

# Q5

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

**FIRST CLASS**

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

Tel: (714) 521-8080  
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# Q5

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

Volume XXV #2      Our 55th Year      February 2006

**February's Speaker Highlights City Emergency Preparedness**

February's speaker will be **Fernando De La Torre**, Fire Inspector for the City of Downey Fire Department. He will be speaking on the city's preparations for emergencies within the city as well as the city's Emergency Operations Center.

The meeting will be held at the Sussman Middle School Cafeteria located at 12500 Birchdale Ave., Downey, beginning at 7:30 pm, Thursday, January 5. We will have refreshments and, of course, a raffle. See you there.

Arlene, KE6GF1  
Vice-President, Programs

**THE DOWNEY  
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.**  
P.O. Box 207  
Downey, CA 90241

<http://www.downeyarc.org>

## Club Officers

### President

Position open

### First Vice President

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Phone: (562) 806-1234

k1sl@arrl.net

### VP Programs

Arlene Schwartz, KE6GFI

Phone: (562) 928-1775

ke6gfi@arrl.net

### VP Membership

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wb6jdh@verizon.net

### VP Service

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wb6zgf@catisle.net

### VP Ways and Means

Paul Metzger, KQ6EH

Phone: (562) 928-4332

kq6eh@mac.com

### Director (One Year)

Tom VanBuskirk, K6TV

Phone: (562) 861-3085

tomk6tv@cs.com

### Director (Two Year)

Ed Roos, KC6ZHY

Phone: (562) 691-3199

ed.roos@Verizon.net

### Secretary

Position open

### Treasurer

Frank Hornberger, N6ZDS

Phone (310) 635-2222

n6zds@qsl.net

### Trustee, W6TOI

Tom VanBuskirk, K6TV

Phone: (562) 861-3085

k6tv@cs.com

### Affiliations:

Affiliated ARRL Club  
ARRL Special Service Club  
Los Angeles Area Council of  
Amateur Radio Clubs  
Orange County Council of  
Amateur Radio Organizations

### Club Frequencies:

Simplex : 145.595 MHz\*  
440 Repeater: 445.640 (-) PL 156.7 Hz\*  
\* See Calendar for Net Skeds

## Q5 Staff

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Permission to copy material from the Q5 is granted provided that credit is given to the "DARC Q5".

**Q5**, as in: a signal that is perfectly readable, hence the name of our newsletter. We hope you agree.

# DARC INFORMATION

## DARC Annual Membership

Single: \$20 Associate: \$10  
Maximum for Family: \$35

Make checks payable to "DARC",  
Send to: DARC Membership  
3600 Platt Ave  
Lynwood, CA 90262  
Include Call sign

## DARC Badges

DARC name badges are available for \$11.00, payable on order. Give your name and call sign to **Kent Savage, K6WCI**. Previously ordered badges may be picked up at the Club general meeting.

Do you have an idea for an article for the Q5? Remember, this is OUR newsletter, about OUR hobby. Please submit articles to: **John Powell, KF6EOJ**  
jpowell@csulb.edu  
By the 15th of the Month!

## 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 2006 is as follows:

**February 2006, April 2006**

Contact **Steve Grudzinski, AD6HT**  
at 951-674-4699 prior to the session.

## 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!



## Club Cups, Caps Shirts and Jackets

Item	On Hand?	Price
Caps	Yes	\$8.00
Jackets	Yes	\$35.00
T-shirts	Most Sizes	\$10.00
Polo Shirts	Most Sizes	\$16.00
Coffee Mugs	Yes	\$3.00

Pay when ordering.  
Contact **Paul Metzger, KQ6EH** at any meeting

The ARRL/VEC test fee is \$14.00 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

After the test session 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.

