



# The Pasadena Radio Club

May 2009

# Bulletin

**Field Day is Coming!**

Field day stations will be in need of operators and loggers for all shifts during field day, June 27th and 28th. Please contact Peter Fogg, KA6RJF on 626-797-9125 to volunteer. Recently licensed hams, we especially invite you to join us!

## Roz, AE6WT, is Leaving

Roz Rich, AE6WT, has purchased a home in Northern California and moved out of the area. Roz has held several officer positions with PRC and always stepped up to help with the club's needs and those of other members. She will be sorely missed!



Bon Voyage, Roz! Stay in touch.

## Angeles Crest to Reopen

State Highway 2, The Angeles Crest, was scheduled to reopen May 20th, according to our information. This is big news for anyone involved with the AC100 (Angeles Crest 100 Mile Endurance Run), which will take place September 19th and 20th. As of this writing, the road opening has not been verified. The road has been closed for several years from Islip Saddle to Vincent Gap due to severe storm damage. Many PRC hams will be itching to drive up and check this out.

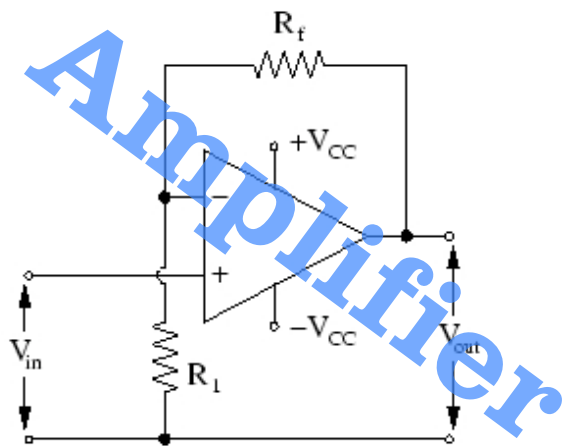
## May Club Meeting Speaker



## Marty Woll N6VI

Marty Woll, Vice Director of ARRL's Southwestern Division, will bring us up to date on recent news about regulation of amateur radio antennas and their related support structures. Marty was directly involved in supporting the case of a Palmdale ham in which a proposed Draconian zoning ordinance amendment was successfully blocked in court.

# The Presidential



by Tom Berne, W6TAG

Last month I wrote about Field Day and we got through an abbreviated explanation of the contest rules. I also suggested that Field day is much more than a contest. To support that idea, let's go back in history again, this time to 1934 during the lead up to the second Field Day. Ed Handy, the originator of Field Day, writing in QST, first connected it to emergency preparedness. He said, "Keep an operative portable at hand all the year, so it will be where you can put it to work promptly in the event of disaster or public emergency". So from then on it was clear that not only is Field Day a contest but it is an opportunity for thousands of amateur radio clubs all over the country to practice portable operation for a disaster which would shut down normal sources of electrical power and interrupt the usual communications channels. That is why the rules were eventually arranged to encourage the category "A" teams (clubs generating their own power) that I mentioned last month.

Although the actual contest begins at 11AM on Saturday, June 27th and runs for 24 hours, the actual fun starts well before that (about 8 AM). This year our Field Day chairman is Peter Fogg, KA6RFJ, and since early in the year he has been having discussions about this year's event. We already know that it will be in the Parking Lot, which is at the far end of the Pasadena Art Center College of Design campus at 1700 Lida Street up in the hills west of the Rose Bowl.



Usually the first decisions to be made to prepare for Field Day are how many stations, on what bands, using what modes should our club should have? Peter already has some names of PRC members who are willing to assume the responsibility of being sure all the required equipment is brought in and set up by starting time for our "stations". It looks as though we will have a 40 meter phone, a 40 meter CW, a 20 meter phone, and a VHF/UHF phone station. We will also have a "GOTA" station which is designed to encourage new or inactive hams to Get-on-the-Air! Loosely the rules are: A GOTA station must use a different callsign from the primary Field Day station but maintain the same callsign for the duration of the event. Otherwise it uses the same exchange as its parent. It may only be operated by a person licensed since the previous year's Field Day or by a generally inactive licensee. As per FCC rules, this station must have a valid control operator present if operating beyond the license privileges of the participant using the station. Non-licensed persons may participate under the direct supervision of an appropriate control operator.

So plan to come out and join in the fun! There is lots of room for everybody to come out and operate.

