

July 2017

The KEYER

K6MEP

Ventura County Amateur Radio Club

Year 81 Issue 7



The Ventura County Amateur Radio Club, K6MEP will hold its next regular meeting at 7:30 PM on Friday the 14th of July 2017 at the Ventura County Port Authority 1603 Anchors Way Ventura, CA 93001 , 34°15.11' N, 119°16.01' W, grid DM04G, (see map pg 21). Board Meeting precedes the General Meeting. Preliminary Field Day Report on page 5. July meeting will feature a Presentation by Steve Hudson K16BSQ on Antennas.

K6MEP

Ventura County Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 2103, Oxnard, CA 93034-2103

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K6MEP KEYER -- The VCARC Journal

K6MEP Keyer – The Journal of the Ventura County Amateur Radio Club

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The **KEYER** is published monthly by K6MEP, the Ventura County Amateur Radio Club, Inc. as a means of providing club members the minutes from K6MEP's monthly general membership meetings, the monthly board of directors meetings, a calendar of events and articles of interest on amateur radio.

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Material submitted for inclusion is encouraged. Submit material on IBM(tm) PC diskettes, USB sticks, or by e-mail to kg6bov@arrl.net. MS Word, WordPerfect or ASCII is preferred. Send all submissions directly to the club mailing address at **K6MEP, PO Box 2103 Oxnard, CA 93034-2103** or deliver to the editor at any time mutually convenient.

K6MEP holds general membership meetings at 7:30 PM on the 2nd Friday of each month at The Ventura Port Authority building, 1603 Anchors Way Ventura 93001
Dues are \$20 per year.

Message from the President

Greetings Members:

Field Day 2017 is behind us, and I hope you all enjoyed the outing and picked up a few tips along the way. Most of us had our hard hats on for setup Friday and on Sunday for take-down. We put up a record seven antenna masts - wow, was that a lot of work, but worth it for the Club to get on the 160 meter band for the first time I can remember! Our log files, photos and supporting documents have been submitted to the ARRL web, and our claimed score is 2572. See complete FD scoring details elsewhere in the Keyer.

This is similar to recent years, even though upper HF band conditions were poor. We did get 200 more points for 10 transmitters, pushing our total up a bit, comparable to the 8A class of last year. Thanks to all who participated this year; your efforts are noted and greatly appreciated!

For July presentations, we have a Double Header! Steve Hudson KI6BSQ will present his antenna topic of the month. Following Steve, Bob Byl KD6UDA will give a brief presentation - you won't want to miss these talks.

See you all at the Friday July 14th meeting with your ideas, energy and suggestions!

Joe Krigbaum K6NE
President, VCARC

Secretary's Column and Meeting Minutes

**Ventura County Amateur Radio Club Inc. Club Meeting
Meeting Date : 9 June 2017**

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
MEETING ADDRESS : Ventura Port District Building 1603

Anchors Way, Ventura

ATTENDANCE : Listed on Roll Check-In Sheet

CALL TO ORDER

Established quorum (25% of Voting Members = 6)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEETING MINUTES

Open meeting with Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions.

Call for approval of minutes. Quorum to approve the minutes .

FINANCIAL REVIEW

OLD BUSINESS

Stewart KG6BOV has made membership badges for current members and brought them to the meeting.

This weekend is the ARRL June VHF Contest; 6 meters on up. 11 AM Saturday to Sunday.

(Cont pg 19)

Selected July Contests & Special Events

The following contests and special events caught your editor's eye. This is by no means a complete listing. Please see QST or the ARRL website (www.arrl.org) for any details and QSL information.

