



# ARCOVER



**South Bay Amateur Radio Club**

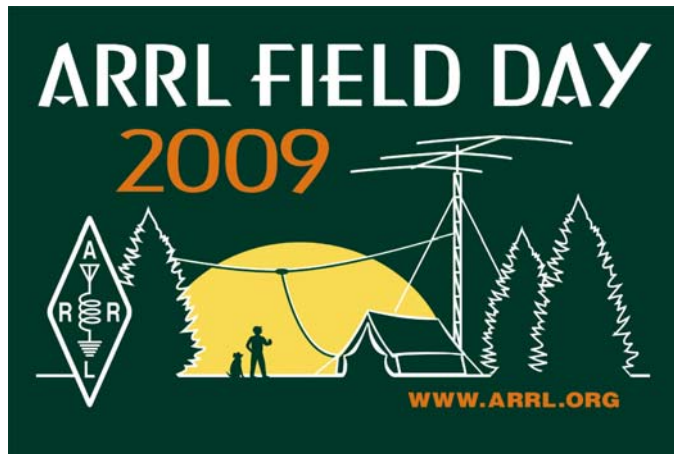
W6SBA  
E-mail: [W6SBA@arrl.net](mailto:W6SBA@arrl.net)

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

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

President - ALEX - KD6LPA

May 2009



**TORRANCE MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER  
HEALTH CONFERENCE ROOM 1  
Directly South of West Tower, 1st Floor**

3330 W. Lomita Blvd., Torrance, CA 90505  
On Medical Center Drive  
With parking in the structure behind the West Tower

**THURSDAY, May 21, 2009**

**TOPIC:**

**“Field Day Preparation”**  
Presented by Richard Whited, KG6JKJ

The May 2009 SBARC club meeting will be a discussion and planning session on Field Day. Please bring your ideas and suggestions and let's make this upcoming Field Day a big success. If you have a particular HF or all-mode HF-VHF-UHF radio that you would like to put on the air this year and let other members operate it, feel free to bring it to show the club at the meeting, or bring the operator's manual. It is a great opportunity to learn how some of the other radios work. The club does have antennas which will be used again this year, but if you have a different portable antenna that you would like to share or try-out at Field Day, please bring the manual or some literature about it to the meeting. Field Day is about flexibility and working under "emergency" or field conditions using whatever can be had to get on the air. It is one of the best times to take advantage of these conditions to experiment and test equipment and antennas while not under a real emergency. Also, please think about being a Band Captain this year. Band Captains ensure the proper setup of the stations and oversee the scheduling of operators. If you have never done it before, come give it a try. See you at the meeting!

## Attendance Drawing:

Russell - KI6HBG was the lucky member to win \$20 for our monthly attendance drawing in April.

Congratulations Russell and thank you for being with us that night.



## Club Roster Deadline is June 15, 2009

At our March club meeting, the subject of creating a club roster was discussed with great interest. The idea is to have an annual list provided to all members so we can better communicate with each other and stay in touch. This is especially useful for new members who are still learning names and faces and want to get more involved with the club. The roster would be printed once a year, and include each member's call sign, name, address, and optionally a phone number and email address.

Privacy is a big deal these days and the club understands. That's why both the phone number and email address are optional. If you don't wish to have either your phone or email published in the roster, you can "opt out" at any time by contacting the club secretary by phone or email, or mailing a letter to the club indicating which field (phone number or email) you wish to have omitted. (Future membership applications will include checkboxes to opt-out when members join or renew).

Due to the fact that some members may be out of town, or occasionally miss a meeting, we want to give every member ample time to know the club roster is coming and give them sufficient opportunity to opt out if they wish. As a result, the club will wait 60 days, with a start date of April 15. Any requests to omit phone/email will be accepted until June 15, 2009. After such time, the roster for this year will be published. If you miss the deadline, we can't un-print the past, but we will certainly update our records such that future distributions reflect your request.

One of the biggest concerns raised at last month's meeting was whether the club roster will be made available on-line via the club web site. The answer is no. The roster will be printed on paper and made available to any club member in good standing. Unwanted spam is always a concern, and once an email address becomes part of an unwanted mailing list, it's difficult to stop. This is the primary reason why the club decided against publishing the roster on-line. With a printed list, the email and phone numbers are better protected.

