

Q5

SERVING DOWNEY AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES SINCE 1951

VOLUME XXVIII #7



Show and Tell Time, plus Ice Cream Social

The July DARC membership meeting will feature our annual Show and Tell Ice Cream Social.



The Show and Tell format allows members to share a project, report on new equipment, show off a new QSL design, report on activity, or bring in something interesting to show to the group. Plan to share from 5 – 7 minutes your item or project.

Too busy for a project? Attend any other clubs and like to share what you found there? Did you 'Rover' during the VHF contest? Let's hear how that was.



Buy a 'Boat Anchor' that you are planning on restoring, some day, maybe? Bring that in!

A few of the members of the Board will be bringing some new antennas, such as the Buddi-Pole and perhaps the Outbacker Tripod. We will all benefit from your stories and projects. We want to hear from everybody.

Rick Norwood, KD6KHJ, will be showing some photos from the club's Field Day station, at Downey Fire Departments' EOC.



Dues are Due (July):

Dave Brackett, KE6OPK
John Kountz, KE6GFF
Robert Patterson, K6ZCM
Arlene Schwartz, KE6GFI

New Club Merchandise

A new type of DARC club shirt and hat by "Port Authority" are available that help protect your head and upper body from sun exposure when you are out most of the day.

The shirts are Denim and are available in either long or short sleeve, and have the DARC club logo embroidered above the left pocket with your name and callsign on the right side of the shirt. The price is \$32.95, plus tax of \$3.05 (S - XL), add \$2.19 for each additional X. IE: 2XL would be \$34.95 plus tax of \$3.23.



The hats are a safari style and are a ventilated straw hat with a band above the rim that has the club logo embroidered on it. The cost is \$12.95 plus tax of \$1.20, or add an extra \$5.46 to also have your call sign embroidered on the band. I wore both the shirt and hat at our June club meeting.

Call or email me if you interested in either or both. Ron Eveland, W6QM, w6qm@msn.com, or 562 860-3623.

Blackie Snodgrass, KB6RKW is SK, see page 15

**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

Club Frequencies:

Simplex: 145.595 MHz*
440 Repeater #1: 445.640 (-) PL 156.7 Hz*
440 Repeater #2: 445.640 (-) PL 88.5 Hz
*See Calendar for Net Schedule

440 Net at 7PM, 2M Net at 7:15 PM

Q5* Staff**Editor**

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

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

Club Officers**President**

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k1sl@arrl.net

First Vice President

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VP Programs

Position Open
YOUR NAME
COULD BE HERE!

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Director (Two Years)

Buck Kerns, AE6DT
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ae6dt@arrl.net

Trustee, W6TOI

Tom VanBuskirk, K6TV
Phone: (562) 861-3085
tomk6tv@cs.com

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, 562 862-4592 kb6att@att.net, Helping Hams, **Field Trips**

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

Dave Buhler, WB6ZGF, 562 861-6069 wb6zgf1@verizon.net, **Net Control, Public Service, Emergency Communications**

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

John Schroeder, N6QQ, 562 404-1112 n6qq@msn.com, **Contesting, DXing, DXCC and WAS Card Checker**

**When and where we meet:**

We normally meet the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM in room 120 of the **First Baptist Church** in Downey. The church is between 2nd and 3rd streets, near City Hall, address is 8348 E. 3rd St. Use 2nd St, east from Downey Ave (1 block north of Firestone Bl), adjacent to City Hall. Entrance via double glass doors on the north side of 2nd St.

