



# ARCOVER

**South Bay Amateur Radio Club**



WB6SBA  
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**

**September 2008**



**TORRANCE MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER  
ROOM "B"  
WEST TOWER, 2ND FLOOR**

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

With parking in the structure behind the West Tower

**THURSDAY, September 18, 2008**

**SPEAKER:  
QRP Computing**  
Presented by  
Alex Marko

**Attendance drawing:**

Congratulations to Ken Carr - K6HRN whose name was drawn at the August meeting. Ken being present was given the 15 dollar kitty.

The September Attendance drawing will be for 15 dollars. If a member is not present when his or/her name is called, the kitty is increased by 5 dollars for the next meeting.

Remember you must be a member in good standing and present to be eligible for the kitty.



**Please welcome the following new members to the SBARC:**

Matt Cruse - N6MDC  
Jerry Shaw - KI6RRD  
Matt Hall - KM6ATT

Matt Cruse joined us a few months ago, and wasted no time in upgrading to Extra. Way to go, Matt !

Jerry recently joined our club and passed his Extra exam at our August 9th VE session. Great job, Jerry !

Matt Hall was a member of our club earlier and has recently re-joined. Welcome back, Matt !



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



Thank you: We wish to thank our guest at our last meeting from SCE. The presentation was the greatest and from the questions asked was enjoyed by one and all. Thank you Ed for having them make this presentation on Safety and all other electrical problem we so often encounter as Ham's.

Social event: Due to the unforeseen absence at the August meeting by our President we did not get around to asking every one if one of you would be willing to chair this planned event. The last consensus still is to have the social as soon as possible. So once again please let us know if you're willing to chair this position, we would like to have you plan this in September if possible or maybe October now. A local park or location is all we need to have us meet and do what we do best. So please step up to the plate and have a go at it.

Elections: Yes it is that time of year again; elections are held at the November meeting. All positions, President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer and 2 Council members need to be elected. The usual way is to do this by appointing the Nomination Committee which will present a slate at the October meeting of possible candidates. Therefore, if you're interested in wishing to be nominated please let either the nominating committee (soon to be appointed) or any of the present officers know your desire. The officers meet the first Wednesday of the month to discuss the business problems for the club so the General membership does not have to listen to that and all business activities are kept to a minimum at the general meetings.

Swap meet: The swap meet is held at the old TRW location in Redondo Beach (Aviation and Marine) on the last Saturday of the month from 0800 to 1130 hrs. We are still looking for someone to chair this activity or maybe even 2 or 3 members to chair this. Please let Joe-WB6MYD know if you're interested.

Extra class licensees: Your VEC Team is looking for a few more Extra class members to help with this. We hold 6 sessions during the year which is on the 2nd Saturday of even month's.. Joe-WB6MYD is the Liaison and schedules each VE so you only have to do one session during the year. Please let him know if your interested.

**SOUTH BAY ARC OFFICERS 2008**

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

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

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

Council Member #1, Joy Matlack—KD6FJV  
rbvcom1@b2v.org - 562-644-6850

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

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

Editor - Alex Marko - KD6LPA  
kd6lpa@socal.rr.com 310-530-6614

W6TRW Swap Meet Space Manager -  
Joe Lanphen - WB6MYD  
jlanphen@ca.rr.com or w6sba@arrl.net - 310-328-0817

**CLUB SERVICES:**

- a. ARRL Membership renewals will be handled by the Secretary/Treasurer and of course new memberships will also be provided.
  - b. Name Badges can also be ordered for you by the Secretary/Treasurer.
  - c. License upgrade and or new license testing is handled by Joe-WB6MYD.
  - d. All other problems, well let us know and we will see if we can help you including technical assistance with problems with your operation and much more. Someone may have experienced the very same problem, the question needs to be asked in order to see if we can help or not.
  - e. New member assistance is always available but must be asked as usual.
  - f. Swap meet Service to help you sell your old gear, just let us know.
  - g. Elmering is available to all members, ask any officer for your particular issue.
  - h. If anything not listed above, ask your officers to help with it.
  - i. e-mail notices regarding meetings and any other interest are yours for the asking. You must keep your e mail address updated with the Sec/ Tres.
  - k. Last but not least- Alex-KD6LPA has taken on the duty of Editor as well. Please let him know if you would like to make an announcement or something of interest for the whole group for posting in the Arc Over or on our Web site.
- We must remember you're a member of one of the best clubs in the area and so we want to help-ask us and we will work on it.

