liaison between the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the Disaster Communication Service (DCS). Ira explained to the group that there are 8 different regions throughout the State. Los Angeles county is considered Region 1 and includes all of L. A. and Orange County. There are a total of 50 separate departments throughout Region 1 which fall under mutual aid guidelines. Ira explained since there are 50 different organizations that need to come together, a manual has been published which provides the necessary requirements for the field forces. Training for all the different agencies is organized through the Emergency Operations Bureau (EOB). Ira explained that the L.A. County Sheriff's Department is responsible for the training through the EOB. This includes all the tactics utilized as well as the standardization of communications. A question and answer session regarding different areas of DCS and EOB followed the presentation.

Membership VP **Ann Wright**, KF6UEA, introduced a new member and guests.

### Announcements:

Steve, AD6HT, announced that the ARRL VHF contest will be on January 18, and that many of the DARC Club members are planning to participate.

**Ray Olsen**, AD6AF, announced that the Club will be holding the first simplex weekly net on the Club two meter simplex frequency 145.595 MHz on Thursday January 16 at 7:30 PM.

**Dave Glenn**, N6TEB, spoke on the subject of Field Day. He asked where the Club should hold Field Day this year. Various questions and discussion took place by many of the members.

**Dick Palmer**, WB6JDH, introduced the raffle prizes for the evening.

The meeting continued after a short break .

Proposed Budget: **Jon Olsen**, KD6HXP, reported on the budget. After a short discussion, Steve, AD6HT, called for the motion to approve the budget as it was reported in the January Q5. It was moved and seconded. The DARC 2003 budget was passed unanimously.

Jon, KD6HXP, provided this month's attendance drawing. **Buck Bickley's**, KO6JI, name was drawn, however Buck was not present. Next month the attendance prize will be worth \$10.

Steve, AD6HT, called for the motion to approve the Treasurer's report as it was reported in the January Q5. It was

moved and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Steve, AD6HT called for the motion to approve the December general meeting minutes as reported in the January Q5. It was moved and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Raffle prizes: **Warren Pope**, W4HDC, 450 ohm Ladder Line; **Larry Vaughn**, KD6NZW, 2003 Handbook CD; **Larry Cude**, KE6EOL, Police call book; **Jack Jones**, W3OB, ARRL Repeater Book; **Art Varney**, WA6OZQ, Clock/Watch/Compass; Steve (new member) Folding Chair.

Meeting adjourned 9:14 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Bill Heather**, KB6WKT

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VEC – Buck, AE6DT, reported that **Wes Printz**, W3SE, would be leaving the country. The board discussed possibilities of a replacement VEC. Steve suggested that Wes's name should be removed from the Q5 as VEC for the Club.

Letter of invitation – Ann, KF6UEA, questioned what needs to be done for the letter inviting interested parties to join the DARC. After a small discussion Ann will have a draft letter for the Board next month to review.

Radio station donation decline letter – Dave, N6TEB, reported that the letter did not get sent out however it will be done by the next Board meeting.

Technician license classes – Ginny, AJ6CW, handed out a flyer regarding the 2-weekend tech classes to be held on April 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. The board reviewed the pamphlet and will provided feedback to Ginny via email. Dave, N6TEB, commented it should be no problem at obtaining the use of the room for the classes at Downey Baptist church.

### New Business:

Club emergency Plan, Review & Revise- Steve mentioned that it was brought up to him that the Club Emergency Plan needed updating. A committee was appointed. Dave, WB6ZGF; Ginny, AJ6CW; Ann, KF6UEA; and Buck, AE6DT, will be on the committee and report its progress next month.

Solar Panel – Buck, AE6DT, has 6 solar panels he plans to donate to the Club to help raise funds. Two of the six panels will be auctioned off at the February General Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 PM.  
Respectfully submitted.  
**Bill Heather**, KB6WKT

## Treasurer's Report December 2002

### SUMMARY

Bank Balance as of 11/30/2002	\$2,941.34
Income	\$304.00
Expenditures	\$1,425.45

Bank Balance as of 12/31/2002	\$1,819.89
Raffle Holding Fund	\$158.12

INCOME	This Month	Year to Date	Annual Budget	(Over) Under Budget
Club Merchandise		181.00	315.00	134.00
DARC Dues	170.00	1,710.00	2100.00	390.00
Interest on Savings	0.00	11.03	40.00	28.97
Luncheon Reserv.	0.00	18.00	800.00	782.00
Misc Income	134.00	2,907.75	1,580.00	(1,327.75)
Fund Raisers	0.00	877.00	800.00	(77.00)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>304.00</b>	<b>5,704.78</b>	<b>5,635.00</b>	<b>(69.78)</b>