**Swap Meet Information:****CHHS Electronics Swap Meet**

Chino Hills High School
16150 Pomona Rincon Rd
Chino Hills, CA

Held the **third Saturday of each month**, 6:30 to 11:30 AM

W6TRW Swap Meet

Northrop Grumman Parking Lot
Corner of Marine and Aviation
Manhattan Beach, CA

Held the **last Saturday of each month**, 7:00 to 11:30 AM

Minutes of the D.A.R.C. Board of Directors Meeting – November 11, 2008

Rick Norwood, KD6KHJ, 1st Vice President called the meeting to order at **1931** hrs in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at Downey Fire Station #1, and welcomed all board members. Other Board members present were: 1st Vice President; Arlene Schwartz, KE6GFI; VP Membership; VP Ways & Means; Ron Eveland, W6QM, Secretary; Delight Miller, WB6WWI, Treasurer; Frank Hornberger, N6ZDS, Director, One Year, Buck Kerns, AE6DT; Director Two Years, Tom VanBuskirk, K6TV.

Additions to the Agenda: None

Officers Reports:

President, Sam Lollar, K1SL: Absent

1st VP, Rick Norwood, KD6KHJ: None

VP Programs: None

VP Membership, Arlene Schwartz, KE6GFI: Two new members and requested additional name tags.

VP Service, Dave Buhler, WB6ZGF: Absent

VP Way & Means, Ron Eveland, W6QIM: At the TRW Swap Meet sold equipment for a total of \$345 to be added to treasury. Hats and shirts that were ordered were delivered at last meeting.

Secretary, Delight Miller, WB6WWI: None.

Treasurer, Frank Hornberger, N6ZDS: None. Rick Norwood, KD6KHJ requested information on members who do not pay their dues. He needs to remove them from the Q5 distribution list. Frank Hornberger, N6ZDS will provide the list to Rick. Frank stated that he usually waits two months past the dues date to consider membership expired.

Director Two Year, Buck Kerns, AE6DT: None

Director One Year, Tom Ban Buskirk, K6TV: None

The Board Meeting Minutes, as published in Q5 and Treasurer's Report submitted for May, 2009 were accepted.

Planning Calendar:

1. Field Day 6/27 & 6/28, Buck Kerns, AE6DT stated the Field Day will be held at Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at Downey Fire Station #1, Friday will be set up day. For Saturday evening, pizza will be ordered.

From page 3

There was a discussion concerning which frequencies have been usable.

2. Hawaiian Days 7/18 & 7/19, Buck Kerns, AE6DT discussed how important our communication function was to the event. Last year, there were several first aid type of requests communicated to the appropriate agency. The event feeds you breakfast. If you are participating, be sure to bring a folding chair and water. The uniform for us will be DARC Shirt and Hat. He is looking for additional members to sign up.

3. July Meeting – Ice cream social. There is a room upstairs that could be used, but it was felt that using individual ice creams would cut down the mess. No scooping would be necessary. The order will be for 30 which Ron Eveland, W6QIM and Larry Tinkler, K6LXT will obtain. Wafers, drinks and napkins will be obtained by Tom Ban Buskirk, K6TV. This meeting's presentation will be show and tell. There was a discussion concerning who might have items to present. Rick Norwood, KD6KHJ will have a slide show in the background during the ice cream social time of pictures from the Field Day.

4. August Meeting. Buck Kerns, AE6DT pointed out that this meeting needed to have nominations for 2010 Board Members and names for 2009 awards. He reminded us that October is the voting month.

Old Business

1. Vacant Board Position – no discussion.
2. Speakers-June- NE6V, ARRL – no discussion.
3. PV repeater Certificate- Rick Norwood, KD6KHJ, showed the certificate and will make sure to gets to the appropriate people.
4. Dues structure – placed on hold to next meeting when Sam Lollar, K1SL is present.
5. Downey RMC-K1SL to make contact -placed on hold to next meeting when Sam Lollar, K1SL is present.

New Business:

Tasma/Scrrba membership- placed on hold until next meeting when Sam Lollar, K1SL is present.

The meeting was adjourned at 2011 hrs. Respectfully submitted,
Delight Miller, WB6WWI, Secretary

ARRL Membership and Renewals

Just a reminder to current club members and new members, the DARC will accept new memberships to the American Radio Relay League as well as renewals of memberships. We can provide the forms. When you renew through the club, the club receives a club commission from the ARRL. We know that many members' ARRL dues generally become due in August because of our past practices in hosting ARRL night at club meetings in August. Questions about this program may be directed to **Arlene Schwartz**, KE6GFI, ke6gfi@arrl.net.



