

The Oscillator

ASSOC
RADIO
AMATEURS
OF
LONG BEACH

Assoc Radio Amateurs
of
Long Beach

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Since 1927

December 2009

President's Message

Michael J. Fox, W6MJF

A great seismic event will occur in Long Beach on January 23. Dr. Kate Hutton, KD6HTN, will be the keynote speaker for our Annual Installation Banquet. You'll get to experience what happens when Dr. Kate relates her varied experiences as a Cal Tech Staff Seismologist; Council for the American Association of Variable Star Observers; and member of Bob Grubic's Slow-speed CW Net.

If you want to see Dr. Kate Hutton's down-to-earth slide-show, hear the greatest acceptance speech of ARALB's newest President, and celebrate the farewell address of your grateful past-President, you'll want to buy several tickets for you and your dinner quests.

Watch this newsletter and our website for more info on what you can do to be better prepared for the great food and fun to come.

Please contact Installation Banquet Chair Carina Lister, if you'd like to help her with preparations for "The Big One."



December 4th

General Meeting
7:00pm at the
Signal Hill Community Center

1780 Hill Street
Marty Woll, N6VI

Happy Holidays fellow amateurs. This month we have a special presentation in store for you from Marty Woll, N6VI. He is going to speak to us about "NVIS – The Ultimate Backup in Reliable Regional Communication."

Marty will present to us "NVIS – The Ultimate Backup in Reliable Regional Communication." This is great for many of us, especially those involved in public service. This type of communication is unique because it doesn't depend on repeaters or other infrastructure to work, it's just HF using near-vertical-incident skywave or NVIS. During the presentation you will learn about propagation characteristics, antenna choices, which bands to use for HF regional communications. Don't miss out, its going to be GREAT!

Marty is an Assistant Director of ARRL's Southwest Division, and has been the past president and director of the Southern California DX Club. He has extensive experience with amateur radio and contesting, so don't miss out this month, come by, and receive some awesome information.

Vice President Art Stahl KI6ATZ

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 562-961-6711

Dick Boone, KF6HKA
 KF6GZF@aol.com
 562-425-6098

Elmer's Column

ARALB is in the process of bringing it's Elmer's Committee up to date, and volunteers with a technical inclination are welcome and needed. We are also looking for members that will assist in possible demonstrations for our upcoming Technician License training class, and can be available for occasional "hands-on" projects for newly licensed operators who graduate from our Training Class.

Please contact ARALB-elmers@earthlink.net if you can help out.

73
 Larry WA9SVD

**Merry Christmas It's Breakfast with
 Santa For The Kids Signal Hill Park!
 BRUNCH WITH SANTA!**

Saturday December 12, 2009

**We need helpers for the Breakfast starting at
 06:30 am to 10:00 am!**

Meet at The Signal Hill Park Community Center!

ALSO

**This Year we will have Lunch with Santa
 10:00 am to 1:00 pm!**

**We need helpers starting at 10:00 am to 1:00 pm!
 Meet at The Signal Hill Park Community Center!**

**Get ready for the holidays by celebrating with
 Santa Claus. Children ages 12 years and under,
 along with their parents, can enjoy a fabulous meal,
 holiday crafts, photo with Santa, and storytime.
 Adult ticket includes breakfast only. Each seating is
 limited to the first 75 registrants.**

Resident registration begins Monday, November 2:

Children \$11.00/Adults \$6.00

1780 E. Hill Street Signal Hill

Non-resident registration begins Monday,

November 9: Children \$16.00/Adults \$10.00

Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Team Wilson High School

By Mike Yaworski WB6VUB

Wilson High School's David Strachan-Olsen, KI6UXJ, 2009-2010 AREC team captain, and Devon Day, KF6KEE, faculty advisor for the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications team, successfully passed their General Class Amateur Radio Exam on October 25, 2009. They are now licensed to work worldwide radio bands.

David Strachan-Olsen plans to attend Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo next year where he will study engineering. He was given an internship at both Boeing (2008) and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena (2009) partially because of his work in Amateur Radio. David also was the recent recipient of the Hal Nahmens Scholarship by The Associated Radio Amateur of Long Beach, Inc. This scholarship will help David begin to purchase equipment to operate long distance ham bands.

Their instructor, Gordon West, WB6NOA, extended a scholarship for both Strachan-Olsen and Day because of their community work in emergency communications. Gordon West was voted top Amateur Radio Operator in the nation in 2006 and is a Radio Club of America fellow and a recipient of the ARRL Instructor of the Year Award.

Congratulations to David Strachan-Olsen, KI6UXJ & Devon Day, KF6KEE



David Strachan-Olsen, KI6UXJ

Gordon West, WB6NOA

Devon Day, KF6KEE

Five Things You Can Do - To get that BIG signal from your Handy Talkie.

