



ARCOVER

South Bay Amateur Radio Club



E-mail: W6SBA@arrl.net

*A Community Service Organization
Dedicated to Amateur Radio Since 1970*

Website: <http://www.w6sba.org>

President - ED - KN6JN

February 2007

February Meeting

**Torrance Memorial Medical Center
Health Conference Center Room #2**

3330 W. Lomita Blvd., Torrance, CA 90505
On Medical Center Drive

with parking in the structure behind the WEST TOWER.

Thursday, February 15, at 7:30 p.m.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Joy McKinney - No call
and

Tom - KF6KIG

are the first new members for 2007. We welcome you both and hope you will enjoy the community events we participate in.

HDTV by Walt Ordway - K1DFO will speak at the February 15 th meeting.

Walt will continue with an updated talk on HDTV. Walt Spoke at the April 2006 meeting and addressed the FACTS and FICTION of HDTV. There is much to learn before you go out to buy one of the new televisions. He will address the way you will be using your new television and which of the screen types will work the best to meet your needs.



President Ed - KN6JN

Welcome to February, make sure your spouse/girlfriend/boyfriend/significant other, knows you want radio equipment instead of flowers for Valentines Day. Flowers last for days but ham radio equipment lasts forever (just check my garage). I hope you all remained radio active during the month of January. I made it to the Swap Meet again in January and even more people were in attendance. I also participated in the Super Bowl 10 K run for the second year and had fun calling out elapsed times when my clock at mile five did not function.

Here are some of the events you should consider trying out even if it is your first time working them. The best event in Los Angeles -- The LA Marathon, March 4, 2007, I always have a funny or amusing story about something that happens during this great event. The city puts on its best face. Police and fire are conspicuous. I have never had an uncomfortable moment. Joe WB6MYD and I are working this again and would enjoy having more people join us. All you need as a 2 meter HT and some extra batteries.

Baker to Vegas, April 21 and 22, 2007 - Joy - KD6FJV is the communications director/coordinator for this mammoth event. Joe WB6MYD is looking for some more hams to join the team at Stage 14. You are going to have a good time. Talk to Joe about radio and equipment requirements.

I had a little adventure with the DMV about three weeks ago. I decided to put my ham radio plates on my new vehicle. The plates had been sitting in my file cabinet since 2001, when I took them off my white Ford station wagon. I went to AAA to get the process rolling. I gave them my Ham plates and went outside to take off the new plates I just received for the new car. When I came back the nice lady had huddled all the AAA clerks together. They decided that I needed to reapply for my ham plates because the plates were not in the computer system. I really did not like that answer. So I took both set of plates to the local DMV.

After getting lost and having to call work to find out where the Bellflower DMV office was, I finally made it and only had to wait 15 minutes. After seeing the nice lady there, the wait turned into an hour and thirty minutes while she consulted a enormous book for answers and failing there, called Sacramento DMV for help. In the end I received my tags and my plates back to put on my car. I learned one thing. Don't put your plates in the file cabinet, put them on your next car.

Alex - KD6LPA gave a great talk of "Securing Your Computer" at the January meeting. He had many tips and a fact-filled talk. Thank you, Alex, for a informative lecture.

That is all from my QTH, 73 and happy hamming. Ed
KN6JN

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY JOE-WB6MYD
e-mail address - jlanphen@ca.rr.com- 310-328-0817