Treasurer's Report—Income

2008 - 2009	May 09	YEAR-TO-DATE	ANNUAL	(OVER)/UNDER
INCOME	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET
Dues	\$60.00	\$590.00	\$1,200.00	\$610.00
Misc. Income	\$17.00			
Yard Sale		\$0.00	\$510.00	\$510.00
Other	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$0.00	(\$20.00)
Fund Raisers		\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Total Income	\$97.00	\$610.00	\$2,710.00	\$2,100.00

Treasurer's Report— Expense

2008-2009	May 09	YTD	ANNUAL	(OVER)/
EXPENDITURES	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	UNDER
				BUDGET
Autopatch, Repeater Club Bulletin	\$21.75	\$106.06	\$225.00	\$118.94
Printing		\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Supplies		\$0.00	\$30.00	\$30.00
Postage	\$59.00	\$59.00	\$200.00	\$141.00
Committees				
Award		\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Membership		\$0.00	\$30.00	\$30.00
Publicity & Public Relations		\$0.00	\$30.00	\$30.00
Sunshine		\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Equipment/Maintenance	\$268.00	\$268.00	\$350.00	\$82.00
Events				
Christmas Party		\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
Field Day		\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Luncheon		\$0.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
Special Events		\$0.00	\$75.00	\$75.00
Fund Raisers		\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Insurance		\$0.00	\$350.00	\$350.00
Officers' Expenses				
Board Members		\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Treasurer		\$0.00	\$75.00	\$75.00
Other Organizations				
Dues		\$0.00	\$20.00	\$20.00
P.O. Box Rental		\$0.00	\$80.00	\$80.00
Refreshments, Meetings	\$11.95	\$44.62	\$200.00	\$155.38
World Radio Listing		\$0.00	\$70.00	\$70.00
Total Expenditures	\$360.70	\$477.68	\$2,710.00	\$2,232.32

Treasurer's Report— Summary

**DOWNEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT
May-09**


SUMMARY

CHECKING-WA MUTUAL		\$6,380.14
BALANCE AS OF Apr 30, 2009		
INCOME	\$97.00	
EXPENDITURES	\$360.70	
Raffle (Month)	\$66.00	
Raffle (Total Holdings)	\$171.23	
Brunch (Month)		
Brunch (Total Holdings)	\$25.00	
CHECKING-WA MUTUAL		
BALANCE AS OF May 31, 2009		\$6,182.44

July Birthdays

Chuck Anna, KE6TBC, 15th
Alan Hagen, KQ6MD, 24th
Buck Kerns, AE6DT, 25th
Jeff Glassman, WA6ENI, 29th

Happy Birthday to All!



<p>Mon. - Fri. 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM Sat. 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FORD Electronics, Inc. <i>Electronic Parts Distributor</i> Wholesale * Industrial * Commercial Network Equipment</p> <p>8431 Commonwealth Ave., Buena Park, CA 90621-2527 Email: sales@fordel.com</p>	<p>Tel: (714) 521-8080 Fax: (714) 521-8920</p>	 <p>OHMS LAW</p>
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June Meeting Photos



QST, Your Monthly ARRL 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.



<http://www.arrl.org>

July 2009 DX
By Mike Gauthier, K6ICS

July Specials

The Original 13 Colonies "On the Air" Special Event will begin July 1st at 1300 UTC and end July 5th at 0400 UTC. The prefix for each of the 13 stations will be K2 followed by the letter in the Alphabet beginning with "A" and ending with "M." Additional information can be found at:
<http://home.comcast.net/~dzabawa/ThirteenColonies.htm>.