- 06/29/2017 **Battle of Gettysburg 154th Anniversary** Jun 29-Jul 10, 0900Z-0905Z, W1G, East Berlin, PA. WO4L. Certificate & QSL. Robert J Hess, 74 Curtis Dr, East Berlin, PA 17316. For a Beautiful full color 11x14 Certificate and or QSL or both follow QSL instructions on QRZ for W1G <https://www.qrz.com/db/w1g>
- 06/29/2017 **State of Idaho 127th Anniversary** Jun 29-Jul 7, 2000Z-2000Z, W7I, Moscow, ID. Thatuna Amateur Radio Club. Certificate & QSL. TARC. Look for us on www.dxsummit.fi. QSL, SASE and \$1; Certificate 9x12 SASE and \$2. www.qrz.com/db/W7TRC
- 07/01/2017 **13 Colonies Special Event** Jul 1-Jul 7, 1300Z-0400Z, KU2US, Conesus, NY. 13 Colonies Special Event Group. Certificate. QSL to individual states, Check out website for QSL managers, dentron1@yahoo.com or www.13colonies.net
- 07/01/2017 **13 Colonies Special Event Bonus** Jul 1-Jul 7, 1300Z-0400Z, WM3PEN, Philadelphia, PA. Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club. QSL. Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club. Activity on HF, VHF, DSTAR, Fusion, AllStar. Check website for details. 13colonies.net/wm3.html
- 07/01/2017 **46th Annual Smithville Fiddlers Jamboree and Crafts Festival** Jul 1, 1400Z-2200Z, K4F, Smithville, TN. DeKalb/Cannon County Amateur Radio Club. QSL. AB4ZB - DCCARC, dccarc.org
- 07/01/2017 **65th Anniversary of Kern County Parks and Recreations** Jul 1, 0000Z-2359Z, K6A thru K6J, Bakersfield, CA. Kern County-Central Valley Amateur Radio Club W6LIE. Certificate & QSL.. Special event for the 65th anniversary of the Kern County Parks and Recreations. We will be on 20 and 40 meters, SSB, Digital and CW. For QSL information for card or certificate, see W6LIE.org. Work 5 of the special event call signs K6A thru K6J for certificate. For more information QRZ. www.w6lie.org
- 07/01/2017 **70th Anniversary of the "Roswell Incident" and 25th Anniversary of the International UFO Museum** Jul 1-Jul 4, 1600Z-1259Z, W5ZU, Roswell, NM. Pecos Valley Amateur Radio Club. Certificate. PVARC. pvarc123@gmail.com or <https://www.pecosvalleyarc.com>
- 07/01/2017 **City of Laurel July 4th Celebration** Jul 1, 1600Z-2359Z, W3LRC, Laurel, MD. Laurel Amateur Radio Club. Certificate & QSL. Laurel Amateur Radio Club. www.larcmd.org
- 07/01/2017 **Commemorating The Stourbridge Lion** Jul 1-Jul 15, 1400Z-2300Z, K3L, Honesdale, PA. Wayne County Amateur Radio Club. QSL. K3L, c/o WCARC, The first steam railroad locomotive to operate in the U.S. Operating railroad mobile and fixed at stations along the Stourbridge RR. waynecoarc.org
- 07/01/2017 **Independence Day** Jul 1-Jul 5, 0000Z-2359Z, W4J, Cleburne, TX. Club KC5NX (Menasco Amateur Radio Club). QSL. W4J, www.qrz.com/db/kc5nx
- 07/01/2017 **Laura Ingalls Wilder Pageant** Jul 1-Jul 2, 1600Z-2359Z, W0NOZ, DeSmet, SD. Huron Amateur Radio Association. Certificate & QSL. Huron ARA. Send \$2 with QSO info to call book address www.huronarc.info
- 07/02/2017 **Great Haldon Shutter Telegraph Over 200 Years** Jul 2-Jul 7, 0600Z-2000Z, GB5GHT, Nr Exeter, Devon, ENGLAND. RSGB. 14.190. QSL. John Wakefield, 'Oakhurst', Lower Common Road, West Wellow, ROMSEY SO51 6BT, ENGLAND. www.qrz.com/db/gb5ght
- 07/03/2017 **Railroad Telegraphers** Jul 3-Jul 14, 0100Z-2300Z, K8T, Bellevue, OH. Mad River & NKP Railroad Museum. QSL. KD8KWV. Celebrating the significance of the use of telegraphy with the advancement of the railroad. The telegrapher's primary duty was maintaining communication between the train dispatcher, who was usually many miles away, with trains and the whole rail system. We will be operating all modes from the Mad River & NKP Railroad Museum in Bellevue, Ohio. QSL request with SASE to KD8KWV
- 07/03/2017 **Whiskey Rebellion Festival** Jul 3-Jul 16, 2000Z-2200Z, W3R, Prosperity, PA. Washington Amateur Communications. Certificate & QSL. there is a handling fee for Certificate info pse check W3R on QRZ.com site. SASE for QSL card. need more email NY9H@arrl.net wacomarc.org
- 07/04/2017 **4th of July at Fort Missoula** Jul 4, 1400Z-2200Z, W7PX, Missoula, MT. The Hellgate Amateur Radio Club. QSL. The Hellgate Amateur Radio Club, Come celebrate the 4th of July with us as we operate from a log cabin at the Museum at Fort Missoula. www.w7px.org
- 07/04/2017 **Small Town 4th of July** Jul 4, 1600Z-2300Z, W7AI, Mount Lemmon, AZ. Oro Valley Amateur Radio Club. Certificate & QSL. Oro Valley Amateur Radio Club. From 9,000ft on Mt. Lemmon: An old-fashioned Independence Day celebration complete with mobile operation in the parade! QSL via LoTW or club website. www.tucsonhamradio.org
- 07/05/2017 **City of Le Havre 500th Anniversary** Jul 5-Jul 10, 0000Z-2359Z, TM500LH, Le Harve, FRANCE. Le Havre Wireless Society. All bands, all modes. Certificate. F6KOH, 25 Rue des Iris, Le Harve 76610, FRANCE. Events also being held in August and October www.qrz.com/db/tm500lh
- 07/08/2017 **Ames Monument National Historic Landmark Dedication** Jul 8-Jul 9, 1500Z-0000Z, N7UW, Laramie, WY. University Amateur Radio Club. Certificate & QSL. University Amateur Radio Club. www.uwyo.edu/uarc
- 07/08/2017 **USS Midway Museum Ship; Independence Day Special Event** Jul 8, 1600Z-2300Z, N16IW, San

