



PUSH TO TALK

Push to Talk is the monthly newsletter of the Inland Empire Amateur Radio Club, an ARRL Special Service Club. The club website is <http://www.w6ier.org>. W6IER repeaters are 145.460 and 447.220. Both repeaters have a standard negative offset and 77.0 PL. Our 2-meter net is each Thursday at 7:30 pm.

John Simmons KQ6ES, Editor kq6es@roadrunner.com

GENERAL MEETING

The next IEARC meeting is June 7. We meet at 9 am on the first Saturday of the month in the Ontario PFF Bank meeting room, 333 N. Euclid Avenue at D Street.

SWAPMEET

The next IEARC swapmeet is June 14. It is held on the second Saturday morning of each month in the parking lot of Cable Airport in Upland. Enter from Benson Avenue at 13th Street. Come around 6 am to help set up, or around 10 am to help clean up.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

 Chuck Sweeten AI6I

Hello Inland Empire Club Members.

Well here it is June and the year is half over. Field day is upon us and we are without a plan as to what the club is going to do for field day. So a friend sent me this note and I thought I would include it in this news letter.

Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody

This is a little story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and everybody was sure that Somebody would do the job. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.

Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Somebody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it.

It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

See everyone at the club meeting.

Chuck

CONTEST NEWS, IEARC Contest Chair John kq6es
 See the June QST or go to <http://www.hornucopia.com> for details.

June Contests

ARRL June VHF QSO Party 0800Z, June 14 to 0300Z, June 16
 Field Day June 28 and 29

Also look for these state QSO parties:
 1st weekend: Alabama 2nd weekend: West Virginia

ARRL - An expanded, downloadable version of QST's Contest Corral in PDF format is available at <http://www.arrl.org/contest>. Check the sponsor's Web site for information on operating time restrictions and other instructions.

ARRL - Notes from the ARRL Contest Branch (May 24, 2008) -- ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X -- after receiving numerous requests -- has started an ARRL Blog called "Notes from the Contest Branch." [Full Story](#)

Contesting is a great way to quickly get your Worked All States and DXCC awards from the ARRL, especially by using the Log of the World (LoTW) on the ARRL web site. QSL cards are nice to have, but LoTW makes it easier. I have enough cards to get my DXCC the old fashioned way, but after receiving my share of damaged magazines and packages, I'm reluctant to let those hard-earned cards out of my sight. Go to www.arrl.org/lotw for details.



Your Logbook DXCC Account (KQ6ES - UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)

Award	Selected	Applied	Awarded	Total / Current
Mixed	1	0	100	101 / 101

Your Logbook WAS Account (kq6eswas)

Award	Selected	Applied	Awarded	Total
Basic *	50	0	0	50
160M	28	0	0	28
80M	33	0	0	33
40M	50	0	0	50
20M *	49	0	1	50
15M	48	0	0	48
10M	48	0	1	49
CW	50	0	0	50
Phone	50	0	0	50
RTTY	45	0	0	45

FOCUS ON:

A regular column looking at organizations and activities of special interest to our club.

ARRL Field Organization

The ARRL's structure divides the United States into 15 Divisions. Every three years the full members in each of these Divisions elect a Director and a Vice Director to represent them on the League's Board of Directors. The Board determines the policies of the League, which are carried out by the Headquarters staff. A Director's function is principally policymaking at the highest level. Each division's Director and Vice Director represent their Division on ARRL policy matters.

The 15 Divisions of the League are arranged into 71 administrative Sections, each headed by an elected Section Manager. Most sections are whole states, but some larger states are divided into two, or even more, as is the case with California, Florida, New York, and Texas. Your Section Manager is the person to contact when you have news about your activities, or those of your radio club.

