



ARCOVER

South Bay Amateur Radio Club

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



E-mail: W6SBA@arrl.net

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

President - Richard - KG6JKJ

November 2006

November Meeting

**Torrance Memorial Medical Center
Health Conference Center Room #1**

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

with parking in the structure behind the WEST TOWER.

Thursday, November 16, 2006, at 7:30

Disaster Preparedness Made Easy

Chuck - KN6H and Ges - KG6RTM will present a real down-to-earth nuts and bolts **HOW TO** session; What to consider, how to do it, common misconceptions debunked, where local sources of equipment are located, where supplies and information can be found, and most important how to use your radio equipment and skills to best support yourself and your family.

Bring your family, friends and neighbors, a pen and paper to make notes.

Chuck and Ges have been presenting these sessions to local homeowner groups across the South Bay, now this information is available to our members. Are you ready for that long over due earthquake? When it happens every licensed amateur radio operator could be pressed into service.

Holiday Party, December 21, 2006

Plan now to select your favorite recipe or deli dish.

- ◆ A - F - Side dishes, Vegetables
- ◆ G - M - Salads
- ◆ N - Z - Desserts



Family and friends are welcome but please sign up or e-mail the number in your party so we can plan for the ham, utensils, and soft drinks.

Bring a poinsettia plant to decorate the tables and then to be taken to the nurses' stations to cheer up the hospital staff and patients. We need about 20 plants.

Attendance Drawing

The winner of the October Membership Drawing was Matt - K1DCB. The kitty was \$20 But Matt was not present. The November drawing will be for \$25. Who will be the next winner?

Remember the attendance drawing is for members only, and you must be present to win. All members in good standing are automatically entered.



WILL YOU BE THERE?

2006 Cross Country Invitational Meet at Mount Sac



The Meet was held at Mount San Antonio College in Pomona where the largest of this country's Cross Country races are held.

These are high school students competing in this race from all across the U.S. This year's event was on Saturday, October 21, 2006, and saw about 10,000 students compete at this very hot event. It started shortly after 0700 hrs (0705 hrs) and the last race was over at 1615 hrs, with non-stop races all day long.

We had over 70 incidences of various heat exhaustion and injuries due to the high temperatures during the day. The freshman teams especially seem to have a rough time due to the inexperience of these teams and their coaches. We were kept busy due to the excessive heat and dust.

It was a very rewarding experience handing so much traffic in a short period of time with these freshman teams having been scheduled during the hottest period of the day.

This is quite an event and maybe you will consider helping out next year.

Joe - WB6MYD

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



- ◆ E-mail address - I have a new e-mail address—jlanphen@ca.rr.com. Comcast was bought out by Time-Warner, and they announced that we will have to switch to the new e-mail address.
- ◆ Election - The nominating committee has a full slate for the 2007 club year. However, it is not too late to add your name to the list if you wish to run for any office. The floor will be open until just prior to the election for any one to add a name. The person must agree, and, if not in attendance at the meeting the person, submitting the name should have a note of agreement in hand.
- ◆ VE Team - Your VE Team has been busy this past month. We had our regularly scheduled VE session on Saturday, October 14, 2006, and a special session at LMU. At the regular session a 6, year, old took the exam and passed his Tech class license. He sure showed his excitement when told the good news. The LMU session was administered by Cliff - K6LH, Ray - WA6OWM, and myself, Joe - WB6MYD. One young man passed all his written exams but will have to wait for the higher class license since he did not take the code element. Upon special request we are available for a special VE session. You must notify Joe - WB6MYD with the request so we will have adequate test material on hand in sufficient time prior to the test date. The group of VE examiners deserve a THANK YOU!
- ◆ Holiday Party - December 15, 2006. It is that time of year again. We love this once - a - year special social meeting when friends, family and members get together. Check page 1 for the suggested items to bring. The club will furnish the ham, soft drinks, coffee, flatware, plates and cups.
- ◆ Poinsettia - Plan to purchase a real or artificial plant for the Holiday party. They will first decorate the tables at dinner then several members will take them to the nurses' stations in the medical center. The staff appreciates the thought, and they help to brighten the halls for the patients too.
- ◆ November Meeting - Invite your family and friends to attend the meeting and learn about local resources that are available when a disaster hits in our area. You will go home with a lot of information and a better understanding of what you can do to help your self and your neighborhood. Just imagine a week or more with NO outside support, power, telephone, water, trash pick up, etc. Our local cities and hospitals are preparing and training staff and the community so we will survive with few casualties and health problems. Chuck and Ges give a good lesson with a question and answer period to follow.



