



# The San Fernando Valley Amateur Radio Club

Volume 58 Number 6 June 2012

## President's QRM

Jim Lux, W6RMK, from JPL, gave an excellent presentation on deep space communications and the challenges that engineers and scientists face. Among the topics he addressed were the advantages of using software and software defined radios (SDRs) over hardware-only designs in space vehicles. He stressed the fact that hardware is generally unfixable and unmodifiable once the rocket is launched; however, en route software modifications are often able to salvage doomed space projects by way of radio commands from earth. His talk was not limited to software and hardware. Interestingly, he pointed out that we are unlikely to see manned Mars launches in the near future. Apparently we have the hardware to go to Mars; but the very intensive in-transit radiation would almost certainly kill the space travelers. All of us in attendance were quite stimulated by Jim's remarks.

In response to input from many members, the Field Day operation this year will return to Northridge Hospital. The location will be the same as in prior years: in the shade beneath the top level of the parking structure. Operators are needed to staff the stations. Come and share in the enjoyment of Field Day, please contact Don Pettric, WG6H (wg6h at arrl dot net), or Steve Wardlaw, NY6Y (kn6y at arrl dot net). We need your help.

Field Day brings out hunger for QSOs and for food. The "food" part will be celebrated by our customary pot luck dinner at 6:00 PM at the Field Day station site. Let's have a large and festive celebration.

Speaking of food, as mentioned last month in the *Carrier*, the Board rescheduled the W6SD picnic. It will take place on October 20, 2012 at Woodley Park. At the May 18, 2012 meeting, the membership overwhelmingly rejected the proposal that there be no charge to members who attend the picnic. As in recent years, there will be a modest charge coupled with a request for the members to each bring a side dish, dessert, etc.

The Club has resumed its "meet the expert" sessions. At 7:00 PM (½ hour prior to the scheduled meeting time), one of our resident experts meets with everyone who has radio-related questions. The focus of the sessions is to provide answers to questions from new hams, soon-to-be hams and hams who have forgotten the answers. Plan to meet the expert in the lobby of Northridge Hospital east building (the building in which Club meetings are conducted).

At the May meeting, the membership overwhelmingly approved the new bylaws.

The membership also voiced strongly its desire to maintain the normal

April meeting night schedule. Alternatives had been proposed in order to avoid conflict with other events that have impacted April attendance each year.

Our Club roster is ready for distribution to the members. If you wish to have your name and/or other information withheld from the roster, please advise our Membership VP, Tom Peabody, K6TGP, by email

(tbpdy at verizon dot net). We plan to make the rosters available for paid-up members at meetings beginning in July.

The Club plans to reduce cost and labor caused by mailing copies the *Carrier* to Club members. Although the newsletter will remain available on the Internet, effective July 1, 2012, there will be no US Mail deliveries to members unless a request is made to the editor, Bernard, KG6FBM. Bernard can be contacted by email (kg6fbm at bflocks dot com) or by telephone (818) 794-9859.

Do you have QSL cards that will entitle you to WAS or VUCC awards? If so, please bring the cards and completed applicable forms to the next meeting. Arnie, WB6PJC, our awards manager and resident card checker, will be available to check your precious cards.

We have many "members" who have neglected to pay 2012 dues. Please pay those dues. As an incentive to paying dues and attending meetings, the board has implemented a paid-members drawing at each meeting. Each paid-up member will have his or her name entered in a drawing. If that member's name is drawn, a \$25 HRO gift certificate will be awarded to that lucky person; but the winning member must be present to receive the prize. If the "winning" member is not present, then the prize will be increased by \$25 and will be available for drawing at the next meeting. If the prize reaches \$100, there will be no further increases. Let's see how much of a motivator a little greed can be.

The June meeting will address Field Day and other topics of interest. See you at the meeting and at Field Day.

73,  
Mark, K6FG

### Next **SFVARC Club Meeting**

Friday, June 15  
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 at yahoo. com

Executive VP  
Gabe Calfas, K6AWB  
gabecal at earthlink. net

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

Planning Vice President  
Available

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

Secretary  
Johnnie Spots, W6HTY  
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Treasurer  
Jack Eyster, KO6V  
mr.eyster at gmail.com

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Bill Stein, KC6T  
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kn6y at arrl. net

W6SD Carrier Circulation Staff  
Elaine and Dennis Nolan, KD6PLU

Awards Manager  
WAS & VUCC card checker for ARRL  
Arnold Schwartz, WB6PJC  
usarnie1 at sbcglobal.net  
(818) 222-7037

## 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 at bflocks dot 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.

## Remember the basics

§ 97.119 Station identification. (a) Each amateur station, except a space station or telecommand station, must transmit its assigned call sign on its transmitting channel at the end of each communication, and at least every 10 minutes during a communication, for the purpose of clearly making the source of the transmissions from the station known to those receiving the transmissions.

## FCC Dismisses Texas Ham's Fourth Petition, Calls it "Repetitive" 05/22/2012

For the fourth time in six years, the FCC has rejected a Petition for Rulemaking filed by Glen Zook, K9STH. In each of his Petitions, (2006, April 2009, 2011 and a Petition for Reconsideration in December 2009), Zook has asked the FCC to change its station identification rules as set forth in Section 97.119(a). His 2011 Petition was no different: Zook told the FCC that since "[v]irtually every amateur station does not identify at the end of the communication," he requested that the station identification rule be amended to provide that if an amateur station transmits its call sign during its first transmission, that station need not transmit its call sign at the end of the transmission, provided that the transmission is less than three minutes. Zook called this the "3-minute rule."

