

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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FORD Electronics, Inc.
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Q5 By and for the
Downey Amateur
Radio Club, Inc.

Volume XXV #1

Our 55th Year January 2006

Power From The Sun will be the topic for January's meeting

Buck Kerns, AE6DT, will make a presentation to the club at the January meeting about the usefulness of solar power for Ham Radio operations. Come to the meeting ready to learn a great deal about solar panels, measuring electrical output and connecting to equipment. It's something every Ham should consider to have in their Go Pack for emergency services.

Buck is an active member of the Club. He holds an Extra Class license. He has been awarded the Ham of the Year Award. He is very active in many of the club's service events. He is one of the members that can put up an emergency station just about anywhere and has the equipment packed perfectly, so he can get at it and put it up and take it down. And if that interests you, plan on signing up for the next club service event and assist Buck in putting the station up!

Throughout this year we will be hosting a variety of programs that will enable us to build a station that can be used in case of an emergency. Like the message the ARRL has emphasized in the past year it's not a matter of **if**, but **when**. All of us on the west coast need to become well prepared in case of emergency situations.

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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k1sl@arrl.net

VP Programs

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VP Ways and Means

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Director (One Year)

Tom VanBuskirk, K6TV

Phone: (562) 861-3085

tomk6tv@cs.com

Director (Two Year)

Ed Roos, KC6ZHY

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Secretary

Position open

Treasurer

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Tom VanBuskirk, K6TV

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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 **Kent Savage, KG6LEI** 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.

2005 Holiday Lane Parade Recap

The 2005 Downey Holiday Lane Parade could not have been more different than night and day..... or, to put it more correctly, rain and sunlight. Unlike the rain soaked 2004 version, this year's parade was on a beautiful, sun soaked day with several thousand onlookers cheering the various parade units. The Downey Chamber of Commerce sponsors the parade through it's hard-working parade Committee, of which your correspondent is a member. The planning for the 2006 parade will begin in January when the Committee meets in a critique session to iron out any kinks experienced this time as well as decide some of the details of the next parade.

There were no serious incidents this time and there were very few units that were "no-shows", again in contrast to last year. There were the few logistical problems that always seem to crop up but the DARC was there to help solve them.

On behalf of the Downey Chamber of Commerce and its Parade Committee, I want to thank the following for their assistance: **Ed Roos**, KC6ZHY; **Joy Matlack**, KD6FJV; **Doug Lyon**, N6WZI; **Frank Myllo**, KC6YPV; **Bill Heather**, KB6WKT; **Gerry Matlack**, KF6VCH; **Glenn Allen**, KE6HPZ; **Buck Kerns**, AE6DT; **Kent Savage**, K6WCI; **Dave Glenn**, N6TEB; **Frank Hornberger**, N6ZDS; **Rick Norwood**, KD6KHJ and **John Powell**, KF6EOJ.

One more note: Bill tells me he was able to put in a plug and wish Merry Christmas from the Club after Marsha Moode, one of the TV announcers introduced him. If you have local Comcast Cable, look for Bill at the end of the parade show.

WB6ZGF

Yard Sale

The Board of Directors of the Downey Amateur Radio Club has set the Yard Sale for **April 2006** on a date and at a location to be announced.

Now is the time to start your new years clean-out of whatever you no longer need (and any undesirable Christmas presents, no fruitcakes, please) and give them to the Club. This is one of the DARC's major fundraisers so search those closets, explore that garage, purge that attic and clear that basement! OK, very few of us have basements here but you get the idea.

As soon as details become available you will be notified in the Q5 so please make sure we have plenty of "Stuff" to sell. Said "Stuff" should be clean condition and if possible pre-priced. General yard sale items should be considered as well as items related to technical types. That White Elephant candle set may be a better seller than that old microphone.