SOUTH BAY ARC OFFICERS 2006

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 AC6FB jcrochaw@pacbell.net - 310-675-0732

W6TRW SWAP MEET

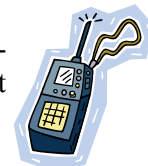
November 25, 2006
7:00 a.m. through 11:30 a.m.

I would like to thank Joe - WB6MYD for handling the Swap Meet while I was on vacation. This is a club effort, and we have a great time talking to people and sharing information about the South Bay Amateur Radio Club and amateur radio in general.

We have some new antennas for sale and other items of interest. If you have something you want to clean out of your shack, give me a call so I can have space on the table for your item. Remember, the club gets a 25% cut or if you help to sell the items the club receives 10% cut.

A group of members always goes over 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.



ARRL PRESIDENT AIRS CONCERNS ABOUT REQUIRED RED CROSS BACKGROUND

ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, is urging Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and other ham radio volunteers to tread cautiously when submitting information for background checks the American Red Cross (ARC) now requires. The ARC, with which the ARRL has a Statement of Understanding (SoU) <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/mou/redcro.html>>, this summer notified local chapters that volunteers and staff members must submit to criminal background checks by October 31. Harrison says the requirement extends to ARES volunteers who support Red Cross disaster relief efforts. In a statement <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/RC-Background-Checks0610.pdf>> October 24, Harrison said the League recommends that anyone submitting personal information for a background check very carefully read what they are giving the ARC permission to collect.

"The Red Cross is requiring volunteers to grant permission for more than just a criminal background check," Harrison asserted. "They are also requiring permission to draw a consumer and/or investigative consumer report on the volunteer." Harrison said that could also include credit and mode-of-living checks. "The Red Cross has stated that they will not use credit reports," he noted. "Requiring that volunteers authorize the procurement of a credit report is inconsistent with this assurance." The ARC has contracted with MyBackgroundCheck.com LLC (MBC) to handle the on-line background checks. Prospective volunteers visit a secure, encrypted Website <<http://www.mybackgroundcheck.com/>>, click on the ARC logo and submit name, address, Social Security number (or other acceptable government ID), telephone number, and date of birth. The Red Cross says the overall results of the background check are not shared with the ARC.

In the course of applying, prospective volunteers must agree to let MBC obtain a wide range of personal information bearing not just on criminal background and creditworthiness but, MBC says, "character, general reputation [and] personal characteristics." MBC advises, "The nature and scope of this disclosure and authorization is all-encompassing . . ." The Red Cross says its new policy is aimed at safeguarding clients, volunteers and employees alike. "Unfortunately, in this day and age it is critical that the American Red Cross and other agencies, employers and organizations perform due diligence in researching the people who will represent them," the ARC said in a statement supplied to ARRL.

The ARC apparently has not disseminated policy specifics at the national level. The only

It Is That Time of Year Again ! Dues for 2007

Please mail or hand your dues to Joe - WB6MYD Secretary/Treasure. Joe will be glad to accept your dues at the general meeting or you can mail them to:

The South Bay ARC

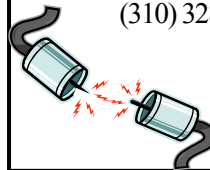
P. O. Box 536, Torrance, CA 90505.

Make your check payable to: The South Bay ARC

Class of membership:

- **Regular Membership** \$15.00
- **Associate Membership** \$10.00
Full voting privilege (wife or husband)
- **Family Membership** \$25.00
One family member has voting privileges
(multiple family members)

For more information call: Joe - WB6MYD
(310) 328-0817



Stay Connected - pay your dues now!

information on what the background checks will entail is that on the MBC site. Various chapter-level memoranda the ARRL has obtained contain conflicting information about the program.

ARRL Field and Educational Services Manager Dave Patton, NN1N – whose department supports the ARRL Field Organization -- is among those who believes the Red Cross stands to lose a fair number of volunteers because of the requirement -- and not necessarily just ARES volunteers. "ARES members who are providing communications for ARC are working for ARC," Patton maintained, "and, as such, will follow their guidelines." He said the decision to go along with the new Red Cross policy is up to individual volunteers.

