



PUSH TO TALK

Push to Talk is the monthly newsletter of the Inland Empire Amateur Radio Club, an ARRL Special Service Club. Past issues are available on the club website <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. Check out our 2-meter Trivia Net Tuesday nights at 7:00 pm.

John Simmons KQ6ES, Editor kq6es@roadrunner.com

GENERAL MEETING

Our Holiday Party on December 6 takes the place of our usual meeting. The next regular meeting will be January 3 at our normal time and location: 9 am on the first Saturday of the month in the Ontario PFF Bank meeting room, 333 N. Euclid Avenue at D Street.

SWAPMEET HELP NEEDED!!

The next IEARC swap meet is December 13. The regular schedule is the second Saturday morning of each month in the parking lot of Cable Airport in Upland <http://www.cableairport.com/>. Enter from Benson Avenue at 13th Street. Volunteers are always welcome.

IEARC OFFICERS FOR 2009

President	Dave Degroff KI6NZX
Vice President	Frank Decuire K6FED
Secretary	Lane Kinder KC6WGH
Treasurer	Cliff Wickey N6CTW
Board Member	John Yocum K6JGY
	Liz Simmons WD9CKM
	Ian Venables KI6IES

IEARC OFFICERS FOR 2008

President	Chuck Sweeten AI6I
Vice President	Bob Burnap KE6QET
Secretary	John Simmons KQ6ES
Treasurer	Cliff Wickey N6CTW
Board Member	Jon Herber, KR6ER
	Liz Simmons WD9CKM
	Ian Venable KI6IES



Southern California Fires –
from the ARRL ARES E-Letter,
November 26,
2008



The Hospital Disaster Support Communications System (HDSCS) <<http://www.hdscs.org>>, a specialty ARES group of Orange County near Los Angeles, aided hospitals during wildfire-related evacuations. Shortly before noon on Saturday, November 15, a wildfire broke out northeast of Brea-Olinda High School, possibly sparked by embers from the Freeway Complex Fire that had been burning near the 91 Freeway at Green River since 9 AM that day. A threat to Kindred Brea Hospital caused HDSCS to be activated and members checked in. At 2:45 PM, as the HDSCS operators were in place and in communication with the HDSCS net from Kindred Brea, a page was received from St. Jude hospital and a call came in from Placentia Linda hospital requesting Amateur Radio operators. St. Jude was receiving heavy smoke and had gone on diversion status. Placentia-Linda had been advised that it might receive chronic pulmonary patients from skilled nursing facilities. HDSCS members were immediately sent from the net to these facilities. A member also went to the Orange County Emergency Medical Services Agency's Operations Center.

At 3:15 PM, a decision was made to close and evacuate Kindred Brea Hospital, moving 36 patients by ambulance to four other Kindred hospitals in Orange and Los Angeles Counties. Ten of these patients were on ventilators. HDSCS operators assisted with communications during the evacuation and the HDSCS net kept officials at Emergency Medical Services Agency informed of the situation. All patients were under way by 6 PM.

Amateur Radio communications continued at Placentia Linda Hospital until 6:20 PM and at St. Jude Hospital throughout the night until 2 PM the next day.



ARESLAX and Sylmar Fire, November 15, 2008 -- At 2:58 AM ARESLAX <<http://www.ARESLAX.org>> received a call from the county requesting ARESLAX emergency support at Olive View Hospital. The hospital experienced a power and telephone outage and it was reported that a patient evacuation was imminent. Marty Woll, N6VI, and Tom Turner, KI6CCW, were immediately dispatched. Olester Santos, KI6RWR, Jim Curio, KI6FGV, Wyatt Underwood, K6LZL, and Los Angeles Section Emergency coordinator Dennis Smith, KA6GSE <ka6gse@sbcglobal.net>, provided net and operational support.

At this time, the media was reporting that the city's power system sustained damage. The public was being requested to reduce power usage in order to avoid power outages. Planned rolling power outages were possibly to occur. ARESLAX planned on an immediate hospital deployment. Emergency Coordinators were requested to monitor their hospitals' status and the general area's Amateur Radio need. No ARES member was to deploy without authorization and

proper instructions.