## July Club Meeting Will be at Caltech

Our general meeting on July 28, 2009 will be at the Seismic Lab located on the campus of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena. This meeting will be limited to 60 participants. Because the PRC has more than 60 members, no guests will be admitted. Our featured speaker is PRC member Kate Hutton KD6HTN, who will conduct a tour of the lab and its media center.

If you want to get a tour of the Seismic Lab, you must sign up at our meeting on May 26. If the sign up sheets do not fill up on May 26, you may sign up at the June 23 meeting. Kate KD6HTN will give two tours of the lab on the evening of July 28. While one group of 30 takes the tour, the rest of us will snack and chat in a nearby seminar room. After the second tour, Kate will join us all in the seminar room to answer questions. We will then conduct the "general business" part of the meeting.

The building is locked after hours. Therefore, all participants must arrive on time – before 7:00 p.m. – because no one will be available to let in latecomers.

Details about the building location and parking will be published in the July bulletin.

If more than 60 people are interested in this event, Kate has said she could do another tour next year for those people who were unable to attend this year.

## Sub-audible Tones

*Bruce Nolte, N1BN*

Hello dear readers. While surfing qrz.com I found this fun posting from W6MHZ.

Enjoy, de N1BN.



## The Most Interesting Ham in the World



He doesn't have to call CQ. People call him.....

He once put up an 11 element 160 meter beam....

DXpeditions ask him if he needs them on any bands.....

Yaesu, Icom, and Kenwood all ask him to test their new radios.....

The FCC asked him what callsign he would like.....

He has operated from all DXCC countries at least once, and has a QSL from each.....

Even North Korea and Yemen beg him to come over and operate.....

It is said He can build a Yaesu FT-DX9000 from an old TV set.....

His old QSLs go for thousands each on EBAY.....

He has fourteen Hallicrafters SX-88s, but wants one more.....

His car has 24 antennas on it, all Stealth.....

Everyone knows where he is at all times thanks to APRS.....

He uses WINLINK, and is not scolded for it on QRZed.....

He is proud to be a No Code Extra, yet he can do 35 WPM....

Once he taught a parrot to whistle code messages at 35WPM.....

CC&Rs are overlooked when he wants to put up a new tower.....

Even his cranky homeowner's association thinks his 200 ft tower is "BEAUTIFUL"....

He is the MOST INTERESTING HAM in the WORLD!!!!

## Bob Kelley, W6TCE, SK

With regret we must report that Bob Kelley, W6TCE, a long-time club member, passed away from complications of a staph infection in March. He is survived by Beverly, KF6QCA, his wife of fifteen years. Bob was 83, born May 30th, 1925.

We will miss Bob's friendly voice on the repeater, which he used to monitor during his early morning walks. His radio friends had tagged him as "Uncle Bob", although rumor has it that Beverly didn't much care for the appellation.

Beverly is at home in Pasadena and told me that she would be pleased to receive phone calls from her friends in PRC. Her telephone number is 626-792-9315. If you reach an answering machine, don't just hang up, as she may just be screening to see who is calling.

Bob was a board member-at-large in 1998 and was profiled in the PRC Bulletin by Merrie, AB6LR. Merrie found her copy of that biography and took the time to type it up all over again. It will be reprinted in the bonus section of this month's (online) bulletin.

The Bulletin will be available for download as soon as Roz and I can get it done. Be patient, though, as Roz has temporarily lost access to the website due to a computer disk crash, complicated by her move to Northern California. I will also post the Bulletin in the "Files" area of the PRC-Club Yahoo website until the problem is resolved.

FYI:

Our regular website is:

<http://www.qsl.net/w6ka/>

The Yahoo website is:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PRC-Club/>

- AC6VV



## Crown City HF

Tom Berne, W6TAG

### Coax Attenuation

Last month we began looking at the causes of power losses (attenuation) in transmission lines, and more specifically coaxial cable. In coax the greater the diameter of the center conductor and the greater the bulk of the outer conductor (shield) the less resistive loss occurs. Also, the dielectric (the plastic stuff that separates the center conductor and shield) causes losses. These latter losses become a problem as frequency rises, and represent a significant consideration when buying coax for our theoretical shack because it is 100 feet from the antenna feed point and coax characteristics can make a lot of difference, particularly if you are using the higher HF frequencies and chasing rare DX.