**ARRL: American Radio Relay League  
The National Association for Amateur Radio**

**One of the benefits of membership is the QST Magazine**

**QST, Your Monthly Membership Journal**

*QST* is simply **the source** for news and information on any topic that's part of, or relates to, Amateur Radio. Here's some of what you'll find every month:

- Informative and hard-hitting Product Reviews of the newest radios and accessories from hand-held and mobile FM radios, to home-station transceivers, antennas and even shortwave radios.
- Advertisements. You'll find everything from full-color pages introducing new radios to a large classified ad section.
- Each month's Coming Conventions and Hamfest Calendar columns show you who's getting together every month at hamfests, conventions and swap meets in your area.
- The Public Service column keeps you up to date on the public service efforts hams are providing around the country and shows you how you can join in this satisfying aspect of our hobby.
- Digital Dimension covers news in the Amateur Radio digital world and includes information on useful Web sites.
- The New Ham Companion section is filled with features and how-to information just for beginning hams. There's no jargon-filled "tech talk"--just straightforward, easy-to-understand articles designed to get you on the air doing the things you like best.

Whether you're interested in contesting, DXing, or radios, accessories and antennas you can build at home, *QST* covers them all: New trends and the latest technology, fiction, humor, news, club activities, rules and regulations, special events, packet radio, and much more.

*Editor's note: In lieu of the President's Message I have inserted the return of the DX Notes feature. The President's message will hopefully return in the next issue of the Q5*

**DX NOTES by Mike Gauthier, K6ICS**

**Propagation Outlook**

The next solar minimum will likely occur during the latter half of 2006 with cycle 24 peaking in 2010. In August 2005 the first signs of cycle 24 (in the form of duopoles - both positive and negative polarities with the expected polarity alignment for cycle 24) were observed on 3 occasions. While none of these were spotted at midnight, they were all located between latitudes N27 and N38. Such observations are usually made about a year in advance of the next minimum. [Tnx AC6V]

**February DX**

I Italy - All of the fifteen special IO1 calls (IO1ALP, BIA, BOB, CRO, CUR, FRE, FSK, HOC, JUM, LUG, NOR, SHO, SKE, SNO and SPE) will be aired between 10 January and 9 February. This will be the last leg of the approach march to the XX Olympic Winter Games that will take place in Torino on 10-26 February. All of the contacts will confirmed automatically via the bureau, direct cards should be sent to I1JQJ. Full information on the Torino 2006 Award can be found at <http://www.ari-r1.it/torino2006> [TNX 425DX].

LU Antarctica - Henry, LU4DXU reports that new staff members at Melchior Base (LU1ZB, LU-05 for the Antarctica Award) in the Melchior Islands (AN-012), Antarctica and Deception Base (LU1ZC, LU-04 for the Antarctica Award) on Deception Island, South Shetlands (AN-010) have just arrived. Look for both these bases 14290 kHz. QSLs via LU4DXU. [TNX DL5EBE]

LZ Bulgaria - Special call LZ50KSB will be aired on all bands and modes through the end of the year to commemorate the 50th anniversary of radio club LZ2KSB in Balchik, Bulgaria. QSL via LZ2SX direct or bureau. [TNX LZ3FN]

SM Sweden - Special event call SA2006EM will be aired by SK6AG and SK6AW on 6 February, 6 March, 6 April, 6 May and 6 June during the countdown to the 19th European Athletics Championships ([www.goteborg2006.com](http://www.goteborg2006.com)) that will be held in Goteborg on 6-13 August. From 1 July through 13 August they will operate as 7S6EM and 8S6EM. QSL for all via SM6YOU, preferably via bureau. Further information, including on-line logs and details on the relevant award, can be found at <http://sm6.se/em> [TNX SM6YOU].

**Minutes of the D.A.R.C. Board of Directors meeting – January 10, 2006**

Sam Lollar, K1SL, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM in the Emergency Operations Center at Downey Fire Station #1. Other Board members present were Arlene Schwartz, KE6GFI, VP-Programs; Dick Palmer, WB6JDH, VP-Membership; Dave Buhler, WB6ZGF, VP-Service; Paul Metzger, KQ6EH, VP-Ways and Means; Frank Hornberger, N6ZDS, Treasurer; Tom VanBuskirk, K6TV, Director, Two-Years and Ed Roos, KC6ZHY, Director One-Year.

The Treasurer's report and minutes of the last Board meeting were approved.

**Officers Reports:**

President: Vacant.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Sam had no report.

VP – Programs: Arlene reported she has no program for February, yet. Discussion was held regarding having a special event station set up for the Club's 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary pending contact with a responsible party from the new Downey Landing. She is also working on obtaining a speaker for the annual luncheon.

VP – Membership: Dick reported he is still attempting to bring new people into the Club.

