



The San Fernando Valley Amateur Radio Club

Volume 58 Number 2 February 2012

President's QRM

Our next Monthly Meeting will take place on February 17th, at Northridge Hospital. At the meeting, the members will have the opportunity to provide input for club activities and programs. Your ideas are important to all of us; please plan to attend.

Time will be set aside at the February meeting for members to briefly address the club. The topics that club members will find interesting to share might include the following:

- What did you experience at the Palm Springs Hamfest?
- What did you experience at the Consumer Electronics Show?
- If you are a DXer, what is new and exciting?
- If you are a builder, what have you recently constructed?
- If you are an emergency responder, what have you done recently?
- If you are a movie critic, please visit another club.

At upcoming meetings, we will host interesting and varied speakers who will address topics including, but not limited to, the following:

- Deep space and space probe communications (JPL representative).
- History of broadcast radio from the early days to the present: YL Dxpedition to Curacao (PJ2)
- Earthquake preparedness and the role of amateur radio Navajo Code Talkers

Planning is proceeding for field day, the annual picnic, and the holiday banquet. Volunteers are invited to participate. The club really needs your help.

The club hosts Volunteer Examination sessions for anyone who wants to qualify for an amateur radio license or to upgrade to a higher class license. Jim Sullivan, WB6TNF, is doing a great job in coordinating and conducting the testing sessions. You do not have to be a member of the San Fernando Valley Amateur Radio Club to take the exams. The examinations are conducted at 8:00 AM in the east penthouse of Northridge Hospital on the first Saturday of each even month (February, April, etc.). Please spread the

word.

Don't miss our next monthly lunch. It will be held at 11:30 AM on Saturday, February 11th at the Pizza Cookery, 6209 Topanga Canyon Boulevard, Woodland Hills. Telephone: (818) 887-4770. Enter on Erwin Street. The restaurant is hidden behind Shelley's Stereo. See you there.

The club registration form is both, hard copy and online, for the members to complete. Much information is requested from each member in order to help us to develop programs and activities that will be of general interest to the club.

Related to the roster information, it is important to provide the club with your current email address. This is because **the Carrier will no longer be sent to members by snail mail.** Hey, folks, this is the 21st century and Internet access to the Carrier conforms to our current technology.

2012 Membership Renewals: It's that time folks, if you have not renewed, please do so at the next meeting.

When you attend the monthly meetings, you will be pleased to learn that the raffle prizes are better nourished than in recent times. Come early to make sure the tickets are not sold out. See you on February 17th.

73,
Mark, K6FG

Next **SFVARC Club Meeting**
Friday, February 17
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
Mark Weiss, K6FG
m.weiss @ yahoo.com

Executive VP
Gabe Calfas, K6AWB
gabecal @ earthlink.net

Membership Vice President
Tom Peabody, K6TGP
tpbdy @ verizon.net

Planning Vice President
Available

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

Secretary
Johnnie Spots, W6HTY
n123js@yahoo.com

Treasurer
Jack Eyster, KO6V
mr.eyster @ gmail.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 Ray Solis, KI6QME, raymond.solis @ csun.edu 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: The Net Control Operators are Jim Sullivan WB6TNF, Phil Reiber KJ6ZI, John Campeau AD6KT, and Johnnie Spotts W6HTY.

Net Control: Varies

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

- 2 meter repeater: Thursdays, 8 p.m., on the Magic Mountain Repeater (147.735 MHz - PL100) 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 is now in Fairfax, CA. The Bureau prefers that you purchase envelopes from them (\$.64 each, including postage) Contact the Bureau at PO Box 970, Fairfax, CA 94978-0970 or visit their web page at <http://www.qslbureau.org/>

You can now follow them on Twitter.com! You will find us at @ARRL_6_Bureau .

Ham Exams: Held at the Northridge Hospital, on the first Saturday of February, April, June, August, October and December. **Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. and doors close at 9:00 a.m. Testing begins after registration is complete.** 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 Jim Sullivan (WB6TNF) 818-348-4155. 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.

2012 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention February 17-18, 2012

Selected to be the site of the ARRL Southwestern Division Convention for 2012, the Yuma Hamfest will be different from any division-level convention you've ever attended. That may be good or bad, depending on your idea of what a division convention should be. If you expect a fancy hotel or convention center, with relatively high prices, you're likely to be disappointed. If you would rather have a relaxed environment and reasonable prices, you're going to be delighted.

