



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.

John Simmons KQ6ES, Editor kq6es@roadrunner.com

GENERAL MEETING

The next regular meeting will be March 7 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 March 14. The regular schedule is the second Saturday morning of each month in the parking lot of Cable Airport in Upland. Gates open at 6 am. <http://www.cableairport.com>. Enter from Benson Avenue at 13th Street. Volunteers are always welcome.

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CONTESTS

SELECTED MARCH CONTESTS

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

North Carolina QSO Party	1700Z, Mar 1 to 0300Z, Mar 2
ARRL International DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 7 to 2400Z, Mar 8
Idaho QSO Party	1900Z, Mar 14 to 1900Z, Mar 15
North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z to 0400Z, Mar 15
Wisconsin QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 15 to 0100Z, Mar 16
Russian DX Contest	1200Z, Mar 21 to 1200Z, Mar 22
North Dakota QSO Party	1700Z, Mar 21 to 0100Z, Mar 22
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 28 to 2400Z, Mar 29

KQ6ES Contest Reports

ARRL International DX Contest CW

There was a lot to do that weekend but I found time for 229 contacts – even three on 10m. There's still a lot of DX to work even with no sunspots.

Report your contest activity!

Please let me know if you participated in any contests!

ARRL Sweepstakes and RTTY Roundup Set New Records – ARRL web site

The lack of good HF propagation didn't seem to affect participation in the 2008 Sweepstakes or the 2009 RTTY Roundup contests. According to ARRL Contest Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, both contests were record-breaking events. "We have received 3298 logs for the November SSB and CW Sweeps combined in 2008," Kutzko said. "That is -- at bare minimum -- a 5 year high. The 2009 RTTY Roundup in January saw 1564 entries, also a 5 year high." Kutzko said he attributes some of the increase to the hoopla surrounding the 75th running of Sweepstakes: "The excitement over the new Triple Play Award was likely a large factor in the RTTY Roundup increase. Interest in contesting in general is on the rise."

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from the ARRL website <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/01/27/10596/?nc=1>

Amateur Radio Operations to Begin Again on Midway Atoll



The USFWS has announced that it will allow amateurs to operate from Midway Atoll for two weeks this October. Midway is located in the North Pacific Ocean, approximately 1250 miles northwest of Honolulu. This the first time that USFWS has allowed amateurs to operate from the wildlife refuge since 2002. The USFWS started a program earlier this month to encourage visitors to experience Midway's wildlife, history and culture, as well as non-wildlife-dependent activities -- including Amateur Radio.

"Radio operation will be allowed only within a designated area on the north side of Sand Island and the use of portable generators will not be permitted," said Midway Atoll Refuge Manager Matt D. Brown. "There is 120 V power available at the operation site. Any modifications to the island power grid/infrastructure must be approved in advance and be paid for entirely by the radio operators." All participants will be required to attend a refuge orientation shortly after arrival that is designed to enhance visitor safety, wildlife protection and overall enjoyment of the wildlife refuge.

"Although determined to be a wildlife-compatible activity," Brown said, "this opportunity is being conducted on a trial basis." Brown has the authority to discontinue the activity at any time, based on wildlife protection and conservation goals.

Laura L. Smith Named to Amateur Radio Enforcement Role

Laura L. Smith of Pennsylvania has been named by the FCC to fill the vacancy created when Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, retired in 2008 after 10 years as Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau.

A 1990 graduate of the Pepperdine University School of Law, Smith began her legal career with the FCC, working in the Mass Media Bureau and Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. She also served as Deputy Division Chief of the Public Safety and Private Wireless Division.

In 1998, Smith left the FCC to become Executive Director of Governmental Affairs for the Industrial Telecommunications Association (ITA), now Enterprise Wireless Alliance. In that role, she monitored FCC and legislative proceedings and participated in all regulatory proceedings relevant to the private wireless industry. In 2001, Smith became ITA's President and Chief Executive Officer.

ARRL Expands Member Access to QST Archive

ARRL is pleased to announce that online access to the QST archive will be expanded. Beginning February 1, 2009, ARRL members will be able to search and view QST -- from December 1915 through December 2005 right from their computer. With an additional year -- 2005 -- added to the viewable archive, this valuable benefit is available to all ARRL members.