#5. Speak a little slower than you do in face-to-face conversations, and pay more attention to clear enunciation.

#4. Press and hold the PTT for one second *before* you begin to speak. Keep in mind that there are several 'gates' in your communication path that have to be opened before you are heard on the other end. If you begin speaking too quickly, your first few syllables may be cut-off.

#3. Always use your High transmit power setting – unless you know *for sure* that you can get through with a full-quieting signal at a lower setting. If there's any doubt, ask for a signal check.

(If you have a Yaesu HT, *don't* use the TX Save feature when using a repeater. The high-power signal from the repeater will fool the radio into reducing its TX power when full power is needed. Yaesu's TX Save feature works great for simplex HT-to-HT operation, but not so good with repeaters.)

#2. Install a higher-gain aftermarket HT antenna.

The antenna that came with your HT is not necessarily 'horrible' as some say, but you can do better. The longer aftermarket antennas offered by Comet, Diamond and a few other companies can make a clearly noticeable improvement in both transmit and receive. Be sure that the antenna you choose has the correct connector to fit your HT and will operate on all of the bands that you use.

... and the #1 thing you can do to get that BIG signal:

#1. Hold the HT straight up vertically and about 45° to the side of your mouth, approximately 2-3 inches away, when you transmit. This does two important things:

- a. It gets the antenna up high, vertical, and generally clear of obstructions.
- b. It puts the microphone in the right place for proper voice pickup without 'popping your Ps and hissing your Ss'.

Don't fall to the temptation to transmit using a speaker/mic while the HT is on your belt. Your body will attenuate up to 10dB of your signal – and you'll almost certainly be 'in the mud'.

Looking forward to hearing you, *loud and clear!*
David Akins, N6HHR

**A Visit To The Queen Mary by Stan & Shirley Carney.
ARALB/W6RO Amateur Radio Club Room!**

By Nick Buches NE2N

How often do you get the chance to meet the person who was the Production Manager of our Stratton 700 (Eddystone Receiver) made in London England?

W6RO has the good fortune of a visit from Stan Carney and his wife Shirley. Stan worked at Eddystone Radio for 35 years. He started there just after the 1st 25 IMR.54's (International Marine Radio, Inc.) were built. The Radio's after that were his responsibility.

Stan was heavily involved with other later models. The serial number on our radio is # 008.

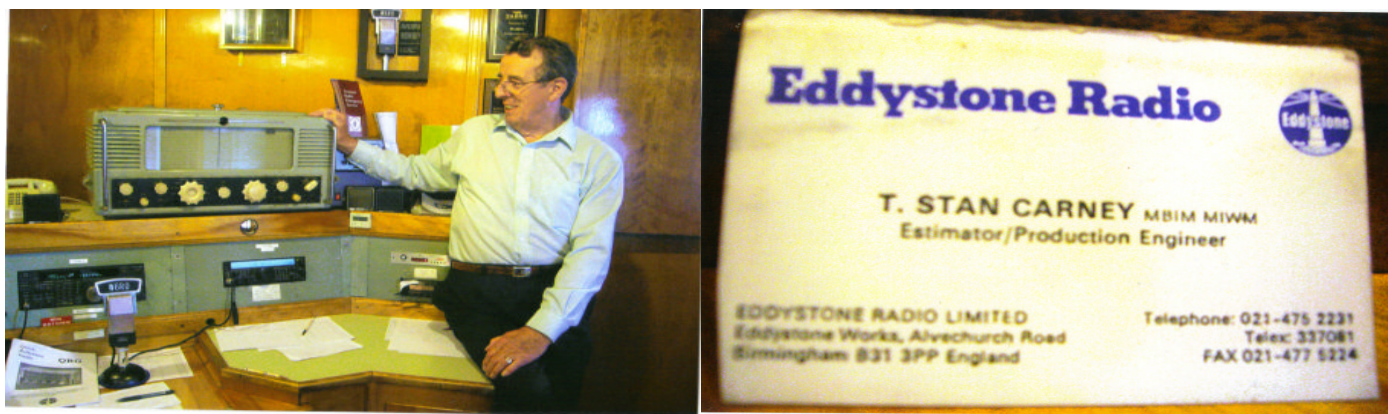
He related an interesting story about the large white knobs which have finger-grip dents. They are actually BSA motorcycle steering damper knobs, which were perfect for the band switch and tuning controls.

After the IMR went out of production, the misc. bits and pieces on the assembly line were tossed in a storeroom. There were enough pieces to almost finish 20 more units.

Stan looked all over for the missing bits and pieces, in his spare time, personally assembled and sold all of the radios. He saved these radios from a certain fate in the scrap yard. I like that! I think you can see from the photo, the pride he feels in his accomplishments.

Thanks Stan!