VP – Service: Dave had no report.

VP – Ways & Means: Paul had no report.

Secretary: Vacant.

Treasurer: Frank distributed copies of the Treasurers Report noting nothing unusual.

Director, Two Years: Tom asked if the repeater is being monitored in accordance with F.C.C. rules. This will be explored before the next Board meeting.

Director, One Year: Ed had no report.

**Planning Calendar:**

Retests must be authorized by the VE-in-Charge. Pre-register through Louise Chapman, N6ELK, at 562-429-1355. Late arrivals may not be tested. A service of the Associated Radio Amateurs of Long Beach, Inc. W6RO. Contact Tom Gibbons, W9EYB, at 562-529-8644 with testing questions. Next testing is: **Saturday January 21**

Talk-in on 449.780 (-), tone 131.8 Hz. Call W6RO. Other testing sessions may be arranged using ARRL-VEC with a \$14 fee.

*From page 3*

V3 Belize - Gerd, DJ4KW and Gisela, DK9GG will operate as V31YN (CW, mostly on 80 and 160 metres) and V31GW (RTTY) respectively from Belize from now till 20 February. On 1-8 February they will be active on 40 metres and higher from Southwater Caye (NA-180). [TNX The Daily DX]

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### Raffle reminder and new request:

Just a reminder that all tickets for our club raffles throughout the year are put in the bin for the yearly grand prize(s) that will be drawn at the annual November luncheon.

**We have a new "Raffle King".** Larry Tinkler, K6LXT, has graciously offered his assistance to this worthy cause. Look for Larry to be bringing some interesting items for the next raffle drawings.

Thanks Dick for all your years of service in this fun event.

Remember, the raffle is totally self-supporting with the proceeds going towards the purchase of items for the next raffle, and so on. The more raffle money, the better the prizes and selection.

**John Powell, KF6EOJ**

### Looking for an Elmer?

Here are a few resources that can get you going.

**Bill Heather, KB6WKT, 562 863-6607**  
kb6wkt@arrl.net - Helping Hams, Contesting

**Ivan Mikulich, KB6ATT, 562 923-4577**  
kb6att@att.net - Helping Hams, Field Trips

**Glenn Allen, KE6HPZ, 562 928-2080**  
ke6hpz@ham-radio.com - Microwave

**Dave Buhler, WB6ZGF, 562 861-6069**  
wb6zgf@catisle.net - Net Control, Public Service,  
Emergency Communications.

**Harold 'Buck' Kerns, AE6DT, 562 634-8441** ae6dt@arrl.net - Public Service,



### VE Exams Alternate Location

#### Monthly Long Beach VE Exams

VE testing is the 3rd Saturday monthly at CSULB, 9 AM in the campus police station. Come to parking lot 11 off Palo Verde Ave. at Atherton St. Enter at the South end of Lot 11 to avoid construction areas. Free parking all morning. The fee is a bargain at \$4 for up to 4 elements using the Greater Los Angeles Amateur Radio Group-VEC.

*Con't top of page 13*

ARC walk will be on March 25 and the Tour de Sewer will be on April 8.

### Old Business:

**Repeater Upgrade:** Glenn Allen, KE6HPZ, has been receiving conflicting information regarding this issue. Since he was instrumental in installing the repeater, he wishes to have any upgrades done with his input and the Board agrees. Since it hasn't even had a simple alignment since installation and it appears there has been some degradation in coverage, the Board feels it necessary to at least service the unit and then tackle the issue of it's upgrade. Paul will coordinate with Glenn as to date and time for a site visit and report back to the Board.

**Volunteer Examiners:** The present state of this operation needs to be clarified since we seem not to have a V.E. coordinator at this time. Tom will investigate and report back.

### New Business:

**Q5 Quantities:** Sam received an e-mail from John Powell, KF6EOJ, editor of the Q5 requesting the Board grant a print run reduction from 120 to 100. Apparently, 20 copies are being trashed each month as extras with no place to put them. Discussion indicated these "extras" are actually copies to be distributed to radio stores and the like. The Board will make sure these copies are sent to the correct locations in the future.

**Records:** In response to an inquiry, the issue of the location of old Club records was raised. The Board will attempt to locate any and all old records and deposit them with one person or in one place.

