

The Pasadena
Radio Club

PASADENA

W6KA

RADIO CLUB

January 2012

Bulletin

January 24th Speaker



Bruce Nolte, N1BN



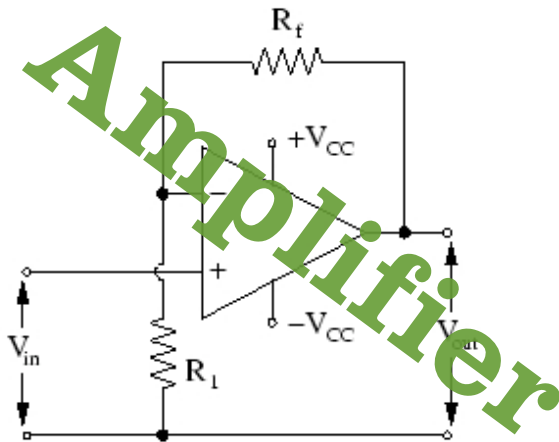
Mt. Disappointment repeater antennas

Power User Tips for Repeater Operation

This is a fast-paced presentation by Bruce Nolte, N1BN giving an illustrated overview of what repeaters are, how they work and how to take full advantage of the power of a repeater.

Bruce has been licensed since 1988 and holds an Extra class license. In the 1990s he was one of the volunteer traffic handlers on the W6FNO repeater that handled hundreds of realtime highway emergency calls for motoring hams per year. Professionally Bruce is a documentary filmmaker.

The Presidential



by Tom Berne, W6TAG

What Does Your Club Do?

First of all I would like to thank the membership for electing me to another term as your president. I hope that I can carry on the momentum which my predecessor, Mark Seigel, W6MES, developed during his tenure. Mark has a certain infectious exuberance (the French would say *joie de vivre*) about amateur radio and our club which will be impossible to match!

Recently I was talking to someone who had expressed an interest in becoming a ham and wondered how one does that. I explained about what that entails and finished up encouraging him to come to a meeting of the Pasadena Radio Club. He then asked a very logical question: "What does your club do?"

As I was walking away from that encounter I began to realize that the answer I had given was entirely inadequate. Activity after activity which I had left out popped into my head. I started thinking about how much we really do and offer to our members. So, then and there, I decided that this first Presidential Amplifier of the year would be a good place to make a list.

To find out the complete answer to the question I had been asked, let's look at last year. We had great meetings and excellent presentations. There were a few technical talks, others on different operating modes, public service, one on a DXpedition. We finished up with a Show and Tell. Of course we loved the annual Field Day video. It conveyed to all how much good-fellowship exists and downright operating fun we had on Field Day at the Pasadena Art Center College of Design (remember the pancakes). We competed in two DX contests, one at Mike Dinko's house and the other at the Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy in the hills high above La

Canada. We didn't win any trophies, but we had many amazing contacts around the world as the sunspots awakened at last! PRC provided communications for the Pasadena Marathon, and helped with several other races and parades and the ARRL Southwest Convention. What's more, we produced in our Bulletin what I consider to be one of the best club monthly ham club newsletters out there. I have looked at many of the on-line ham club newsletters...and in my unbiased opinion ours is tops. We have a very informative website. Three weeks each month there is a Tuesday night club net. There is a Yahoo Groups E-mail which gets out important information and discussion. Our members give FCC exam preparation classes and provide VEs for the exams.

It takes a lot of work to keep all that going! All of these activities require one, or several, of our members to put out what is often a major and frequently sustained effort. We should be *really thankful* for those people! Without them none of this could happen. It also takes an active Board and regular Board participants with good ideas and a willingness to pitch in and work together to get things done and move the Club ahead. We certainly have that.

OK, so I have generated is list of club activities, but that aspiring ham *might* have added to his question: "...and what would I get out of your radio club?" Well, had he asked, this is how I would answer that part of the question: Everything I can see and hear tells me that *our club members enjoy it immensely*. When I look around before our meetings, during refreshments and after the meeting, everybody is getting the food, or furniture or badges or A-V equipment organized and is busy talking to someone...and it seems to me that they are really delight in and benefit from what goes on. When we have Field Day, or a contest or a marathon or whatever, I see the same thing...everybody pulling together and talking and enjoying it which tells me that all that effort is worth it.

That ham-to-be's questions did me a big favor. He made me do what we should all do: stop and take a little time to appreciate the opportunity we have to participate in the Club's activities and what a gem we have in the Pasadena Radio Club!