The membership in each section elects a Section Manager (SM) once every two years. He or she is responsible for managing the Field Organization programs for the section. The SM is not involved in League policy-making (although he or she may have a strong voice in such matters) -- this is a function reserved for the Division Director. The SM's main job is to recruit, through several subordinate program managers or coordinators, League volunteers to staff eight crucial program areas: emergency communications, message traffic, volunteer monitoring, RFI problem-solving, support of affiliated clubs, government liaison, encouragement of technical activities, and dissemination of on-the-air bulletins.

Sign up for an official ARRL appointment! There's a place for everybody: New ham or veteran, young or old, Novice or Extra, athlete or couch potato. Click on the appointments you're interested in, and then apply using the easy [on-line application form](#). Your application will be forwarded to your Section Manager for consideration: [Official Emergency Station](#), [Official Relay Station](#), [Technical Specialist](#), [Public Information Officer](#), [Local Government Liaison](#), [Official Observer](#), [Assistant Section Manager](#).

Although the buck stops with the Section Manager, the station-level appointees and program functions listed above are normally managed by a "cabinet" appointee called a *Section official*, under delegated authority of the SM. For example, the [Section Traffic Manager](#) (STM) manages the National Traffic System activity in the section, and appoints [Net Managers](#) (NM) and [Official Relay Stations](#) (ORS).

Similarly, the [Section Emergency Coordinator](#) (SEC) implements the section's ARES plan and appoints [Assistant Section Emergency Coordinators](#) (ASEC), [Assistant District Emergency Coordinators](#) (ADEC), [District Emergency Coordinators](#) (DEC), [Emergency Coordinators](#) (EC) and [Official Emergency Stations](#) (OES). There's also an [Official Observer Coordinator](#) (OOC), [Technical Coordinator](#) (TC), [Affiliated Club Coordinator](#) (ACC), [Public Information Coordinator](#) (PIC) and [State Government Liaison](#) (SGL).

After you've gained experience as a station-level appointee, perhaps you'll find yourself in one of these leadership roles.

JAPANESE AMATEUR BANDS EXPANDED
From the ARRL Newsletter

* Japanese Amateurs Receive More Privileges on 75/80 Meters: Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) announced that Japan's Table of Frequency Allocations and the Japanese Amateur Bandplan http://www.jarl.or.jp/English/6_Band_Plan/JAbandplan.pdf have been amended, giving amateurs in that country more privileges on certain frequency blocks in the 75/80 meter band. Japanese amateurs are now allowed to operate the following additional frequencies on the 75/80 meters: 3.599-3.612 MHz, 3.680 to 3.687 MHz, 3.702-3.716 MHz, 3.745-3.747 MHz and 3.754-3.770 MHz. As of April 28, 2008, Japanese amateurs will have privileges on the following frequencies in the 75/80 meter band: 3.500-3.520 MHz (CW only), 3.520-3.525 MHz (Digital Mode and CW), 3.525-3.575 MHz (CW and Phone), 3.599-3.612 MHz (CW and Phone), 3.680-3.687 MHz (CW and Phone), 3.702-3.716 MHz (CW and Phone), 3.745-3.770 MHz (CW and Phone) and 3.791-3.805 MHz (CW and Phone). "This makes it a bit easier for US amateurs to make contacts with Japanese amateurs, especially in contests, since Japan does not have phone privileges on the 160 meter band," said ARRL Membership Services Manager Dave Patton, NN1N. "These new privileges will also make it easier for DXpeditions to work Japan." -- Information provided by JARL
<http://www.jarl.or.jp/English/>

=====

TV SERIES ON THE SPACE LAUNCHES
From the ARRL Newsletter

While many of us were around to watch each step of the space race, those born after the mid-sixties weren't in on the excitement of the early days of "T-minus 10 minutes and counting" and gantries falling away from the rocket. The Discovery Channel <http://dsc.discovery.com> is running a six-part series called "When We Left Earth" <http://tinyurl.com/64vyty>, beginning June 8th that will bring together some of the many pieces of those exciting days when a rocket launch was something for everyone to stop what you were doing and watch.