In denying Zook's 2011 Petition, the FCC noted that he has filed numerous Petitions on the same matter -- modifying station identification rules -- all of which have been denied. "Section 1.401(e) of the Commission's Rules provides that Petitions for Rulemaking that are 'repetitive, frivolous, or which plainly do not warrant consideration by the Commission' may be dismissed," the FCC explained in denying Zook's latest Petition. "Your proposal to reinstate the '3-minute rule' was dismissed twice in the last

five years. Your latest petition sets forth no new facts or changed circumstances warranting further consideration of the proposal. The current petition, therefore, is repetitive. Accordingly, we dismiss the Petition."

The FCC pointed out that Zook had filed a Petition for Rulemaking in May 2006, requesting that it amend Section 97.119(a) "to incorporate certain portions of the Commission's former station identification rule, including allowing the transmission of the call sign to be omitted at the end of a series of transmissions lasting less than three minutes." After the FCC placed this Petition on Public Notice -- where it received approximately 100 comments -- the FCC dismissed it in 2007, "concluding that the requested changes were neither necessary nor supported by the Amateur Radio community, and that the problem of amateur operators not identifying their stations would be better addressed by enforcement of the present rule rather than a rule change."

In April 2009, Zook filed a Petition for Rulemaking, again requesting that Section 97.119(a) be amended to incorporate certain portions of the FCC's former station identification rule, "including allowing the transmission of the call sign to be omitted at the end of a

communication or series of transmissions lasting less than three minutes." The FCC dismissed this Petition later that year "because the Petition did not present evidence meriting a rule change or demonstrate that circumstances had changed since 2007 with respect to the adequacy of the current station identification rule."

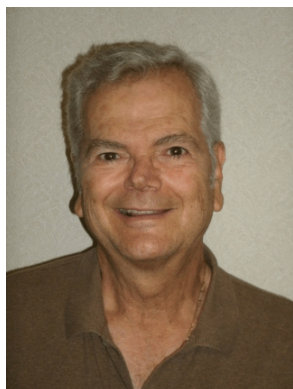
In December 2009, Zook filed a Petition for Reconsideration, disagreeing with the FCC's findings in denying his earlier 2009 Petition for Rulemaking. The FCC concluded that "your current request, like your previous Petitions, does not demonstrate that the current station identification rule is inadequate or that revising the station identification requirement as requested would address the concern that many Amateur Radio operators do not identify their station timely or at all. We also note that, in response to your 2006 Petition, commenters believed that the current station identification rule properly balances the burden of requiring the station to transmit its call sign with the convenience of those receiving the transmissions to determine the identity of the station making the transmissions."

<http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-dismisses-texas-ham-s-fourth-em-petition-em-calls-it-repetitive>

## Monthly Luncheon

Well, we had great turn out and good food in May.  
Our next adventure in food will be at the Sizzler,  
16955 Sherman Way, Van Nuys. 818-345-5445.  
See you on June 9th, at 11:30am.  
Elaine

## Do you want to work in Radio Communications?



If you do, you might want to consider obtaining one or more of the following FCC Commercial Radio Licenses: The General Radio Operators License (GROL), Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS), 2nd Class Radio Telegraph and the Radar Endorsement.

Arnie Schwartz, WB6PJC, is affiliated with the National Radio Examiners and is their Test Center Manager, in Woodland Hills. You can take any of the above tests at his home by appointment by phoning him at 818-222-7037 or e-mailing him at [usarnie1 @ sbcglobal.net](mailto:usarnie1@sbcglobal.net).

## Simplex Net Reminder

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

**Jim Lux, W6RMK**, was our May speaker. Jim has been associated with JPL for many years and possesses a wealth of information about our space program. Jim is currently co-principal investigator for SDR experiments on the International Space Station. He has experience at JPL with deep space transponder designs, landing radar, self-calibrating phase arrays, and many other specialties. Jim has served as an author and reviewer for the ARRL Handbook. His topic for the meeting was "Talking to the Stars: Deep Space



## Northridge VE Schedule for 2012

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.

**6/2/12, 8/4/12, 10/6/12, 12/1/12, 2/2/13, and 4/6/13.**

## LENORE JENSEN, W6NAZ, PHONE PATCHING TO VIETNAM VIA MARS

And finally this week, a piece of ham radio history that you can enjoy and share with friends. While perusing the latest ham radio videos posted to YouTube, our producer Biull Pasternak, WA6ITF, came across one featuring the late radio, television and film actress Lenore Jensen, W6NAZ, running phone patches to Vietnam.

These phone patches were done through the Military Affiliate Radio System which often used frequencies just outside the regular High Frequency ham bands. Overseas telephone calls were difficult to make decades ago and sometimes impossible depending on location, so for U.S. service men stationed around the world, ham radio filled the void. This was an all with volunteer effort and Lenore Jensen, W6NAZ, was at the forefront of the activity.

The film is titled "A Visit to Mars" and was part of the United States Army produced series "The Big Picture." Bill dates the documentary to the late 60s and notes that the phone patch was obviously simulated for filming. He asks: Did you ever hear noise-free audio on High Frequency DX, or the public always remembering to say "over?"

These details aside, the film appears to be accurate overall. It depicts the way things were done about 50 years ago and is a trip back in time. You can see it yourself on line at [tinyurl.com/LenorePatchingToVietnam](http://tinyurl.com/LenorePatchingToVietnam) And LenorePatchingToVietnam is spelled as one word.

(CGC, ARNewslineT)

<http://w6sd.net/> or at [youtube.com/watch?v=dfDWsZiWcFY](http://youtube.com/watch?v=dfDWsZiWcFY)

Source: <http://www.arnewline.org/storage/scripts/nsln1814.txt>

Editor Note: Lenore comes on at 17:38

### 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, June 15, 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



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

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**Ham Radio Outlet**

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