



The San Fernando Valley Amateur Radio Club

Volume 56 Number 02 February 2011

President's QRM

Our next Monthly Meeting will be on February 18th, at the Northridge Hospital, at the usual time and place. It will be a busy meeting, so be sure to attend.

Activities will include the following:

Main Speaker: David Ziskin, AG6E, has been the Chief Radio Operator/Electronics Support Officer on many ships. Lately, he has been working on a Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute research vessel investigating changes in the salinity, density and temperature of sea water from the mouth of the Amazon River to the Barbados Islands. He also recently worked on a Military Sealift Command ship providing communications and electronics support to our military in the Haiti earthquake relief operations. When home, he volunteers his services as Chief Radio Officer/ Electronics Specialist on the SS Lane Victory.

Next Speaker: If time permits, Bernard Falkin will show slides of and talk about his recent trip to the Las Vegas Consumer Electronics Show. The latest in consumer electronics - such as I-pads, I-phones and I-pods - are typically introduced to the public at this annual convention.

2011 Membership Renewals. As of this date, 92 people have renewed their 2011 club membership. If you have not renewed, then please do so at the next meeting. If you are not able to attend, then fill out the attached membership form, on page 5, and mail it with your check to the Club post office box.

The next Monthly Luncheon will be on Saturday, February 12th, at Rosie's BBO and Grillery, which is located at 9012 Tampa Ave., Northridge. Lunch will start at 11:30 am. Don't be late!

Be sure to continue looking the our Club Website at "W6SD.net." Bernard Falkin KG6FBM, keeps improving it month-to-month. If you have any new or updated information, please let him know.

I am sure you have noticed that the refreshment at the monthly meeting are improving. In addition to regular coffee, there is hot water for decaffeinated coffee, tea, and hot chocolate. Cookies or some other snacks are also provided.

Grant K6KLP

Next **SFVARC Club Meeting**

Friday, February 18
at 7:30pm

Northridge Hospital
Penthouse

18300 Roscoe Blvd,
Northridge, CA 91325

San Fernando Valley
Amateur Radio Club
ARRL Affiliated Club #1684

W6SD

ARRL Special Service Club
P.O. Box 280517
Northridge, CA 91328

The San Fernando Valley Amateur Radio Club, Inc (SFVARC) is an organization interested in Amateur Radio as a hobby. The SFVARC is affiliated with the American Radio Relay League and the Los Angeles Council of Amateur Radio Clubs, Inc. Members of the Club conduct licensing classes on a continuing basis. Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is invited to attend our monthly meetings.

Club Officers

President
Grant Abbott, K6KLP
k6klp @ arrl.net
818 709-8218

Executive Vice President
Ray Solis, K16QME
raymond.solis @ csun.edu

Membership Vice President
Steve Wardlaw
kn6y @ arrl.net

Planning Vice President
John Campeau, AD6KT
JCampeau @ social.rr.com

Technical Vice President
Don Pettric, WG6H
wg6h @ arrl.net

Secretary
Jack Eyster, KO6V
mr.eyster @ gmail.com

Treasurer
Allan Gaynor, W6IST
w6ist @ aol.com

Station Trustee
Bill Stein, KC6T
bill_91326 @ verizon.net

W6SD Carrier Editor/ Website Manager
Bernard Falkin, KG6FBM
kg6fbm @ bflocks.com

ARES Liason / Delegate to LAACARC
Steve Wardlaw, KN6Y
kn6y @ arrl.net

W6SD Carrier Circulation Staff
Elaine and Dennis Nolan, KD6PLU

ARRL Awards, WAS Checker
Ray Johnson, AD6KQ
ad6kq @ dslextrreme.com
818 346-6892

POSTINGS AND NOTICES

Monthly Meetings: Third Friday of the month, 7:30 p.m. at Northridge Hospital (18300 Roscoe Blvd, Northridge). Most Club activities take place at the Fifth Floor Penthouse, **but we may be assigned other rooms from time to time.**
Signs will be posted at the Penthouse elevator if there is such a change.

Board Meetings: The 4th Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m., Northridge Hospital, Garden Room. These are open meetings and all members are welcome to attend!
Club Station W6SD: Located at Northridge Hospital. Available to members Wednesdays, 7-10 p.m. Contact Grant Abbott K6KLP (818-709-8218) for details.
World Wide Web Site: <http://www.w6sd.net>

Club Nets:

- 2 meter simplex: Tuesdays, 8 p.m. on 145.570 MHz.

Net Control: Varies

- 10 meter: Wednesdays, 8 p.m. on 28.310 MHz +/- QRM in the Upper Side Band Mode

Net Control: The Net Control Operators are Jim Sullivan WB6TNF, Phil Reiber KJ6ZI, John Campeau AD6KT, and Johnnie Spotts W6HTY.