Minutes of the D.A.R.C. Board of Directors meeting – December 6, 2005

Sam Lollar, K1SL, 1st Vice President called the meeting to order at 7:44 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; Frank Hornberger, N6ZDS, Treasurer and Ed Roos, KC6ZHY, Director One-Year. Absent were Paul Metzger, KQ6EH, VP-Ways and Means and Tom VanBuskirk, K6TV, Director, Two-Years.

Officers Reports:

President: Vacant.

1st Vice President: Sam had no report.

VP – Programs: Arlene proposed a special events station as a way of celebrating the Club's 55th anniversary. Several venues were suggested. She also reviewed the upcoming programs as well as several other possibilities. Also discussed was the possibility of having a Club Field Day this year.

VP – Membership: Dick had no report.

VP – Service: Dave noted the first public service event will be the Downey Rose Float return from Pasadena, possibly the 3rd of January.

VP – Ways & Means: Absent, no report.

Secretary: Vacant.

Treasurer: Frank distributed copies of the Treasurers Report.

Director, Two Years: Absent, no report.

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make contacts on the move that I might otherwise miss while not doing something as crazy and unsafe as trying to write and driver at the same time! I send in my log either by filling out official contest forms and mailing them or more often these days by using the contest log generator link that creates the file for me on line from the log data I enter.

My favorite spots are a cross between the need to get up above blocking terrain and other factors that simply add to my enjoyment. I have often started in DM14 on a hilltop in a residential area near Mount San Antonio College. This is a beautiful area and I often see small animals scoot past while I make contacts. In DM13 I usually park on the top level of the parking structure near the Fullerton train station. I enjoy watching the railroad action while I work the contest and usually eat a couple of doughnuts from a nearby favorite shop (B&B Doughnuts on Harbor Blvd.) In DM03 I have a favorite spot overlooking the San Pedro Harbor. There I usually eat dinner (often from a nearby KFC) and enjoy watching the ships going into and out of the harbor while contesting. In DM04 (my home grid) I often park next to nearby parks in Alhambra and Rosemead. Once I was more ambitious and went to a hilly park in Los Angeles near Dodger Stadium. I've thought about driving down to DM12 for the start of a contest and heading up toward DM05 but my current job hours as well as gas prices make this a dream for now.

I have greatly enjoyed the contesting as a rover. It has been a great chance to play with my radios and see what they can do, to get away from the pressures of home and family life and to just go out and have some fun doing something that I enjoy. I hope you get the chance to do the same! Despite what you may read, it doesn't take a fancy station to just go out and have some fun!

73 – Ray – AD6AF

Greater Los Angeles Amateur Radio Group-VEC.

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.

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

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Director, One Year: Ed had no report.

Planning Calendar:

Following discussion, the Board decided to return to the Rio Hondo Events Center for next year's luncheon.

Old Business:

Yard Sale. The Yard Sale is tentatively scheduled for sometime in April.

New Business:

Repeater Upgrade. The Board discussed the best way to implement this long dormant project to increase the height as well as the output power level. Ed said there might be space on the existing KOCE tower in La Habra Heights in the next couple of years and we may be able to take advantage of that. Motion by Ed, seconded by Dave that the Club commits to this upgrade in the coming year. Motion approved.

Other Business:

Volunteer Examinations: The board is still looking for someone to accept this position.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Buhler, WB6ZGF,
Substitute Secretary

D.A.R.C. General Meeting Minutes – December 1, 2005

Sam Lollar, K1SL, 1st Vice President, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM with 29 persons in attendance. He then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Sam asked for motions to approve the Board of Directors and General Meeting minutes as they appeared in the Q5. Motion made, seconded and approved.

He then asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as it appeared in the Q5. Motion made, seconded and approved.

Dave Buhler, WB6ZGF, then took the floor to present the 2005 Ham of

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the Year plaque to **Frank Hornberger**, N6ZDS. Because of a supplier mistake, the plaque was not available at the annual luncheon so Frank received a certificate in its place.

Arlene Schwartz, KE6GFI, described January's program which will be our own Buck Kerns, AE6DT, speaking on solar panels. Buck has many years of experience in the manufacture of solar panels so it should be an interesting presentation.