The SoU between the League and the ARC is ambiguous as to whether ARES members become Red Cross volunteers when supporting the ARC. While the document says "each organization retains its own identity in providing service," it further stipulates that ARES volunteers "in such cases when the operators are required to carry American Red Cross identification" must register as American Red Cross volunteers. The SoU does not address the issue of background checks, however. The SoU comes up for review in 2007. Radio amateurs who volunteered in the wake of Hurricane Katrina last year and following 9/11 in New York City were badged through as ARC volunteers. The practice still upsets some ARES volunteers. Contact the Red Cross (toll-free 800-507-3960) with any questions regarding the background check program. *ARRL vol 25 #43—10/27/06*

HAWAIIAN HAMS RESPOND AS EARTHQUAKES STRIKE "BIG ISLAND"

Amateur Radio volunteers scrambled to provide emergency communication and assist with relief efforts after earthquakes October 15 on the "Big Island," of Hawaii. The initial jolt of the so-called Kona Earthquake" just after 7 a.m. local time roused many residents from sleep; another followed soon after. Widespread power outages as well as structural and highway damage resulted throughout the Hawaiian Islands, although a feared tsunami never developed and no deaths were reported.

"ARES and RACES operators responded to Hawaii State and Oahu Civil Defense Emergency Operation Centers," reports Hawaii State RACES Coordinator and ARRL State Civil Defense (SCD) Emergency Coordinator Ron Hashiro - AH6RH. Right after Oahu stopped shaking, Hashiro put out a call on the Honolulu 146.88 MHz repeater seeking reports.

"Other stations confirmed the violent shaking," he said. Hashiro started emergency operations on the Honolulu repeater, then proceeded to the inter-island 147.06 MHz repeater system and repeated the sequence. Hashiro, Robin Liu - AH6CP, and Mitch Pinkerton, - KH6MP, arrived at the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in short order, and RACES operations from KH6HPZ commenced within a half hour of the first earthquake. After checking into HF and VHF nets, ARRL Pacific Section Emergency Coordinator Kevin Bogan - AH6QO, responded to the SCD EOC.

Bogan said the primary focus was on the Big Island, where most damage occurred because the epicenter was so close. "Although buildings on Oahu suffered only minor structural damage, the biggest problem was the power outage due to generators for the island powering down as a safety precaution," he said. "Within minutes of the first earthquake, telephone calls on landline and many cell phone carriers were difficult due to congestion." Hashiro said operators at the EOC rotated among the HF and VHF operating positions, running messages with the EOC operations desk and checking with staff on their various needs and concerns. The Hawaii Emergency Net on 7088 kHz provided the main HF link in the earthquakes' aftermath. Communication around the Big Island was handled on 7095 kHz. Where Internet remained available, radio amateurs were able to take advantage of Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) modes such as EchoLink and IRLP.

At Oahu Civil Defense Agency, RACES Coordinator Ray Moody - AH6LT, responded, while Adrian Ditucci - KH7GK, handled net control service

duties from his home a few miles away, operating on battery power. Other Amateur Radio emergency communication volunteers did "the heavy lifting in the field," Hashiro said. "The key to their success was that they had varying degrees of portable and mobile capabilities with emergency power -- using VHF and HF," he said. "They were able to drive right to the scene and pass along assessments, status reports and messages through us, right into State CD operations. For example, Steve - WH6N, passed formal traffic on the condition of a hospital and the closure of a neighboring highway due to a landslide," Hashiro said. "AH6RR and KH7MS passed information on the condition and evacuation of Kona Community Hospital, while WH6WI updated us on the progress and availability of a 1000-person American Red Cross Shelter at the old Kailua-Kona airport." As a precaution, officials evacuated several hospitals in Hawaii until they could check the safety of the structures.

Dozens of tremors followed the initial quake, on the west side of the Island of Hawaii, which measured at 6.7 on the Richter scale. It was the first major earthquake in Hawaii in 20 years. A second quake measured 6.0, Bogan said, and there were many aftershocks. Hashiro says State CD RACES/ARES operations wrapped up at 5:20 PM, while Oahu RACES operations from KH6OCD ended at 10:55 PM. He reports upward of a dozen stations on the Big Island provided HF and VHF communication with SCD, while another seven radio amateurs were active on the island of Maui.

The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) activated for a short time Sunday afternoon on 14.265 MHz to assist with emergency communication to handle health-and-welfare inquiries and traffic. Hashiro says that unlike some other areas of the US, radio amateurs in Hawaii stress and believe in joint operation -- a collaboration of ARES, RACES, SKYWARN, HealthComm, the American Red Cross, Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), and SATERN.