ARESLAX provided emergency net services, operated over the DARN repeater system. The net exchanged fire observations with communications and power outage reports in and around Los Angeles County. Information was used to activate ARES and any other participating emergency Amateur Radio groups. For more information about ARESLAX and its net frequencies: <<http://www.ARESLAX.org>> (Source: David Greenhut, N6HD, DEC ARESLAX NorthWest)

WorldRadio to end Print Publication – from the ARRL Contest Update November 26, 2008

CQ Communications, Inc has acquired WorldRadio magazine. CQ, based in Hicksville, New York, currently publishes CQ Amateur Radio, CQ VHF and Popular Communications magazines. WorldRadio had been published monthly since July, 1971 with a primary focus on the human side of ham radio. CQ, a general-interest ham radio magazine best known for its support of DXing and contesting, has been in print since January, 1945. Current plans call for WorldRadio to continue to be published online as part of the CQ family of magazines, with Editor Nancy Kott, WZ8C, continuing in that position. WorldRadio subscribers will also have their subscriptions transferred to CQ magazine.

ARRL to Offer Self-Study Course on Digital Technology for Emergency Communications – from the ARRL ARES E-Letter, November 26, 2008

With digital technology becoming an integral part of Amateur Radio, hams interested in Emergency Communications have a new tool to help them take advantage of emerging modes such as Packet Radio APRS, Winlink 2000, IRLP, EchoLink and WIRES-II, D-STAR, APCO25, HF sound card modes Automatic Link Establishment (ALE). The ARRL Digital Technology for Emergency Communications Course will introduce hams to all of the ways Amateur Radio operators are using digital technology as a valuable emergency communications tool.

HIDDEN TRANSMITTER CHALLENGE

Here's an email forwarded to me by Derek KN6TD.

Subject: [PicoDopp] GeoHunt

I have installed a semi-permanent hidden transmitter (a Squawkbox with 2.5AH of battery and a 1.5W solar panel) in the LA Basin area. The purpose is to attract would-be Transmitter hunters to try to find it and to make it sorta like a GeoCache. It is supported by the www.thunter.org web page. Look for it on 146.565 MHz. It is running a 20 second voice comment every 3 minutes. It can be heard on the 5 FWY from Costa Mesa to Pasadena, on Palos Verdes and Griffith Park and many other places. It started at 8 AM Nov 22, 2008 and will continue until it has been found by a bunch or breaks. Don't just sit there, go find it and sign in...
Bob, WB6JPI



DÉJÀ VU ALL OVER AGAIN?

These are extracts from letters to the editors of QST. Sometimes they wail about changes, or they ask for change, sometimes they predict the end of ham radio. They all sound familiar.

The incessant “jamming” going on every evening to duly licensed stations by those getting their “kicks” will certainly, eventually, ruin ham radio and put us off the air.

This is an old problem, and this prediction from March 1974 probably wasn't the first time anyone was upset about malicious interference. But we're still on the air.



With the energy crisis fully upon us, isn't it time for all radio amateurs to do their part? I recommend all hams QRP their rigs to a maximum of 200 watts or less.

This sounds like 2008, but it's from January 1974 when the first energy crunch doubled the price of gas to around 70 cents a gallon! I wonder who turned down their amps?

Whatever you do don't let those 'phone men get into the 40m band, or for that matter don't give them more than what they already have.

February 1952. Since then, those 'phone men have done well. Today they have almost 60% of the bands. Has widening the phone bands ruined ham radio?

I have only this comment to make – my Amateur Extra Class radio license . . . so proudly conspicuously displayed over my operating table is now relegated to the junk pile.

What made this operator so unhappy? It was when General Class licensees were given phone privileges. The letter is from April 1953. He felt he had earned his microphone by becoming an Extra, and that his license was cheapened by giving others some of the same privileges without the same effort. There was a similar upset when the “No-Code” Technician Class was created, and when Morse testing was dropped.