### EXPENDITURES

	This Month	Year to Date	Annual Budget	(Over) Under Budget
Attend. Prizes		0.00	55.00	55.00
Autopatch, Rptr.	17.85	228.14	240.00	11.86
Club Merchandise		459.00	400.00	(59.00)
Club Bulletin				
Printing	118.21	1,574.58	1,500.00	(74.79)
Supplies		17.34	20.00	2.66
Postage	37.00	569.35	650.00	80.65
Committees				
Awards		32.41	75.00	42.59
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		539.03	400.00	(139.03)
Luncheon		0.00	800.00	800.00
Picnic		0.00	50.00	50.00
Fund Raisers		200.00	50.00	(150.00)
Other Events		573.27	20.00	(553.27)
Insurance		322.00	400.00	68.00
Misc. Expenses	1,203.89	2,192.18	0.00	(2,192.18)
Officers Expenses				
President		0.00	25.00	25.00
Secretary		0.00	25.00	25.00
Treasurer		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	48.50	83.98	200.00	116.02
Stationary, Copies		0.00	20.00	20.00
World Radio Listing		65.00	65.00	0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$1,425.45</b>	<b>\$7,463.10</b>	<b>\$5,635.00</b>	<b>(\$1,828.10)</b>

Jon Olesen, KD6HXP  
Treasurer



## Downey Rose Float Return

Each year the DARC assists the Downey Rose Float Association in returning its float from Pasadena following the Tournament Of Roses parade. This year's return took place on the evening of January 2. The Club provides two amateur radio equipped escort vehicles, one of which also has APRS capability so the Association members can see where their float is at any time. The Association reserves a room at the Downey Embassy Suites hotel (where the float is displayed for two days) so Association members can greet the float on it's arrival.

This year's return was essentially uneventful with the usual one or two impatient drivers who are stuck behind the float and do incredible things to get around it. We were able to leave the Post Parade area at just after 7:00 PM and pulled into the hotel parking lot at around 9:15 PM., which is about the normal travel time.

I would like to thank the following for their assistance in this first public service event of the year: **Ed Roos**, KC6ZHY (and Ed's daughter, Lindy, who was along to observe); **Larry Cude**, KE6EOL; **Glenn Allen**, KE6HPZ, and **Bill Heather**, KB6WKT.

WB6ZGF

## Ready to Help!

Last month on January 6th, there was a Metrolink train that derailed in Burbank. What made this special to me was the fact that it happened right across the street from where I work.

I was sitting at my desk when I heard what sounded like a jet taking off with its wheels touching the roof of my building. I ran outside and to my amazement all that I could see was a wall of dirt to the east, and rising black smoke to the west. In a few moments when the dust settled, I had a front row seat of the tragic event. By the time I ran across the street, the area was already swarming with people helping the victims evacuate the train cars. It was an awesome sight to witness so many helping hands. Having my sheriff's volunteer ID displayed, I was soon enlisted to help with crowd control by the Burbank Police Department.

The other month I was a part of a training exercise where the scenario was a small commuter plane crashing into a park full of children. Little did I realize that this exercise would prepare me for that morning. The unselfish acts from all those who helped will be remembered by all the passengers on the train that morning.

73, **Steve**, AD6HT

## DX NOTES by Mike Gauthier, K6ICS

## February's PROPAGATION OUTLOOK

Recent variation in solar activity shows that there is still life in this sunspot cycle. Over time we will see the downward trend. This winter is very good for low band work on 160 and 80 meters, particularly when K and A index values are low. As the days get longer, higher bands will improve as we head toward the spring equinox.

**3B8, MAURITIUS**

3B8/DK7AO Feb 9-Feb 15<sup>th</sup>. The team consists of: Frank/DK7AO and his XYL Katrin/DL1AXL, Guenter/DL2AWG and Peter/DL3APO (and his XYL). Activity will be on 160-10 meters, but they will focus on the low bands, the WARC bands and some RTTY. They will have 2 HF stations. QSL via DL3APO. For more details and the log, visit the Web page at: <http://www.radioklub.de/3b8>.

**A4 Oman** Now-Feb 28 by IV3NCC.

**C6 Bahamas** Now-Feb 28, by C6AGN.

**D8 SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS** Now-Nov 30, D88S from the South Korean Base "King Se-Jong" on King George Island (AN-010). Lee, DS4CNB continues to be active on CW on 40/30/20/17/15/12/10 meters. However, he has been heard on 17 meters SSB on 18155 kHz between 1000-1200Z. QSL via DS4CNB.

**HH6 Haiti**, Now-Feb16, HH6/homecall by DL7CM and DM2AYO fm Île à Vache (NA-149); 160-6m; CW SSB RTTY; focus on WARC + low band RTTY.

**KG4 Guantanamo Bay** Now-Feb 4, KG4IZ by WA5PAE and KG4MO by K4ZLE; 160-10m; mainly CW PSK-31 RTTY; QSL OK via Buro or direct (w/ SASE); Buro cards may take 2 years.

**PJ5 Saint Maarten** Now-Feb 10, PJ5/K3RGD by VP2VE skeds via short message (<75 char) to: VP2VE@amsat.org .

**S21 Bangladesh** Now-Mar 3, S21YV by KX7YT fm Dhaka; 20 15 10m; SSB PSK31 CW; typically 1200 to 1600Z; Likely QRV for both ARRL DX contests.