Bert McFadden, W6VPE, introduced his guest John, KI6VPI.

Arlene announced the programs for 2006 will focus on a "back to basics" theme, some of them presented by our own members.

Larry Tinkler, K6LXT, conducted the raffle with the following winners: Chuck Anna, KE6TBC, a set of anti-fatigue floor mats; Buck Kerns, AE6DT, a ladder tool bag; Bert McFadden, W6VPE, a Coleman cordless drill; Ron Eveland, W6QM, a Coleman wide beam flashlight; Larry Tinkler, K6LXT, an RF filter; Joe Francis, WB6SZK, a multimeter; Ed Roos, KC6ZHY, a battery float charger; Dick Palmer, WB6JDH, liquid electrical tape; John Powell, KF6EOJ, a wall stud finder and Don McFadden, AA6LN, 7 inch and 10 inch multi-purpose snips.

As this was the Club's annual Christmas party, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 P.M. so attendees could enjoy the "goodies" supplied by the membership.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Buhler, WB6ZGF,
Substitute Secretary

Southern California Emergency Net

Each morning, Monday through Friday, Gordon West hosts a net on 40 meters, (7.250) at 8:30 in the morning. He generally begins with some information and then proceeds to a roll call followed by a call for additional check-ins. Those who have checked in for at least three times will be sent an ARRL ARES card.

Thu	Fri	Sat
5 DARC MEETING 7:30 PM Sussman Middle School 12500 Birchdale Ave Downey, CA	6	7
12 2-meter net 7:15 pm Club simplex 145.595 Net Control KISL	13	14
19 2-meter net 7:15 pm Club simplex 145.595 Net Control AD6AF	20	21
26 2-meter net 7:15 pm Club simplex 145.595 Net Control WB6ZGF	27	28
2 DARC MEETING 7:30 PM Sussman Middle School 12500 Birchdale Ave Downey, CA	3	4
9 2-meter net 7:15 pm Club simplex 145.595 Net Control KD6NZW		

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
1 Jan 2006	2	3 DARC 440 net 7:00 pm on Club 440 repeater. 445.640(-) pl 156.7 Hz.	4 Net Control AD6AF ←
8	9	10 DARC 440 net 7:00 pm on Club 440 repeater. 445.640(-) pl 156.7 Hz.	11 Net Control WB6JDH ←
15	16	17 DARC 440 net 7:00 pm on Club 440 repeater. 445.640(-) pl 156.7 Hz.	18 Net Control K6WCI ←
22	23	24 DARC 440 net 7:00 pm on Club 440 repeater. 445.640(-) pl 156.7 Hz.	25 Net Control WB6ZGF ←
29	30	31 DARC 440 net 7:00 pm on Club 440 repeater. 445.640(-) pl 156.7 Hz.	1 Net Control N6TEB ←
5	6	7 DARC 440 net 7:00 pm on Club 440 repeater. 445.640(-) pl 156.7 Hz.	8 Net Control KN6LM ←

Contesting and Rover Lite

I have been reading about making your vehicle into a fancy well equipped machine for VHF/UHF contesting as a rover. Many of these might scare folks to death and cause them to put roving on the back burner unnecessarily. I have had a lot of fun participating in the VHF/UHF contest as a rover without all the fancy equipment. Your chances of an award are slim, but if you just want to go out and have some fun you do not need a fancy rover vehicle with beams and a multitude of antennas.

I have always done a grid circle working from DM04, DM14, DM13 and DM03. I started out with my 5 Watt dual band HT to my Larsen dual band trunk lip mounted NMO-2/70 antenna. With this simple basic equipment in January 1997 I made 50 contacts for 912 points. Later I built a Ten-Tec transverter kit giving me about 5 Watts on 6 Meters using a 2 Meter 5/8 wave magnet mount (about 1/4 wave on 6) with a 2 Meter HT on the other end of the transverter. With this addition in January 1999 I managed a total of 147 contacts for 3519 points. The breakdown was 69 2-Meter contacts, 60 contacts on 440 and 18 on six meters.