- 2 meter repeater: Thursdays, 8 p.m., on the Magic Mountain Repeater (147.735 - MHz) or Duck Mountain (147.24 + MHz) if Magic is unavailable.

Net Control: The Net Control Operators are Phil Reiber, KJ6ZI, and Ted Mattock, KE6EIT.

6th District DX QSL Bureau: The 6th District DX QSL Bureau has now moved to Weed, CA. The Bureau prefers that you purchase envelopes from them (\$.60 each, including postage) Contact the Bureau at P.O. Box 530, Weed, CA 96094-0530 or visit their web page at <http://www.kqlz.com/qslbureau6.html>

Ham Exams: Held at the Northridge Hospital, on the first Saturday of February, April, June, August, October and December. **Registration starts at 8 a.m., and testing starts at 9 a.m. Absolutely no one admitted to the testing room after 9 a.m!** You do not have to be a Club member to take an examination. There is a \$4 examination fee. Also, if you are upgrading your license, please bring your original license, a copy of your license, and originals and copies of any "Certificates of Completion". For more information, call Bill Miller, K6NEQ at 818-368-4438. In all other months, exams are conducted by the Santa Clarita Amateur Radio Club; contact Ron Klein, K6VPV at 661-259-0948

Newsletter Contributions: Please contact Bernard Falkin, KG6FBM [kg6fbm @ bflocks.com](mailto:kg6fbm@bflocks.com) if you have anything for the newsletter.

The opinions expressed in the W6SD Carrier are solely those of the editor or other contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of either the Board of Directors or membership of the SFVARC.

Monthly Luncheon

I heard we had a good crowd again at the lunch in January.

Let's continue that into February. We will be going to Rosie's BBQ Grillery, 9012 Tampa Ave, Northridge. 818/349-3055.

See you there on February 12, at 11:30am.

Elaine

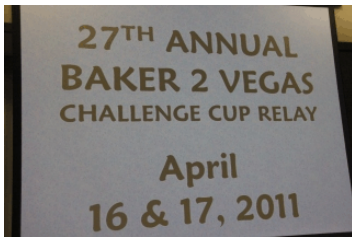
Simplex Net Reminder

Two meter simplex:
Tuesdays, 8 p.m.
on
145.570 MHZ,
Jim, WB6TNF

MEMBERSHIP FOR JAN 2011

The San Fernando Valley Amateur Radio Club has a great presence in more than just Northridge. Our membership as we stand today 1/31/2011 is at 89. We have about 35 members "at large" probably just awaiting a reminder.

Well, your DUES ARE DUE!



Joy Matlack KD6FJV
562-644-6850
rbvcom1@b2v.org
www.b2v.org

Thank You



Joy Matlack, KD6FJV spoke at our January meeting about the Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay. She asked for all licensed HAM's to volunteer and help out.

For more information, go to www.b2v.org or email her at: rbvcom1@b2v.org



Next, we had Eugene Swiech, WB9COY, speak on a D-Star program for Baker to Vegas that can read the RFID chips and transmit the data via a digipeater onto the Internet so anyone can follow the runners during the race.



Northridge VE Schedule for 2011

The test session registration is from 8:00 am until 9:00 am. Anyone arriving after 9:00 will be turned away. Time limit to take a test is 90 minutes. Exams will be held in the fifth floor Penthouse of the north building (Carol Pump building) of the Northridge Hospital. Signs will be posted if the room is changed.

4/2/10, 6/4/11, 8/6/11, 10/1/11, 12/3/11

Why Ham Radio Endures in a World of Tweets

http://www.wired.com/epicenter/2011/02/ham-radio-tweets/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+wired%2Findex+%28Wired%3A+Index+3+%28Top+Stories+2%29%29&utm_content=Google+Feedfetcher

By David Rowan, Wired UK Email Author February 7, 2011 7:00 am

Somehow it makes little sense that amateur “ham” radio continues to thrive in the age of Twitter, Facebook and iPhones. Yet the century-old communications technology — which demands such commitment that you must generally pass an exam to receive a license — currently attracts around 350,000 practitioners in Europe, and a further 700,000 in the United States, some 60 per cent more than 30 years ago.

What is it about a simple microphone, a transmitter-receiver and the seductive freedom of the open radio spectrum that’s turned a low-tech anachronism into an enduring and deeply engaging global hobby?

For a start, there is that thrill in establishing a magical person-to-person long-distance radio conversation that no commodified internet communication can compete with. In a world of taken-for-granted torrents of e-mails, instant messages and Skype video-chats, there is a purity and a richness in the shared experience of exchanging “73s” during a live “QSO” with strangers on another continent.