First we need to agree on a way to measure the power loss. The amateur radio literature has for years used “decibels (dBs) loss” for this. We will see it used a lot later on when we talk about antenna gain. But the concept is cumbersome because it works on a non-linear scale...and I don't think our brains were meant to. For instance a 3dB loss would cause a 50% loss in power, and a 10 dB loss would be a 90% loss. Fortunately for our purposes we can use a different approach which is more intuitive in order to make our decisions. We will use “power loss” instead.

So the next fact we need to consider is that as the frequency of a transmitted signal goes up the more loss (attenuation) occurs. But not all coaxes are created equal! The physically larger coax cables with heavier conductors and better dielectrics exhibit less power loss. Luckily for us, living in the information age lets us just go to our trusty on-line computer and figure out these effects on almost any coax rather quickly at <http://www.ocarc.ca/coax.htm> (or Google: coax loss calculator). We will look at the same three coaxes we have been talking about (RG-58, RG-8X and RG-213) and assume that we will soon put together a good antenna to match our coax. That lets us use a low SWR (standing wave ratio) of say 1:1.2 in our calculations (so we



don't lose our way here we will defer an explanation of SWR until we get to antennas). Now go to your computer with the coax loss calculator webpage that I mentioned above displayed. Scroll down past the first big box to the two side-by-side boxes. In the “Set Parameters as Desired” boxes enter the type of coax from the “Line Type” drop down box as “Belden 9201 (RG-58)”. Next enter 100 feet for our theoretical shack's coax length in the next line down, then enter 3.8 MHz (80 meter phone band) and finally enter the power output of our virtual HF transceiver as 100 watts. Click on the “Calculate” button and read the “Results”. We would get 84.73 watts out...pretty good for such a long coax. Now try it again. Pretend it is the year 2011, we have great sunspots and 15 meters is hot. Now just change the frequency to 21.3 MHz and recalculate. Oops, not so good... because 15 meters is a higher frequency we are down to 66.62 watts of output. So try this with the other two coax types, RG-8X and RG-213, from the drop down box and some other bands (like 40 meters phone at 7.2 MHz, 20 meters phone at 14.25MHz, and 10 meters phone at 28.4MHz) to get an idea of what those changes do to power output.

Next month we will review the results of your calculations, and then factor in coax cost and power handling considerations.

## Program Speakers and Topics for 2009

Pamela Royce, W6PNW  
Vice President

My main duty as vice president is to line up speakers for our general meetings. It has certainly been a challenge to find someone not only

willing to talk, but also available on specific dates. An additional complication is finding a speaker or topic that interests “everyone.” Of course, that is not actually possible. So the compromise is to offer up a smorgasbord of topics so that you can look over the spread and, I hope, find something tempting.



Thus, my goal this year has been to fulfill two different appetites: radio as radio, and radio in light of disaster communications.

If you look over the topics for the year, you can see that our topics tend to fall into those two broad categories. Radio as such is covered by six of our topics; disaster preparation, response and communications are the other five topics.

In January, Skip Bolnick KJ6Y gave an excellent presentation on "Operating from Catalina and Santa Rosa Island; and Islands on the Air (IOTA)", and in February we had show-and-tell: members' antique items, homebrewed gadgets and the like.

In March, we had a speaker from FEMA, which appealed to those of us committed to disaster communications, and in June, we will have Rick DiFiore WA6KFI on scanners, another mode of staying informed during an ongoing disaster. In July, we will visit the Seismic Lab at Caltech where our member Kate Hutton KD6HTN will give us an inside look at the lab and its media center and discuss the role of telemetry. In September, Duane A. Mariotti WB9RER, who heads Kaiser Permanente's radio communications, will discuss hospital disaster communications and give us an overview of digital data transfer systems and their limitations. In October, William J. Weber N6CI, former head of the Deep Space Network, will give us a talk on radio in space and the DSN's disaster continuity planning.

On May 26, Marty Woll N6VI, vice-director of ARRL Southwest Division, will give us an update on antenna ordinances and the victory in the recent Palmdale case. In August we have a double feature: Bill Wysock N6UXW and friends will talk about Tesla, electricity and electronics; and Bruce Nolte N1BN will present his video of our Field Day activities. In November, new member Bill Fletcher AA1OU will present "22,000 Miles on the Water with Ham Radio."

I hope that you all find something on this "menu" to satisfy your appetite for information and entertainment on the fourth Tuesday evening of each month (excluding December, of course). Of course, you can also come just for the fellowship and the cookies.