Download This Bulletin

www.qsl.net/w6ka/bulletins

Sub-audible Tomes

NTSB and Distracted Driving

Bruce Nolte, N1BN

Back in December the federal government's NTSB recommended that all states ban the use of "mobile electronic devices" in automobiles, in any manner. Handheld cell phone and hands free, everything! The NTSB believes that just the act of having any type of phone conversation in a car is dangerous.



Might this impact Ham Radio? Hopefully not, but are we as Ham Radio operators immune from this problem? Do we have some special skills that the average cell phone user lacks? What can we do to make our use of our mobile and handheld radios safer while driving?

One of the techniques I try to use when using my radio in the car is to avoid adjusting the radio while going through intersections or in busy traffic zones. A mounted mobile radio is probably safer to use in a car than a handheld radio with connecting wires. What do you think? Send me your techniques or suggestions and I will print some in a future column.

So far I do not believe that any states have acted on the NTSB recommendation.

73, Bruce (n1bn at arrl dot net)

Some Photos Related to Repeaters...



Clockwise from top, relay rack equipment and cabling behind a local UHF repeater, six resonant cavities of a VHF repeater, a mobile class radio, and three popular multi-band handheld radios.



Crown City HF

Operating an HF Station (1): Before You Transmit

Tom Berne, W6TAG



This article will cover the preparations necessary before you begin transmitting. Right off the bat I need to say that these articles cannot provide *all* the details needed for really outstanding operating. These Crown City HF discussions which will get you started and, hopefully, make your ham radio operating easy and correct. However, I would suggest that you purchase a helpful paperback book, “The ARRL Operating Manual for Radio Amateurs” which has a good collection of articles on many of the subjects we will be covering here. If you get it, do a bit of browsing so you know what is there. Then as we move along, use it as a reference to look in more detail into things that are unclear or which really interest you.

Also, try and find an experienced ham that will let you sit in during one, or preferably several, radio operating sessions. We hams know that what gets new hams turned on is successful HF operating. Hence, you can find lots of us willing to help get new HF operators started.

Practically every article written on this subject starts out with the following advice: “Listen, Listen, Listen”. The reasons are simple. It is easy to do, there is no risk of embarrassing yourself, and you see how it is really done. It is very good advice, but it is not enough. At some point you really need to take key or microphone in hand and begin operating! It really helps to watch and be guided by an experienced ham as you do that.

Another resource is the ARRL website (www.arrl.org). That is a goldmine of information on many aspects of amateur radio operating and, particularly if you decide not to get the Operating Guide as much of the same material is available on the ARRL’s website. I will reference some of the specific ARRL web pages.

I know that all of you have been exposed to the FCC Rules and Regulations that dictate the operating practices of American hams when you were studying for the FCC exams. However it is easy to forget some of the details. From the ARRL’s home page you go to the Regulatory and Advocacy section to find them. You can also find the Part 97 on the FCC’s website which is nicely set up by topic: http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_10/47cfr97_10.html

Of particular interest should be the frequencies and modes available to your class of license (sections 97.301

and 97.305). Look at the bands for which you have privileges and the equipment to operate (e.g. the right antenna). Go to your computer and in your word processing program type up those that you will **actually use**. Use a font that, when printed, you can easily read from across your operating desk. Make that into a small sign that you can quickly refer to and post it at your operating position somewhere up behind your rig. You will use it often at first until you eventually have it memorized. There is a nice color chart showing all bands with the privileges and modes on the ARRL website. You may want to post that too, but it contains too much information to use quickly and easily. In fact, there will be several more things to post in easy sight, so you might consider getting a cork board and some thumb tacks!

Next month we will look at what other information you may want to have on that cork board and a few other items that are helpful to have nearby.

Silent Auction

of Antenna Books Ex Libris W6ZH (SK Pete Hoover).

Books to be auctioned include the first six volumes of the ARRL Antenna Compendium, Low Band DXing by Devoldere, Reflections by Maxwell, and Yagi Antenna Design by Lawson.

The books will be displayed for you to inspect during the break in the meeting. Each book will have a slip of paper upon which you write your name and the amount of your bid. Others place higher bids by writing their name and bid on the same slip. Winning bidders pay at the end of the meeting and receive their book. All proceeds go to the Pasadena Radio Club general account.

-N6LL

KC7O Published in QST

Congrats to Allen Wolff, KC7O, for QST publishing his toroid checking technique in the February Hints & Kinks column.

Get Ready for the March CQ WPX SSB Contest

The CQ WPX SSB Contest (www.cqwp.com/rules.htm) will begin at 5 PM PDT on Friday, March 24th and run until 5 PM PDT on Sunday March 26th. If you would like to join with other PRC members for this event please let Tom, W6TAG, know of your interest by sending an e-mail to him at <cberne at juno dot com>.