Why, the very ham slang that defines the community — 73 translating as “best regards”, and QSOs as two-way conversations — tells practitioners that they belong to a special, mutually curious and highly courteous club. And the fact that DXers (long-distance amateur operators) take the trouble to acknowledge received transmissions and conversations by sending their new contacts custom-designed postcards through the analog postal service ... well, that is charm itself in a world where it’s considered excessive to end a communication with anything more effusive than a “bestest”.

You only need study a handful of these cards to understand, even today, the old-fashioned excitement of connecting with a stranger who might be many thousands of miles away. The postcards — known as QSL cards — can be as quirky and personality-filled as the senders themselves. At times humorous and characterful, at others terse and geographically factual, they have naturally inspired their own subculture that has spurred DXers to collect and display them much as they would colorful foreign postage stamps.

The cards invariably display as a minimum some basic factual information about the sender. This will generally include the radio operator’s

individual call sign, his (there are not too many “hers”) location, and a few details about the signal detected. And just to show that the Twitter generation did not invent the linguistic contractions exemplified in text-message speak, QSL cards too rely on slang and abbreviations to pack information into a tight space.

So cards will display the “RST” — the received radio station’s readability, signal and strength; perhaps details of the sender’s “XMTR” (transmitter) and “ANT” (antenna); and occasionally a request to reciprocate, expressed as the shorthand “PSE QSL TNX” (please send an acknowledgement card, thanks) or the more chatty “hw abt a crd om?” (How about a card, old man?) Old man, by the way, is not a reference to the recipient’s age — just as, on the rare occasions when the DXer is female, she is referred to as a “YL”, a young lady, whatever her chronological age.

DXers have been exchanging QSL cards since at least 1916, when Edward Andrews of Philadelphia — call sign 3TQ — recorded the receipt of a card from 8VX of Buffalo, NY. Over the next decade, the hobby took off — so much so that, by 1928, Paul Segal (W9EEA) had formulated an “amateur’s code” setting out six key qualities to which practitioners must adhere: “The radio amateur is considerate... loyal ... progressive ... friendly ... balanced ... [and] patriotic,” Segal specified, always ready for service to country and community.

Since then, the hobby has captivated royalty and celebrities alike. Among the most celebrated DXers have been the late King Hussein of Jordan (call sign JY1), Queen Noor (JY1H) and Juan Carlos, King of Spain (EA0JC). Had you picked the right moment, you could have chatted to Morocco’s King Hassan II (CN8MH), the former Sultan of Oman (A41AA) or Bhumiphol Adulayadej, King of Thailand (HS1A).

If monarchs have never appealed, you could instead have shot the breeze with Marlon Brando (FO5GJ), prime minister Rajiv Gandhi of India (VU2RG) or the CBS anchorman Walter Cronkite (KB2GSD) — not forgetting the singer Cliff Richard (W2JOF), Joe Walsh of The Eagles (WB6ACU) and genuinely beyond-this-world DXers such as Yuri Gagarin and Helen Sharman.

It’s little wonder that collectors describe the

buzz of receiving a new exotic foreign card as akin to that of philatelists discovering a rare commemorative stamp. That explains why the late Jerry Powell, a New Jersey ham between 1928 to 2000 (W2OJW), proudly displayed the 369 cards he had gathered from Okinawa to Papua.

Another obsessive collector, Thomas Roscoe of Brookfield, Ohio (K8CX), has created an awe-inspiring QSL museum where he displays his trophies from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe. (You can see his individual cards at hamgallery.com). Take a journey with Roscoe to Wallis & Futuna Island and Western Kiribati, to Kyrgyzstan and Kerguelen Island; visit “states” whose international status is somewhat contentious, such as the Republic of Ichkeria and the Principality of Sealand; celebrate one-off events such as Operation Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia, or the Queen Mary’s last voyage.