Pictures by Nick NE2N



**JAMES E LEWIN WD6FET
318 COTTONWOOD CREEK RD
DURANGO, CO 81301**

**A former member who was hit by a truck saving his grand daughter about a year ago.
Sunday, November 8, 2009 8:00 AM, MST**

Great News:

Today is a very special day! We are celebrating Sara's one-year birthday with a big party, family and friends. Actually, her birthdate is November 17th. I will post pictures after the party. (the girl he saved)

Jim is doing great. We still go to therapies and doctors several times a week and will probably continue doing so for the next year or at least as long as these therapies help him improve.

Watch Video: <http://www.9news.com/news/article.aspx?storyid=126743&catid=222> DE Joe W6UPN

Signal Hill Halloween Party for the Kids October 31, 2009

The event turned out to be a great fun time, with everyone having a great time dressed in hundreds of different costumes!

The helpers that were there doing a terrific job and we Thank You! Our next event will be Breakfast With Santa and this year we will have Lunch With Santa also! Hope to see you there!

JOHN KLANCHNIK KG6POB

SIBYL KEIRNS KA6RXX

JIM JAQUES K6RXX

NATE BRIGHTMAN K6OSC

JOHN ROGERS KF6TTR

JEFF POHE No Call

GARY NORGAARD KI6UMY

ART BORGES WA6UNC

VERDEE OLSON No Call

JOHN OLSON K6RFN

STEVEN CHRIST K9AOG

JOHN POAT K6MJB

MICHAEL FOX W6MJF

HANS HEIMBURGER N6TCZ

KEN LISTER KG6TOC

CARNIA LISTER KF6ZYY

THANK YOU! DE ARALB/W6RO

**CW Net Raffle Standings
by Bob Grubic, NC6Q**

This year we have had a total of 15 hams participate in the Slow Speed CW Practice Net. As you might know, you can “earn” a free raffle ticket for your participation in the Net. The raffle will be held at the Club Banquet in January. It’s rumored that it’ll be a nice Morse code- oriented prize.

There’s still time for you to earn some free raffle tickets before the end of the calendar year, so tune up on 28.130 MHz on Friday nights at 7:30 p.m. and check in. Just checking in with your call sign can earn you one free raffle ticket and that’s all it takes to win. You don’t have to send any more! (Of course, it must be sent clearly so the Net Control Station can copy it correctly and give you credit!)

A CW Net participant need not be a member of the ARALB in order to earn tickets or to win a prize. The winner of the drawing need not be present to win. Actual prize to be announced. See www.nc6q.com for the Free Drawing details.

Here are the hams who have participated so far (as of mid-November) in the CW Net and the number of free tickets they have earned.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>CALL</u>	<u>TICKETS</u>
Jim	AF6DM	60
John	K6RFN	60
Ann	KE6OIO	15
Paul	K6EH	9
Rick	WA6ES	9
Hans	N6TCZ	9
Jack	W6LOH	9
Fred	KQ6Q	6
Carina	KF6ZYY	6
John	K6MJB	3
Charles	AB7BI	3
Al	W6JNU	3
Kate	KD6HTN	3
Pete	K5PZ	3
Allan	KB6CWO	3

Calendar of Events

December

- 2 HAM Breakfast. Spires 8:00AM. Every Wed
- 4 ARALB Gen'l Mtg. Signal Hill Community Center. 7:00 PM.
- 7 ARALB BOD Mtg. ECOC, 7:00 PM
- 12 Breakfast With Santa 6:30 am 10 am Signal Hill
Lunch With Santa 10 am to 1 pm Signal Hill
- 15 LB Repeater Associates. Spires, 6:30 PM
- 19 ARALB Testing, CSULB, 9:00 AM
- 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

January

- 1 ARALB Gen'l Mtg. Signal Hill Community Center. 7:00 PM.
- 4 ARALB BOD Mtg. ECOC, 7:00 PM
- 6 HAM Breakfast. Spires 8:00AM. Every Wed
- 16 ARALB Testing, CSULB, 9:00 AM
- 19 LB Repeater Associates. Spires, 6:30 PM
- 23 ARALB Banquet See Page 9 for INFO

February

- 3 HAM Breakfast. Spires 8:00AM. Every Wed
- 5 ARALB Gen'l Mtg. Signal Hill Community Center. 7:00 PM.
- 8 ARALB BOD Mtg. ECOC, 7:00 PM
- 16 LB Repeater Associates. Spires, 6:30 PM
- 20 ARALB Testing, CSULB, 9:00 AM

ARALB CLUB BREAKFAST
(Corner of Cherry Ave. and Del Amo Blvd)
30 year old Ham Radio Breakfast
Come and Join Us!

Every Wednesday at 8:00 A.M.