New Solar Cycle Prediction: An international panel of experts led by NOAA and sponsored by NASA has released a new prediction for the next solar cycle. Solar Cycle 24 will peak, they say, in May 2013 with a below-average number of sunspots. "If our prediction is correct, Solar Cycle 24 will have a peak sunspot number of 90, the lowest of any cycle since 1928 when Solar Cycle 16 peaked at 78," says panel chairman Doug Biesecker of the NOAA Space Weather Prediction

July Propagation Outlook

Summer is here and 20 meters and up are more active with daytime DX action on 10 and 12 meters nearly every day. You should be monitoring the 10 meter beacons and calling CQ. Follow the sun with your beam. 17 and 15 meters will have even more action and may run into pre-dawn and early evening darkness hours.. Increasing 24-hour a day propagation on 20 meters. Background noise on 30 meters and down will be increasing. 30 and 40 meters will have noticeably higher background noise but, during darkness hours there will be DX openings. 60 to 160 meters will have poor conditions until next fall.

July DX

ANGOLA, D2QMN. Vasily is operating as D2QMN and has been active using RTTY on 20 meters around 2000z. QSL via RZ3EC.

ASCENSION ISLAND, ZD8DC. Dean, KJ4GNB is on the air as ZD8DC and has been active on 20 meter using SSB. His length of stay is unknown. QSL to home call.

AUSTRALIA, VK4FRAJ. There is much confusion amongst hams regarding VK 4-letter suffix calls. The four-letter suffix's are issued to 'Foundation-class' hams (similar to the US novice-class). All Foundation class suffixes begin with an "F" plus 3 more letters. They have a maximum of 10-watts power on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters CW and SSB only and must use commercially made equipment. Raj said, he would appreciate it if hams would listen for his QRP CW signal and to please realize that he has a 4-letter suffix (VK4FRAJ).

CANADA , Prince Edward Island (NA-029), VE3BR/VY2 & VE3ZZ/VY2. VE2BR and VE3ZZ, for a July 15-27 They will sign VE2BR/VY2 and VE3ZZ/VY2. QSL to their home calls, direct or bureau.

ETHIOPIA, ET3BN. Peter, DM2BBN, is active as ET3BN. Activity will be on CW and SSB on 80, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12, 10, and 6 meters. He is not active on 160 and 40 meters right now. QSL direct to: Dr. Peter Haferkorn, PO Box 150194, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

FRANCE, F5SGI. Jean-Marc, will be on Belle-Ile, IOTA EU-048, July 19-3. QSL to his home call direct or bureau.

ITALY, IY7NGM. To commemorate 100 years of the Nobel Prize for Physics of Guglielmo Marconi, Alfredo, IK7JWX is operating as IY7NGM and IY7NGM/p until the end of 2009. Activity is on all HF bands and 6 meters using all modes. QSL via IK7JWX.

JAPAN, 8J#40M. Ten special calls from 8J040M to 8J940M will be on from each of Japan's 10 call districts from now till July 20. They are celebrating the 40 meter band expansion in Japan. QSL all via the JARL bureau.

NIUE, ZK2V. Chris, ZL1CT is operating as ZK2V and is active on various HF bands using CW and SSB. QSL via N3SL.

Paraguay, ZP15MWC. Starting July 12th through July 19th look for special call ZP15MWC to be operational in conjunction with the 15th Mennonite World Conference being held in Asuncion, Paraguay. Manning the station will be ZP5RL, Rudolph; ZP1BD, Ernst; and PA0HEL, Helmich. Activity is expected on or near 7.080, 14.290, 21.350, and 28.450 +/- QRM between 1300 - 2200Z. QSL via PA0HEL.

RUSSIA, RZ3AMW/1, Serge, will be on Ryashkov Island, IOTA EU-162, till July 2, mostly on 40 and 20 CW. QSL to his home call, direct or bureau.