## PRC Member Profile:

# Fred Lopez, KG6GTL

## Board Member-at-Large



Fred was born and raised in Southern California. He is currently a returning student at Pasadena City College and living in Pasadena.

"I became interested in Ham radio after owning a scanner and listening to all the voices out there, and decided I wanted the opportunity to talk back to them. I was licensed in June 2001 at a TRW swap meet and currently hold a General Class license. I may upgrade, but not right now. I upgraded from

Tech to General by reading the question pool and answers. I would try that again to upgrade to Extra.

"At this point, Ham radio is more or less simply a curiosity. Its increased popularity would be a goal, but the fundamental resistance I've found among my peers does not encourage me. In these economic doldrums that we've found ourselves I feel it is an opportunity to remind people that the airwaves are there for them, free of charge, 24 hours a day. You get unlimited talk time, \$0 monthly bill, and it can be an adept community builder.

"Emergency Communications is interesting and something I would consider exploring the possibility of becoming a part of later, when I have a stable career. I am also not a contesteer.

"I joined the Pasadena Radio Club back in 2001, along with another club, but lost interest for a number of years. When I regained interest, I rejoined the Pasadena club.

"My long range plans for involvement in amateur radio right now are; none. I see a potential, but without action, education, and a groundswell of interested, I do not see myself continuing my involvement (read: more people my age). I have never been on HF, have never had any interesting QSO's or interesting happenings due to Ham radio, and have never taken any trips where Ham radio has played a part. Ham radio has shown me another means for communication, and provides me with the comfort of knowing that in an emergency, should all else fail, I'll be able to communicate. To know my communication options and to have all means available is important for me to know.

"When I was thinking about how to promote Ham radio, I made a sample flyer that I threw together as

*continued on Page 6*

## KG6GTL Profile *continued from page 5*

an idea to help spark interest in our hobby. I've made it available on-line at <http://www.fredlopez.com/ham.pdf> and comments are welcome. I hate to be sober and glum, but I see my future as a push to gain members and interest in Ham radio, followed by failure and my absence from the hobby, with my radio relegated to the storage bin.

"I have no pets, but I enjoy computers, technology and the Internet. I like Scrabble, even visiting the Los Angeles Scrabble Club a couple of times. It's been a while, but I enjoy the shooting range, both pistol and shotgun. I joined the NRA and eventually found myself on a Friends of the NRA committee (I'm treasurer, who would have guessed) that puts on a fundraiser dinner for the NRA foundation. This year we're having it on October 8th at the Pomona Valley Mining Company.

"When thinking of hobbies, a quote that goes something like; 'Like a monkey, you do all you that you can see', reminds me of the many things I have tried. I ride my bicycle when I can, and enjoy riding, though I am not a distance rider. The Honda CBR in the garage is fast and fun which I ride when I can. I purchased a sewing machine when I had a brilliant idea for a pillow and a sleeve pocket on all my shirts for my pen. My lock picks are a tool I keep with me (got the state license because all you had to do was pay some money, so I can legally have and carry them, and I have not used them illegally). I try to

Made  
on a Mac



**Kate Hutton, KD6HTN, will host  
our May Refreshments**

### General Class License Class

Mark, W6MES, will teach an upgrade class for the General Class Ham License soon. If you are interested, contact him at [w6mes@arrl.net](mailto:w6mes@arrl.net) or 818-430-5244 ASAP.

### PRC Bulletin Online

<http://www.qsl.net/w6ka/>

keep an open mind and try things out, I mean the harmonica and balloon twisting didn't work out quite as well ... I have a maxed out driver's license, a class A with passenger (bus), tanker, double triples, hazardous material endorsements in addition to the M1 for the motorcycle. I did the 18-wheeler thing for all of 6 months before it got deathly boring. Oh, and I made some pizza art when I worked at a pizza place, it can be found at <http://gdflgum.deviantart.com/>

"I was encouraged by Peter (the outgoing president) and Bruce (vice president) to try being on the board in the position with the least responsibility and so I gave it a try. I definitely enjoy it; the formality and rules are something new to me and very interesting to learn how meetings, motions and bylaws work. I would recommend it to all the members. It is a good experience to see how anarchy is kept at bay."