=====

TOP BAND

If you think you can't get on 160m, but would like to hear what a phased array of four full-size verticals can do from a prime location (8dB of gain on 160m!) visit the web site of K1ZM, author of "DXing on the Edge - The Thrill of 160 Meters" <http://www.k1zm.com/> The site offers dozens of audio clips with exotic DX for you to try to dig call signs out of, both cw and phone, as well as interesting articles, presentations, and photos of his Prince Edward Island station (and nice vacation photos from an Antarctic cruise too!)

In 1996 when I had a back yard about 60 feet by 15 feet I constructed a simple center loaded dipole antenna for 160m, wrapping the wire around PVC pipe and protecting the coils from the weather with plastic soda bottles. I spent less than \$20. At 20 feet at the peak, but mostly under 10 feet high, and with a few 90 degree bends to make it wrap around my fence, it "almost" tuned, and wasn't exactly a championship antenna, but with it I worked over 50 stations in the western states during the 1996 ARRL 160m contest and was happy to get on Top Band. People have done better with even less antenna. The only "secret" to operating and expanding your ham radio horizons is to get on the air and get started.

STRAYS FROM THE ARRL NEWSLETTER and ARRL CONTEST UPDATE

The Japanese amateur allocations are somewhat fragmented on a couple of the bands, particularly 160 and 80 meters. Brett VR2BG points us to an English-language version of the JA band-by-band allocations: http://www.jarl.or.jp/English/6_Band_Plan/JAbandplan.pdf. A reminder -- JA amateurs still do not have a phone allocation on 160 meters.

Icom has released some new videos about D-STAR technology at <http://www.icom.co.jp/world/products/video/d-starmovie/index.html>. This is the global Icom site and not the Icom America site. (Thanks, Mark WB9QZB)

Here are some photos <http://tinyurl.com/46axbh> from the recent Visalia DX Convention taken by John K6MM. (Thanks, Bob N6TV)

Bob N6TV also found this neat video of self-assembling robots <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uIn-sMq8-Ls> doing their thing. Be sure not to miss the last 30 seconds! Bob asks if it wouldn't be nice if our antennas could fix themselves too?

Rick O'Keefe recently posted the URL for a Yahoo group focused on lightning protection <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/LightningProtection> questions about grounding and surge protection.

Fans of QST's Hands-On Radio column and builders in general will be pleased to learn that Kanga [US http://www.kangaus.com](http://www.kangaus.com) is now offering parts kits for all of the experiments along with the usual and growing line of kits.

Making your own "staples" for laying and holding down radial wire is fairly straightforward. If you are looking for pre-formed staples, however, they may be available as "lawn staples" or "sod staples" at your local lawn and garden emporium. (Thanks, Jim K8MK and Rick WORIC) [kq6es - This is what I use. I get them at Home Depot in the Garden section, outdoors. They get rusty quickly but are cheap to replace]

Dennis N6KI sent along some links of interest to owners of older test equipment and radios. EB5AGV has put together a nice Vintage Ham Radio and Test Equipment site at <http://www.jvgavila.com> with lots of information on HP and Tektronix gear. The Schematic Bank at <http://techpreservation.dyndns.org/schematics> is a gold mine of information on old broadcast receivers. The Boat Anchor Manual Archive <http://bama.sbc.edu/free.htm> is another "must-bookmark" site, as well.

Jim K9YC has put together a nice white paper titled "Power and Grounding For Audio and Audio/Video Systems -- A White Paper for the Real World" that is certainly applicable to the ham shack. He gives this course on this topic at conferences and trade shows. You can find both the tutorial and slides from the lectures at his Web site <http://audiosystemsgroup.com/publish>. There is a lot of excellent material here!

Today many people use e-mail reflectors and internet forums as a way to share ideas, thoughts and opinions on just about anything and everything. There are literally millions of people participating in this virtual town hall.

Too often we look at words on a screen and forget that we are actually interfacing with human beings. When people used to use pen and paper to exchange ideas there were numerous opportunities to explore our emotions and organize our thoughts before we sent a message to another person. However today many are quick to react and in a split second can fire off an

often hurtful and degrading message.