- ◆ W6SBA REPEATER - The repeater was disconnected during the Christmas break because the building housing the antennas was tented for termite treatment control. Once completed and the tenting removed, we set the antennas back up and turned the repeater back on Saturday, January 6, 2007. During this period, we also completed a more comprehensive maintenance on the antennas; and we now are much better for a long time to come. We do want to thank several of the PVARC members for assisting us in this project. We especially wish to thank Herb - KM6DD and Bill - WA6ESC for the extra work above and beyond the call of duty; such as painting the entire antenna with special paint and coordinating the entire effort. Others from the PVARC club, Dale - KF6LIX, Denzel - KG6QUJ, Rick - K6WXA, and Scott - N6LEM, and myself from the SBARC. Thanks a lot everybody.
- ◆ LA MARATHON - The LA Marathon is run on Sunday, March 4, 2007. They are also looking for a lot of people to support better than 20,000 runners on the streets of LA. This year should be very interesting since the route has been changed. Please let me know if you are interested, so I can sign you up for a spot along the route.
- ◆ BAKER TO VEGAS - The 23rd annual Baker Law Enforcement Relay race is on April 21-22, 2007. As you may have heard, a number of our members have worked Stage 14 along the route and are scheduled to do this again this year. Additional help is needed due to the special new technology being used to time each team passing through every Stage. If you would like to assist please let me know ASAP, so we can make arrangements for you. We plan to leave on Saturday, April 21 and check into our hotel at State Line and report early that evening at Stage 14. Due to the fact that the race is run during night time hours (starts earlier) we anticipate finishing around 0800 hrs the next morning, April 22. We will retreat to our rooms at State Line again and get some shut eye, finishing off the day with some R & R at the hotel or join them for the presentations at the Hilton in Las Vegas. We leave on Monday to head for home. This makes for a nice weekend and turns out to be very enjoyable. Please let me know if you can help us this year.
- ◆ Dues - Please remember, your dues are due and payable at this time for 2007. Please take a moment of your time to write that check, payable to SBARC for either \$15.00 for single membership or \$25.00 for Family or Associate membership. We appreciate your continued financial support as well as your continued participation and support. Remember, this is your club and is only as good as you make it.

SOUTH BAY ARC OFFICERS 2007

President, Ed Hinz - KN6JN
 kn6jn@aol.com - 310-325-7944

Vice-President: Alex Marko - KD6LPA
 kd6lpa@socal.rr.com 310-530-6614

Secretary/Treasurer, Joe Lanphen - WB6MYD
 jlanphen@ca.rr.com or w6sba@arrl.net - 310-328-0817

Council Member #1, Trent Alverez - KG6MUU
 kg6muu@msn.com - (310) 618-9071

Council Member #2, John Wilson - AE6LK
 ae6lk@socal.rr.com - 310-370-1654

Past-President, Richard Whited - KG6JKJ
 rbwhited@yahoo.com - 310-809-7151

Dick - W1MII - ARRL SW Div. Assistant Director
 vzfimii@beachnet.com - 310-541-6422

Editor - Mary - KE6BBK - jcrochaw@pacbell.net
 310-675-0732

W6TRW Swap Meet Space Manager - John Crocker -
 AC6FB jcrochaw@pacbell.net - 310-675-0732

Attendance Drawing

The winner of the membership drawing was Yves - N6XAD but he was not present. The kitty for the February meeting will be \$30.



Remember you must be a member in good standing and be present at the meeting to win!

WILL YOU BE THERE?

TORRANCE ELECTRONICS

**1545 West Carson
 Torrance, CA 90501
 (310) 328-2501**

REGISTER NOW

Registrations for the 2007 HAMCON Convention will be available at the Swap Meet on February 24, 2007 and at the general meetings. Be sure to register early. Since the Convention will be local it is your opportunity to attend and keep the your cost low.



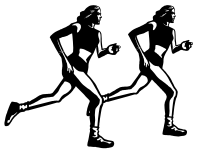
SECURING YOUR PC

By
Alex - KD6LPA

Alex gave a very informative talk on PC Security. He started with "Will hacking ever happen to me? After that discussion he moved on to common security exploits, stuff I need to protect my PC, defensive strategy, early security reports on Vista and finally a question and answer period.

One important subject was Routers. Routers are like cross-band repeaters — they listen on one frequency and then repeat the information on an entirely different band. Likewise, routers listen on your home network and then repeat that message on the internet network. As a result, your router is visible to the internet, but your PC is completely insulated. Without the router, your PC becomes part of the internet network - making it visible to 4 billion PCs! The router's presence creates a natural barrier between your PC and the internet.