*Quite an interesting young man! He has evidently tried a lot of things, but we can be glad he is in our group with all his experience at this early age. But, it behooves us as a group to keep him interested in Ham radio and not to let him get bored and quit again. He seems like a good one to keep around for the future.*

- Merrie Suydam, AB6LR

<b>President</b> Tom Berne	<b>W6TAG</b> berne at usc dot edu 323-665-6289
<b>Vice President</b> Pamela Royce	<b>W6PNW</b> 626-285-8987
<b>Secretary</b> Bruce Nolte	<b>N1BN</b> n1bn at charter dot net
<b>Treasurer</b> Mark Seigel	<b>W6MES</b> w6mes at arrl dot net 818-430-5244
<b>Members At Large</b> Fred Lopez Brian Irish Ralph Williams	<b>KG6GTL</b> <b>WA6GLJ</b> <b>KI6SXP</b>
<b>Past Officers</b> Peter Fogg Bruce Nolte Harry Brumer Cynthia Berne	<b>KA6RJF</b> <b>N1BN</b> <b>K7IB</b> <b>N6NCE</b>
<b>Education Chair</b> Mark Seigel	<b>W6MES</b> w6mes at arrl dot net 818-430-5244
<b>VE Team Liaison</b> Merrie Suydam	<b>AB6LR</b> ab6lr at arrl dot net (626) 969-4409
<b>Club Net</b> Mike Dinko	<b>KF6FEM</b> 626-797-8082
<b>Bulletin Editor</b> John Minger	<b>AC6VV</b> ac6vv at arrl dot net 323-256-0046





May, KE6QVJ, John, AC6VV, Ray, KJ6NO, Roz, AE6WT, Larry, KE6EOL and Rich, KG6MXP at a farewell luncheon for Roz.

We can take your files on disk or via e-mail

**FAST, FRIENDLY SERVICE**  
FOR YOUR COPYING, PRINTING  
& MARKETING NEEDS  
MAILING SERVICES, TOO

DIGITAL • COLOR • BOOKLETS • FORMS • NEWSLETTERS  
QUICK TURNAROUND ON BUSINESS CARDS

10034 Commerce Avenue IN HISTORIC OLDE TOWNE TUNJUNGA  
[www.cmprintmail.com](http://www.cmprintmail.com) (818) 353-7135

The Pasadena Radio Club meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Kaiser Permanente Walnut Center, located at 393 East Walnut Street, at the corner of Los Robles Avenue in Pasadena. Enter the parking structure at the Los Robles Avenue entrance and mention "Pasadena Radio Club". Everyone is welcome to attend. Please sign in at the front desk and security will direct you to the meeting room.

Membership in the Pasadena Radio Club is open to anyone interested in Amateur Radio. Dues are \$20 per year, \$10 for students. Request a membership application at the club's mailing address, on the club website, [www.qsl.net/w6ka](http://www.qsl.net/w6ka), or in person at the monthly meeting.

The Pasadena Radio Club, W6KA, conducts a weekly net every Tuesday night, except on meeting nights, at 7:00 p.m. The frequency is 145.180 MHz (-) PL 156.7. All licensed amateurs are invited to participate.

The club has a packet station on 145.630 and on 223.600 (cross-band capable) with a PBBS of W6KA-10 and a node name of MIRDOR.

There is an unofficial Yahoo Group for club members at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PRC-Club/>. All members are invited to join as this allows for rapid dissemination of information to members via e-mail.

Bulletin Submissions: please submit any articles, photos, or ideas for future articles via e-mail to AC6VV at arrl dot net, please include "PRC" in the Subject line. Other modes of submission may be arranged in advance on an individual basis. Submissions are due by the Friday after the board meeting.

Permission is granted to use articles in this issue as long as "Pasadena Radio Club Bulletin" is credited.

Please submit any address or e-mail changes to the Treasurer.

**WESCOM**  
Credit Union



Better Banking for Southern California  
123 S Marengo Ave., Pasadena  
<http://www.wescom.org/>

**Thank You**



**KAISER PERMANENTE®**  
for your support of The Pasadena Radio  
Club, and amateur radio hospital  
emergency communications



**A-AMERICAN SELF  
STORAGE**

Over 30 Years of Customer Satisfaction  
We Know Self Storage!