Here is a great web page about etiquette on the internet or "netiquette" as it has been coined.

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

Next time, think about it before you hit the send button.

=====

Some unusual club names I found by browsing through QRZ! – kq6es

- KA0B Best Amateur Radio Club by a Dam Site
- K6DOA Toe Tag Radio Amateur Club
- W6ME Sons of the Beaches Amateur Radio Association
- K0MMM Megahertz Manor Maniacs DX Club
- W9YL Chick Factor International
- AB9O Prune Hill Retired DXers Association

Hungry?

- AJ7A Breakfast Club
- K9MCM Amateur Radio Lunch Bunch
- KF6WWV Fried Chicken Dinner Amateur Radio Club
- K6NN Turkey and Bacon Club
- KF6TWJ Potato Radio Club
- AK7ID Sweet Potato Radio Club
- AI1D Bozrah Beer and Chowder Propagation Society
- KD8BEI Green Eggs and Ham Radio Club
- W4BBQ Barbecue Capital of North Carolina Amateur Radio Operators
- WI9TC Team Cheese Amateur Radio Club

Some of the many Animals on the Air.

- K6KFC Naked Chicken Contest Club
- KF6RUG Great Big Turkey Amateur Radio Club
- NM5MD New Mexico Mud Ducks
- KE7BOM Rhino Radio Club
- W8PIG Flying Pigs QRP Club International
- K9HO Big Dog Contesting Club
- KI8W Desert Rat DXers
- KB1CDI Rocky Hill Donkey Dusters
- NA5R Texas Armadillo Rowdies Contest Club
- WE8NY Giant Lizard Contesting Club
- K3BAA Black Sheep

Most hams have a good sense of humor! A recent NA Sprint contest featured the team of K4RAT, K5RAT, K6RAT, K7RAT, K9RAT, WA5RAT, K0CAT, AC0W, and K9SEX.

=====

FCC'S BILL CROSS, W3TN, CALLS HAM RADIO "BELOW THE RADAR"

Edited from the ARRL Letter

William Cross, W3TN, a staff member in the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, and Riley Hollingsworth, Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau, spoke at the FCC Forum on Saturday afternoon at the 2008 Dayton Hamvention. Cross explained where Amateur Radio falls in the FCC's bureaucracy.

June Push To Talk

Page 6 of 8

"The Mobility Division of Wireless Telecommunications Bureau has the oversight of the Amateur Radio Service," Cross said. "We handle the day-to-day administration of the Amateur Service and some of the rulemaking activities that affect the Amateur Radio Service. The Gettysburg office handles applications, licensing -- including vanity calls -- and the ULS. Within the Commission, other bureaus also make rules that affect you. The Office of Engineering and Technology handles spectrum allocations and equipment issues. Our Managing Director's Office is the office that handles matters relating to fees, such as the fees relating to vanity call signs, Debt Collection Improvement Act matters, the need for Federal Registration Numbers."

Calling the past year "interesting, because it has been a quiet year on the regulatory front," he said that no big rulemaking items were released. "This being an election year, there doesn't seem to be any legislation on Capitol Hill that is of direct interest or impact on the Amateur Service. This year is a good time for Amateur Radio to be flying 'below the radar,' and that's where ham radio is right now in terms of the big picture -- below the radar," Cross said. "We wrapped up a couple of Petitions for Rulemaking [PRM] that were pending and it doesn't look like (at least in the near future) there will be anything else coming out."

Cross mentioned that there are "some things coming down the pike that you want to keep track of. The ARRL has a pending petition -- RM 11325 -- that requests that we amend the rules that apply to the power stations may use when transmitting spread-spectrum emissions -- BPL. The DC Circuit Court of Appeals remanded the FCC's final BPL rules. The Court did not vacate the rules, so they are still in effect. There will be another proceeding to address what the Court told the Commission it had to address."