Southern California DX Club March meeting presentation

"Please see the attached invitation to the March 2009 Southern CA DX Club meeting. I would appreciate it if you would publicize this event to your membership through your newsletter... Our meetings are open to all amateurs and our programs have broad appeal to the ham community. Please direct any comments to Arnie Shatz, N6HC, Vice-President, SCDXC at n6hc@aol.com

Best regards, Arnie N6HC"

"The Southern California DX Club would like to invite you to our 7:30 PM Thursday evening meeting on March 12, 2009. The meeting is held at the Syd Kronenthal Park recreation center located in Culver City, CA. Please visit our web site at <http://www.scdxc.org> for directions to the meeting place and a map of the area.

Our featured speaker will be Bob Grimmick, N6OX, who will tell us about his recent adventures in Tunisia on the TS7C Dxpedition. Bob is an experienced Dxpeditioner and a very engaging speaker. He will regale us with interesting insights into this internationally staffed operation from North Africa and entertain us with beautiful photos of his trip.

Many of our club members gather before the meeting for dinner at the Roll 'n Rye deli at 10990 Jefferson Blvd., Culver City, California 90230. Telephone (310) 390-3497. Come join us to swap tall tales or learn of someone's latest exploit over the repast of your choice.

If you have any questions about this event, please contact Arnie Shatz, N6HC n6hc@aol.com.

The Dxers of Southern California are looking forward to seeing you at our March meeting. Don't miss it!

Interesting Site



**Vintage Classic
Microphones**
<http://k9toa.net/>

Save the Date: ARRL National Convention to be Held at 2009 Dayton Hamvention

The ARRL National Convention will be held at the Dayton Hamvention May 15-17 at Hara Arena. The centerpiece of ARRL's convention planning is ARRL EXPO -- a huge showcase of ARRL program representatives and activities. Many new exhibits are being planned, with special focus on operating and project-building. A preview of what is planned for ARRL EXPO can be found at the ARRL EXPO Web site.

All who join the ARRL or renew their membership at the Hamvention will receive a free gift.

Personnel from the ARRL DXCC Branch will be on hand to check DX cards and applications.

A special event operating station is planned, so be sure to have a copy of your license on hand -- get in the hot seat of W1AW/8 and get on the air!

Drop by the exhibit area to meet vintage equipment photographer Joe Veras, K9OCO. He will be autographing his new book, 50 Years of Amateur Radio Innovation, recently published by ARRL.

"If you can't make it to Dayton," Inderbitzen said, "you can still catch all the latest news on the Convention's Weblog. QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, will once again be blogging about the Hamvention.

The ARRL will introduce a new blog at this year's National Convention: ARRL Youth Editor Duncan MacLachlan, KU0DM, will blog from a young ham's perspective.



A new Free Ham Radio Podcast for Hams by Hams



Dear Fellow Amateur,
I hope you won't mind me contacting you, however I wanted to tell you about a new free Podcast (broadcast), by amateur operators for amateur operators— The ICQ Amateur/Ham Radio Podcast. If you don't know what a Podcast is, it's an audio file which has been compressed into MP3 digital format. These files can then be played on a MP3 Player, a computer, or some CD players that can read this format direct from a disc.

My son Colin and I have decided to record a fortnightly Amateur Radio Podcast called ICQ Podcast. The aim of the podcast is to help new entrants to the hobby like Colin to learn and understand the technical detail to attain their license, while providing experienced operators with a combination of news, reviews, opinions, upcoming events, features and reports. The podcast is recorded for amateurs and including amateurs.

Previous episodes have covered topics including operating on holiday in Cyprus, an introduction to building an 80m SSB Kit and microphone modifications and new product reviews. We have also hosted roundtable discussions reviewing 2008 for Ham radio and a newbie roundtable discussing their enjoyment of their new hobby. We are looking for other contributors to become involved. If you are interested, please e-mail info@icqpodcast.com

If you would like to find out more please visit our website at <http://www.icqpodcast.com> or search iTunes for "icqpodcast" (or add to iTunes - <http://phobos.apple.com/WebObjects/MZStore.woa/wa/viewPodcast?id=284922000>) and download an episode or two.

How Can I Get Involved?