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The ARRL Letter  
Vol. 27, No. 34  
August 29, 2008  
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#### IN THIS EDITION:

- \* Gulf Coast Prepares for Gustav
- \* The September/October QEX Is Here
- \* Check Out the September/October NCJ
- \* "The Doctor Is IN" the ARRL Letter
- \* Solar Update
- \* IN BRIEF:
  - This Weekend on the Radio
  - ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
  - ARRL HQ to Close for Labor Day September 1
  - No ARRL Audio News August 29
  - ARRL Emergency Communications Level 3 Online Course to be Revised
  - New HF Digital Protocol to Debut at September Conference
  - FCC Vanity Call Sign Fees to Increase September 25
  - Hobby radio author Tom Kneitel, W4XAA, SK
  - ARRL and Citizen Corps Assist Schools with NOAA Emergency Radios
  - ARRL Applies for Expansion of 500-kHz Experimental License

#### **GULF COAST PREPARES FOR GUSTAV**

As of Friday, although Tropical Storm Gustav is still several days away from landfall on the US mainland, disaster preparations are being rolled out along the Gulf Coast. ARRL Leadership Officials, with the support of the ARRL Headquarters staff, are taking measures that will facilitate emergency communications among ham volunteers, among hams and served agencies such as the Red Cross, and among Leadership Officials during the expected emergency and in its aftermath. ARRL Section Managers in the Gulf Coast states of Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas are marshaling resources and setting up procedures that will take effect as the storm approaches the mainland.

Support from the ARRL Headquarters staff includes referrals from local and national media, shipment of Amateur Radio equipment via the Ham Aid program, Section Manager liaison and referral of inquiries from Amateur Radio operators. Two special Web sites are available for Amateur Radio operators looking for information and volunteer opportunities:

**<http://www.arrl.org/gustav/> and <http://www.arrl.org/gustav/vol.html>**

In addition, news will be updated on the ARRL Web site over the weekend and early next week, as Gustav moves toward the Gulf Coast.

On Thursday, as Gustav was slamming into Haiti and heading toward Jamaica, WX4NHC, the Amateur Radio station at the National Hurricane Center in Miami, activated at 12 PM EDT (1600Z). The NHC requested all land based stations as well as ships at sea in the areas affected to send them weather data (measured or estimated) and damage reports.

A post to their Web site stated: "If you are in the affected area and normally monitor on a local Net on VHF, 40 or 80 meters, we would appreciate your checking into the HWN NET or EchoLink/IRLP Net once per hour to receive the latest Hurricane Advisories and to report your local conditions. Please do not venture outside during the hurricane to gather weather data."

In addition, the VoIP Hurricane Net activated Thursday at 11 AM EDT (1500Z), according to a post by Jim Palmer, KB1KQW, VoIP-WX Net Scheduler.

Also on Thursday, FEMA posted a news release that said, in part: "The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is coordinating plans and preparatory activities of numerous federal agencies in close communication with state, tribal and local officials as Tropical Storm Gustav threatens to return to hurricane strength prior to impacting Gulf Coast states. All residents in the region are encouraged to make personal preparations. Information is available at [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov) on how families and individuals can best prepare before the storm.

"FEMA and its federal partners are in close communications with states along its potential path in order to review plans, pre-station assets and personnel, and respond to any request for assistance. FEMA's work with states using a Gap Analysis tool to determine in advance of storms where federal assistance is most likely to be needed has helped federal and state agencies to develop pre-scripted mission assignments and other contingency plans to help improve response and recovery efforts."

The news release also provides details on preparations now underway by several other agencies, including the American Red Cross and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal declared a state of emergency for his state on Wednesday, and he activated 3000 National Guard troops, with more on call. The state of Mississippi declared a state of emergency on Thursday. Governor Haley Barbour stated, in part: "I urge all Mississippians to please take this storm seriously. One of the most important lessons we learned after Hurricane Katrina was that there is no substitute for awareness and self-help, especially in the days before the hurricane is predicted to hit."

### **THE SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER QEX IS HERE**

The September/October issue of QEX is out, and it is full of theoretical and practical technical articles that you don't want to miss.

In this issue, Mark Spencer, WA8SME, describes a VLF receiver system that automatically logs received signal data so we can learn about some propagation conditions such as sudden ionospheric disturbances during Solar Cycle 24 in "SID: Study Cycle 24, Don't Just Use It." Phil Anderson, W0XI, gives us a detailed analysis of crystal set receiver circuitry in "A Great Teacher: The Crystal Set." Bertrand Zauhar, VE2ZAZ, brings us another great project that goes well beyond a simple battery charger with his "Rechargeable Battery Cycler."

Jim Kocsis, WA9PYH, presents "Press-n-Peel Circuit Boards," a simple, reliable way to make your own circuit boards using Techniks, Inc Press-n-Peel Blue etch-resist material. Henry J. Rech offers some thoughts about, "Receiver Performance Measurement and Front End Selectivity," and Frank Witt, AI1H, describes "Optimum Lossy Broadband Matching Networks for Resonant Antennas," in this reprint of an April 1990 "RF Design" article.