SCOTLAND, GM5A & MM0NDX/p. Col will be in the St. Kilda Islands, IOTA EU-059, July 24-27, planning to operate on 80-10 SSB and sign GM5A in the IOTA event. QSL via GM4FDM. <http://eu059.wordpress.com/>

SOUTH COOK ISLANDS, E51SC. Nigel, G4KIU now lives in Rarotonga, IOTA OC-013, and is on the air as E51SC. He is active on 80 to 10 meters using SSB, RTTY, PSK31, and some CW. QSL to home call.

ST. PIERRE AND MIQUELON, FP/KV1J & FP/W8TOM. FP/KV1J and FP/W8TOM will be operational from Miquelon Island (grid locator GN17) from October 20th to 27th. Activity is expected on 1.8 through 50 MHz on SSB, CW, RTTY, and PSK. For more details and up-to-date info, visit their Web page at www.kv1j.com/fp/october09.html. QSL via KV1J, direct or by the Bureau or LoTW.

TANZANIA, 5H4FF. PE1ABQ, Frans, is on Zanzibar Island running a hotel that he owns. He is licensed as 5H1FF. Listen for him on mainly on 20 and 40 meters during his evening times between 1700 and 2000Z.

UKRAINE, EN50KSR. Members of Rivne DX Club will be operating as EN50KSR till July 5 in celebration of 50 years of the Rivne speedway. QSL via UT1KY.

VENEZUELA, YV75AJ. In celebration of the 75 anniversary of the Radio Club Venezolano (RCV), Conatel has granted special call sign YV75AJ to celebrate this occasion. The station has been operational sporadically and is expected to be very active during the upcoming Venezuelan Independence Day Contest (July 4/5) and the IARU HF World Championship (July 11/12) as the headquarters stations (RCV). QSL via YV75AJ either via the bureau or direct. The Radio Club Venezolano has a new mail address: YV75AJ Radio Club Venezolano, P.O Box 20285, Caracas DC 1020- A, Venezuela.

AUSTRALIA, G4JVG/VK4. 9M6DXX (G4JVG), Steve, will operate as G4JVG/VK4 from North Stradbroke Island (OC-137), Australia from June 7 to 9. The operation will be 'holiday style'. Activity will be on SSB only, using 100 watts to 'fishing rod' verticals on 40, 20, 17, and perhaps 15 meters. QSL via MOURX, Tim, either direct, via bureau or LoTW.

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Thank you to: the OPDX Bulletin, DXNL, 425 DX News, and the ARRL for the information.

DARC Member DXCC Count

N6QQ 336 Mixed, 318 SSB, 290 CW, 211 RTTY, 3052 WPX , 6BDXCC

WA6RTA 328 Phone (AM & SSB)

KB6ATT 305 Mixed, 60 CW

K6ICS 295 Mixed, 288 Phone (AM & SSB), 164 Mixed on 40 Meters

K6TV 206 SSB, 126 QRP, 110 CW, 215 Mixed

W3OB 150 Mixed

W6TOI 174 Mixed

WA6OUD 129 Phone on 10 Meters

K6EH 57 on 30 Meters CW

I am interested in receiving DX reports for this column, one contact or many.

e-mail: k6ics@arrl.net .

Contesting Report From John, N6QQ

Once again, **John Schroeder**, N6QQ, operated in this year's CQWW WPX Contest, CW.

Besides being a worldwide contest using CW, this contest has the added incentive to work stations more than once from the same country, because of the method of calculating the final score. In the WPX contest, prefixes are one of the factors in determining the final score.

John worked this contest for a total of 20.5 hours. Yes, another means to up one's score is to play in the contest for many hours. John worked most of his contacts on 20 meters, but also worked stations on 40 meters, 15 meters and just three stations on 10 meters. He made a total of 730 contacts with 529 different prefixes for a final impressive score of 897, 184 points.

He reports working 82 countries in 34 zones. Hope everyone has picked up one of the CQ maps that have been given out at the last 2 DARC meetings, to get the flavor of what John accomplished. He says that the breakdown was 40% USA/VE stations and 60% outside of North America.