511 S. Fair Oaks Ave.  
Pasadena  
626-744-3200



## Show and Tell

Instructograph Code  
Practice Machine  
courtesy of Bruce, N1BN

## Pasadena Radio Club, W6KA

P.O. Box 282, Altadena, CA 91003-0282

<http://www.qsl.net/w6ka/>

## In This Issue

- Page 1 Speaker, Field Day, AE6WT leaves
- Page 2 The Presidential Amplifier  
July Meeting to be at Caltech
- Page 3 Sub-audible Tones, W6TCE SK
- Page 4 Crown City HF, 2009 Programs
- Page 5 Member Profile - KG6GTL
- Page 6 Announcements, PRC Board Roster
- Page 7 Ads, Club Information
- Page 8 Club Calendar
- Page 9 - 11 Bonus Material, Online Bulletin Only

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 24	May 25	May 26	May 27	May 28	May 29	May 30
	Memorial Day Los Angeles Marathon	<b>PRC Club Meeting (Cafeteria) 7:00 pm</b>	<b>Kaiser Net</b> 147.270 Mhz 12:15 pm 52.700 Mhz 12:15 pm 7.228 Mhz 12:45 pm			
May 31	Jun 1	Jun 2	Jun 3	Jun 4	Jun 5	Jun 6
		<b>PRC Net 7:00 pm</b> 145.180 - PL 156.7				
Jun 7	Jun 8	Jun 9	Jun 10	Jun 11	Jun 12	Jun 13
		<b>PRC Net 7:00 pm</b> <b>PRC Board 7:30 pm</b>		AC100 Committee 7PM		<b>VHF QSO Party</b>
Jun 14	Jun 15	Jun 16	Jun 17	Jun 18	Jun 19	Jun 20
		<b>PRC Net 7:00 pm</b> 145.180 - PL 156.7				Chino Hills HS Swap
Jun 21	Jun 22	Jun 23	Jun 24	Jun 25	Jun 26	Jun 27
		<b>PRC Club Meeting 7:00 pm</b>	<b>Kaiser Net</b> 147.270 Mhz 12:15 pm 52.700 Mhz 12:15 pm 7.228 Mhz 12:45 pm			<b>Field Day</b> TRW Swap Meet
Jun 28	Jun 29	Jun 30	Jul 1	Jul 2	Jul 3	Jul 4
<b>Field Day</b>		<b>PRC Net 7:00 pm</b> 145.180 - PL 156.7				Independence Day



*The following is a reprint of a 1998 member profile, courtesy of Merrie, AB6LR, who found it in her files and re-typed it all. Sorry, but we don't have a photo. We have all been remembering Bob and wish to offer our condolences to Beverly at this difficult time.*

## **Bob Kelley, W6TCE**

### **Board Member-at-Large, 1998**

*Bob Kelley, W6TCE, was born in Alhambra, CA, educated in the Pasadena school system, starting with Longfellow Elementary School and Elliot Junior High, then Pasadena Junior College, which is now known as Pasadena City College. After 2 years of engineering education at the Junior College, he joined the Navy where he entered their V12 program, then went into radio tech school. After leaving the service, Bob joined Consolidated Electrodynamics here in Pasadena, originally as a technical in development engineering, and ending his career as a senior engineer in magnetic tape recording instrumentation. When he was laid off in the '70's, he started his own business repairing equipment used by watchmakers in their operations, along with consulting with magnetic head companies. Bob is now retired and lives with his bride of four years, Beverly, at their home in eastern Pasadena.*

"I have been licensed as a Ham since about 1940. I got started in Ham radio because my dad was a Ham radio operator in the spark gap days. He saw my interest in science and things of that sort, so he kept putting books in my hands that dealt with chemistry and electricity for my age level. Then, finally, he involved me in code practice under "Pappy" Dow, W6LR (of Dow Radio fame). There was a place over in Los Angeles that taught technical things that related to the Ham radio license. There was another Ham who is still around here in Pasadena, Steve Lazarian W6QKB, who also taught me Morse code. I was in Elliot Junior High School while this was going on. At that time, you went down to the L.A. Federal building to take your exam. I am a left-hander, and the fellow looked at what I had written down for the code, and said 'Well, I see 13 characters there!' so I got my license. I also took my 2nd class license after the war, thinking I might need it in my career, but I never did use it.