For your convenience, the mailing address for omitting your phone/email from the club roster is published below:

**SBARC Roster Opt Out**  
P.O. Box 536  
Torrance, CA 90508-0536

### CLUB SERVICES:

License upgrades and / or new license testing  
VE Sessions are held the 2nd Saturday of every even month  
Need to sell something at the Swap Meet?  
ARRL Membership renewals or new registration  
Club Name Badge / Jackets

Club Operation / Club Activities  
Need something posted on the web site, or newsletter?  
Ideas for Club Speakers, Field Day Planning  
Health & Welfare  
Upcoming Club Events

### CONTACT:

Joe, WB6MYD  
Joe, WB6MYD  
Joe, WB6MYD  
Joe, WB6MYD  
Joe, WB6MYD

Alex, KD6LPA  
Alex, KD6LPA  
Rich, KG6JKJ  
Matt, N6MDC  
Nancy, NJ6S

### POSITION:

Secretary / Treasurer  
Secretary / Treasurer  
Secretary / Treasurer  
Secretary / Treasurer  
Secretary / Treasurer

President  
Editor / Webmaster  
Vice President  
Council Member  
Council Member

If you have questions about your ham equipment, please feel free to ask any of our club members for help. Or, if you'd like, please talk to any council member, and we'll do our best to help you.

"Elmering" is available to every member, please ask any officer, and we will find a knowledgeable club resource for you.

You're a member of one of the best clubs in the area, and we want your help to make it even better. If you have a suggestion or an idea for improvement, we want to hear from you. Please feel to contact any council member by phone or email. (Contacts: Page 4)

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



**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

The following members renewed their membership for 2009 and are now in good standing in addition to those published earlier:

Jim-KG6ITM	551338	Yoshio-KE6ACH	551339
Howard-KF6NOR	551402	James-KI6FGV	551403
Bill-KQ6Z	551404	Howell-KD6NSH	551405
Scott-AB6YS	551406	Dale-KG6RPO	551407
Burt-K6KYM	551408	Joseph-AB6TK	551409
Charlie-AC6ZX	551410	Sarath-KF6DBX	551411
Bob-WA6KZF	551412	Hal-AC6CG	551413
Shirley-KF6EXI	551414	John-AC6MG	551415
Scott-N6LEM	551416	Glenda-KF6QFE	551417
Matt-KM6ATT	551418	Carina-KF6ZYY	551419
Ken-KG6TOC	551420	Dave-KE6OJN	551421
Jim-KE6GXS	551422	Martin-KG6FOQ	551423
Kathleen-KG6RPM	551424	Chuck-KG6RPN	551425

Thank you one and all for your continued support. You are what this club is all about!

**New Activities:** We want to encourage club members to become more radio active by adding new activities/events for the club to participate in. See page 4 for a list of upcoming radio contests.

**Armed Forces Day Parade:** The annual Armed Forces parade is Saturday, May 16, 2009. The SBARC is asked once again to stage the parade in the Torrance downtown area for proper line up Saturday morning. Ray, WA6OWM will be the point of contact for this activity. He will inform all participants with the proper time and location etc. as details become available. If you haven't signed up yet, please contact Joe WB6MYD or Ray WA6OWM.

**Field Day 2009:** We will once again have the annual ARRL Field Day exercise at the West Parking Structure at Torrance Memorial. Approval was given to us for the June 27-28 weekend. Please join us for this upcoming activity — details to follow.

**ARRL Membership Booster:** The ARRL is offering all ARRL affiliated clubs the opportunity to receive the "2009 Operators Handbook". To qualify, we need to recruit 5 ARRL members (new or renewing) by May 31. You may sign up as a new ARRL club member or renew your present membership (early renewal is ok to extend your membership). Please give me a call or e-mail me and we will do this for you. This is very important so please let me know as soon as possible! Thanks, Joe.

**CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2009:**

**President, Alex Marko - KD6LPA**  
**kd6lpa@socal.rr.com - 310-530-6614**

**Council Member #1, Matthew Cruse - N6MDC**  
**310-374-5696**

**Vice-President: Richard Whited - KG6JKJ**  
**rbwhited@yahoo.com - 562-756-7103**

**Council Member #2, Nancy Klatskin - NJ6S**  
**nklatskin@verizon.net - 310-540-3253**

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

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

- May 17, 1600Z-2000Z, Sandy Hook, NJ. Roseland Amateur Radio Club, K2A. Coastal Defense Day from Sandy Hook Lighthouse, USA-731. 14.270 7.270. QSL. Roseland ARC, 300 Eagle Rock Ave, Roseland, NJ 07068. k2gq@hotmail.com
- May 17, 1700Z-2000Z, Stratford, CT. Stratford Amateur Radio Club, W1ORS. 45 th Anniversary of the Sikorsky CH 53 helicopter. 14.265 7.180. QSL. Dave Arruzza, W1ORS Trustee, 32 Benz St, Ansonia, CT 06401. www.qsl.net/w1ors
- May 20, 0000Z-2359Z, Topsham, ME. Mid Coast Red Cross Radio Club, N1R. 100th Anniversary of Mid Coast Chapter of Red Cross. 7.262 7.020 3.940 3.520. QSL. Steve Kercel, 2 Brian Dr, Brunswick, ME 04011. kercell@suscom-maine.net
- May 21-May 23, 1200Z-1700Z, Charlton, Portsmouth, Ha, UK. Radio Society of Great Britain, GB2CT. Over 200 years since Admiralty Shutter Telegraph Installed. 14.200 7.090. QSL. John Wakefield, Oakhurst, Lower Common Road, West Wellow, Romsey SO51 6BT, UK. www.QRZ.com/gb2ct
- May 23, 1300Z-2100Z, Devens, MA. Members of US Army MARS, K1KBO. Army Security Agency & SP4 John T. Davis first KIA Vietnam. SSB 14.275 7.275 CW 7.025 3.5025. QSL. William C. Voedisch/W1UD, 240 Main St, Leominster, MA 01453-2933. W1UD@juno.com
- May 23, 1400Z-2000Z, D'Iberville, MS. Mississippi Coast Amateur Radio Association, W5SGL. 31st "May Show" Coast Antique Auto & Motorcycle Show. SSB 14.270 7.270 PSK 14.070 SSTV 14.23. QSL. MCARA, PO Box 1785, Gulfport, MS 39507. www.w5sgl.org
- May 23, 1500Z-2000Z, Fort Wayne, IN. Amateur Radio Military Appreciation Day, KC9HAJ. Support and Appreciation of our Troops and Veterans. 28.450 21.290 14.260. Certificate. ARMAD, 6116 Graymoor Ln, Ft Wayne, IN 46835. Join us on frequency, or set up on your own, and salute our heroes. The main purpose is to get activity on the air to show support to our troops and veterans. www.armad.net
- May 25, 1200Z-2359Z, Belleville, MI. Yankee Air Museum, W8YAF. Observing Memorial Day at YAM Air Park, Willow Run Airport. 7.270. Certificate. Frank A. Nagy, 24315 Waltz Rd, New Boston, MI 48164-9167. oldcrowtho@hotmail.com
- May 25, 1200Z-2359Z, Nutley, NJ. Robert D. Grant United Labor Amateur Radio Assoc, N2UL. CQ Memorial Day. Labor remember our heros. 449.975 28.460 14.260 7.250. Certificate. RDGULARA, 112 Prospect St, Nutley, NJ 07110-0716.
- May 25, 1400Z-2145Z, Baton Rouge, LA. Baton Rouge and USS Kidd Amateur Radio Clubs, W5KID. Memorial Day. SSB: 15 20 40 m Gen & above RTTY subband CW: QRP sub bands. QSL. W5KID, 305 S River Rd, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. Primary frequency is 20 meters. www.lsu.edu/brarc/uss\_kidd.htm
- May 25, 1600Z-2359Z, Hildebran, NC. USS Bon Homme Richard CV/CVA-31 ARA, N4HCL. Memorial Day. 14.260 USB 14.031 CW 7.260 LSB 7.031 CW. QSL. USS Bon Homme Richard CV/CVA-31 ARA, PO Box 1393, Hildebran, NC 28637. n4hcl@yahoo.com
- May 25, 1600Z-2359Z, San Diego, CA. USS Midway (CV 41) Museum Radio Room, NI6IW. Commemorating Memorial Day. SSB 14.320 7.250 CW 14.060 7.055 PSK-31 7.070-7.080 RTTY 14.080 7.080 FM/dig 2 m/70 cm SOCAL rep. QSL. USS Midway (CV 41) Museum Radio Room, 910 Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA 92101. af6ha@yahoo.com
- May 25-May 26, 1500Z-0300Z, Santa Cruz, CA. Instigators Radio Consortium Of SLV, K6V. Memorial Day 2009, from the Veterans Memorial Building. 14.280 7.250. QSL. Radio Room, 846 Front St, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.
- May 25-May 26, 1500Z-0300Z, Sevierville, TN. Sevier County Emergency Radio Service, W4W. Remembering Memorial Day 2009. 7.253 7.150 3.845 3.750. QSL. Rick Sawaya, 2005 Spence Mountain Loop, Sevierville, TN 37876. Club members will also be working with their own calls; please QSL the station contacted. n4jtq@live.com
- May 28-May 30, 1400Z-2100Z, Angle Inlet, MN. Northwest Angle Amateur Radio Club, NW0AA. Northern most radio club in contiguous 48 states. 21.070 14.240 7.200 3.940. Certificate. Dan Whipple, 11726 Norway St NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55448.
- May 29-May 31, 1700Z-1700Z, Burwood, LA. EL58 Grid Activation Group, K5N. Activation and Operation from Grid EL58hx, Southwest Pass. 50.100 CW 50.150 SSB 50.315 MS 50.240 MS. QSL. Joey Fierro, II, 1054 Cajun Ln, Magnolia, MS 39652. k5n@bellsouth.net