Amazingly John reported that following the contest on Sunday night, he checked his account on the ARRL Logbook of the World site and found that he already had 250 confirmed Q's! That's more than 1/3 of the Q's for the contest already confirmed, just a few hours after the close of the contest.

After Field Day, there are some great contests to try out Islands on the Air (IOTA) And the IARU contest. Tell us about your contest results.

Arlene Schwartz, KE6GFI

CQ VHF – Spring Issue Features Story VHF/UHF Nets and John Kountz, KE6GFF

In the Spring, 2009 issue an article was written by Gordon West, WB6NOA, "VHF-UHF Weekly Net Successes", pp 38-40. Gordon West last summer followed **John Kountz**, KE6GFF, up to his net location and then wrote an article about the practices of net control operators, highlighting John's operation and Larry Hogue's, W6OMF, operation. John has been operating the net control on the 70 cm band for the past five years on 432.120 every Thursday night. That's one of the reasons he does not attend our membership meetings, but joins us on some of the club's special events. Some of you recall that for more than 10 years, John was simply a one band man and he honed his skills on the 70cm band and uses them as he now engages in testing the waters on additional bands.

So give a listen on Thursday's when there is not a club meeting and see if you can hear John. Check into the net on single side band and see what other stations you can hear.

Arlene, KE6GFI

More Related Articles

In the June 2009, issue of Popular Communications, Gordon West wrote an article entitled "Seventeen Station Radio Responder Boot Camp", pp 80 and following. This article reports on an event held in May, 2008 at the Red Cross Headquarters in Santa Ana, CA. One of the displays at this event was provided by the Laguna Beach Emergency Communications Team. John Kountz, KE6GFF, Chief Radio Officer set up a station and displayed the 3 element SuperAntenna.

In this article is a picture of the station, on the 1967 Landrover, and includes a picture of Arlene, KE6GFF. Check it out.

Shack of the Month for July, Ron Eveland, W6QM

Here is a picture taken in 1997 of some of my Collins stuff, I am setting in front of my "Gold Dust Twins" operating my Collins KWM-380 and 30L-1 amplifier.



Operating Amtrak Mobile

I have worked for Amtrak for 25 years and have had many opportunities to operate from the train. All of my operations have been VHF/UHF with 2-Meters being the most frequently used band. There is no practical way to mount an antenna outside the train so HT operation is the most practical. If you are traveling overnight and pay to have a private compartment it might be possible to use a portable rig such as the Yeasu FT-817, compartments do have one electrical outlet that could handle a small power supply.



Regardless you will want your antenna to be next to the window as the metal body of the train doesn't create an ideal environment for operating. When I travel I bring my HT, Speaker Mike, an ear piece or small head phones (so as not disturb other passengers with the radio noise), spare batteries, an ARRL Repeater directory and print outs of any other useful information (such as maps showing grid squares if there is a contest while I am traveling). I always have a copy of my ham radio license along.

My most memorable Amtrak mobile operation was a few years back on a train called the Empire Builder traveling from Seattle, WA to Chicago, IL. During that journey I spoke with a ham working his farm field in his combine, met another ham riding the same train when he spotted me carrying my HT, was invited to participate in a net and while visiting the other ham on the train we contacted a ham who worked near the tracks ahead of us and we waved to each other as we passed him.

On my yearly visits to New Mexico I bring along a map of the Mega Link system (Linked repeaters that cover most of New Mexico and a few other areas as well) so I can chat with other hams when I get in range. Announcing "Amtrak mobile" on a repeater is a good way to generate interest and curiosity when someone is listening. On a long distance train there will be some stops that are longer than others (usually a crew change and/or a train servicing stop) providing an opportunity to make contacts from the platform. Your signal will usually be better as you will be outside the train, though the upper level of a double-decker train can still be an advantageous position depending on the surrounding terrain, buildings, etc. Be sure to watch the time and listen for the Conductor's signal that is time to get back on board the train, especially if you moved away from the door (and all that metal of the train) to achieve a better signal into a repeater. It is possible to make simplex contacts, but do not expect to remain in contact long if the train is moving, the train will either take you out of range or go around a curve and the contact will end (this also can happen when using repeaters).