It is the beginning of the end. But I have had 41 years of fun. All of my equipment goes up for sale today, and believe me, the door won't slam my ass.

From April 2004 when the most recent licensing changes were proposed. It sounds a lot like the letter from 1953, doesn't it.

The writer, after about ten years of messing around with radio, has one of the largest collections of junk to be seen anywhere.

This one is from September 1936! Hams haven't changed much!



CONTESTS

SELECTED DECEMBER CONTESTS

See the December QST or go to <http://www.hornucopia.com> for additional contests and details.

ARRL 160 Meter Contest (CW only)	2200Z, Dec 5 to 1559Z, Dec 9
ARRL 10 Meter Contest (Mixed Mode)	0000Z, Dec 13 to 2359Z, Dec 14
RAC Winter Contest (Mixed Mode)	0000Z, Dec 27 to 2359Z, Dec 27
Stew Perry Top Band Distance Challenge	1500Z, Dec 27 to 1500Z, Dec 28 (160m CW only)

FIELD DAY RESULTS PUBLISHED

The December QST includes the Field Day results. Go to page 73 and look about a third of the way down the second column, or go to the ARRL web site and check under contests. I submitted a score of 1,120, but we were given 1,122. Was my arithmetic wrong or did we get a special 2 point bonus?

KQ6ES Phone Sweepstakes Report



The Sweepstakes is not everyone's favorite contest. The long exchange has a lot to do with it: for my first contact I sent: Kilo 4 Whiskey India 1 Alpha KQ6ES 96 Orange.

I like that long exchange: it tells me where the station is, when they were licensed, how well they are doing, their power, and other things of interest to me. I enjoy hunting for all 80 ARRL/RAC sections for the "Sweep" which is a difficult challenge for many of us. I fell short again this year, with 75, but set a personal record for phone contacts in any contest (374), worked all 50 states in a phone contest for the first time, and was happy to hear 15m open coast to coast for several hours. For some reason, southern California sections were difficult to chase down, whether you were inside or out of the state. Several stations were happy to hear my "Orange" exchange late Saturday afternoon. "Aha!" said one, "the section with 'appeal'". Groan! A hopeful sign is that about 10 percent of the stations I worked were licensed after I was (January 1996) – this is much higher than expected. Several others reported a similar experience this year.

The Year of the State QSO Party Award – from the ARRL website

This nice award can be earned by every operator with HF and a little patience. Simple antennas and 100 watts will do the job.

In recognition of the organizations that sponsor State QSO Parties and to encourage all hams to participate in these exciting on-the-air activities, The ARRL announces the Year Of the State QSO Party Award for 2009! This award is available to any amateur that makes a contact with stations participating in their own State or Regional QSO Party during 2009.

Similar to collecting US state quarters, the downloadable, 8-1/2" x 11" certificate has blanks for state flag stickers from all fifty states. The stickers are available as a page of graphic images that can be printed on a sheet of standard labels, Avery label type 5160. As you make QSOs in each state, the appropriate flag is attached to the certificate, until all of the states have been worked.



For a schedule of State and regional QSO Parties, see WA7BNM's Contest Calendar Web site at www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/stateparties.html. After the final State QSO Party is held in November, a list of stations having worked all 50 states in either their state or regional QSO party will be posted here. No endorsements or recognition will be posted, only call signs in alphabetical order.

See <http://www.arrl.org/awards/ysqso/> for the complete rules of this award.

Another ARRL operating award new for 2009 is the Triple Play Award. The July 25 2008 ARRL Letter carried the announcement.



The Board voted to create a Triple Play Award. This new award, set to be implemented by January 2009, will be given to those amateurs who achieve Worked All States (WAS) on voice, CW and digital modes. All 150 QSLs must be exclusively via Logbook of The World (LoTW). Only those contacts made after the awards start date will be eligible.