Ham Gear Bargains

Bill Wysock - N6UXW, the Tesla expert, Tesla coil builder / demonstrator - and recently seen on an episode of the Pawn Stars TB show on the History Channel is having to downsize his fine collection of Ham Radio gear. *There are many more deals than listed here.*

Bill needs to move soon, so give him a call and make an offer or sort out the details in this posting. Bill says that it is "*priced to sell !*" So give him a call and make an offer. He lives in our area.

His Tesla website:
<http://www.teslatechnologyresearch.com/hist.html>

Bill N6UXW. 626 359-1373
<wysock at teslatechnologyresearch dot com>

Some of the items he has for sale:

HF Beam antenna, new in the box
KLM KT 34XA - tri-band HF beam (10, 15, 20 meters)
List price: \$400 - will sell for \$200 obo (new in box)

Hallicrafters SX28A Receiver
Hallicrafters SX62A Receiver
Hallicrafters SX42 Receiver

Kenwood TR 751A: 2 meter all mode base station transceiver mounted with a Diawa CN 620 SWR and power meter mounted in a 19" rack panel.

Icom R 7000 - wide band base station receiver.

Collins "Gold Dust Twins". (classic tube rigs from 1950s) 75A-4 Receiver and the KWS-1 Transmitter
<http://www.radioworks.com/Hamshack/shackkws.html>
<http://hug-a-bug.com/GoldDustTwins.html>
\$3000 firm - formerly owned by W6AG

Call or email Bill for more items not listed...

Posted by Bruce N1BN <[n1bn at arrl dot net](mailto:n1bn@arrl.net)>



These symbols are "QR Codes". Your smart phone can scan them and take you to the PRC web page or Yahoo Group. The QR Code Reader app is free. Try it!

Upcoming Events

The **Palm Springs Hamfest** is just a week away, on January 28th. Go to <http://desertrats.am/pshamfest2012.html> for details.

This year's **ARRL Southwest Division Convention** takes place February 17th & 18th in Yuma. It runs concurrently with the **Yuma Hamfest**. See <http://www.yumahamfest.org/> for details.

Amateur Radio License Renewal Scam

While delivering radiograms reminding people to renew their Amateur Radio License I have had several people comment on a letter they received. It is NOT from the FCC or ARRL.

The letter tells people they have to pay over \$200 to renew their license! According to the people I've talked to the letter looks "very official." They realized it was a scam and tossed it.

If you receive one of these letters please save it and give it to me. I would like to alert the ARRL and FCC to this scam and need a copy of the letter.

These people send their letter out so that it arrives *before* the official FCC letter. I figure they must be making some money off this scam or they wouldn't continue doing it.

73 Jutti Marsh, K6FRG <[kj6hwl at gmail dot com](mailto:kj6hwl@gmail.com)>

[Editor's note: As far as I know, the FCC will not remind you to renew your amateur license. However, the ARRL will. There's another reason to join ARRL!]

Marconi's Demo was Hacked!

In London in 1903, a public demo of Marconi's wireless telegraph was disrupted by a "hacker" who was his competitor. Read the story here: <http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg21228440.700-dotdashdiss-the-gentleman>



Pasadena Radio Club Board Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2012

The meeting was called to Order at 7:14 PM

Chaired by Vice President Ray Overman, KJ6NO

In attendance:

Ray Overman KJ6NO
Chris Galante K6YZH
John Minger AC6VV
Dave Holcomb K9DBA
Tim LaMarca N6RNK
Mark Seigel W6MES
Michael Reagan KK6WO
Paul Gordon N6LL

Treasurer's Report: Nothing to report during the transition to the new Treasurer.

Ray Overman: Shall we do the CQWW WPX contest March 24-25? The event is very possible per Bruce N1BN (email). Access to Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy is not yet official. There is support for the idea among the board, so we will proceed with plans for the contest. Contesting Discussions: Pluses and minuses of Logging programs at Contests, including Field Days. Can we set up a meeting/class for people who need to use these programs. What about acquiring hardware like boom mics, better monitor speakers or headphones?

The Art Center College of Design has given its OK for Field Day 2012.

The Pasadena Marathon status is in flux. We are awaiting a call from the race director.

Who is the public service Chairman? Question deferred to next month.

Submitted via email by Jutti Marsh: Club shirts? Tim La Marca has a source of Polo Shirts (cotton/poly blend?) for club: setup is \$50, shirts \$25 and \$28 each, with logo and callsign embroidered in color.

Jutti Marsh: Do we need our own PA for meetings?

Jutti Marsh: Suggests we need a refreshments chair. Could that person also take charge of the box of supplies (cups, plates, forks, etc)?

Refreshments for January by Mark Seigel.

Mark Seigel: Heard from the HamCon folks that checks will be cut soon. The estimated amount to each group that took on a convention task is \$1800.

Paul Gordon was nominated as Field Day Chairman: He accepted.

Mark Seigel: started to change the officers' names signature card at Wescom, but Tom Berne was not available. Should we change policy on who is authorized to sign checks. Should the past president be included for continuity? Subject was tabled for next month.

KP Room Reservations have not been made yet for 2012. John Minger will handle it.

Is our state tax form on file and current? Mark Seigel will check.

Future Speakers: Section Manager David Greenhut is available for a DX talk in March. He went on a DXpedition to Argentina and one to Israel. Tim has a friend (Charles Spetnagel) who does contesting and DXpedition talks. SW Division Vice Director Marty Woll does many topics. Mark will call him for possible January 24 Program. The "Plan B" for a speaker is a Midway Atoll DXpedition Mark has borrowed from Downey Radio Club.

Are we still pursuing 501(3)C status? Chris was going to do it, but it got lost. He will look into it. It would allow us to take donations and offer tax breaks to donors. Discussion deferred for next month's meeting.

Mark suggested we try auctioning an item again at a club meeting? Paul likes the "silent auction" option for his Antenna Compendium offer.

There was a discussion about the order of activities during meetings (Speaker before the business meeting? People will leave after the break).

Ray says the ARRL SW Division Convention will be in Yuma February 17-18, concurrent with a hamfest.

Subject for next month's meeting: We need to distribute a list of member contacts this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 PM

-Submitted by Secretary, John Minger, AC6VV

Thank You



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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. Parking is validated. Enter the parking structure at the southern Los Robles Avenue entrance. 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, or the club website, www.qsl.net/w6ka, or at a 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 also a 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. Click on "Join This Group". Members are able to update their own e-mails via the Yahoo website.

The Board of Directors meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:15 PM at the Kaiser Permanente location. Meetings are open to all members.

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 hereby 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, K6YZH.

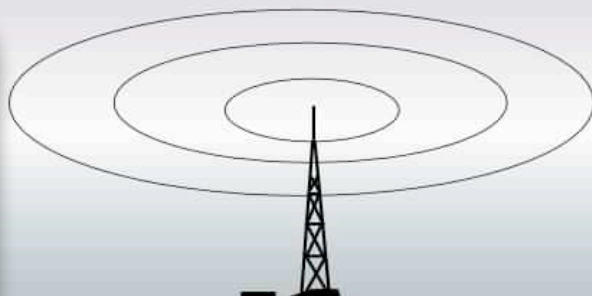
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This Month: Bruce, N1BN

Power User Tips for Repeater Operation

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 22	Jan 23	Jan 24	Jan 25	Jan 26	Jan 27	Jan 28
Slow Speed CW Net 28130 KHz 7:00 pm		PRC Club Meeting 7:00 PM	KPARN Noon Nets			Palm Springs Hamfest TRW Swap Meet
Jan 29	Jan 30	Jan 31	Feb 1	Feb 2	Feb 3	Feb 4
Slow Speed CW Net 28130 KHz 7:00 pm		PRC Net 7:00 pm 145.180 - PL 156.7				
Feb 5	Feb 6	Feb 7	Feb 8	Feb 9	Feb 10	Feb 11
Slow Speed CW Net 28130 KHz 7:00 pm		PRC Net 7:00 pm 145.180 - PL 156.7				NE ARES Meeting
Feb 12	Feb 13	Feb 14	Feb 15	Feb 16	Feb 17	Feb 18
Slow Speed CW Net 28130 KHz 7:00 pm		PRC Board, PRC Net Valentine's Day			SW Division Conv.	SW Division Conv. Chino Swap Meet
Feb 19	Feb 20	Feb 21	Feb 22	Feb 23	Feb 24	Feb 25
Slow Speed CW Net 28130 KHz 7:00 pm	Washington's B'day	PRC Net 7:00 pm 145.180 - PL 156.7	KPARN Noon Nets			TRW Swap Meet
Feb 26	Feb 27	Feb 28	Feb 29	Mar 1	Mar 2	Mar 3
Slow Speed CW Net 28130 KHz 7:00 pm		PRC Club Meeting 7:00 PM				