When Alex finished we knew about firewalls, and securing your wireless connection, and more. He kept us interested and wanting to hear more. Thank you Alex for a super meeting.



BAKER TO VEGAS

This Relay-Race by our law enforcement teams will again take place in April 21 and 22, 2007. A group from the SBARC had been handling "Stage 14" for the last few years with some other members working at other positions. We can use some more help, licensed people and others too (your wife, daughter, son, or friend.) They can help also. Please let me know ASAP Joe - WB6MYD at jlanphen@ca.rr.com or call 310-328-0817. I really look forward to hearing from you to help fill out the pit crew for this year's event.

We need to make room reservations so please contact me ASAP.
Joe-WB6MYD

VHFcontesting:

Scientists rate the next Sunspot Cycle

Evidence is mounting - The new solar cycle is going to be a big one. Solar cycle 24, due to peak in 2010 or 2011 "looks like its' going to be one of the most intense cycles since record-keeping began 400 years ago," says solar physicist, Davis Hathaway, the Marshall Space Flight Center. He and colleague, Robert Wilson, presented this conclusion at the American Geophysical Union meeting in San Francisco. *December 21, 2006*

ARLB007 No Code-Free Upgrades Available Until February 23

Code-free upgrades to General or Amateur Extra will not be available at volunteer examination sessions until the 5 WPM Morse code requirement disappears from the FCC's Amateur Radio Service rules on February 23. ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND, says that, judging from the questions he's been getting, many in the amateur community -- including some Volunteer Examiners (VEs) -- don't fully understand the new rules that resulted from the FCC's Report and Order (R&O) in the "Morse code proceeding," WT Docket 05-235. He stresses that VE teams may not accept upgrade applications in advance of February 23, then hold the paperwork.

"There will be no instant midnight upgrades February 23 for applicants advancing to General or Amateur Extra," Henderson explains. "You must make application." He further advises that a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) valid for Element 3 (General) or Element 4 (Amateur Extra) credit does not confer any operating privileges

"Anyone holding or earning a valid CSCE for element credit must wait until February 23 to redeem it at a volunteer examination session." Technician licensees who have not passed a Morse code examination automatically gain new privileges on February 23 without having to apply at an exam session. The ARRL has posted all relevant information on these important Part 97 rule revisions on its "FCC's Morse Code Report and Order WT Docket 05-235" Web page, www.arrl.org/

W6TRW SWAP MEET

February 24, 2006

7:00 a.m. through 11:30 a.m.

Next Date →

The January Swap Meet saw a lot of members out and about. Support the club at the Swap Meet. come out and visit with club members and other hams or those wanting to become a ham. Bring items to sell or maybe buy an item that you have been wanting.

Give me a call so I will have space on the table for your items. If you help to sell the items, the club receives a 10% cut to a maximum of \$25. If you want the club to sell your items the club gets a 25% cut.

We have some new 2 meter antennas for sale and other items of interest.

A good size group of members went to Denny's about 10 o'clock for breakfast and a *rag chew*.

If you have items to sell, please call John - AC6FB at 310-675-0732 or e-mail at jcrochaw@pacbell.net.



NOW THAT THE MORSE CODE IS DEAD

By Darryl Widman - KF6DI

Just in case you are one of the few that hasn't heard that the FCC has dropped the requirement of passing a Morse code exam to gain your General or Amateur extra Class Amateur Radio license, it is true! Even as many of us bemoaned this ever coming to pass, it indeed has. No matter how we fought it with our written comments and dirges, we could not prevail. Uncle Charlie had made up his mind.