"My dad's original call sign was 6RK (RK being his initials), but he let his license lapse. When he moved to Lee Vining near Mono Lake up in the Owens Valley and bought a motel, he got his license again, and was W6SCF. For an awful lot of my adult life I didn't do much Hamming. I loved to build receivers

and things like that, but I never got on the air until my dad urged me to buy a sing-side-band transmitter. I lived in Sierra Madre at the time, and had a regular Saturday schedule with him, running 200 Watts PEP from Sierra Madre, with him running a Kilowatt from Lee Vining. That was on 75 Meters on what was then known as the 'Fishnet Gang', which was a bunch of Hams up and down California who talked to one another on a regular basis. I was more interested in building things than I was in the actual operation at that time. My first operating experience was on the transmitter my dad had built for us. I was 13 years old at the time. It was a 500-Watt transmitter on 160 Meters. That was just prior to the war, and I made some contacts. The only problem was that as a kid you are talking to adults and you are a little timid getting on a transmitter, but I did it. We had a half-wave on 160 Meters. I have a picture of myself operating on that transmitter which is now on my QSL card.

"The war took us off the air, and the government was looking for equipment. I had earned the cost of a Meisner signal generator for the transmitter. The Signal Corps bought that. After the war, the first band that came on was 10 Meters, so that was where I was the most active. I was doing some traffic between the Pacific, where there were still some of our GIs, to the mid-west. Then, there was a company on East Colorado Blvd. called Communication Equipment Company, which was auctioning off its business. They manufactured police transmitters, which were the very thing we could on 10 Meters mobile. We put a 50-Watt transmitter in my dad's '41 Ford and went mobile and when traveling up 395, we could talk to people in the mid-west. The sunspots had to be pretty good at that time, or we wouldn't have been able to do that. I remember the first time single-side-band was started. It was some Stanford students who were experimenting with it. We heard this 'Mickey Mouse' voice on the air, and it turned out to be single-side-band. My dad and I would go to all the surplus stores around Southern California. My dad in particular would come home with a whole trunk full of stuff that was even still in their crates; dynamotors, vacuum tubes, and things like that. He started accumulating that stuff, and when he bought the motel in Lee Vining, all this was trailered up to the motel and stored in the attic of the motel. It stayed there for the longest time until one day he made a deal with 'Pappy' Dow that all the stuff would go back to Pasadena Surplus in trade for a Johnson Kilowatt transmitter that my dad could operate on.

"I got back into Ham radio by way of my scanner. I started listening to the 2-Meter band and heard some

of the repeaters and started getting an itch for Ham radio again. I finally bit the bullet and went down and bought an HTX-204 that I used up until last October until I lost it in a robbery in my Ham shack. I replaced it and continued to be on 2-Meters and hope to get on perhaps 40-Meters or some of the other HF bands on CW. I found that my CW is still up to about 13 words-per-minute. Back in 1975, when I had the single-side-band, I would get on 75-Meters and work CW. Periodically, I still listen to the bands and copy CW whether I am transmitting or not. A couple of months ago, I hooked up a code oscillator and started sending Morse, and I realized my 'fist' was a bit rusty. After about a week or so, it started coming back and the letters were starting to sound clear and crisp again. Once you have it, it is still there, but you have to refresh it once in a while. I hear these Hams on the repeater that want to get their code up and talk about using the tapes in their cars, and I say 'No, that really isn't the way to do it.' You have to sit, preferably with a pair of earphones on, and a piece of paper in front of you and practice, practice, practice. The people I admire are the ones who can just sit and copy code and carry on a conversation in CW without ever writing a thing down. There are still some maritime ships that use Morse code, so it is not entirely dead.

"Since I have become a part of the Pasadena Radio Club, I see Ham radio as an ongoing part of my future. I certainly enjoy doing QSOs on the repeater, and probably will also get back on the HF bands, but I am in no hurry for that. I hope to get into QRP sometime. I have the lab out there with all the kinds of stuff that I could readily put 5 Watts on 75-Meters, or maybe 40-Meters. So that would be easy for me to do. To me, Ham radio is a good hobby. I have fun with what I am doing with it. I am primarily an experimenter. I love to heat up a soldering iron and build things. Not always related to ham radio, but I have fun with it. I love my computer and have done quite a bit of programming. Packet is fairly low priority with me, even though Steve, KE6ONT, has been needling me. Maybe some day. I also like garden. I am not a judicious 'green-thumber', but what I like to do is clear some land out in back and plant some zinnia seeds. I currently have some bulbs started. I like traveling around with Beverly, just seeing the sights around the local area that I have never had the time to go see before. I also try to take a walk around here every day, just to keep in shape as much as I can. I am currently walking around what use to be the company I worked for where they are building a new retail complex. I carry my hand-held with me and as long as the battery holds up, I will talk to someone."