## **Amateur Radio Course**

**FCC “Technician” course (entry level)**

**It will be a 2 session course**

**The sessions will be on **August 15 & 22**  
From **10:00 AM to 2:00 PM** both Saturdays**

**The **FCC test** on **Aug 29** from **1:30 to 3:30 PM****

**The location is Hesse Park  
29301 Hawthorne Blvd.  
Rancho Palos Verdes**

- No pre-registration required -**
- No fee for either course -**
- Taking the FCC Test is \$14 -**

### **Optional Material**

- Study book with FCC test questions, \$20 -**
- Copy of my Power Point charts, \$10 -**

**Students (thru grade 12) who take this course and get  
their license will be reimbursed up to \$40 by  
The Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club**

**For more information contact  
Walt, K1DFO, at [walt.ordway@yahoo.com](mailto:walt.ordway@yahoo.com)**

## **“RADIO CONTESTING”**

### **by Rick Tavan N6XI**

If it moves, people will find a way to race it...

When I tell friends that I enjoy amateur radio contesting, their reaction is usually a quizzical stare. "What's that?" It is hard to explain in the span of a cocktail conversation, so here is the answer:

Amateur radio is licensed use of radio communication for personal satisfaction and public service. It has its own unique form of competition. Radio contesting, or "radiosport" as it is known by some, offers an opportunity to demonstrate skills in station building, operating tactics, physical endurance and strategy. Although strongly contested by thousands of enthusiasts and casual participants, typical prizes are just plaques, certificates, published score listings and the occasional bottle of wine. We do it more for personal satisfaction, the excitement of the chase and the admiration of our peers than for any more tangible reward.

In a radio contest, a sponsoring organization designates a time period ranging from a few hours to a full weekend during which amateurs in various geographic areas will attempt to contact each other. Each contact is worth one or more points which are multiplied by the number of different places contacted. The highest scores in each of several entry categories win.

Each contest defines these "multiplier" places differently. For example, in the ARRL Sweepstakes a place is one of 80 "sections" of the US and Canada, each section being all or part of a state, province or territory. In most worldwide contests, each country is considered a unique multiplier. There are fascinating strategies for deciding when to seek new multipliers and when to make more contacts as quickly as possible.

Each contact is very brief, with the communicating stations exchanging only a few prescribed tidbits of information. Some contests allow multiple contacts between the same pair of stations, provided each contact is on a different frequency "band." This makes sense because the different bands often have dramatically different signal propagation characteristics. (Consider, for example, the familiar AM and FM broadcast bands in commercial radio. The FM band is purely local but at night you can hear signals on the AM band from a thousand miles away.) It is not uncommon for a contestant to make several thousand contacts in the course of a weekend contest. There is nothing like the thrill of having station after station respond to your calls, pushing your "rate" up to several hundred contacts per hour. Nothing, that is, except the equal thrill of hearing a rare multiplier come back to you through a "pileup" of a hundred or more stations.