Many of you reading this will now seize the moment and dig out the upgrading manuals for the General or Amateur Extra Class license. Be forewarned, your text might be outdated as the exams change about every four years and you don't want to study for the wrong things. Check online or get a copy of the latest publication from your favorite dealer. They can advise you what to get. Many will advise you to get the Gordon West - WB6NOA, question and answer guides as the quickest way to upgrade. I would suggest that if Amateur Radio is now, or is to be, your lifetime hobby, pick up a copy of a publication written by the ARRL staff as they are focused on your understanding the material rather than memorizing the answers and then always wondering why you cheated yourself because you still don't get it.

The writing was on the wall when, years ago, the Coast Guard dropped the use of our old friend, Morse Code, and went the way of the modern world. Yes, we now have a myriad of ways with which to communicate on the radio without Mr. Samuel Finley Breese Morse. Was the code fun? You bet it was. Is it still permitted and is it still fun? You can bet your sweet bippy on it. Why do you think that all the CW operators out there couldn't care less about what the FCC does about the course requirement? These folks absolutely LOVE the code. It has become a part of these folks. You think not? Then how is it that some of these guys (and gals) can talk with you face to face and copy a coded message coming out of the radio speaker in the shack down the hall at the same time? Again, it has become a part of them. No matter what else, the code is here to stay, required or not required.

If you have tried to acquire the code and have given up more times than you would like to say, then perhaps you will never get it. But if, on the other hand, you have never tried to acquire Mr. Morse's language, give it a go. Thousands upon thousands have found the Morse Code to be everything they could want in a communications medium. For some, it is a challenge. For others, it just flows. Me, I rather enjoy it. Always have, ever since I

was a kid and learned it to pass my Second Class Scout rank. I still remember both my Dad and I learned it at the same time. Boy was that fun. My Mom still remembers CQ CQ. Bless her heart, she is now 95 years young.

So if you decide to go the easy route and don't enjoy the detour of the Morse Code, then go and enjoy the hobby. But mind you, you will never know what you are missing. *Re-Printed with permission of Darryl Widman - KF6DI of the Santa Barbara Amateur Radio Club January 2007 Vol 54, No 1 KEY-KLIX*

FCC "Technician" Class

Amateur Radio Course

March 10, 2007

10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Hesse Park

29301 Hawthorne Blvd.

Rancho Palos Verdes

No pre-registration

No fee for the course

FCC test on March 17 at Hesse Park

FCC fee \$14.00

Optional Material

Power Point Course Charts—\$10.00

**Gordon West book with FCC Test Questions—
\$15.00**

Students (through grade 12) who complete this course and receive their license will be reimbursed up to \$40.00 by the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club.

Contact Walt - K1DFO at

waltordway@juno.com

AUTOPATCH DUES

As a Club member you are invited to participate in the privileges provided by the AUTOPATCH unit of the repeater.

AUTOPATCH dues are separate from club dues.

Annual dues are \$40.00. For your convenience, your membership allows you three (3) auto dial slots on the repeater as well as the ability to dial local numbers directly.

See Joe - WB6MYD at the meeting with your check and the three telephone numbers you wish assigned to the automatic dial system.

VISALIA DX CONVENTION

April 27, 28, & 29, 2007

As a previous Visalia DX Convention attendee, I thought you might be interested in some information about this year's event. It will be held at the Visalia Holiday Inn and Convention Center in Visalia.

The following presentations have already been confirmed and are in the program lineup:

DX Programs

- ◆ **5A7A DXpedition to Libya** by David Collingham-K3LP
- ◆ **ZL8R DXpedition to Kermaded Island** by Mike Mraz-N6MZ
- ◆ **KH8SI DXpedition to Swain's Island** by John Peters-K1ER
- ◆ **VU7RG/Agatti DXpedition to Lakshadweep** by Paul Playford-W8AEF
- ◆ **403T Activation of Montenegro** by Martti Laine-OH2BH & possibly Ranko Boca-YT6A

TECHNICAL/ELMERING Programs

- ◆ **"DXing from a City Lot"** Antenna Discussions by Dean Straw-N6BV
 - ◆ **"Audio Reinforcement for contests & DXing"** by Chip Margelli-K7JA
 - ◆ **"Why DO WE DX?"** by Bob Locher-W9KNI
- Submitted by George - W6YD*

HERE IS THE QUESTION

What does the newsletter name ARCOVER mean?