### Other Business:

The 2005-2006 budget is in place.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dave Buhler, WB6ZGF,  
Substitute Secretary

**D.A.R.C. General Meeting Minutes – January 5, 2006**

Arlene Schwartz, KE6GFI, Vice President-Programs, called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM with 26 persons in attendance. She then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests introduced were John Johnson, KI6BPI and Luis Gazzo, OA4AVW.

Arlene introduced our speaker for the evening, our own Buck Kerns, AE6DT, with a photo presentation on solar cells. He is employed by a company which makes these cells so he is well informed on the details of their manufacture.

Buck took us through some of the chemical requirements and physical processes used to “grow” the material, which will become solar cells, as well as the construction of what we know as “solar panels”. He showed the group pictures of a solar generating station he maintains near the Huntington Library in San Marino, which feeds a portion of the grid maintained by Southern California Edison Co. He also displayed several panels he has constructed and noted that the Club frequently uses solar panels at some of the public service events to make the stations self sufficient.

At the end of his presentation, Buck randomly pulled the names of the attendees from a container and they were given smaller 12 volt solar panels to experiment with: Paul Metzger, KQ6EH; David Brackett, KE6OPK; Frank Myllo, KC6YPV; Ken Carlson, N6SWO; Chuck Anna, KE6TBC and Ken Kuepper, WB6RWS.

The group took a break from 8:46 PM to 9:00 PM.

The minutes of the December general meeting as they appeared in the Q5 were approved.

Kent Savage, K6WCI, explained as his last act as VP-Ways & Means he had made arrangements for new Club jackets and displayed two options. Members may contact current VP-Ways & Means, Paul Metzger, KQ6EH, for purchase.

Dave Buhler, WB6ZGF, outlined the next two upcoming public service events: ARC Walk on March 25 and the Tour de Sewer on April 8. He asked that anyone who would like to assist in either or both to contact

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Thu	Fri	Sat
2 <b>DARC MEETING</b> 7:30 PM Sussman Middle School 12500 Birchdale Ave Downey, CA	3	4
9 2-meter net 7:15 pm Club simplex 145.595 <b>Net Control</b> <b>KD6NZW</b>	10	11
16 2-meter net 7:15 pm Club simplex 145.595 <b>Net Control</b> <b>K1SL</b>	17	18
23 2-meter net 7:15 pm Club simplex 145.595 <b>Net Control</b> <b>AD6AF</b>	24	25
2 <b>DARC MEETING</b> 7:30 PM Sussman Middle School 12500 Birchdale Ave Downey, CA	3	4
9 2-meter net 7:15 pm Club simplex 145.595 <b>Net Control</b> <b>WB6ZGF</b>		

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
29	30	31 DARC 440 net 7:00 pm on Club 440 repeater. 445.640(-) pl 156.7 Hz.	1 Net Control N6TEB ←
<h1>Feb 2006</h1>		7 DARC 440 net 7:00 pm on Club 440 repeater. 445.640(-) pl 156.7 Hz.	8 Net Control KN6LM ←
12	13	14 DARC 440 net 7:00 pm on Club 440 repeater. 445.640(-) pl 156.7 Hz.	15 Net Control WB6ZGF ←
19	20	21 DARC 440 net 7:00 pm on Club 440 repeater. 445.640(-) pl 156.7 Hz.	22 Net Control WB6JDH ←
26	27	28 DARC 440 net 7:00 pm on Club 440 repeater. 445.640(-) pl 156.7 Hz.	1 Net Control K6WCI ←
5	6	7 DARC 440 net 7:00 pm on Club 440 repeater. 445.640(-) pl 156.7 Hz.	8 Net Control AD6AF ←

him as soon as possible.

Ray Olesen, AD6AF, explained the two Club nets and asked that all interested amateurs check in and enjoy what they have to offer. He also can use some more net control operators.

Arlene announced upcoming on-the-air operating events.

The attendance drawing was held by Dick Palmer, WB6JDH. Under the new guidelines, this drawing is held at the beginning of the new year for attendance during the last year and is worth \$100 to the winner who need not be present for the drawing. The winner was Tom VanBuskirk, K6TV.