The Northern California Packet Association has filed a request for clarification that the FCC define what is meant by the term "simultaneously" as it is used when defining a repeater. "The issue here is that in California," Cross explained, "D-STAR repeaters have been coordinated on channels that are set aside for auxiliary stations, on the basis that, because there is a delay in retransmission of the signal, the retransmission is not simultaneous, and therefore the repeating station is not a repeater." Cross said others have advanced what he calls "the duck argument: If the station looks like a repeater, if it functions like a repeater, and it sounds like a repeater, it should be treated as a repeater -- and confined to the repeater sub-bands. A decision on this will be coming [from the Commission] shortly."

When Hollingsworth stepped up to the podium, he spoke about what he called "the magic of radio," saying, "we need to realize the debt we owe to those who work so hard to further the goals of Amateur Radio, whether it's the Emergency Communications participants, club members, teachers, VEs, the League. One of the richest rewards in doing something is to experience joy in doing it. And with so many people working so hard on their own time to further the goals of Amateur Radio, we're all a little more free to enjoy radio and to make it fun as well as a public service."

Saying that "things have calmed down a lot in the Amateur Radio Service," Hollingsworth explained, "[that] when it comes to the Amateur Radio Service, there's one enforcement tool we need very badly and we just don't have it -- and that's straitjackets," he deadpanned, eliciting guffaws from the crowd of more than 150 people. "Some days I want to ask, 'Why can't everybody just get along?'"

Hollingsworth noted that since the 75 and 80 meter phone band has been expanded, "a lot of these regular small groups, ragchews and some of the Nets should consider "spreading out, because a lot of the regular operations every night are clumped together. Yes, there are still interference issues and interference allegations, but if everybody would spread out a little bit, now, it's going to take a real change of habit by a group that has used the same frequency for

40 years to talk across the state, but you really need to spread out and take advantage [of the band] expansion."

He also noted that interest in Morse code "seems to be higher than ever before." On the enforcement side, Hollingsworth said he has noticed "no difference in enforcement problems related to no-code, and I think I'm seeing more young people at events that I go to." He reminded audience that only 1 percent of Amateur Radio licensees filed comments in the Morse code Proceeding. "I see the new code keys for sale here, and I always see a big crowd of people around anything related to code or code keyers. I think the interest has really peaked."

Calling for "more courtesy" on the Amateur Radio bands, Hollingsworth said, "This fighting amongst yourselves is the worst thing that you can do. You have some rude operators and operators who don't care and who are hateful and bitter about life in general, but every group has that, whether it's doctors, electricians, lawyers, plumbers, whatever, every group has a certain percentage of people like that. What you have to do is to remind yourself every day to stay on the high road and report to us if you can't resolve a problem after you've given it a chance to go away. There are plenty of ugly situations in the world and you don't have to add to them. Now, there are a few idiots in your Service who know all the answers, only because they haven't thought of all the questions. They just want recognition and reaction. Don't give it to them. Don't be baited. Don't feel insulted -- they are their own worst punishment. Don't dignify them with a response."

Hollingsworth implored the audience to "never let the Commission get by again with handing you 10 to 12 years of neglect. You have to stay vigilant. Even though the bands may sound better to you, you have to be vigilant to protect your Service, and be part of the solution -- not the problem -- and operate as if the whole world is listening, because generally it is."

You can listen to the FCC Forum in its entirety on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/news/images/nms/other/FCCForumMP3.mp3>.

=====



Contribute to the Newsletter or suffer the consequences!

Tell me what you have done recently, or not so recently: been to a convention, worked a contest, worked some new DX, bought or built some new gear, put up a new antenna, upgraded your license, got some interesting QSL cards from the bureau. Send a photo of your station, preferably with you in the photo, at home, camping, or wherever. Scan or photograph that nice QSL card you just received, or contest certificate, or special event certificate. Send a list of your favorite websites or your own personal website address for others to browse.