I hope this article helps you to be better prepared for the fun of an "Amtrak Mobile" journey.

73 - Ray - AD6AF

Misc info courtesy of ARRL's Web pages -ed

The K7RA Solar Update (Jun 12, 2009) -- Sunspot numbers from May 31-June 5 ranged from 13 to 23, then the Sun was blank for two days, followed by sunspot numbers of 12 for both June 8 and 9. This fleeting sunspot was number 1020, and like last week's spot, 1020 had the magnetic signature of a new Solar Cycle 24 spot. Alas, it was another of the frequent sunspots we've seen lately that appear briefly, and then vanish. The last Solar Cycle 23 spot was number 1016 that appeared April 29-30.

DARC Calendar of Events July 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2 Club Meeting 7:30 PM, First Baptist Church Downey, on 2nd St.	3	4 DARC Club Break- fast, 06:30 Independence Day
5	6	7 DARC 440 Net 7 PM Club Repeater 445.640, pl 156.7 Control Op: KN6LM	8	9 DARC 2 meter net 7:15 PM Club simplex 145.595 Control Op: AD6AF	10	11 DARC Club Break- fast, 06:30
12	13	14 DARC 440 Net 7 PM Club Repeater 445.640, pl 156.7 Control Op: WB6JDH	15	16 DARC 2 meter net 7:15 PM Club simplex 145.595 Control Op: K1SL	17	18 DARC Club Break- fast, 06:30 CHHS Swapmeet See page 2
19	22	21 DARC 440 Net 7 PM Club Repeater 445.640, pl 156.7 Control Op: N6TEB	22	23 DARC 2 meter net 7:15 PM Club simplex 145.595 Control Op: WB6JDH	24	25 DARC Club Break- fast, 06:30 W6TRW Swapmeet See page 2
26	27	28 DARC 440 Net 7 PM Club Repeater 445.640, pl 156.7 Control Op: AD6AF	29	30 DARC 2 meter net 7:15 PM Club simplex 145.595 Control Op: AD6AF	31	

Minutes of the D.A.R.C. General Meeting – June 4, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by 1st Vice President Rick Norwood, KD6KHJ, with a group of 29 persons. Rick led the group in the pledge of allegiance and had each person present introduce themselves with call sign and name.

All members were reminded to sign the attendance sheet and visitors were requested to add their name at the bottom of the list.

Our speaker for the evening was Joe Vega, NE6V, ARRL LAX-Section Affiliated Club Coordinator, who had recently been appointed to this position to assist affiliated clubs in any way he could. His focus was to describe his position and how he could assist, and also to answer questions from the audience.

A short break was taken for refreshments.

Ron Eveland, W6QM, reported on the new denim shirts and hats that were now available, and that he would be taking orders

The Treasurer's Report as printed in the Q5 was approved.

The Minutes of the May General Meeting as printed in the Q5 were approved.

Rick Norwood, KD6KHJ, reported on the upcoming DARC participation in the ARRL Field Day which will be held at Downey Fire Station #1 EOC, and everyone is welcome to come by and spend whatever time they have available to operate. Also anyone interested in assisting with Hawaiian Days see Buck AE6DP.

Arlene Schwartz, KE6GFI, reported on upcoming contests and special events, and that the next VE exam would be on June 20th.

Drawing: Larry Tinkler, K6LXT, conducted the drawing. The winners were Rick Norwood, KD6KHJ, a tool case; Lloyd Hendrickson, K6NQY, a bike pump; Steve Sherman, AA6IO, a car battery filler and a tape measure; Frank Myllo, KC6YPE, Hershey's candy; Ray Olesen, AD6AF, a ream of paper; Ken Carlson, N6SWO, a set of knives.