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- Diego, CA. USS Midway (CV-41) Museum Ship. QSL. USS Midway CV-41 COMEDTRA..
- 07/13/2017 Our Lady of Fatima 100th Anniversary Jul 13, 1900Z-2200Z, W1HGY**, Bedford, PA. Saint Maximilian Kolbe Net. Certificate. K3QNT. Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Apparition of Our Blessed Mother in Fatima, Portugal in 1917 saintmaxnet.org
- 07/15/2017 Marvin Gilbert (KD8GPF) Special Event Jul 15-Jul 16, 0800Z-1600Z, W8UCO**, Marysville, OH. W8UCO ARC (Union County Amateur Radio Club). 3.840 7.240. Certificate. Marvin Gilbert Special Event (W8UCO/KD8GPF). Commemorating 57 years of public service with Civil Defense/Union County Emergency Management Agency . ohiohams.net
- 07/15/2017 South Carolina Peach Festival 40th Anniversary Jul 15-Jul 16, 0001Z-0001Z, W4W**, Gaffney, SC. Cherokee County Coroner's Office. QSL. Dennis Fowler. dfowler@cherokee-county.com
- 07/15/2017 Tribute for Silent Key Steve Foster (N4SZ) Jul 15-Jul 21, 1300Z-0200Z, N4AW**, Anderson, SC. Anderson Radio Club. QSL. Anderson Radio Club. In memory of Silent Key Steve Foster (N4SZ), Anderson, SC who received the ARRL 50-Year Service Certificate as a member of the Anderson Radio Club, Anderson, SC and his volunteer work with the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief and Emergency Coordinator for the Anderson County Emergency Preparedness. www.andersonradioclub.com
- 07/15/2017 Wapello County Iowa 4H Expo Jul 15, 0400Z-1000Z, WA0DX**, Blakesburg, IA. Ottumwa Amateur Radio Club. QSL. W4H. <https://wa0dx.org/w4h>
- 07/16/2017 2017 Winnebago GNR Jul 16-Jul 21, 1300Z-0400Z, W0WIT**, Linwood, KS. Winnebago Amateur Radio Chapter. QSL. dmarlowe@outlook.com
- 07/17/2017 Brickyard 400 Special Event Jul 17-Jul 24, 0400Z-0400Z, W9IMS**, Indianapolis, IN. Indianapolis Motor Speedway Amateur Radio Club. Certificate & QSL. Indianapolis Motor Speedway Amateur Radio Club, Full information on how to get the QSL and Certificate at <https://www.qrz.com/db/w9ims>
- 07/19/2017 2017 National Scout Jamboree Jul 19-Jul 27, 0000Z-2300Z, K2BSA**, Glen Jean, WV. K2BSA Amateur Radio Association. QSL. We will be on the Scout calling frequencies and posting our operations to Facebook and Twitter. www.k2bsa.net/jamboree
- 07/20/2017 Celebrating Apollo 11 Moon Landing Jul 20, 1330Z-2030Z, K2CAM**, Garden City, NY. Cradle Of Aviation Museum and Long Island Mobile Amateur Radio Club. QSL. LIMARC, cradleofaviation.org
- 07/20/2017 Man on the Moon Jul 20-Jul 24, 0000Z-2359Z, N7M**, Maple Valley, WA. Certificate & QSL. This is the July special event station in support of the 2017
- KB7QPS Air, Space, and Technology Operating Event. airspacetechology.webs.com
- 07/21/2017 Red River Bridge War Special Event Jul 21-Jul 30, 0000Z-2359Z, W5I**, Sherman, TX. Grayson County Amateur Radio Club. QSL. Grayson County ARC, Grayson County ARC hosts the Red River Bridge War Special Event. This "War" was a dispute between Texas and Oklahoma over a new bridge that was built over the Red River in 1931. Tempers ran high, words were exchanged and armed guards were deployed, but in the end no one was injured. www.graysoncountycarc.com
- 07/22/2017 Kingsport, TN Centennial & Maker's Faire Jul 22, 1300Z-1600Z, W4TRC**, Johnson City, TN. Kingsport Amateur Radio Club. Certificate & QSL. Check website for updates and more events celebrating Kingsport, TN Centennial in 2017 w4trc.org
- 07/23/2017 EAA Warbirds AirVenture 2017 Jul 23-Jul 30, 1700Z-1700Z, W9W**, Oshkosh, WI. EAA Warbirds of America. QSL. K9EC. Historic aviation achievements, legendary pilots, and groundbreaking aviation innovations will all be featured at EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2017, on July 24-30 at Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. The W9W special event station will operate from the EAA Warbirds of America area at Wittman Airport. Warbird Aircraft such as the T-6, T-28, T-34, Aero Vodochody L-39, MiG 17, Spitfire, Grumman F6F Hellcat, P-51 Mustang, and hundreds more will be in the Warbirds area. Many of those aircraft will fly in the daily airshow. www.warbirds-aea.org
- 07/24/2017 Cabwaylingo State Park Dog Days of Summer Jul 24-Jul 30, 0000Z-2359Z, W8V**, Dunlow, WV. KE8BBB. Certificate & QSL. KE8BBB. Special Event to run entire week at various times from various locations within 8123 acre state park. QSL Manager: KE8BBB
- 07/26/2017 EAA Airventure 2017 Jul 26-Jul 30, 1400Z-2200Z, W9ZL**, Appleton, WI. Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club . Certificate. W9ZL EAA Special Event. Times are daily. www.fcarc.club
- 07/26/2017 W2SO 30th Anniversary QRP Special Event Jul 22, 1700Z-2300Z, W2SO**, Lancaster, NY. Lancaster Amateur Radio Club Inc. QSL. Lancaster Amateur Radio Club/W2SO. www.qrz.com/db/w2so or w2so.org
- 07/28/2017 Swiss Days Special event Station Jul 28-Jul 29, 1300Z-2000Z, W9A**, Berne, IN. Adams County Amateur Radio Club. QSL. waynesteury@gmail.com
- 07/29/2017 | Grainger Co, Tomato Festival Jul 29-Jul 30, 1400Z-2100Z, W2IQ**, Bean Station, TN. Lakeway Amateur Radio Club. QSL. W4VGI. CW operations and times will be announced on SSB operations: "QRT at this time CW Ops QSY to _____kHz." w4vgi@juno.com or www.lakewayarc.org

K6MEP Report for ARRL Field Day 2017

Here are preliminary results from VCARC for Field Day 2017.

1. Callsign: K6MEP
2. Individual or Club Name: Ventura County Amateur Radio Club
3. Number of Participants: 14 (plus about 15 for setup on Friday)
4. Operating Location: Camarillo Airport, Fire Department Training Center
5. Approximate Total Number of QSOs: 334
6. Approximate Number of EOCs Worked (Class "F"): 17

Metrics:

Operating Period: 2017/06/24 18:58 - 2017/06/25 17:20

Total Contacts by Band and Mode:

Band	CW	Phone	Dig	Total	%
----	--	----	---	----	---
160	0	1	0	1	0
80	0	16	0	16	5
40	20	93	0	113	34
20	17	113	10	140	42
15	0	8	0	8	2
6	0	5	0	5	1
2	0	24	0	24	7
1.25	0	11	0	11	3
70	0	8	0	8	2
23	0	8	0	8	2
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Total	37	287	10	334	100

K6MEP site also had visitors:

22 on day 1

22 on day 2

Editor's Note:

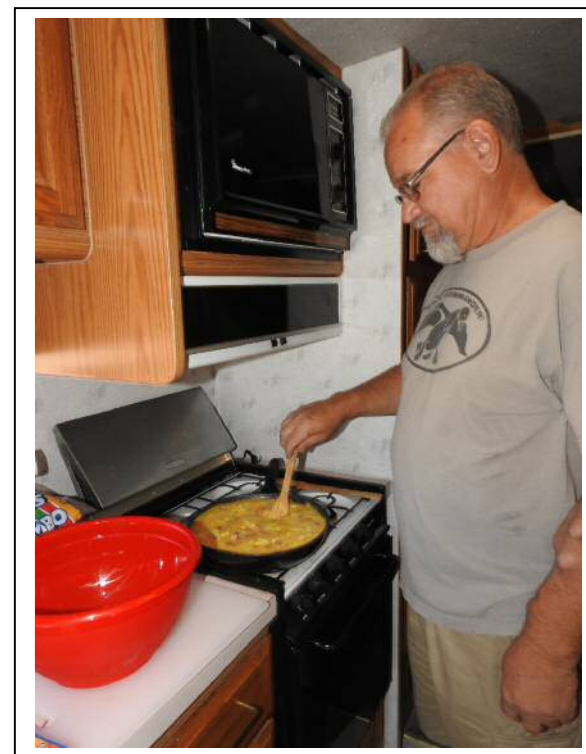
Operating 10A starts us with 1000 additional points
 Counting up the bonus points in the ARRL Field Day Rules, I
 count 860 Bonus Points
 Power Multiplier for our station was x2
 Web App submission (50 points)

381 x2 +1000 + 860 + 50 results in **2672 Points** (Very, very
 unofficial)

-- KG6BOV / editor



Reese West KQ6TT and Joe Krigbaum K6NE
 visiting the 80M/160M Station – photo by KM6RSS



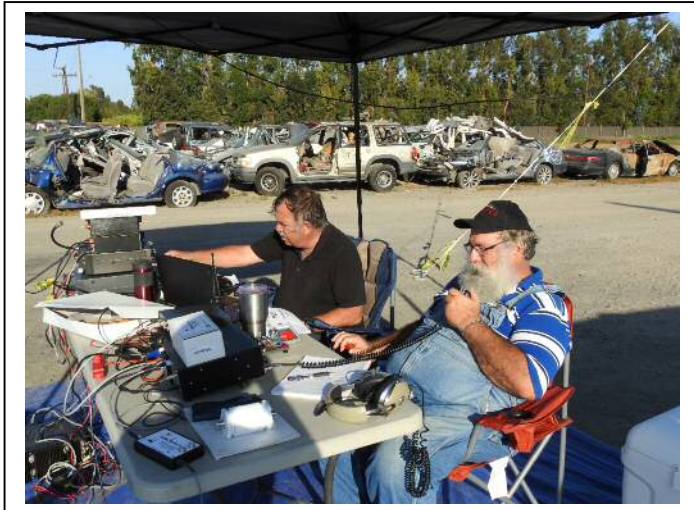
Brett Miller KJ6AAL working Scrambled
 Eggs and Spam -- photo by KG6BOV



Breakfast Strawberries about
 to meet their demise



Thanks to our hosts, Ventura County Fire Department and the Fire Training Center. VCFD FTC was conducting Urban Trench Rescue Training during Field Day Setup on Friday 23 June 2017 -- photos by KG6BOV



Ben Holmes AK6BH and Phil Cohen WA6BUZ at the 80M/160M Station -- photo by KG6BOV



Paul Dolton and Mark Ortega KI6YLH on 15M SSB -- photo by KG6BOV



Allison McKowen N6PEP on 20M SSB; Lloyd Olson KE6BBP and Mark Thompson AE6GD at 15M CW – photo by W6JWP



Dana Wentling KG6WXE at the PR Table / Talk-In Station -- photo by KG6BOV

Amateur Microwave (MESH) Network

Hello All,

I wanted to update you all on the work that has been performed at Chatsworth Peak these past few weeks. These upgrades will bring us another step forward to establishing an Amateur Microwave (MESH) connection from San Diego to SLO county and points North.

On **Saturday June 3rd** we had a small work party head up the hill to Chatsworth Peak. Thank you Orv for arranging the work force. The day's task was to lay an additional 160 feet of PVC conduit between the two telecommunications containers so that we could install two CAT5 data lines. It worked out well; the team trenched along the same path that the original first power conduit was laid. This made for an easier job of trenching and covering. The conduit at both containers were passed through the walls of the containers and into proper electrical boxes inside each container. With the assistance of all hands and a lot of GOOP (cable lubricant), the data lines were pulled through. The termination of the cables would have to wait for another day due to heat and humidity.

A second big task was the very large weed abatement task. This in itself took several hours, along with a lot of string and fuel. When this task was completed, there was not a weed growing anywhere the top of the hill. This was a hard task and appreciated. All in all an excellent day.

I want to thank the following for their help. Without them and those like them these projects could never be completed. Thank you.

Jay, WB6YQN
Orv, W6BI

Ken, KS3I
Dave, KM6FW

Dave, N6OOR
Paul, WD6EBY

On **Saturday June 10th** I returned to Chatsworth Peak to terminate the data lines that were run the day before. The Ventura County VLAN2 MESH network is now connected to the Switch that goes to Verdugo Peak. Additionally, I replaced the failing Network switch with a temporary switch. This temporary switch will need to be changed out before the year's end.

On **Wednesday June 14th** I accompanied Mike, K6MJU, to Chatsworth Peak to upgrade the network switch that is used for data link between Chatsworth Peak and Verdugo Peak. What was to be a 15 minute task ended up being a 90 minute task. So the estimate of time to complete again turned out to be equal to '**One Amateur Unit of Time**'.

Mike, K6MJU
Orv, W6BI

Emmett, WA6COT
Paul, WD6EBY

Friday June 16th, the big day. Orv and I made the trek to Verdugo Peak in the East San Fernando Valley. Our task today was to install a 2G MESH access point and connect it back to Chatsworth Peak to extend the MESH connectivity. Verdugo Peak is roughly 3,100ft and is encircled by the 210FWY, the 5FWY and the 2-Glendale FWY. It has a commanding view of the entire San Fernando Valley, a large portion of Los Angeles proper and out towards Palos Verdes and Long Beach. And if it wasn't for the smog we could have seen all of these places.

Mike provided us a prime spot for the 2GHZ MESH Sector antenna with no obstructions to the West. The picture shows Orv and Mike on the top of the building. Orv is installing the mesh sector antenna and Rocket radio.

The installation of the MESH antenna went as planned. Just as we were to connect this new Node antenna into the CP < --> Verdugo Link to interconnect the Ventura County MESH network, the link crashed. A lot of scratching heads to discover what had happened and a lot of speculation like, did you try this...have you checked that...how about that other



Verdugo Peak Container
courtesy W6BI / WD6EBY

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k6mep@qsl.net / www.qsl.net/k6mep
<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/K6MEP/info>

thing? OK time for a break. We ate lunch under the container which by this time was an excellent sun shade. During lunch we solved the problems of the world and traded stories about our Amateur Radio accomplishments. It was a good time. Back to it. While Mike was trouble shooting, Orv had a chance to locally connect to the new mesh node. Low and behold, Orv was seeing the Ventura Count network. Apparently there is a marginal path from the South Mtn E-Sector antenna and the Verdugo Peak Sector antenna. Not good for a connection but good enough for the NODE names to resolve. WOW that's a 52 mile path.

So after a lot of trouble shooting it was determined that the remote ends of the link (ie Chatsworth Peak) needed to be looked at. So we packed up and went home home after a long rewarding day on Verdugo Peak.

I want to thank Mike Lee, K6MJU for his generosity in working with us today. Clifford Novey, KK6QMS for his on site assistance. And Mr. Dick McCay, K6VGP owner of the site and the DARN Network www.darn.org. Thank you Dick for hosting this MESH node at Verdugo Peak.



Lunch and solving the world's problems, courtesy W6BI / WD6EBY

Friday June 16th after dinner, I discovered that the Camarillo Hills NODE was not working. I made a trip to the hilltop to discover that the unit was powered up but I could not get a link light. I removed the radio from the hilltop and will be re-flashing the unit. If it does NOT come back to life I will have to purchase a replacement unit. Great another expense.

Saturday June 17th. I went to Chatsworth Peak this morning to gather the information that Mike required to re-establish the CP<>Verdugo link. Came back home, forwarded the information to Mike and within a short time the link was again operational. Apparently there was an outstanding update to the Ubiquity software that addressed an issue with links not re-establishing connections after a power failure. Now that the link is back up, Mike can upgrade the units.

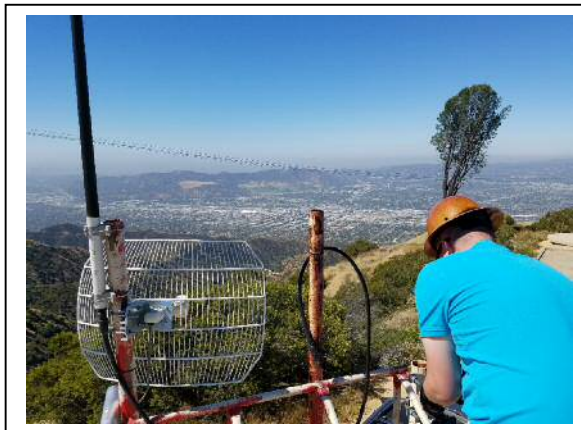
Ok so now the MESH is connected to Verdugo right...well no. So now what. Remember that I had installed a new temporary switch, well this unit had an issue with the heat today, this unit runs hotter than the unit it replaced. The inside of the small tower mounted box where the switch is located, was registering over 175deg f. To lower the stress on the switch I had shut off all of the MESH nodes at CP to try to reduce the heat load. Within the next day or so I will go to CP to install a small exhaust fan reduce the heat retention. Hopefully this will keep the heat down unit I can design and build a proper ventilated tower enclosure. I will definitely need it now that I have a higher internal heat load.

I will let you all know when we have our connection to Verdugo.

Again I want to thank everyone that helped with this aspect of the MESH build out. I am truly thankful for each and every one of you.

With great respect.

Paul Strauss
WD6EBY
pgstrauss@verizon.net
www.pvarc.club
805-484-2985 h



View from Verdugo, courtesy W6BI / WD6EBY



Inside the Verdugo Container, courtesy W6BI / WD6EBY

“Top Band”

Field Day really isn't my thing, the various VHF contests are what I'm into. I do like to operate Field Day a little from home, though. The rules don't allow contacting a station yourself that you "participated" in which is why I can't also operate a station at the club site. My personal goal is to make at least one contact on each band that I have which I very nearly did this year, much thanks to K6MEP. Our 160M contact (1.910 MHz) was a first for me, and might be for the club too. I was surprised how well it worked. K6MEP peaked S9 out of a S3 noise level. Okay, it was only about a 9 mile contact, but 160M is not an easy band! This was the first and only signal I've ever heard on what's called the "Top Band." I was using a Jetstream JTMHF160 160 meter mobile whip I found about a year ago on eBay for \$89. I think they are no longer made but show up on eBay from time to time. It has a big honkin' loading coil but is only 67-inches tall. Its efficiency must be horrid and the bandwidth is spec'd at just 12 KHz (although mine measured a 30 KHz 3 dB BW with a 1.1:1 SWR at 1915 KHz.) I do have a pretty good ground system with over 30 random length radials and 950 square feet of steel gopher mesh under the lawn, but that's still not great for a frequency who's wavelength is over 500-feet! On the other hand, it's surely a better ground system than the intended one, the body of a car.

BTW, all of my HF operating is done with ground-mounted whips. The 6M and 10M antennas are true 1/4-wave verticals, no loading coils or top hats. 6M is a MFJ telescoping whip, the 10M being a trimmed stainless steel CB whip. The 15, 20, 40, and 80 meter antennas are all loaded mobile whips. Each has a mobile antenna bayonet fitting that mates with a fitting mounted at the center of an aluminum disk mounted a couple inches above the lawn. All of the radials connect to that 17-inch diameter disk. This setup certainly won't make you a big gun on the frequency but does yield a very low visibility way to get a signal on any band.

I said I very nearly made a contact on every band I have. The missing contact would have been on 33 cm, 903 MHz. A band with its own set of challenges.

73, Steve WA6EJO



Antenna quick disconnect base wa6ejobase.jpg



Whips, 160M through 6M wa6ejowhips.jpg



Find the 20M antenna wa6ejo20m.jpg

Upcoming FCC Exam Sessions

ON EXAM DAY BRING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

1. A legal photo ID (driver's license, passport).
2. When no photo ID is available, two forms of identification must be presented:
 - a. non-photo ID/driver's license (some states still have them)
 - b. birth certificate (must have the appropriate seal)
 - c. social security card
 - d. library card
 - e. utility bill, bank statement or other business correspondence that specifically names the person; or a postmarked envelope addressed to the person at his or her current mailing address as it appears on the Form 605.
3. Students may bring any of the above items and/or a school ID, minor's work permit, report card, or a legal guardian may present a photo ID.
4. Bring your Social Security Number (SSN) or your FCC issued Federal Registration Number (FRN). VEC's are required by FCC to submit either your SSN or your FRN number with your license application form. If you prefer not to give your SSN, then you may use your FCC issued FRN, if you have one. For instructions on how to register your SSN with the FCC and receive a FRN, visit the FCC's FAQ page and the FCC's registration instructions page.
5. If applicable, bring the original and a photocopy of your current Amateur Radio license and any Certificates of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) you may hold from previous exam sessions. The photocopy(s) will not be returned.
6. Two number two pencils with erasers and a pen.
7. A calculator with the memory erased and formulas cleared is allowed. You may not bring any written notes or calculations into the exam session. Slide rules and logarithmic tables are acceptable, as long as they're free of notes and formulas. Cell phone must be silenced or turned off during the exam session. The phones' calculator function may not be used.
8. Bring a check, a money order or cash to cover the exam session fee(s). Check the ARRL VEC's current exam fee.

License Preparation and Sample Test Sites

<http://aa9pw.com/radio/>

<http://hamexam.org/>

<http://twit.tv/show/ham-nation> -- Weekly Webcast

<http://www.AmateurLogic.tv> -- Weekly Webcast

<http://www.eham.net/exams/>

<http://www.Facebook.com/HamStudy>

<http://www.hamradiolicenseexam.com> -- cost / on-line subscription

<http://www.hamstudy.org> (ICOM sponsored site) requires free registration

<http://www.qrz.com/ht/> -- requires free registration

<http://www.radioexam.org/>

Upcoming FCC Exam Sessions

07/01/2017 Time: 11:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) **Sponsor:** ARES LAX **VEC:** [ARRL/VEC](#) **Contact:** James W. Laage (818) 368-8710 **Email:** cllaage@verizon.net **Location:** Valley Presbyterian Hospital (Health Education Center) 15107 Vanowen Street Van Nuys CA 91405-4542

07/08/2017 Time: 11:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) **Sponsor:** ARES LAX **VEC:** [ARRL/VEC](#) **Contact:** James R. Stoker (310) 775-5613 **Email:** jstoker@it.ucla.edu **Location:** Huntington Hospital 100 W Colorado Blvd Pasadena CA 91105-3010 Wingate Bldg East conf. Room; Check in Booth E parking Lot www.arrllax.org (ed. Note – Huntington Hospital is 100 W CALIFORNIA)

07/08/2017 Time: 7:00 AM (No walk-ins) Pre-Reg Required **Sponsor:** The PAPA System **VEC:** [Greater LA VEC](#)

Contact: Norman M. Goodkin (818) 222-7893 **Email:** hamclass@goodkin.net **Location:** Dinah's Family Restaurant 6521 S Sepulveda Blvd Los Angeles CA 90045-1508

07/08/2017 Time: 7:00 AM (No walk-ins) Pre-Reg Required **Sponsor:** The PAPA System **VEC:** [Greater LA VEC](#) **Contact:** Norman M. Goodkin (818) 222-7893 **Email:** hamclass@goodkin.net **Location:** Dinah's Family Restaurant 6521 S Sepulveda Blvd Los Angeles CA 90045-1508

07/08/2017 Time: 8:30 AM (No walk-ins) **Sponsor:** Santa Barbara ARC **VEC:** [ARRL/VEC](#) **Contact:** Darryl Widman (805) 969-2326 **Email:** kf6di@sbarc.org **Location:** County

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- Health Care Services 300 N San Antonio Road Santa Barbara CA 93110-1370 Southwest corner of bldg
- 07/15/2017** Time: 8:00 AM (No walk-ins) Sponsor: Santa Clarita ARC VEC: Greater LA VEC Contact: Ronald B. Klein (661) 259-0948 Email: rklein46@roadrunner.com Location: Santa Clarita Valley Senior Center 22900 Market St Santa Clarita CA 91321-3608
- 07/23/2017** Time: 2:30 PM (No walk-ins) Sponsor: Goodkin Ham Radio Classes VEC: Greater LA VEC Contact: Norman M. Goodkin (818) 222-8793 Email: hamclass@goodkin.net Location: Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center 27040 Malibu Hills Rd Agoura Hills CA 91301-5332
- 07/28/2017** Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) Sponsor: WA6IRC Radio club VEC: ARRL/VEC Contact: Mark G. Moore (818) 842-1786 Email: n6mgm@outlook.com Location: Millie's rest 16840 Vanowen St Van Nuys CA 91406-4539
- 07/29/2017** Time: 10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) Sponsor: Crescent Bay VE Grp/W6TRW ARC VEC: ARRL/VEC Contact: Scott Swanson (310) 459-0337 Email: k6pyp@arrl.net Location: Northrop Grumman 1 Space Park Blvd (Bldg S Cafeteria) Parking lot off Marine Blvd Redondo Beach CA 90278-1001
- 07/30/2017** Time: 7:30 AM (No walk-ins) Sponsor: Calabasas/LH Sheriff's Station VEC: Greater LA VEC Contact: Norman M. Goodkin (818) 222-7893 Email: hamclass@goodkin.net Location: Lost Hills Sheriff's Station (Assembly Room) 27050 Agoura Rd Agoura Hills CA 91301-5332
- 08/02/2017** Time: 7:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed) Sponsor: Baldwin Hills ARC VEC: ARRL/VEC Contact: Edward L. Walker (323) 394-1818 www.barc.us Email: EDLWALKER@PACBELL.NET Location: Round Table Pizza 4330 Redondo Beach Blvd Torrance CA 90504-1031
- 08/05/2017** 10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) Test 1st Saturday Every Month Sponsor: AA6WC/Ali Hassan VEC: ARRL/VEC Contact: Ali Hassan (323) 758-0565 Email: aa6wc@prodigy.net Location: VE's Residence 6043 3rd Avenue Los Angeles CA 90043-2618
- 08/05/2017** Time: 11:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) Sponsor: ARES LAX VEC: ARRL/VEC Contact: James W. Laage (818) 368-8710 Email: claage@verizon.net Location: Valley Presbyterian Hospital (Health Education Center) 15107 Vanowen Street Van Nuys CA 91405-4542
- 08/06/2017** Time: 7:30 AM (No walk-ins) Sponsor: Calabasas/LH Sheriff's Station VEC: Greater LA VEC Contact: Norman M. Goodkin (818) 222-7893 Email: hamclass@goodkin.net Location: Lost Hills Sheriff's Station (Assembly Room) 27050 Agoura Rd Agoura Hills CA 91301-5332
- 08/12/2017** Time: 8:00 AM (No walk-ins) Sponsor: SMRA Emergency Repeater Network VEC: ARRL/VEC Contact: George W. Kreider (805) 754-2677 Email: kn6la@verizon.net Location: Betty Plotkin Center, American Red Cross 834 / 836 Calle Plano, Camarillo, Ca 93012; 34d 11m 55.21s N / 119d 00m 28.30s W ;
- Directions: From US 101, exit Pleasant Valley / Santa Rosa Road, southbound on Pleasant Valley turning left at Pancho Rd. approx. 3/4 mile on Pancho Rd. Left on Pancho at Calle Bolero; Red Cross is 1/2 mile directly ahead.
- 08/12/2017** Time: 11:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) Sponsor: ARES LAX VEC: ARRL/VEC Contact: James R. Stoker (310) 775-5613 Email: jstoker@it.ucla.edu Location: Huntington Hospital 100 W Colorado Blvd Pasadena CA 91105-3010 Wingate Bldg East conf. Room; Check in Booth E parking Lot www.arrllax.org (ed. Note – Huntington Hospital is 100 W CALIFORNIA)
- 08/12/2017** Time: 7:00 AM (No walk-ins) Sponsor: PAPA VEC: Greater LA VEC Contact: Norman M. Goodkin (818) 222-7893 Email: hamclass@goodkin.net Location: Lulu's Restaurant 16900 Roscoe Blvd Van Nuys CA 91406-1101
- 08/12/2017** Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) Sponsor: South Bay ARC VEC: ARRL/VEC Contact: Joseph M. Lanphen (310) 328-0817 Email: janphen@ca.rr.com www.w6sba.org for details Location: Torrance Memorial Med Center 3330 Lomita Blvd Rm A, 2nd Flr, West Tower Torrance CA 90505-5002
- 08/13/2017** Time: 8:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed) Sponsor: Conejo Valley ARC VEC: ARRL/VEC Contact: Jeffrey M. Reinhardt (818) 706-3853 Email: jmreinhardt@sbcglobal.net Location: Ventura County Sheriff's E County Station, Community Room 2101 E Olsen Rd Thousand Oaks CA 91360-6861 Betw 23 Hwy & Reagan Library
- 08/19/2017** 12:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) Sponsor: Pine Mountain ARC VEC: ARRL/VEC Contact: Irene M. Smith-Quick (661) 242-1345 Email: irenequick@gmail.com Location: Frazier Park Library 3732 Park Dr
- 08/19/2017** Time: 8:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed) Sponsor: Downey ARC VEC: ARRL/VEC Contact: Steve J. Grudzinski (951) 674-4699 Email: sgrudzinski1@verizon.net Location: Fire Station #1 12222 Paramount Blvd (1/2 Mile N Of Imperial Hwy) Downey CA 90242-3537
- 08/25/2017** Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) Sponsor: WA6IRC Radio club VEC: ARRL/VEC Contact: Mark G. Moore (818) 842-1786 Email: n6mgm@outlook.com Location: Millie's rest 16840 Vanowen St Van Nuys CA 91406-4539
- 08/26/2017** Time: 10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) Sponsor: Crescent Bay VE Grp/W6TRW ARC VEC: ARRL/VEC Contact: Scott Swanson (310) 459-0337 Email: k6pyp@arrl.net Location: Northrop Grumman 1 Space Park Blvd (Bldg S Cafeteria) Parking lot off Marine Blvd Redondo Beach CA 90278-1001
- 09/02/2017** 10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) Test 1st Saturday Every Month Sponsor: AA6WC/Ali Hassan VEC: ARRL/VEC Contact: Ali Hassan (323) 758-0565 Email: aa6wc@prodigy.net Location: VE's Residence 6043 3rd Avenue Los Angeles CA 90043-2618

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09/02/2017 Time: 11:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) **Sponsor:** ARES LAX **VEC:** [ARRL/VEC](#) **Contact:** James W. Laage (818) 368-8710 **Email:** claage@verizon.net **Location:** Valley Presbyterian Hospital (Health Education Center) 15107 Vanowen Street Van Nuys CA 91405-4542

09/09/2017 Time: 11:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) **Sponsor:** ARES LAX **VEC:** [ARRL/VEC](#) **Contact:** James R. Stoker (310) 775-5613 **Email:** jstoker@it.ucla.edu **Location:** Huntington Hospital 100 W Colorado Blvd Pasadena CA 91105-3010 Wingate Bldg East conf. Room; Check in Booth E parking Lot www.arrllax.org (ed. Note – Huntington Hospital is 100 W CALIFORNIA)

09/09/2017 Time: 7:00 AM (No walk-ins) Pre-Reg Required **Sponsor:** The PAPA System **VEC:** [Greater LA VEC](#) **Contact:** Norman M. Goodkin (818) 222-7893 **Email:** hamclass@goodkin.net **Location:** Dinah's Family Restaurant 6521 S Sepulveda Blvd Los Angeles CA 90045-1508