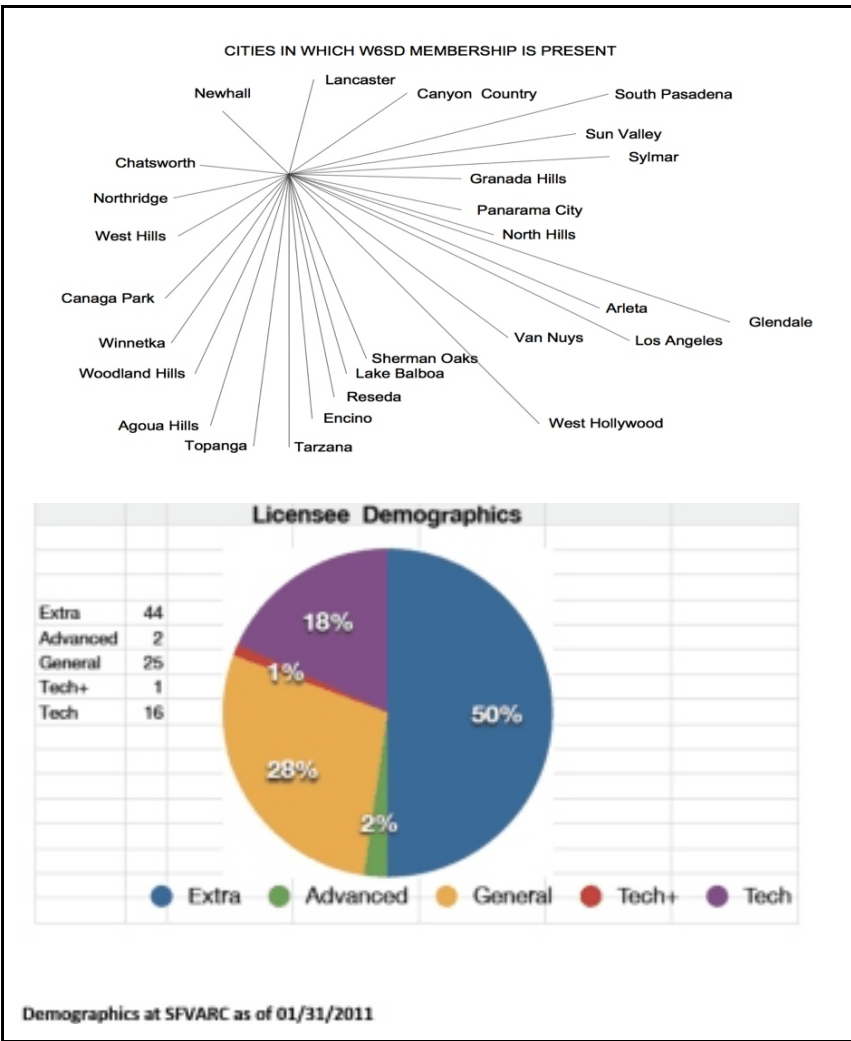
But it’s not simply the romance of card-collecting that continues to inspire DXers, nor the blunt urge to communicate. Instead, hams talk proudly about belonging to a global “brotherhood,” with few rules and little bureaucracy and the ability to transcend language, religion and race — while never quite knowing who they might come in contact with.

Plus, of course, the chance to be a genuine real-life hero. Days after a magnitude 7.3 earthquake devastated Haiti in January, amateur radio operators were busy at work connecting rescuers within the country and contacting survivors’ families. When a magnitude 8.8 earthquake hit Chile the next month, and the phone network collapsed, a radio operator named Alejandro Jara broadcast the first information from the ground.

Hams stepped in on September 11, 2001, and during Hurricane Katrina. Then there was Tony Pole-Evans, a bird lover with a short-wave radio on Saunders Island, who famously risked his life during Argentina’s 1982 invasion of the Falkland Islands to radio the first news back to Britain that 1,000 soldiers had landed on Goose Green.

How exciting it must have been to intercept that particular radio call. And boy, what a QSL card to top one’s collection. You can tweet all you like, but this is the way to communicate.

<http://www.narri.org/>
 Since 2001 NARRI has sponsored the Annual VoIP IRLP Conference in Las Vegas that is held in the Spring. In the last few years the conference has broadened into a VoIP Topical Conference of not only IRLP, but is open to presentations on Echo link, Echoirp, D-Star and All Star Linking. Use of VoIP for emergency communications is a popular topic. The date for the Ninth Annual VoIP Topical Conference is Saturday April 16, 2011. The VoIP event is normally just before or after the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) conference, also in Las Vegas.
 For more information:
http://www.narri.org/voip_conference.html
 Show your interest in attending by contacting Kent W7AOR by e-mail w7aor@narri.org or phone 702-452-4412.



APPLICATION FOR SFVARC MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL

Please Note: In order to receive your newsletter, we must have a **valid email address**.

If you prefer to receive your newsletter through United States mail, please provide a correct zip code with the 4-digit extension.

Name _____ Call _____ Class _____

Street _____ Home Tel#() _____ - _____ Cell Phone#() _____ - _____

Email _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

<input type="checkbox"/> New Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if ARRL member	<input type="checkbox"/> Exclude from Member Roster
Payment Period	Full Year (January 1 - December 31)	April-July	August-December
Regular Member	\$18.00	\$12.00	\$6.00
Family or Junior Members (Under 18 years of age)	\$6.00	\$4.00	\$2.00



San Fernando Valley Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 280517-0517
Northridge, CA 91328-0517



Next Meeting: Friday, February 18, at 7:30pm at Penthouse, Northridge Hospital

Communications Service Company
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Woodland Hills, CA 91367-4418



SFVARC Members,
Thanks for letting HRO meet
your Amateur Radio needs.

Eric J. Christensen

K6EJC

Manager



1525 W Magnolia Blvd, Burbank, CA 91506
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Burbank, CA 91506

Open 10:00 to 5:30

Closed Sundays

Ham Radio Outlet

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