Finally I picked up a Kenwood TH-F6A for 5 Watts on 220 using a tri-band antenna on a magnet mount. My current record was set in September 2002. I devoted one radio to each band. My transverter on six meters to a six meter ham stick on a magnet mount, a Radio Shack HTX-252 to my 5/8 wave magnet mount, an ICOM IC-207H to the Larsen NMO-2/70 trunk lip mounted antenna for 440 and the Kenwood TH-F6A on the tri-band magnet mount for 220. I made a total of 110 contacts working my basic for grids plus making contacts from DM12 on every band. These added multipliers boosted my score to 4176!

You note I stated your chances of an award are slim (but not impossible). Making contacts on 440 FM in the August 2002 UHF contest (19 contacts, 4 grids activated and worked, 456 points) using only my Larsen dual band antenna and my ICOM IC-207H transceiver (FM only) I received an award certificate from the ARRL for first place rover in the South West Division. How did this happen? I was the ONLY rover to submit a log from the SW Division for that contest!

I keep the logging simple. I do not own a laptop computer so I keep paper logs. I use pads of paper that vary by color and size for each band: Legal size white for 2 Meters, Legal size Yellow for 440, a 6x9 steno book for 220 and a smaller yellow pad for 6 Meters. When moving I have a tape recorder with a microphone that has an on-off switch and tape the contact information for later addition to the paper logs. This allows me to

Treasurer's Report—Expenditures

2005	NOV ACTUAL	YTD ACTUAL	ANNUAL BUDGET	(OVER)/ UNDER BUDGET
EXPENDITURES				
Attendance Prize (Year End)		\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Autopatch, Repeater		\$175.44	\$225.00	\$49.56
Club Merchandise		\$0.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
Club Bulletin				
Printing	\$124.70	\$748.20	\$1,250.00	\$501.80
Supplies		\$21.64	\$30.00	\$8.36
Postage	\$55.50	\$440.86	\$550.00	\$109.14
Committees				
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
Equipment/Maintenance		\$0.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
Events				
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
Insurance		\$330.00	\$350.00	\$20.00
Misc. Expenses		\$0.00	\$15.00	\$15.00
Officers' Expenses				
President		\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
Secretary		\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
Treasurer	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$0.00
Other Organizations				
Dues		\$0.00	\$20.00	\$20.00
P.O. Box Rental		\$76.00	\$80.00	\$4.00
Refreshments, Meetings		\$78.07	\$200.00	\$121.93
Stationary, Copies		\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
World Radio Listing		\$65.00	\$0.00	(\$65.00)
Total Expenditures	\$205.20	\$1,960.21	\$4,045.00	\$2,084.79

Treasurer's Report—Income

2005	NOVEMBER ACTUAL	YTD ACTUAL	ANNUAL BUDGET	(OVER)/ UNDER BUDGET
INCOME				
Club Merchandise		\$43.00	\$200.00	\$157.00
Dues	\$230.00	\$1,135.00	\$1,845.00	\$710.00
		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Misc. Income		\$80.00	\$500.00	\$420.00
Fund Raisers		\$425.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,075.00
Total Income	\$230.00	\$1,683.00	\$4,045.00	\$2,362.00

Treasurer's Report—Summary

SUMMARY, November 2005

CHECKING-WA MUTUAL	\$2,432.92
BALANCE AS OF October 31, 2005	
INCOME	\$230.00
EXPENDITURES	\$205.20
Raffle (Month)	\$370.00
Raffle (Total Holdings)	\$59.87
Brunch (Month)	(\$250.00)
Brunch (Total Holdings)	\$0.00
CHECKING-WA MUTUAL	
BALANCE AS OF November 30, 2005	\$2,577.72

January Birthdays

4th, Frank Myers, N6ATU
25th, Don Johnson, KE6AHS
26th, Bill Jones, N6MY
28th, Kent Savage, K6WCI

Happy Birthday To All!