*Bob is a 'retread' Ham who joined our club and almost immediately became an active member by agreeing to be a Board Member-at-Large. I first met Bob one morning before one of the Pasadena Emergency Communications Group packet drills. A group of us had gone to a local coffee shop for breakfast and this gentleman came over and greeted us. He had been listening to us on his scanner, recognized some of the names and call signs, and was happy to see us. Not long after that, he popped up on the repeater and has been with us ever since. Welcome back to the hobby, Bob, and I hope you stick around.*

*- Merrie Suydam, AB6LR*

## **Pasadena Radio Club Board Meeting Minutes - 4/14/2009**

*submitted by Secretary, Bruce Nolte, N1BN*

Meeting started at 7:32 pm

Present: Bruce Nolte, Harry Brumer, Paul Gordon, Ray Overman, Mark Seigel, Peter Fogg, Tom Berne, Cynthia Berne, Pamela Royce, John Minger, Mike Dinko

The General Minutes from March were passed by all.

VP report: bad news, The Deep Space people don't have a speaker for us yet. April is going to be Tom Berne speaking on Sun Spots. May would be Marty Woll. June would be Rick Difore. July would be Kate Hutton. August for Field Day video.

Treasurer: cash flow sheet was shown. As of tonight we have collected \$700 in membership renewal. A discussion about the value of lowering the dues ensued. \$3100 in checking. \$5178.42 is the current cash and CD value of club's funds.

Bulletin: Minutes now moved into the online only pages. The eight pages are working well. Ray mentions that down in the desert he belongs to several clubs and the electronic version is working well there.

Secretary's report: I have two receipts for reimbursement with a total of about \$20 for refreshments in February and card stock for the badges. A motion for reimbursement is moved by Peter Fogg and seconded by Cynthia Berne and approved by all. I also showed a suggested visitor form for data collection and suggested that we encourage members to bring a bit of show and tell to each meeting.

Field Day: we have verbal release to use Art Center this year. Discussion about antenna ensued. Use station captains or not? Paul Gordon suggests that the

club purchase Field Day T-shirts. Take orders in the Bulletin and organize at the next meeting for the purchase of the shirts.

Patches: Tom suggests that we make 200 of the small patches with the club logo. Bruce Nolte will email Mark Seigel a file with the logo, so he could get us some price quotes.

New members discussion: what are going to do to keep people interested? Help new hams get on the air, etc.

Santa Barbara convention is a double deal this year which also includes the Southwest ARRL Convention for 2009.

Meeting ended at 8:56 pm

## **Pasadena Radio Club General Meeting Minutes - 4/28/2009**

*submitted by Secretary, Bruce Nolte, N1BN*

Meeting started at 7:02 pm

Introductions with visitors

President Tom Berne, W6TAG presented a comprehensive talk on sunspots and how they effect radio propagation. Tom presented a history of sunspot data collection over the years and how we can best use the cycles to our advantage.

Break

Business meeting at 8:20 pm

Bruce Nolte stands up and gives a big thanks to Roz Rich for her many years of service to the club. Roz is moving out of the area.

Field Day report, Field Day will be the weekend of June 27.

VP report: pay up your dues for the special meeting in July.

Meeting ended at 8:33 pm

## **What Do You Do?**

Picture this: you're enjoying a sunny day in your back yard. It's a beautiful, cloudless day.

Suddenly, you hear shouting from your next door neighbor. She found her little boy in their home pool, and he's not breathing. What do you do?

If you're Red Cross Ready, you can save a life.

This summer, learn the skills you need to respond to emergencies—right in your own neighborhood. Sign up now to attend a training near you during **National CPR/AED Awareness Week, June 1-7:**

Throughout the week, Red Cross chapters across the country will hold classes and demonstrations where you can gain the knowledge and skills you need to respond with confidence to life-threatening situations.

You can learn how to perform effective CPR and can be trained to use an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), which can help save the life of someone who has gone into cardiac arrest.

Sign up now to attend an event in your community:

<http://american.redcross.org/cpraedeevents>

As people head to beaches and pools this summer—some with lifeguards on duty, but some without—there's never been a better time to be prepared. Emergencies don't take a vacation. I hope we'll see you at a training in June!

Sincerely,

*Connie Harvey*

Preparedness and Health and Safety Services,  
American Red Cross