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If you enjoy our podcast, sign-up on the ICQ Podcast website to receive the latest news and get an early notice when a new podcast is released. Upon registration, you can access and post to the ICQ Podcast forum. This section is growing daily, and includes an interesting discussion on antennas by some recently licensed amateurs. Visit <http://theaerialattic.icqpodcast.com> to read this forum

Get Involved & Promote Yourself

If you have an event to promote, a new idea, or need a shameless plug of a website, report or book, we want to hear from you. Contributors to the ICQ Podcast have been amazed as to how little time is required to record an interview. If you're not comfortable being recorded, let us do the work for you! Let us know what you/your club is doing by emailing info@icqpodcast.com

Thank you for your time.

Martin Butler

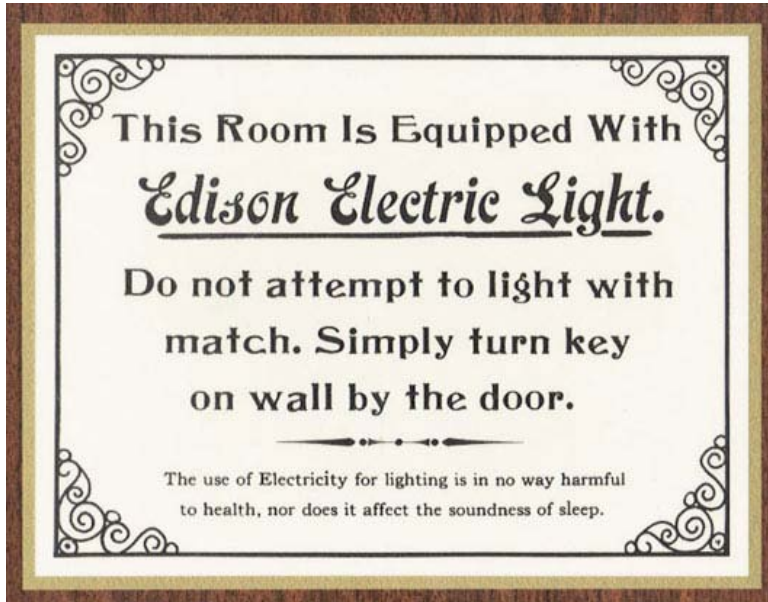
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Desecheo DXpedition Ends <http://www.kp5.us/>

Statistics	SSB	CW	RTTY	Band
Mode	51,819	57,317	6,589	115,725

Just one CW contact (30m) and one SSB contact (20m) for me in this one.

Featured Web Site – The Spark Museum <http://www.sparkmuseum.com>



Edison lamp 1879



Hertz Resonator 1890



Early Collins Wireless Telephone



Volta Pile, early 19th century

From the ARRL Contest Update

John AE5X recently completed a series of comparative tests between Panasonic's new Oxyride and Duracell's alkaline batteries at various temperatures. Charts for the [Oxyride](#) and [Duracell](#) batteries at 5, 40, and 70 °F are posted. This is good information as you plan your next mobile run or expedition to a vacation contest site.

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Pacificon 2009 to be hosted by EMCOMMWEST, May 1 - 3, at Circus Circus Hotel, Reno, NV

Bob Vallio, W6RGG, Director, Pacific Division

On February 15, I learned that the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club had decided not to sponsor the Pacificon Convention this year. They have done an outstanding job of running Pacificon every year since 1992, and this decision was made by their Pacificon Committee, based on the current economic downturn, and unsuccessful negotiations with the host hotel. Realizing the difficulty of finding a replacement for the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club, that with an experienced committee spends nearly a year planning this successful event, I decided to contact EMCOMMWEST, the second largest Amateur Radio Convention in the Pacific Division. They very kindly accepted, knowing the marriage of the two events would require an expansion of program matter, and the addition of Friday presentations. I am truly grateful to the entire EMCOMMWEST team for their decision. The Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club has been very supportive of this effort, and is making all of their speaker, vendor, and organizational information available to the EMCOMMWEST team. The keynote speaker will be Steve Ewald, WV1X, Field Organization Supervisor from ARRL HQ; and the banquet speaker will be Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, who was in charge of Amateur Radio rules enforcement at the FCC when he retired. I hope many of you will be able to attend this year's Pacificon. More information is available at <pacificon.org>.

See you at EMCOMMWEST/Pacificon!

Thanks and 73

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See you next month

73 from kq6es and the editorial staff