**V31 Belize** Jan 5-Feb25, V31YN by DJ4KW and V31GW by DK9GG. QSL via DARC Buro.

**VP6 Pitcairn Island** Feb 4-Feb 4, VP6EM by W2SN; 1700-2359z; 20 15 10m SSB, depending on propagation.

**VR2 Hong Kong** Now-Feb 10, VR2/VE7TLL fm Lantau Is (AS-006) by VE7TLL; not DXpedition but will be as QRV as possible.

**DARC Members DXCC count:**

WA6RTA 327 Phone (AM & SSB)  
 KB6ATT 305 Mixed, 60 CW 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  
 N6WZI 10 Meters 198 Phone  
 K6TV 185 SSB, 46 CW, 85 QRP  
 KE6ARF/Mobile 142 SSB  
 WA6OUD 10 meters 129 Phone  
 W6TOI 102 Mixed  
 W3OB 100 Mixed, 85 20 Meters SSB  
 KQ6EH 30 Meters 57 CW



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@catns.net](mailto:k6ics@catns.net) or my website [www.catalina-inter.net/mgauthier](http://www.catalina-inter.net/mgauthier)

# February 2003 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Jan 26</b>	<b>Jan 27</b> 7:15 PM Downey DCS Net	<b>Jan 28</b> 7:00 PM 440 Net on 445.640- pl 156.7  AD6AF	<b>Jan 29</b>	<b>Jan 30</b> 7:30 PM 2m Simplex Net on 145.595 MHz  KD6NZW	<b>Jan 31</b>	<b>1</b> 7:00 AM Club Breakfast
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 7:15 PM Downey DCS Net	<b>4</b> 7:00 PM 440 Net on 445.640- pl 156.7  WB6ZGF	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  7:30 PM General Meeting	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 7:00 AM Club Breakfast  Project Build- ing SIG N6TEB
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 7:15 PM Downey DCS Net	<b>11</b> 7:00 PM 440 Net on 445.640- pl 156.7 KE6HPZ 7:30 PM Board Meeting	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 7:30 PM 2m Simplex Net on 145.595 MHz  N6TEB	<b>14</b>  Q5 Deadline! Please Have your articles in on Time	<b>15</b> 7:00 AM Club Breakfast ARRL International DX Contest (CW) VE Testing 8AM
<b>16</b> ARRL Interna- tional DX Contest (CW)	<b>17</b> 7:15 PM Downey DCS Net	<b>18</b> 7:00 PM 440 Net on 445.640- pl 156.7  AD6HT	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 7:30 PM 2m Simplex Net on 145.595 MHz  K1SL	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 7:00 AM Club Breakfast
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 7:15 PM Downey DCS Net	<b>25</b> 7:00 PM 440 Net on 445.640- pl 156.7  AD6AF	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7:30 PM 2m Simplex Net on 145.595 MHz  AD6AF	<b>28</b>	<b>Mar 1</b> 7:00 AM Club Breakfast  ARRL Interna- tional DX Contest (Ph)
<b>Mar 2</b> ARRL Interna- tional DX Contest (Ph)	<b>Mar 3</b> 7:15 PM Downey DCS Net	<b>Mar 4</b> 7:00 PM 440 Net on 445.640- pl 156.7  WB6ZGF	<b>Mar 5</b>	<b>Mar 6</b>  7:30 PM General Meeting	<b>Mar 7</b>	<b>Mar 8</b> 7:00 AM Club Breakfast

(Continued from page 3)

such a RFI monster of sinister proportions. Wow! Other than the occasional soft clicking of my fence or that of a neighbor's, I had never heard anything like this before.

With portable short wave receiver and headphones I walked my yard, my fence and my neighborhood. I was on a RFI hunt and it made me think of the Allies in World War II tracking German U-boats, (not to mention that gossip factor that I gave my neighbors).

Other than badly needed exercise I was getting nowhere as I could not locate its source. Indeed, while walking near AC power lines the guzhh, guzhh, guzhh would increase slightly in signal strength, however it wasn't coming directly from my neighborhood. Time to fan out.

Now I was in my Jeep driving Hooper in grid squares listening with my portable and making notes. After 45 minutes I changed directions when the signal levels starting dropping and an east to west tack found the signal increasing then decreasing. I was onto it now as I backtracked and changed to a north/south track and bingo, I found the bonanza of RFI.

Be sure to tune into next month's conclusion of Hunting the Monster.

**Randall Shreve, KD7PCW**

## Tour de Sewer

The DARC is looking for someone to serve as Project Manager of the communications support for the "Tour de Sewer" bicycle ride tentatively scheduled for March 15, 2003. 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 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).

WB6ZGF

Do you have an idea for an article for the Q5? Remember, 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**.



**FIRST CLASS**



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**Q5**