In the absence of Larry Tinkler, K6LXT, Ron Eveland, W6QM, conducted the raffle with the following winners: Bert McFadden, W6VPE, a 2006 Thomas Guide; Dick Palmer, WB6JDH, a hand pump; Ray Olesen, AD6AF, two tool bags; John Powell, KF6EOJ, a wide beam flashlight; John Schroeder, N6QQ, a multimeter; Jon Olesen, KD6HXP, a "Ham Radio for Dummies" book; Ed Roos, KC6ZHY, a neon light; Ken Carlson, N6SWO, a 15 piece drill set; Luis Gazzo, OA4AVW, an R.F filter; Ken Kuepper, WB6RWS, a neon light and Paul Metzger, KQ6EH, a book on famed amateur Don Wallace, W6AM. Buck provided a special raffle prize, a complete 12 volt, 55 amp. solar panel which was won by John Schroeder, N6QQ.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dave Buhler, WB6ZGF,  
Substitute Secretary

Treasurer's Report—Expenditures

2005	DECEMBER		(OVER)/ UNDER BUDGET	
	ACTUAL	YTD ACTUAL		ANNUAL BUDGET
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
<b>Attendance Prize (Year End)</b>		\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
<b>Autopatch, Repeater</b>	\$17.50	\$192.94	\$225.00	\$32.06
<b>Club Merchandise</b>		\$0.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
<b>Club Bulletin</b>				
Printing		\$748.20	\$1,250.00	\$501.80
Supplies		\$21.64	\$30.00	\$8.36
Postage		\$440.86	\$550.00	\$109.14
<b>Committees</b>				
Award		\$0.00	\$75.00	\$75.00
Education/Awareness		\$0.00	\$30.00	\$30.00
Membership		\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Publicity & Public Relations		\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
Sunshine		\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
<b>Equipment/Maintenance</b>		\$0.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
<b>Events</b>				
Christmas Party		\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
Field Day		\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
Luncheon		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Picnic		\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Fund Raisers		\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Other Events		\$0.00	\$20.00	\$20.00
<b>Insurance</b>	\$20.00	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$0.00
<b>Misc. Expenses</b>		\$0.00	\$15.00	\$15.00
<b>Officers' Expenses</b>				
President		\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
Secretary		\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
Treasurer		\$25.00	\$25.00	\$0.00
<b>Other Organizations</b>				
Dues		\$0.00	\$20.00	\$20.00
<b>P.O. Box Rental</b>		\$76.00	\$80.00	\$4.00
<b>Refreshments, Meetings</b>		\$78.07	\$200.00	\$121.93
<b>Stationary, Copies</b>		\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
<b>World Radio Listing</b>		\$65.00	\$0.00	(\$65.00)
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$37.50</b>	<b>\$1,997.71</b>	<b>\$4,045.00</b>	<b>\$2,047.29</b>

Treasurer's Report—Income

2005	DECEMBER ACTUAL	YTD ACTUAL	ANNUAL BUDGET	(OVER)/UNDER BUDGET
<b>INCOME</b>				
Club Merchandise		\$43.00	\$200.00	\$157.00
Dues	\$100.00	\$1,235.00	\$1,845.00	\$610.00
		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Misc. Income		\$80.00	\$500.00	\$420.00
Fund Raisers		\$425.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,075.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	<b>\$1,783.00</b>	<b>\$4,045.00</b>	<b>\$2,262.00</b>

Treasurer's Report—Summary

**DOWNEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
TREASURER'S REPORT  
Dec-05**

**SUMMARY**

CHECKING-WA MUTUAL	\$2,577.72
BALANCE AS OF November 30, 2005	
INCOME	\$100.00
EXPENDITURES	\$37.50
Raffle (Month)	\$105.00
Raffle (Total Holdings)	\$164.87
Brunch (Month)	\$0.00
Brunch (Total Holdings)	\$0.00
CHECKING-WA MUTUAL	
BALANCE AS OF December 31, 2005	\$2,745.22

**February Birthdays**

**3rd, Ann Pope, KD6DIL**  
**7th, Frank Tillmann, KN6LM**  
**20th, Bob Wartenbe, WB6GJW**  
**25th, Dave Quintana, W6LTJ**  
**28th, John Kountz, KE6GFF**

Happy Birthday To All!