New Slow Speed CW Practice Net
by Bob Grubic, NC6Q

There is a new Slow Speed CW Practice Net on HF to encourage the use of Morse code and to provide an opportunity to practice CW operating skills for hams in the greater Long Beach area. It meets Friday nights at 7:30 P.M. (except on the 1st Friday of the month). This Net meets on 28.130 MHz (plus or minus QRM)—open to all class licenses. It is a slow speed net of around 12 wpm with lots of extra space between characters and words. All stations are welcomed no matter what (slow) speed. We are happy to slow down to accommodate you. There is no

membership requirement, no dues, no club affiliation, no meetings, no problems. Check in when your schedule permits.

This Net has been structured to provide practice for operators with a wide range of CW abilities from the raw beginner to the more accomplished operator. It can be used only for copying practice (a script outline is provided) or as an active Net to which stations check in to share news and comments and even hook up with other operators for separate QSO's after the Net.

This Net is sponsored by the Associated Radio Amateurs of Long Beach (ARALB). Please become familiar with the Net rules before checking in. Those rules and procedures can be found on the club website at www.aralb.org in pdf format and www.nc6q.com for easy download and printing. They have been adapted and modified from several other CW Nets whose websites can be found in an ample list of references. Many thanks to all of them and to those who contributed via email.

The format of the Net is as follows: Preamble, Check in, Out-Stations' News/Comments, Announcement, Closing. Possible options for after the Net are: to QSY to a 440 repeater (449.78 - PL 131.9) or 2 meter simplex frequency (145.52) to chat or ask questions about the Net (this would be indicated during the Closing), or for a station to call another station and QSY up or down in frequency to hold their own QSO at whatever speed they choose. So, dust off your key, put up a 10 meter dipole, and check it out. Please direct questions or comments to Bob Grubic, NC6Q, nc6q@arrl.net.



KP5 EXPEDITION APPROVED – from the ARRL website

Dates Set for DXpedition to Desecheo Island -- The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has notified a group of hams led by veteran DXpeditioners Bob Allphin, K4UEE, and Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, that they will be able to mount a DXpedition to Desecheo Island (KP5, IOTA NA-095), February 12-26, 2009. Desecheo currently sits at number 7 on *DX*



Magazine's Most Wanted list. Desecheo is a small uninhabited island in the Mona Passage, 14 miles off the western coast of Puerto Rico. It is part of the USFWS's national wildlife refuge system administered by the Caribbean National Wildlife Refuge Complex (CNWR). The DXpedition website is www.kp5.us

"Hashafisti Scratchi" a Silent Key – information from an email by W6PH.

The man who wrote "Scratchi" for CQ magazine is a Silent Key. George H. Floyd, Jr., WA4DGA (ex-W2RYT), of Lynchburg, Virginia, entertained thousands of his fellow hams for more than two decades -- between 1947 and 1971 -- writing as a politically-incorrect (by today's standards) Japanese-American ham with fractured English and contorted spelling. He wrote from "Feenix, Ariz.," began each column with "Deer Hon. Ed.," and regularly skewered the pomposity and poor operating practices he encountered on the air. He passed away November 22 at the age of 91. CQ Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, writing in the magazine's 50th anniversary issue in January, 1995, said: "For many years the name Hashafisti Scratchi has been almost synonymous with confusion and consternation in amateur radio... As saddened as I am to learn of George's death, the mere mention of his name brings a smile to my face, knowing how his good humor and wonderfully creative imagination entertained so many of us for so many years."

Here's a taste of that bygone era, from CQ magazine December 1952

SCRATCHI

Feenix, Ariz

Deer Hon. Ed:

Merry Noel, Hon. Ed., and are you for a white Xmas wishing? As all smart gentlefellows know, Sandy Claws season are abouts at hand, and Scratchi's Xmas problems are completely out of same. The same it is every Xmas – money. Every year I hoping for radio equipment. I even rite long letters to Hon. Relatives, wishing them cheer, and explaining how Scratchi madly needing new kilowhat final toob, or sum such thing, and every year same Hon. Relatives are sending me neckties, handkercheeves, and tubsful of shaving lotion. Of that stuff are having enuf to smelling up hole state of Arizona.

Your input is encouraged. Don't make me work so hard to fill this up every month.
Don't be a Newsletter Grinch. Contribute!
John kq6es Editor