Because of a lack of options, many conventions must be held in high overhead venues and their organizers are forced to charge attendees higher prices in order to recoup their costs. Those costs have been a recurring complaint among hams in recent years. If you agree that many division conventions have become too costly, the 2012 SW Convention is the one you will want to attend. We offer:

- \$5.00 admission
- Free parking
- Relaxed fairgrounds environment
- A food concession operated by a professional chef
- Reasonably priced breakfasts and lunches
- Our famous \$10 "Buzzard BBQ" buffet-style banquet dinner
- Full seminar schedule in multiple tracks
- "Country Store" consignment sales area
- Antenna clinic & transmitter hunt
- W1AW/7 special event station
- ANSR "near space" high altitude balloon launch
- License exams & upgrades
- Incredible grand prize package worth over \$11,000
- Commercial exhibitors in the indoor hall
- Outside tailgating
- On-site RV camping
- DXCC card checking

If you think the affordability and camaraderie have disappeared in most conventions, join us in Yuma for the 2012 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention and rediscover the fun an ARRL convention can be.

<http://www.yumahamfest.org/divconv.html>

Monthly Luncheon

Our next lunch will be at the Pizza Cookery, in Woodland Hills, 6209 Topanga Cyn Bl, 818-887-4770. Enter on Erwin St, west of Topanga, behind Shelley's Stereo. Sat, Feb 11, at 11:30am.
See you there! Elaine

Simplex Net Reminder

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

A New Year, New Ideas!

Would you like to see something of yours in the Carrier? Email it to me at: kg6fbm @ bfllocks. com (remove the spaces).

Do you have a question or an answer email it to me and we can put it in the next issue.

We could start a "Letters to the Editor" column.

How about a DXers column with a place for the DX dudes to list their countries, zones, etc?

It "your" newsletter, it should contain articles from club members.

Editor-
Bernard "KG6FBM"

What is Fldigi?

Fldigi is a computer program intended for Amateur Radio Digital Modes operation using a PC (Personal Computer). Fldigi operates (as does most similar software) in conjunction with a conventional HF SSB radio transceiver, and uses the PC sound card as the main means of input from the radio, and output to the radio. These are audio-frequency signals. The software also controls the radio by means of another connection, typically a serial port.

Fldigi is multi-mode, which means that it is able to operate many popular digital modes without switching programs, so you only have one program to learn. Fldigi includes all the popular modes, such as DominoEX, MFSK16, PSK31, and RTTY.

Unusually, Fldigi is available for multiple computer operating systems; FreeBSD Linux, OSX, and Windows.

Read all about it at: <http://www.w1hkj.com/>

Editor's Note: I installed this today and transmitted and a received messages within seconds. I put my handheld radio a few inches away from an external speaker and microphone and it worked the first time. 2/4/12

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.

4/7/12, 6/2/12, 8/4/12, 10/6/12, and 12/1/12

THE SAN FERNANDO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB CONGRATULATE THIS MONTHS SUCCESSES:

Tech: 3 pass, Extra: 1 pass

Palm Springs Hamfest, January 28, 2012



All the Old Timers were there. Can you find the antenna?



The latest handhelds.



All you wanted to know about "APRS."



Gordon West teaching a class on APRS.



Special event station at the Hamfest.



Lots of T-Shirts to choose from...



Gordon "Gordo" West

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 _____ Tel#() _____ - _____ Email _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ (+4 digit Extension) _____

<input type="checkbox"/> New Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if ARRL member	<input type="checkbox"/> Exclude from Member Roster
	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

Please print clearly or type, then mail this form with your check to:
 SAN FERNANDO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC., P.O. Box 280517, Northridge, CA 91328-0517



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



Next Meeting: Friday, February 17, at 7:30pm at Penthouse, Northridge Hospital

Communications Service Company
Antenna Specialist
TV-ham-Shortwave-Satellite TV
MATV-Residential and
Commercial
Audio-Video-CCTV Cameras
Expert Tower Installations
HAROLD "SKIP" BOLNICK
KJ6Y
22712 Califa St.
Woodland Hills, CA 91367-4418

Icom-IC751, Power Supply installed,
GEN/AM/CW/.RTTY/SSB
100 Watts Output, 160-10 Meters
Microphone IC-HM12, Old but Good,
\$500.00
Johnnie W6HTY, 818-360-4778



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

Eric J. Christensen
K6EJC
Manager



1525 W Magnolia Blvd, Burbank, CA 91506
(Between Sparks and Beachwood)

Burbank, CA 91506

Open 10:00 to 5:30

Closed Sundays

Ham Radio Outlet

Voice 818-842-1786

Fax 818-842-5283