Please call, 310-328-0817, with the correct answer. The winner will be given 6 tickets for the January drawing. The winner must be present.

HERE IS THE ANSWER

Who was the first Secretary of the SBARC ?
(*actually it was the Carson ARC, at the time*)

Art Reynolds - WA6PQY. Art was our first Secretary/Treasurer. As far as I can determine he served for at least 3 years .

MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING FOR 2007

Thank you for renewing your membership. Please check the listing and if you do not see your name, it is time to renew your membership. Stay connected.



Russell KI6HBG
 Brian KI6ERR
 John AC6MG
 Yves N6XAD
 Harlan KC6YBJ
 Arthur WS6U
 Rob KB6KMX
 John AE6LK
 John AC6FB
 Ed KN6JN
 Hal KG6EHW
 Bettie N6VZF
 Bob WA6KZF
 Joy KD6FJV
 Joy McKinney no call
 Alex KD6LPA
 Tom KF6KIG
 Howell KD6NSH
 Joe WB6MYD

Darryl W6JII
 Dee KE6ZBV
 Shirley KF6EXI
 Ray WA6OWM
 Paul KK6BY
 Marjorie KG6HPR
 Craig WD6AKX
 Donna no call
 Mary KE6BBK
 Elmer N6ALM
 Loyd N6GDH
 Dick W1MII
 Rich KG6JKJ
 Bill KQ6Z
 Albert KD6PYI
 Bob KQ6WQ
 Chuck KN6H
 Howard KF6NOR

**ARRL Southern Division
HAMCON 2007 Convention**

September 7, 8, and 9, 2007
 Torrance Marriott Hotel

Registration forms are available on
 the website: [www//hamcon.org](http://www.hamcon.org)

- ◆ The hotel Code
HAMCON
 - ◆ Early bird registration is \$15.00
 - ◆ Pre-registration \$18.00
 - ◆ At the door \$20.00
 - ◆ Breakfast Tickets \$20.00
 - ◆ Luncheon Tickets \$25.00
 - ◆ Banquet Tickets \$40.00
- Short Ribs, Salmon, Chicken, or Vegetarian

WIN! WIN!

A NIGHT AT THE Hamcon Convention

One night's lodging on banquet night at the Marriott. Tickets are. \$15 each or 2 for \$25. The drawing will be held at the July 19, 2007, meeting. Winner need not be present.

See John - AC6FB at the meeting.



CALENDAR

Council Meeting - 1st Wednesday of the month
Call Joe - WB6MYD (310) 328-0817

Club Meeting - 3rd Thursday of the month
February 15, 2007 7:30 p.m.
Torrance Memorial Medical Center
Health Conference Center Room 2

Palos Verdes School District
EMERGENCY NET
1st Tuesday of the month
09:30 Hours on the W6SBA repeater

QSL Card Sorting - Call Ray—WA6OWM
(310) 370-1913

TRW Swap Meet - Saturday, February 24, 2007
7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

VE Session - February 10, 2007

FCC "Technician" Class March 10, 2007
10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Contact Walt—waltordway@juno.com

Baker to Vegas - April 21 and 22, 2007

Field Day - June 23 and 24, 2007

CLUB SERVICES

HF Awards Manager	Mark - KA6ZTO
VHF Awards Manager	Cliff - K6LH
Swap Meet Chair	John - AC6FB
VE Test Liaison	Joe - WB6MYD
VE Test Sessions	Joe - WB6MYD
Web Master	Alex - KD6LPA
Editor	Mary - KE6BBK
Proofreader	Ruth Kain

South Bay Amateur Radio Club Net

224.38 MHz ·PL - 192.8 Hz Offset 1.6 MHz
7:00 p.m. Thursday Evenings

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION

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W6SBA

A COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION

Address Correction Requested

TO: