

Spurious Emissions



The Newsletter of the South Bay Amateur Radio Society



Volume 9 Number 1

Winter 2020

Happy
New
Year!





1957 2020

**SOUTH BAY
AMATEUR RADIO
SOCIETY
(SOBARS)
K6QM**

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SOBARS is an ARRL-affiliated ham radio club with members from San Diego, National City, La Mesa, Chula Vista, Bonita, Imperial Beach, and San Ysidro, California.

OFFICERS

President: John Wright, K6CPO
president@sobars.org

Vice-President: Danny Lamb
AI6JN
vp@sobars.org

Secretary/Treasurer:
Fred Curtis, KI6GRO

secretary_treasurer@sobars.org

Call-Sign Trustee:

Jim Beckman, N6RSL

Emergency Coordinator:

Ramon Dueñas, KJ6QQK

Property Trustee:

Louie Vignapiano, KI6SRR

SOBARS meetings are held at the Chula Vista Fire Station 4, 850 Paseo Ranchero, Chula Vista, CA 91910

See the website for dates & times.

Club Repeaters:

146.085 (+) PL: 100.0

448.340 (-) PL: 100.0

Yaesu System Fusion®

CLUB NETS

Club nets are held every Tuesday evening on the following bands:

1830: (PT) 448.340 (-) PL 100.0

223.840 (-) PL 107.2

1900: (PT) 146.085 (+) PL 100.0

1930: (PT) 28.480 USB

7.240 LSB



From The President's Shack

By John Wright, K6CPO

Welcome to 2020! We're starting a new decade and SOBARS has already experienced some major changes.

We had to move our meeting place again, this time due to the Chula Vista Fire Academy needing the classroom space. Fortunately, we will be able to return to Fire Station 4 once the academy has concluded in June.

Thanks to member Bill Cheney, KG6FTM, we have secured the use of a hall at St. John's Episcopal Church on 1st Avenue in Chula Vista. Specific meeting information is on the SOBARS website.

While we're on the topic of meetings, a number of our members are not attending meetings regularly because of conflicts with other amateur radio activities. In an effort to alleviate this situation, the board is considering a change of meeting day from the first Monday of the month to the fourth Monday of the month. An e-mail poll has been sent to the membership asking for a vote on the proposal. If you haven't responded, please do so at your earliest convenience.

We have been advised that the Fire Department is adding two more classrooms to Station 4. One of the classrooms will be designated for use by "outside" groups, including SOBARS. There is a possibility that once the classroom is in service, we may be able to change our meeting day of the week from Monday to a day more convenient to the membership.

In other news, there is a possibility ham radio might lose its allocation in the 3 GHz band. The amateur portion is

currently 3.3 GHz to 3.5 GHz. At its December 12 meeting, the FCC formally adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in WT Docket 19-348 and invited comments on its plan to remove "existing non-federal secondary radiolocation and amateur allocations" in the 3.3 – 3.55 GHz band and relocate incumbent non-federal operations. This action is being taken in response to legislation passed by the US Congress to allocate spectrum for the 5G network build-out. If we were to lose this allocation, it would have a direct bearing on the SOBARS AREDN network we are building. The ARRL can explain it better than I can and further information is located on their website at <http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-formally-adopts-proposals-to-remove-amateur-3-ghz-band-invites-comments>. I encourage everyone to register their comments with the FCC.

I would like to congratulate SOBARS member Rene Cenicerros, KJ6G0P, on the birth of his grandson, Cain Benicio Cenicerros, at 9:46 AM, Oct. 29, 2019 at Sharp Mary Birch Hospital, San Diego. ¡Felicidades, abuelo!

At the December meeting, I was honored to be selected as the recipient of the Dick Cupp, K6SJA Memorial Ham of the Year award. I wish to thank the selection committee and SOBARS for the honor.

This is all I have for this issue. As always, my "door" is always open if anyone has questions, comments or criticisms.

Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

“Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler” is a quote attributed to Albert Einstein (<https://quotationcelebration.wordpress.com/2017/01/07/everything-should-be-made-as-simple-as-possible-but-not-simpler-albert-einstein/comment-page-1/>). Here’s one way to apply this principle in amateur radio, specifically to code practice oscillators.

A week ago, my friend, Paul emailed me:

“I am planning on teaching a two-hour introduction to Morse code to 14 girls ages 8 to 9 [[Paul’s granddaughter is a Girl Scout.]]. I plan on having the girls build a code practice device. I need your help in selecting a low cost buzzer and battery holder. Please take a look around and see would you can find. I would like to limit the power to one or two AA batteries.”

I replied that I’d be happy to help him with the demonstration, and offered the following advice:

“A while back, I built the QRPGuys’ K7QO Code Practice Oscillator (<https://qrpguys.com/k7qo-code-practice-oscillator>). It uses a CR2032 coin battery.

“Unfortunately, they don’t sell it anymore, but the assembly manual is still online (https://qrpguys.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/cpo_assy_012616.pdf). The assembly manual doesn’t call out specific parts, but here are some Amazon SKUs:

- *BooJ4BKoNS, Black 3V Electromagnetic Type Piezo Buzzer, 20 pcs/\$6.58*
- *Bo6XF3K4NP, Coin Cell Button Battery Holder, 30 pcs/\$9*
- *Boo8SNZUYC, 3 Pin PCB Mount Female 3.5mm Stereo Jack, 10 pcs/\$5.40*
- *Bo71RMD6FD, 1/8” 3.5mm Stereo Male Connector, 10 pcs/\$7*

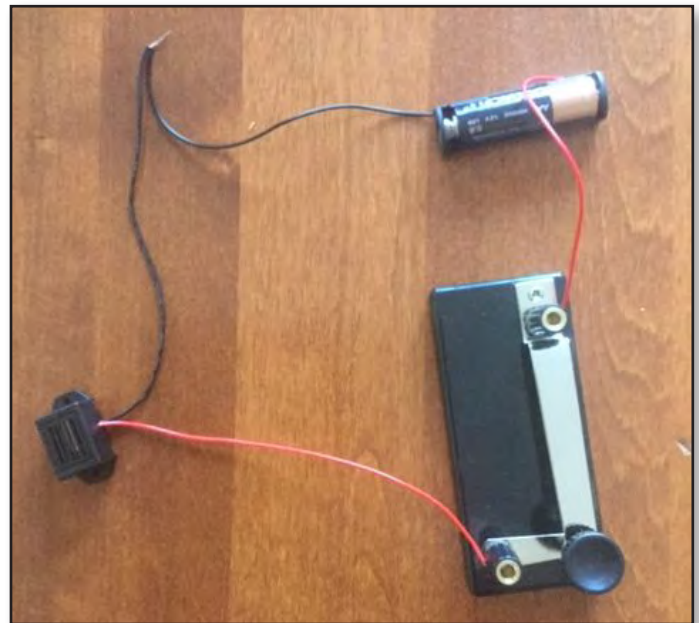
“Batteries are available at the dollar store for about 30 cents each. So, you could do the whole thing for less than \$5 for sure, even with a printed circuit board, which I would suggest that we do. Heck, if you ask nicely, the QRPGuys might even give us the artwork, or even better, have some boards still in stock. Even if they have neither, you should be able to get the boards in plenty of time.”

Later that day, Paul replied:

Thanks, Dan, for the information and making yourself available to help. I am just going to use a buzzer, key, and battery. The buzzer has a frequency of 400 Hz.

- <https://www.xump.com/science/Buzzer-Leads15V.cfm>
- <https://www.xump.com/science/Contact-KeySwitch.cfm>
- <https://www.xump.com/science/Single-AA-Battery-Holder.cfm>

And this morning, he sent me this photo, noting, “FYI. Also sounds great.”



I think that this is as good an example of “Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler” as there can be. I’ve volunteered to help Paul with his class. That will be fun, too. ✨

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Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the “No Nonsense” amateur radio license study guides (KB6NU.Com/study-guides/), and often appears on the ICQPodcast (icqpodcast.com). When he’s not trying to keep things as simple as possible, but not simpler, he likes to build stuff and operate CW on the HF bands.

Editorial

By John Wright, K6CPO, Editor

You may have noticed this issue of *Spurious Emissions* is a little “thin.” It’s been a while since I’ve received any submissions from the membership, and I thank those that have contributed in the past.

This is the membership’s newsletter, not the President’s or a select few and as such, I would encourage members to contribute. “But, I have nothing to write about,” you say. Are you an active amateur radio operator? Do you hunt DX? Do you work satellites or EME? Are you active in CERT or EMCOMM? Are you an off-roader?

What about your ham radio construction topics? Have you remodeled your shack recently or built a WinLink-capable Go-Kit? What about that home-brew antenna

you put up last month? These are all topics that could be included in the newsletter.

Perhaps you don’t consider yourself a writer or feel your projects are not worthy of publication. Well, that’s for the editor to decide and I’m not inclined to reject submissions. I’m perfectly willing to work with anyone that wishes to contribute to *Spurious Emissions*.

I’m also open to suggestions for topics to be included in the newsletter. As I have said before, this is **YOUR** newsletter. Lets make this belong to the entire club!

president@sobars.org

QRM