A special drawing was conducted to give away a 2 meter antenna that had been donated by Joe Vega, NE6V, and the winner was Larry Tinkler, K6LXT.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

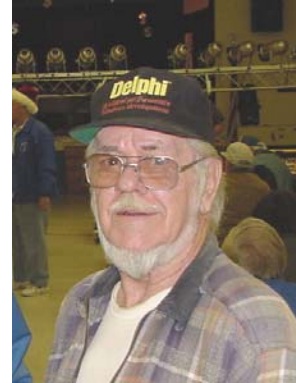
Ron Eveland, W6QM, Substitute Secretary

Blackie Snodgrass, KB6RKW is SK

I am sad to report the passing of **Atlee "Blackie" Snodgrass, KB6RKW**.

Tonight I received a phone call from his wife Rosemary. She asked me to let the Amateur Radio community know of his passing. Blackie died Monday, June 15, 2008. There will be no funeral service. Rosemary is having an open house for family and friends on Sunday June 21, 2009 from 1-3 PM, at their home located at 12217 Piuma St., Norwalk, CA 90650.

Mike Gauthier, K6ICS

**Alternate Communications, "CSUNET" Style**

For about two years now Hams at many of the southern California CSU campuses have been conducting a weekly demonstration of Ham Radio via what we call the **CSUNET**. This weekly net meets at 9:45 Wednesday mornings on the 449.140 (PL 103.5) Sunset Ridge repeater. It's a quick check-in generally comprised of one or more Hams from CSU Long Beach, Los Angeles, Dominguez Hills, Northridge, San Bernardino and the host affiliated campus of Cal Poly Pomona, home of **Glen Shiery, AF6Z**, the Net Control and the one who started this net.

Glen started the net as a demonstration of Ham Radio as an alternate means of disaster communications. While the CSU campuses have the usual Internet, telephone and even satellite phone systems for emergency communications, Ham Radio can play a vital role if all else fails. While we have had no formal emergency communications training, our nets demonstrate that it is possible to communicate over a wide area, as long as the repeater system is up. We have even communicated between three of the campuses via line of sight VHF simplex! We have also experimented with HF nets.

Where I work at CSULB we don't have the luxury of any permanent Ham shacks or antennas. Each week I try to communicate from a different location on campus, or with a different antenna, always using my trusty Yaesu FT-60. Even with only 4-5 watts ERP and on UHF I am still readable.

So if you are around at 9:45 AM on Wednesday mornings listen in for the CSUNET. We welcome check ins from visitors.

73 from CSU Long Beach

John Powell, KF6EOJ



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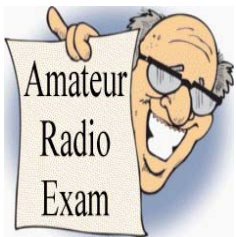
Website:

<http://www.downeyarc.org>

Downey Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 207
Downey, CA 90240

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VE Exams

The Downey Amateur Radio Club provides VE examinations for all classes of Amateur Radio licenses on the **third Saturday of each even-numbered month**. Exams are held at the Downey Fire Department Headquarters, 12222 Paramount Boulevard, beginning at 8:30 AM. The exam schedule for 2009 is as follows:

August, October

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

The ARRL/VEC test fee is \$15.00 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.

DARC INFORMATION

DARC Annual Membership

Single: \$20, Associate: \$10*

Maximum for Family: \$35

*(without Ham license)

Make checks payable to "DARC" and send to:

DARC Membership

3600 Platt Ave

Lynwood, CA 90262

Include Call sign or indicate if member is not licensed

DARC Badges

DARC name badges are available for \$11.00, payable on order.

Previously ordered badges may be picked up at the Club general meeting.

Saturday

Breakfast Location



7900 Florence Ave
Downey, CA
(562) 927-6713

Ever want to be a writer?

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

Due by the 15th of the Month!