The sponsor also defines different categories of competition. The sine qua non is Single Operator, All Band, often separated into High Power and Low Power divisions, and these categories usually attract the largest numbers of entrants. Some operate from their own home stations while others operate as guests at other stations. However, there are usually other categories including various multi-operator team arrangements in which two or more amateurs share operating responsibilities. In the larger contests (those with the most participants) there also may be Single-Band categories. Some contest rules stipulate voice contacts only while others are for Morse code or various digital communication modes. Some involve multiple modes at the same time. All competitors contact each other during the contest period, regardless of their categories, but the results segregate efforts in different categories and award prizes accordingly. It is somewhat like age, gender and distance categories in citizen races.

Most worldwide contest communication is in English. However, the required vocabulary is very small, under 100 words, so most amateurs in the world are quite capable of competing without a significant language barrier. This is even more the case when using Morse code.

Skill in radio sport comprises several factors. Most notable is operating ability - knowing where to tune the radio, when to solicit callers, when to seek out others who are soliciting calls. This requires a knowledge of radio propagation, "good ears" for separating multiple conflicting signals that are often weak or compromised by atmospheric noise and fading, experience with the dynamics of each contest and excellent hand-eye-ear coordination to move quickly around the frequency spectrum, record contacts in a log, send Morse code or type or speak clearly and rapidly and so on. Some contests last as long as 48 hours and become endurance sports. The skills are demanding and hard to maintain over such a long period with little or no rest. The most serious contesters, like athletes, train diligently between events. Although physical strength is not a factor, most of the other attributes of athletics come very strongly into play.

(continued next page)

## “RADIO CONTESTING (continued)”

As in car, boat or airplane racing, skills are not the only factors determining a winning effort. Equipment and location are also very important. In a radio contest, it is common for several competitors to call the same station at once. Although timing is important in determining who gets through first, the most important thing is to have the loudest signal. This requires a good radio, the maximum power allowed under the rules and, above all else, effective antennas. Different types of antennas work best in specific locations and some locations, say at the bottom of a deep canyon, are just hopeless for radio work. A winning station is well equipped, well maintained and endowed with a variety of good antennas in a location that helps them to work well.

Modern contest stations include extensive computer automation. Computers maintain the "log" of contacts which is submitted at the end to the sponsoring organization for adjudication. That includes checking accuracy and eliminating contacts recorded in error. Computers also check call signs to help prevent duplicates during the contest, help to control the radios, send contest exchanges without the need for speaking or manual sending and interface with world-wide "spotting" networks that report the frequencies currently in use by various participants. Modern contesting has been described as "the ultimate, highly-distributed, multi-player computer game." Recent experiments will soon make it possible to follow participants' scores in real-time during a contest, potentially turning radio contesting into a spectator sport, albeit of interest mainly to hams.

Most participants in contests, like citizen racers, have no expectation of winning. They operate from modest stations in unexceptional locations for only a fraction of the contest period. Yet the thousands of them who get on the air for only a few hours of fun and practice make the sport exciting for the hundreds who operate around the clock seeking a personal best or a victory in their categories and locations.

Finally, I need to confess the deep, dark, secret shame of radio contesting as a "sport." There is no "level playing field." Because of the physics of radio signal propagation and the demographics of the world, competitors in some locations can have a huge advantage over those elsewhere. A degree of skill and effort that makes 1000 contacts from California might well result in 4000 contacts from an identically equipped station on a Caribbean island. Simple rule changes can not "fix" this. For this reason, most contest sponsors recognize winners in different geographic areas such as the entire world, each continent, each country, state or artificial section or zone. This helps competitors to compare their results with peers who are on a roughly equal geographic footing, without denying that someone indeed "won the world." It is far from perfect but it helps a lot. It keeps the competition interesting and the inequities have not discouraged thousands of amateurs from participating enthusiastically. In fact, some enjoy traveling to exotic locations which offer an advantage as much as others enjoy building capable stations and antennas at home. A "contest expedition" is the highlight of many contesters' year. See the sidebar for some of my own international radio sport adventures.