### **CHECK OUT THE SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER NCJ**

NCJ, The National Contest Journal is what everyone interested in radiosport needs to have in their shack. Filled with the latest news from the contesting world, NCJ is the voice of radiosport. Whether you are new to contesting or are a seasoned pro (or somewhere in the middle), you will find something in NCJ just for you.

In the September/October issue, Stan Stockton, K5GO and Bob Wilson, N6TV, provide a dialogue on "CW Skimmer: Point/Counterpoint." To go along with this article, Pete Smith, N4ZR, talks about "So You Want to Skim? Practical Issues in Deploying CW Skimmer in a Contesting Environment." Eric Scace, K3NA, writes about "Distributing Receiving Antennas" in the first of a multi-part article. If you're a top-bander, you don't want to miss "A Simple 2-Element Vertical Array for 160 Meters" by John Barcroft, K6AM.

**SOLAR UPDATE**

Tad "Heat and haze of crimson sunsets" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Our Sun is still very quiet, but last week's bulletin mentioned a new sunspot emerging on August 21-22. Spaceweather.com showed the sunspot number on those days as 11, which is the smallest non-zero sunspot number. If we don't see any sunspots this weekend, Sunday will mark 42 consecutive days with no sunspots. This will also bring the 3-month moving average for daily sunspot numbers (that we present monthly) clear down to 1.76, the lowest on this side of cycle 23. This would be the three month average centered on July.

The forecast for the next week is a planetary A index of 5 on every day, indicating more of the same quiet and stable geomagnetic conditions. The prediction for September 5 is a planetary A index of 18, probably from a recurring coronal hole and associated solar wind.

Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet conditions August 29 to September 3, and quiet to unsettled September 4.

Sunspot numbers for August 21 through 27 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, and 0 with a mean of 0. 10.7 cm flux was 67.1, 67.6, 67.9, 67.1, 66.6, 66.9, and 66.6 with a mean of 67.1. Estimated planetary A indices were 4, 4, 2, 4, 2, 3 and 3 with a mean of 3.1. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 4, 2, 2, 2, 1, 1 and 2 with a mean of 2.

For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by Elizabeth Maua Taylor's "August."

**"THE DOCTOR IS IN" THE ARRL LETTER**

This week, ARRL Letter readers are in luck! The ARRL's very own Doctor, author of the popular QST column "The Doctor Is IN," answers a question from his mailbag:

Question -- John Hoffman, KJ4GER, of Woodstock, Georgia, asks: I am reading the "ARRL General Class License Manual" <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=9965>>. In a few places, it mentions the 75 meter band. On my ARRL-provided "US Amateur Radio Bands" chart, it shows an 80 meter band and a 60 meter band, but no 75 meter band. What is the 75 meter band, and why does it not show up on the official band chart?

The Doctor Answers -- John, 75 meters is an designation for the 3.6-4.0 MHz phone band, a portion of the 3.5-4.0 MHz 80 meter allocation. If you convert 4.0 MHz to wavelength (300/4) you will find that the top end of the band has a wavelength of 75 meters.

Historically, 75 meters refers to the voice portion of the "official" 80 meter band. The term 80 meters is often used to refer to the entire band. Most HF radios have a bandswitch position for 80 meters that covers the entire band, not one for 75 meters. Unlike any other band, you will rarely hear anyone refer to "80 meter phone." I cannot offer any logical explanation for the anomaly -- perhaps someone will fill us in on how this came to be.

If you know the answer to this question, send an e-mail to the Doctor <[doctor@arrl.org](mailto:doctor@arrl.org)>. Do you have a question or a problem? Send your questions via e-mail <[doctor@arrl.org](mailto:doctor@arrl.org)> or to "The Doctor," ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111 (no phone calls, please). Look for "The Doctor Is IN" every month in QST, the official journal of the ARRL.

**WANTED:**

Kenwood IF-10 Interface for TS-440  
Contact: [WA6OWM@arrl.net](mailto:WA6OWM@arrl.net)

(Kenwood TS-440 belongs to the club)

## **CALENDAR**

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

**Club Meeting** - 3rd Thursday of the month  
**September 18, 2008 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, September 27, 2008  
7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

**VE Session** - October 11, 2008  
West Tower, 2nd Floor, Room "A"  
Contact: Joe WB6MYD  
Phone: (310) 328-0817  
jlanphen@ca.rr.com or w6sba@arrl.net

**Social Event** - We need a picnic event chairman to organize the date/time and location of the event. Please contact any council member if you can help.

## **CLUB SERVICES**

Awards Manager	Cliff - K6LH
Health & Welfare	Donna Wilson
Swap Meet Chair	John - AC6FB
VE Test Liaison	Joe - WB6MYD
VE Test Sessions	Joe - WB6MYD
Webmaster	Alex - KD6LPA
Editor	Alex—KD6LPA
Proofreader	Open Position

### **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>



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Torrance, CA 90508-0536

**W6SBA**

***A COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION***

Address Correction Requested

**TO:**