SPIRES RESTAURANT

1935 E. Del Amo Blvd.,
Long Beach, CA. 90807-1107
Every Wednesday Morning at 8:00 A.M.

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ARALB Net Is On 146.145

+off-set pl 156.7

ARALB Net is every Friday at
7:00 pm, except meeting night!

Hosted by

David Akins N6HHR

CW NET

Hosted by Bob Grubic NC6Q

ARALB Slow Speed CW Practice Net
meets Friday nights

(except meeting night)

at 7:30 p.m. on 28.130 MHz. Check in
with your call sign after you hear
"QNI."

<http://www.nc6q.com>

since 1956

Ford Electronics, Inc.

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Fax: 714-521-8920

email: sales@fordel.com

Mon.-Fri., 9AM-6PM

**Announcing the
ARALB Installation Banquet
January 23
Guest Speaker
Kate Hutton, KD6HTN**

Save the date! Details will follow. Plan to honor the great hams who served as our Officers and Directors during the past year. And see the new Board officially start their term.

We all KNOW Kate. She is famous around the world as the public persona of the Caltech Seismological Laboratory, the person that all the media contact anytime there is an earthquake of note. That might be a 3.5 in downtown Los Angeles or an 8.1 in the Pacific Ocean. The Great California ShakeOut, which this last October inspired nearly 7 million Californians to duck, hold, and cover, is Kate's project. Thanks to Bob Grubic, NC6Q, and his Slow Speed CW Net you have a change to MEET and HEAR Kate.

Kate is supremely intelligent, humorous, and disarmingly modest. From her posting on QRZ we read: "I am a new (but Know Code) ham, Tech license Mar 2009 & General license Jun 2009. Just to confuse things, I go by my middle name "Kate" & a vanity call sign that is close to my name, but not quite.

As you can see from the photos on QRZ.COM, I operate a modest "barefoot" station, with a Yaesu FT-897D rig & a GAP Eagle DX vertical antenna. The size of the space available limits me to 40 m & shorter. VHF & UHF are done with my Kenwood TH-6A handheld & a magmount antenna, either stuck to the roof of my car, or to a large cookie sheet by the window. I sometimes use the Caltech Amateur Radio Club station W6UE.

It's hard to tell where this hobby will take me. I've known hams for most of my life, but was not inspired enough to get a license until the California ShakeOut earthquake drill in November 2008. I'm interested in many other aspects of ham radio beyond emergency communications, however. Right now, CW has most of my attention. I enjoy/struggle with code practice every day & I'm starting to make some contacts. I currently can do somewhere between 10 & 15 WPM."



A R A L B

THE ASSOCIATED RADIO AMATEURS OF LONG BEACH, INC.

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HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

“The one who Influences others to Lead, is a Leader without Limitations!” ... Andrew Carnegie

FIRST CLASS MAIL

**TIME & PLACE: 7:00 PM. Friday, Dec 4th, 2009, at the Signal Hill Community Center,
1780 Hill Street. Signal Hill. CA. (Cross Street Cherry Ave Behind Police Station)**

PROGRAM:

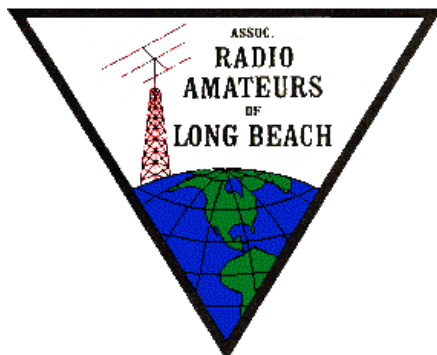
MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY HOLIDAY!

“NVIS – The Ultimate Backup in Reliable Regional Communication.”

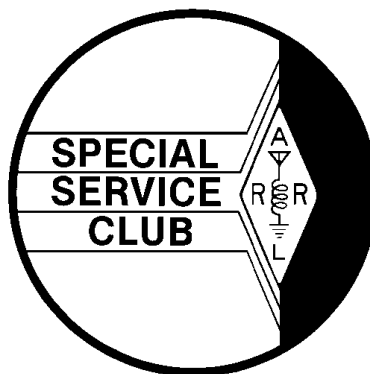
Marty Woll, N6VI

See the ARALB web site at www.aralb.org!

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Associated Radio Amateurs
of
Long Beach



Important Nets

ARALB Net

Fridays at 7:00PM except meeting night
146.145 + PL 156.7

Slow CW Net at 7:30 PM
28.130 MHz

ARES/RACES Net

Tuesdays at 6:30 PM
146.145 + PL 156.7

Thursdays at 6:30 PM
449.780 – PL 131.8
223.800 – PL 156.7

Thursdays at 6:45 PM
1282.200 – PL 156.7

Thursdays, about 7:00PM
145.520 Simplex