In an attempt to level the playing field and answer the urgent question "Who is the best contesteer?" several groups have sponsored World Radio sport Team Championships, a contest within a contest. Each time, about 50 designated two-person teams gather in one city to operate from very similar stations in the 24 hour worldwide IARU Radiosport contest. Stations are assigned to teams by lot and all have the same types of antennas and comparable locations. This evens things out substantially and there have been some notable repeat winners and high place scorers, confirming what we all knew - that contesting is a game of skill and stamina and that some competitors stand head and shoulders above the rest.

Contesting is not for everyone and some hams eschew it as raucous and annoying. But to those who pursue it, contesting is the biggest challenge there is in amateur radio. And those who do it well tend also to succeed in other areas of their hobby and in life itself. If you are a non-contester ham, give it a try. If you are not a ham, consider becoming one in order to pursue the excitement and challenge of radio sport.

*Submitted by Nancy Klatskin NJ6S*

The screenshot shows the 'Contest-Log Manager' window. It features a menu bar with 'Import Log', 'View Errors', 'Filtered Log', 'Menu', and 'Done'. Below the menu is a table with columns: Event Date, Contest, Call, QSOs, Claimed, Lat, and Lon. The table lists several contest entries from 2005 to 2006. A 'Menu' dropdown is open, showing options like 'Filter By Day', 'Filter By Hour', 'Filter By Band', 'QSO Rate Chart', 'Log Editor', 'Location-Certitude Indicators', and 'Empty Logs'. Below the table is a grid of columns labeled B, M, Time-Day, Call, Exc, St, City, Country, Q, D, A, C. The grid contains data for various contacts, including J1RXQ, CX7BF, K5AM, ZK2B, HC8N, JA1OVD, LV5V, and TM1YCW. At the bottom, it says 'QSO's displayed: 715/715' and 'Color selections that provide an estimated quality of prefix-to-location assignment'.

Event Date	Contest	Call	QSOs	Claimed	Lat	Lon
2005 Sep 24	CQ-WW-RTTY	KU5S	715	517,376	34.4	
2005 Nov 26	CQ-WW-CW	HC8N	15826	41,571,136		
2006 Jan 07	ARRL-RTTY	K7RE	1000	85,914	44.4	
2006 Apr 01	EA-WW-RTTY	K4GMH	790	597,429	38.4	
2006 May 27	CQ-WPX-CW	PJ2T	2850	7,578,628	13.4	

## CALENDAR

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

**Club Meeting** - 3rd Thursday of the month  
**May 21, 2009 7:30 p.m.**  
Torrance Memorial Medical Center  
West Tower, 2nd Floor, Room "B"

**Club Nets** - **W6SBA WEEKLY NET**  
Every Thursday @7:30pm  
(except the night of club meetings)  
**PVUSD EMERGENCY NET**  
1st Tuesday of the month  
09:30 Hours on the W6SBA repeater

**TRW Swap Meet** - Saturday, May 30, 2009  
7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

**VE Session** - June 13, 2009  
West Tower, 2nd Floor, Room "A"  
Contact: Joe WB6MYD  
Phone: (310) 328-0817  
jlanphen@ca.rr.com or w6sba@arrl.net

**Social Event** - 2nd Saturday, June 13, 2009, 12pm  
Billy's Deli  
5160 W. 190th Street, Torrance CA

## CLUB SERVICES

Awards Manager (HF/VHF)	Cliff - K6LH
Health & Welfare	Matthew - N6MDC
Swap Meet Chair	Joe - WB6MYD
VE Test Liaison	Joe - WB6MYD
VE Test Sessions	Joe - WB6MYD
Webmaster	Alex - KD6LPA
Editor	Alex - KD6LPA
Proofreader	Nancy - NJ6S

### South Bay Amateur Radio Club Repeater

224.38 MHz ·PL - 192.8 Hz Offset -1.6 MHz  
(See Calendar for Weekly Net Times)

### NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION

South Bay Amateur Radio Club  
P.O. Box 536  
Torrance, CA 90508  
W6SBA@arrl.net  
Website: <http://www.w6sba.org>

TO:

Address Correction Requested

A COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION

W6SBA

South Bay Amateur Radio Club  
Post Office Box 536  
Torrance, CA 90508-0536