"We become one operation, one team to our emergency management partners," he said. "We help each other out and work and train together. That's the only way to operate; there's simply not enough equipped, capable and available operators to go around. Isolated in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, there's not a lot of missteps and mistakes we can afford."

ARRL Letter Vol 25 # 42 October 20, 2006

ARISS "CONTINGENCY NETWORK" IMPRESSES NASA

When Russian flight controllers encountered difficulties during a recent International Space Station cargo rocket docking, NASA called on a special -- although little-known -- Amateur Radio team to stand by if needed. Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) Ops Team "ISS Ham Contingency Network" volunteers around the world immediately swung into action. Within 15 minutes of receiving the call from Johnson Space Center, Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO, reported the ISS Ham Contingency Network was ready to provide any necessary communication support.

"The ARISS teamwork was very effective," ARISS Secretary-Treasurer Rosalie White, K1STO said. "Its members learned a great deal, and they impressed NASA with how quickly the system was brought up. "During the October 26 Progress docking, NASA says, Russian flight controllers were unable to confirm whether an automated antenna on the rocket had retracted as commanded. If still extended, the antenna could have interfered with the final latching of the supply ship to the ISS. To avoid disturbing the softly docked cargo ship and to aid the crew with docking maneuvers, the ISS orientation was allowed to drift freely. During free-drift mode, however, the Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System (TDRSS) -- which handles communication between the crew and Mission Control in Houston -- can be lost. That's because the station's solar arrays may not directly face the sun, causing a drop in onboard power.

Awakened at 2 AM, ARISS Australian team member Tony Hutchison, VK5ZAI, put out a blind call on VHF to the ISS crew, although no answer was needed at that point. Others available to cover later passes included Gerald Klatzko, ZS6BTD, in South Africa; Gaston Bertels, ON4WF, at ON4ISS in Belgium; Dick Flagg, AH6NM, and Nancy Rocheleau, WH6PN, at Sacred Hearts Academy in Honolulu; and Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, and Mark Steiner, K3MS, at the Goddard Space Flight Center's WA3NAN. Each of these Earth stations has a track record of being able to sustain reliable communication with the ISS.

The call-up marked the first time that NASA had asked for such Amateur Radio assistance since the initial crew came aboard the ISS in November 2000. Ransom says that by remaining available to ensure solid communication while Mission Control staff dealt with the docking issue, the ISS Ham Contingency Network provided Mission Control with an additional layer of security. Once the antenna

retraction problem was resolved, the contingency network stood down, but NASA's request and the ensuing ham radio activity did serve as a valuable drill, ARISS said. NASA says Expedition 14 Commander Mike Lopez-Alegria, KE5GTK, and flight engineers Mikhail Tyurin, RZ3FT, and Thomas Reiter, DF4TR, opened the hatch to the supply ship October 27 to unload supplies.

ARES/RACES ASSIST IN ESPERANZA FIRE RESPONSE

Amateur Radio volunteers under the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) banners in late October assisted the American Red Cross response to California's Esperanza Fire, some 90 miles east of Los Angeles.

"We are very proud of all of our Amateur Radio operators who were called into assist not only with communications but other needed areas," ARRL Orange Section Manager Carl Gardenias, WU6D, said. Authorities believe an arsonist ignited the deadly blaze early on October 26. Before it was declared 100-percent contained October 31, the fire had burned over some 40,200 acres and claimed the lives of five firefighters.

The Salvation Army provided canteens for firefighters, while the Riverside County Red Cross opened shelters to house and feed those displaced by the flames. The Esperanza Fire destroyed 34 homes and 20 outbuildings, and the Red Cross said many residents were forced to flee with nothing. Via the 3965 kHz RACES net, Gardenias says, Riverside County Red Cross issued "a big thank you" for Amateur Radio support to its shelters.

The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) members supported that organization's relief efforts, he said. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said more than 1800 fire personnel were involved in battling the Esperanza Fire.

ARRL letter Vol 25 #44 November 3, 2006

Remember to bring a real or artificial poinsettia to the December meeting.



TORRANCE ELECTRONICS
1545 West Carson
Torrance, CA 90501
(310) 328-2501
connectors

CALENDAR

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

Club Meeting - 3rd Thursday of the month
November 16, 2006 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

VE Session - December 9, 2006

TRW Swap Meet - Saturday, November 25, 2006
7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Holiday Party - December 21, 2006
Potluck Family and Friends Welcome

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



*Gobble Gobble
Happy Thanksgiving*

TO: