

# Spurious Emissions



*The Newsletter of the South Bay Amateur Radio Society*



**Volume 1 Number 1**

**Winter 2012**

## **SOBARS Newsletter**

By John Wright, K6CPO, Editor

Welcome to the first issue of the new newsletter of the South Bay Amateur Radio Society!

Over the coming months, I hope to include information on club activities, photographs, and articles on all facets of amateur radio.

Also included in the newsletter will be the minutes of our monthly meetings, a welcome to new members, listings of future ham classes and reports from the club's officers. If there is enough interest, we may include a classified advertisement section for SOBARS members.

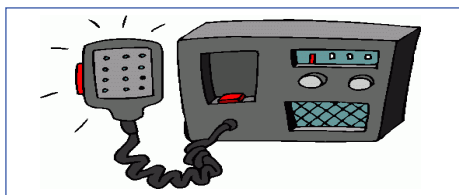
We welcome any submissions for publication and all suggestions on ways to improve this newsletter and make it the best ham radio club newsletter in San Diego County. Please send your submissions and/or comments to me at [k6cpo@sobars.org](mailto:k6cpo@sobars.org).

### **New Members**

SOBARS wishes to welcome the following new members:

- **John Schultz, AG6IO**
- **Mark Wallace, KJ6NMJ**

73 and welcome to the club!



*Photo by John Wright, K6CPO*

The SOBARS banner was displayed on a fence during Field Day 2011. The club was set up on Port District property adjacent to the Chula Vista Yacht Club.

## **President's Report**

By John Markham, KD6VKW

My term as President of SOBARS is just getting rolling, so I don't have too much to say. You're all doing well and I'm pleased to be associated with this fine club.

One ham thing I can share is this: Trying new things almost always pays off. For example, you don't need to have a Master's Degree to download a free computer program and turn some audio tones into pictures on your computer. It's called Slow-Scan TV (SSTV) and it uses the sound card that's already in your computer.

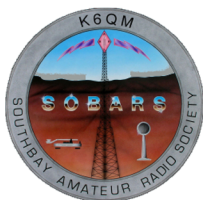
N6RSL used the club's repeater recently and he sent me some pictures of his shack. They were

as clear as a bell! Really nice!

To receive and display SSTV, the free program and a simple wired connection from your radio to the computer are all you need. Do an Internet search for MMSSTV (my personal favorite) and see what pops up.

Later, you may want to send your own pictures. Add another simple connection from the computer back to the radio and you can be in business. The software handles both send and receive functions. Adding the wires is your job.

If there's any interest, some of us who are already capable of SSTV



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**SOUTHBAY  
AMATEUR RADIO  
SOCIETY  
(SOBARS)  
K6QM**

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E-Mail: [k6qm@sobars.org](mailto:k6qm@sobars.org)  
Website: [www.sobars.org](http://www.sobars.org)



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.

Club Repeater: 146.085 (+)  
PL: 100.0

SOBARS meetings are held the 1st Thursday of the month at 7 PM, at the Chula Vista Yacht Club, 642 Marina Parkway #83 Chula Vista, CA 91910


#### OFFICERS

**President:** John Markham, KD6VKW  
[kd6vkw@sobars.org](mailto:kd6vkw@sobars.org)  
**Vice-President:** John Wright, K6CPO  
[k6cpo@sobars.org](mailto:k6cpo@sobars.org)  
**Secretary:** Fred Curtis, K16GRO  
[k16gro@sobars.org](mailto:k16gro@sobars.org)  
**Treasurer:** Steve Froetscher, K7FRO  
[k7fro@sobars.org](mailto:k7fro@sobars.org)  
**Call-Sign Trustee:**  
Jim Beckman, N6RSL  
**Emergency Coordinator:**  
Dick Cupp, K6SJA

#### CLUB NETS

Club nets are held every Tuesday evening on the following bands:  
1830: (PT) 449.980 (-) PL 88.5  
224.200 (-) PL 107.2  
1900: (PT) 146.085 (+) PL 100.0  
1930: (PT) 28.480 USB  
7.183 LSB

may schedule some SSTV transmissions to help get you started.

Will it work perfectly the first time you try it? Maybe not, but experimentation is at the heart of Ham Radio. The pleasure you feel when you “git ‘er done” cannot be overestimated. 

## The Extra Class Question of the Day

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

As many of you already know, I have written study guides for the Tech and General Class license exams ([www.kb6nu.com/tech-manual](http://www.kb6nu.com/tech-manual)). Until now, however, I’ve shied away from writing an Extra Class study guide. The two main reasons for this is that the material is much more complicated and there’s a lot more of it.

This year, however, the NCVEC is updating the Extra Class question pool, and I’ve decided to bite the bullet and do it. So, I’m now in the process of writing a No-Nonsense Extra Class Study Guide.

After I got started on this, I had a D’oh! moment. It occurred to me that instead of just publishing this material in the study guide, I could also post some of it to my blog ([www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com)). So, now I have the “Extra Class question of the Day” feature on KB6NU.Com.

In reality, it’s usually more than just a single question because many of the questions are on the same topic. That’s OK, though, because in reality, I don’t post these every day. So, it all works out. Having said all that, here’s an example. The correct answer to the question is in bold.

Extra Class question of the day: meteor scatter Amateur radio operators use many different ways to get signals from one spot to another. Perhaps one of the most interesting is meteor scatter propagation.

Meteor scatter propagation is possible because when a meteor strikes the Earth’s atmosphere, a cylindrical region of free electrons is formed at **the E layer** of the ionosphere. (E3A08) **28 - 148 MHz** is the frequency range that is well suited for meteor-scatter communications. (E3A09)

Unfortunately, these ionization trails are relatively short-lived, so


to communicate via meteor scatter, you need to either be able to detect when these paths are available or be transmitting when the paths are available. **All of these choices are correct** when talking about good techniques for making meteor-scatter contacts (E3A10):

- 15 second timed transmission sequences with stations alternating based on location
- Use of high speed CW or digital modes
- Short transmission with rapidly repeated call signs and signal reports

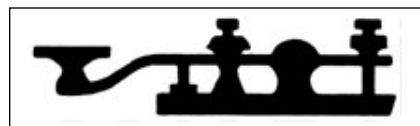
For more information on meteor scatter, go to:

- G3WZT’s Meteor Scatter page ([www.qsl.net/g3wzt/g3wzt\\_ms.html](http://www.qsl.net/g3wzt/g3wzt_ms.html))
- RSGB’s Meteor Scatter page ([www.rsgb.org/psc/meteor-scatter.php](http://www.rsgb.org/psc/meteor-scatter.php))

For more Extra Class questions of the day, go to [www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com).

When he’s not trying to figure out how he’ll be able to finish writing the No-Nonsense Extra Class License Study Guide, Dan, KB6NU is station manager at WA2HOM ([www.wa2hom.org](http://www.wa2hom.org)), the ham radio station at the Hands-On Museum in Ann Arbor, MI. If you have a particular question that you’d like him to make a “question of the day,” e-mail him at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com) 

**Editor’s note:** The preceding column by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is provided to clubs for newsletter content by Dan free of charge. This column will be a continuing feature of this newsletter as space permits. Content provided by SOBARS members is welcome at any time.





# MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Submitted By Fred Curtis, KI6GRO, Secretary

**January 2012**

Date: **January 5, 2012**

Start Time: **7:02 p.m.**

End Time: **8:02 p.m.**

**Attendance:** There were 22 members present and 3 visitors. Total attendance was 25.

**December Minutes:** The minutes for December were approved. MCSU to approve the December minutes Chuck, KF6FJU/John, K6CPO.

**Treasurer's Report:** The balance for December is \$3,383.09. This amount includes \$1,532.16 in the repeater fund. MSCU to approve the Treasurer's report Rene, KJ6GOP/Mark, KF6ZBF.

**ARRL Report** – Fred Curtis, KI6GRO reported that changes on our ARRL Affiliated Club Page have been made to reflect our new Club Officers.

**TASMA** -- Fred Curtis, KI6GRO reported that the latest edition of the TASMA newsletter was posted to the club web site under the "Club Files" tab. He also reported that dues for 2012 have been paid to TASMA.

**SANDARC** – Bill Metzger, W6RGS reported there was no SANDARC meeting in December and that monthly meetings would resume this month (January 2012).

**VE Report** – Rene Cenicerros, KJ6GOP, reported that 17 people participated in testing with 11 passing their Technician Class exam, 3 passing their General Class exam and 3 passing their Extra Class exam.

**ARES** – No report

**R.A.C.E.S.** – No report

**SOBARS Net** – Fred Curtis, KI6GRO reported that there were 14 check-ins this past week on the SOBARS Tuesday night net. This was down from previous weeks where the average is 18 check-ins.

**Field Day** – John Markham, KD6VKW gave a short explanation of Field Day to club visitors.

## New Business:

**Radio Propagation** – Club President, John Markham, KD6VKW gave a short presentation on radio wave propagation and antenna design. Thanks to John, for this informative and easy to understand, presentation.

**New Product Demo/6 Meter Band** – Joe Acevedo, N6SIX, and representing Ham Radio Outlet (HRO) gave a product demonstration on two new HT's, one with DStar, available at HRO. He also gave a brief demonstration and explanation of DStar. Joe gave a

brief presentation on the 6 Meter Band and the San Diego Six Shooters, a 6 Meter amateur radio club. Thanks to Joe for his presentations and product demonstrations!

**Club Newsletter** – John Wright, K6CPO, discussed whether or not the club would like to publish a club newsletter. The format, frequency and content of the proposed newsletter were discussed with club members.

**Extra Class Study Materials** – Rene Cenicerros, KJ6GOP, graciously donated Extra Class study materials to the club. The materials consisted of a study book and CD. Thank you, Rene for donating these study guides. The materials are currently "checked out" to Doug Shaw, KI6MBO. ☞

## February 2012

Date: **February 2, 2012**

Start Time: **7:02 p.m.**

End Time: **8:22p.m.**

**Attendance:** There were 20 members present and 2 visitors.

**January Minutes:** The minutes for January were approved. MCSU to approve the January minutes Doug, KI6MBO/John, KD6VKW.

**Treasurer's Report:** The balance for January is \$3,485.09. This amount includes \$1,537.16 in the repeater fund. MSCU to approve the Treasurer's report Dick, K6SJA/Rene, KJ6GOP.

**ARRL Report** – Fred Curtis, KI6GRO reported that the change of address for the club station license was finally completed with assistance from the ARRL. A look-up of the club call letters, K6QM will reflect the post office box address.

**TASMA** – No report

**SANDARC** – Bill Metzger, W6RGS reported that the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon has resigned from SANDARC.

The Lakeside Amateur Radio Club (LARC) requested a donation of \$1,080.00 for radio equipment for the Lakeside Fire Department. After a discussion, SOBARS members suggested that LARC find other avenues to fund the purchase of radio equipment such as FEMA grants and deny the request. MCS to deny a donation in the amount of \$1,080.00 to LARC for the purchase of radio equipment for the Lakeside Fire Department John, KD6ACV/Chuck, KF6FJU. There were 2 votes in favor.

The resubmission of the SANDARC by-laws will be ready for review later on in the year after being voted down last year.

Sign-ups will be required for clubs that would like to participate this year in the San Diego County Fair (Del Mar Fair). SOBARS voted not to participate in staffing the SANDARC booth at the San Diego County Fair.

To help clubs with recruiting new members, SANDARC voted to instruct the VE in charge at any license exam site to hand out any brochures or flyers provided to the VE by any SANDARC member club to anyone passing a license test.

**VE Report** – Rene Cenicerros, KJ6GOP, reported that 23 people participated in testing with 14 passing their Technician Class exam, 4 passing their General Class exam and 5 passing their Extra Class exam.

**ARES** – Jim Beckman, N6RSL, reminded members that ARES meets on the second Saturday of the month at 8:00 a.m at Scripps Memorial Hospital. Jim also reported that the meeting discussion was on digital modes

**R.A.C.E.S.** – No report

**SOBARS Net** – No report

#### **New Business:**

**Presentation** – Doug Shaw, KI6MBO, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the simplex radio exercise with SOBARS members that took place during the Great California Shake Out drill on October 20, 2011. Doug displayed a spreadsheet with all of the participants and their respective scores on radio reception, followed by the objectives and methodology of the exercise. The last portion of Doug's presentation showed maps of the participants' locations, depicting the quality of radio reception from the various participants in the exercise. Thanks to Doug for putting this exercise together and for a wonderful presentation! Doug also suggested that we make this an annual event, so that members can improve their stations and to have more participants.

**Purchase of Projector** – Club Secretary Fred Curtis, KI6GRO, brought up for discussion, the purchase of a projector for use at club meetings and events. After a short discussion on the topic, club member Don Johnson, KF6ZAG said that the club was always welcome to use his projector and agreed to bring it to meetings for club use. Thank you Don, for the use of your projector and saving the club money!

**New Members** – A vote was taken to accept two new members into SOBARS; John Schultz, AG6IO and Mark Wallace, KJ6NMJ. MCSU to accept John Schultz, AG6IO and Mark Wallace, KJ6NMJ as full members of SOBARS Mark, KF6ZBF/Dick, K6SJA. Welcome John and Mark to SOBARS! ≡



## **March 2012**

Date: **March 1, 2012**

Start Time: **7:02 p.m.**

End Time: **8:20 p.m.**

**Attendance:** There were 22 members present and 0 visitors.

**February Minutes:** The minutes for February were approved. MSCU to approve the February minutes, Rene, KJ6GOP/Ramon, KJ6QQK.

**Treasurer's Report:** The balance for February is \$3,622.22. This amount includes \$2,027.93 in the repeater fund. MSCU to approve the Treasurer's report Ramon, KJ6QQK/Louie, KI6SRR.

**ARRL Report** – No report

**TASMA** – No report

**SANDARC** – Mark Williams, KF6ZBF reported:

- The Lakeside Amateur Radio Club (LARC) withdrew their donation request for radio equipment for the Lakeside Fire Department.
- SANDARC will not participate and will not have a booth this year at the Del Mar Fair.
- The ARRL Southwestern Division Convention will be held September 12-14, 2014 at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel located at 8110 Aero Drive, San Diego.
- The 2013 ARRL SW Division Convention will be held in Yuma, Arizona.
- The ARRL National Convention will be held October 12-14, 2014 in Santa Clara, California.

**VE Report** – Rene Cenicerros, KJ6GOP, reported that 23 people participated in testing with 10 passing their Technician Class exam, 11 passing their General Class exam and 2 passing their Extra Class exam.

**ARES** – Fred Curtis, KI6GRO attended the monthly ARES meeting along with Mark Williams, KF6ZBF, Steve Froetscher, K7FRO, Tracy Froetscher, KJ6LXP and Jim Beckman, N6RSL. The topic for the ARES meeting was a presentation on the Emergency Communications Trailer donated to ARES by Homeland Security. Next month's meeting will cover "go kits".

**R.A.C.E.S.** – John Pfingsten, KD6ACV, reported that he attended the last RACES meeting which dealt with the newly formed California Disaster Corps.

**SOBARS Net** – Dick Cupp, K6SJA reported that there were a few check-ins on the 440 net and 220 net. There were 6 check-ins on the 10 meter HF net and 3 check-ins on the 40 meter HF net. Dick also was net control for the SOBARS net.

#### **New Business:**

**Presentation** – Frank Spurgeon, W6FSJ, gave a hands-on demonstration of his newly acquired Buddipole



HF antenna system. Frank purchased the Deluxe Buddipole Package which includes a tripod stand and mast. Thanks to Frank for bringing in his new antenna!

**Alternate Net Control** – Club Secretary Fred Curtis, KI6GRO, asked the members present, if someone would volunteer to be an alternate net control operator for the Tuesday night SOBARS Net. Ramon Duenas, KJ6QQK graciously volunteered to be an alternate net control for the SOBARS Net. Thank you Ramon for volunteering! Ramon is also net control for the Tuesday night Chula Vista CERT Net which is held at 8:00 p.m.

## **SOBARS Members Participate in 2011 Chula Vista Harbor Days**

By Fred Curtis, KI6GRO

Members of the Southbay Amateur Radio Society (SOBARS) participated in the two-day 2011 Chula Vista Centennial Harbor Days event held on the Chula Vista Bay waterfront. Club members set up, operated and demonstrated amateur radio communications utilizing the Chula Vista Fire Department's emergency communications trailer. The two-day event was a great opportunity to promote SOBARS, ham radio and to exercise the installed radio equipment in the trailer and to communicate on the various bands including HF, 2-meters, 70 centimeters and 1.25 meters.



Photo by Fred Curtis, KI6GRO

**The Chula Vista Fire Department Emergency Communications Trailer set up for Harbor Days. At right are Rene Cenicerros, KJ6GOP and Steve Froetscher, K7FRO.**

Tom Leonard, KJ6DPO, with the assistance of the Chula Vista Fire Department, pre-positioned the emergency communications trailer the day before the event, in the public parking lot adjacent to the Chula Vista Yacht Club. On the first morning of the event, club members were met with their first challenge: No electrical power! Members quickly met the challenge and fired up the onboard generator and switched over to emergency power. That was a sign of things to come as there was no shore power during the event due to an electrical malfunction in the parking lot area.

The public got a firsthand look at the operating stations in the trailer along with radio demonstrations and

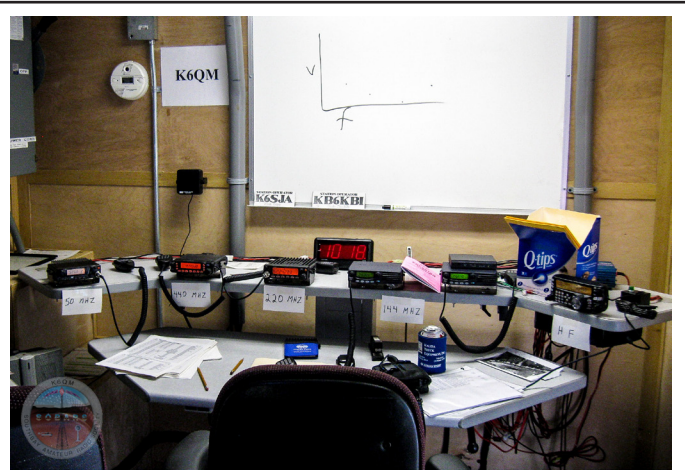


Photo by Fred Curtis, KI6GRO

**Interior view of the Emergency Communications trailer showing the operating position.**

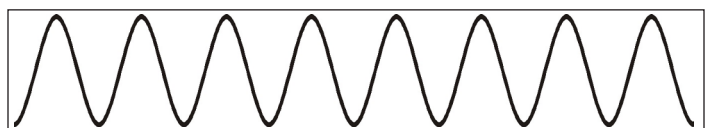
contacts. Club members called the trailer from their respective QTH's on the various bands in an effort to demonstrate to the public the value of ham radio and volunteers. Club members in attendance also made contacts to the trailer via hand-held radios and mobile units from their vehicles. Finally, the public got to ask many questions about ham radio, our club and being a volunteer. It should also be noted that the trailer was set up next to the Chula Vista CERT booth, which gave the public a unique look at two organizations working together to aid the public during emergency conditions.



Photo by Fred Curtis, KI6GRO

**Jim Beckman, N6RSL and Steve Froetscher, K7FRO, in front of the Emergency Communications Trailer.**

The following members participated in the event: Tom Leonard, KJ6DPO, Jim Beckman, N6RSL, Louie Vignapiano, KI6SRR, John Markham, KD6VKW, Fred Curtis, KI6GRO, Frank Spurgeon, Jr., W6FSJ, Frank Spurgeon, Sr., W6FSS, Rene Cenicerros, KJ6GOP, Stacy Froetscher, KJ6LXP, Steve Froetscher, K7FRO and Ramon Duenas, KJ6QQK. 🍷



## Club Member Teaches Radio Merit Badge to Boy Scouts

By Fred Curtis, KI6GRO



During the Merit Badge Jamboree held on February 18, 2012, at the San Diego LDS East Stake Center in Linda Vista, I had the honor of assisting in teaching my first Radio Merit Badge class. Under the direction of ARRL San Diego Section Leader (Southwestern Division) and club member Steve Early, AD6VI, I conducted a four hour class on many aspects of amateur radio and touched on broadcast radio.

Twelve Boy Scouts completed the requirements of the Radio Merit Badge which included such topics as the difference between amateur and broadcast radio, two way communications, the electromagnetic spectrum, block and schematic diagrams, schematic symbols, the phonetic alphabet, the FCC and ITU, Q signals and many of the basics of ham radio. The scouts were also given information on studying for their Technician Class License and where to take the test and get more information. The final requirement met by the Scouts was a short QSO on 2 meters on a simplex frequency with other scouts under the supervision of myself and other licensed Boy Scouts as control operators.

Later in the afternoon, waiting for me in the mail, was a letter and card designating me a Radio Merit Badge Counselor with Boy Scouts of America. I plan on teaching the Radio Merit badge class at Scout Fair in April and to individual troops later on in the year. ➤

### Upcoming Ham Classes

#### One-Day Technician License Class:

**Date:** Saturday, 07 April, 2012

**Times:** 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM for class, 5:00 PM to about 7:00 PM for exam. (Class time includes short hourly breaks and a 45 minute lunch break.)

**Location:** Kearny Mesa area (address will be provided later)

#### One-Day General License Class:

**Date:** Saturday, 05 May, 2012

**Times:** 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM for class, 5:00 PM to about 7:00 PM for exam. (Class time includes short hourly breaks and 45-60 minute lunch break.)

**Location:** Escondido area (address will be provided later.)

#### Two-Day Amateur Extra License Class

**Dates:** Saturday, 02 June and 09 June, 2012.

**Times:** approximately 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM for class, 5:00 PM to about 7:00 PM for exam on the second day. (Class time includes short hourly breaks and a 45-60 minute lunch break.)

**Location:** Kearny Mesa area (address will be provided later)

**Costs:** The classes are free. The VEC Exam at the end of the day costs no more than \$15.

**Eligibility:** Anyone is eligible if they follow instructions to register and confirm.

**Age limit:** None. (contact us for teen and pre-teen considerations)

Seating is limited. Register with J Goldberg, AF6GM at [sandiegohamclasses@me.com](mailto:sandiegohamclasses@me.com) if you would like to attend.

Those who register will receive detailed instructions and study materials to review before the day of the class. While walk-ins may be permitted if space is available, advance review of the study materials is strongly recommended. Those unwilling to follow registration and confirmation instructions may be ineligible to attend the class.

See <http://web.me.com/sandiegohamclasses/> for more information. ➤



Photo by John Wright, K6CPO

The 2011 SOBARS Field Day Crew. Left to right, back row: Tracy, KJ6LXP; John, KD6ACV; Frank, W6FSS; Jim, N6RSL; Al, WB6PYA; Steve, K7FRO; Clark, K6MCC; and Bill, W6RGS. Left to right, front row: Tyler, KJ6BTZ, Frank, W6FSJ, John, KD6VKW; and Mark, KF6ZBF. Field Day was conducted on property adjacent to the Chula Vista Yacht Club.