09/09/2017 Time: 8:30 AM (No walk-ins) **Sponsor:** Santa Barbara ARC **VEC:** [ARRL/VEC](#) **Contact:** Darryl Widman

(805) 969-2326 **Email:** kf6di@sbarc.org **Location:** County Health Care Services 300 N San Antonio Road Santa Barbara CA 93110-1370 Southwest corner of bldg

09/16/2017 Time: 8:00 AM (No walk-ins) **Sponsor:** Santa Clarita ARC **VEC:** Greater LA VEC **Contact:** Ronald B. Klein (661) 259-0948 **Email:** rklein46@roadrunner.com **Location:** Santa Clarita Valley Senior Center 22900 Market St Santa Clarita CA 91321-3608

09/29/2017 Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) **Sponsor:** WA6IRC Radio club **VEC:** [ARRL/VEC](#) **Contact:** Mark G. Moore (818) 842-1786 **Email:** n6mgm@outlook.com **Location:** Millie's rest 16840 Vanowen St Van Nuys CA 91406-4539

09/30/2017 Time: 10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) **Sponsor:** Crescent Bay VE Grp/W6TRW ARC **VEC:** [ARRL/VEC](#) **Contact:** Scott Swanson (310) 459-0337 **Email:** k6pyp@arri.net **Location:** Northrop Grumman 1 Space Park Blvd (Bldg S Cafeteria) Parking lot off Marine Blvd Redondo Beach CA 90278-1001

Trivia for July 2017

DID YOU KNOW?

1. The first kite was flown in China around 400 BC?
2. Israel built the first military drone?
3. Magic is possibility the oldest of the performing arts?

de Dana kg6wx



Jim Barnett W6JB on 20M CW -- photo by KG6BOV



Bob Byl KD6UDA on 20M PSK/RTTY -- photo by KG6BOV



Hovan Salibian KI6BQL "in the Doghouse" on 40M SSB -- photo by KG6BOV

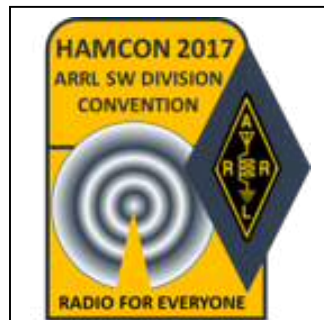
Upcoming HamFests & Conventions

White Mountain Hamfest

Start Date: 07/22/2017 **End Date:** 07/22/2017 **Location:** Mountain Meadow Park 932 North Woodland Road Pinetop, AZ 85935 **Website:** <http://Kachina-ARC.org> **Sponsor:** Kachina Amateur Radio Club **Type:** ARRL Hamfest **Talk-In:** 146.16 (PL 162.2) **Public Contact:** Vince Cattolica , KA7JOI PO Box 52 Pinetop, AZ 85935
Phone: **Email:** KA7JOI@cableone.net

Southwestern Division Convention (HAMCON 2017)

Start Date: 09/15/2017 **End Date:** 09/17/2017 **Location:** Torrance Marriott Redondo Beach Hotel 3635 Fashion Way Torrance, CA 90501 **Sponsor:** Los Angeles Area Council of Amateur Radio Clubs **Type:** ARRL Convention **Talk-In:** 145.550 (PL 173.8) **Public Contact:** Diana Feinberg , AI6DF PO Box 4678 Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274 Phone: 310-544-2917 **Email:** ai6df@arrl.net



HAMCON 2017 / The 2017 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention

"Ham Radio for Everyone"

September 15-17, 2017
Torrance Marriott Redondo Beach Hotel,
3635 Fashion Way
Torrance, CA 90503

"Ham Radio for Everyone" is our theme with much to see and do at HAMCON 2017:

- Full range of talks by experts on radio equipment, operating techniques, public service, DXing, technical subjects, and more
- 10,300 sq. ft. Vendor/Exhibitor Hall with 63 booth spaces
- Distinguished speakers at Saturday lunch, dinner, and Sunday breakfast
- Extensive prize drawings
- W1AW/6 Special Event station
- ARRL Forums
- Young Ham Forum
- Sunday Swap Meet
- Discounted hotel room rates (available through our Marriott link)
- Optional special tour of Battleship Iowa
- ...and much more.

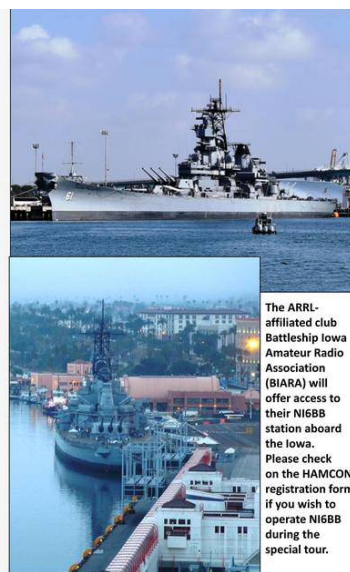
BATTLESHIP IOWA SPECIAL EVENT

A special visit to the Battleship Iowa at Los Angeles Harbor with buffet dinner in the Iowa's officers wardroom has been arranged for early-arriving HAMCON 2017 attendees on Friday afternoon, Sept. 15, 2017.

This all-inclusive \$50 per person package (limited to 80) covers discounted admission to board the Iowa, catered buffet dinner in the officers wardroom, and bus transportation between the Torrance Marriott Redondo Beach Hotel (leaving the hotel at 2:15 pm). Attendees will also be able to see the ship's radio room (not open to the general public) and operate the ship's N16BB amateur station.

Our bus transportation eliminates attendees having to pay for Los Angeles Harbor parking near the Iowa and provides a close-in drop-off point alongside the ship. Please note the Iowa is not ADA-compliant and accessing many areas requires using ladders.

One of just four battleships in its class, the USS Iowa served during World War II, the Korean War, and 1991 Persian Gulf operations. This historic ship also carried President Franklin D. Roosevelt to North Africa en-route to the 1943 Teheran Conference of allied leaders.



The ARRL-affiliated club Battleship Iowa Amateur Radio Association (BIARA) will offer access to their N16BB station aboard the Iowa. Please check on the HAMCON registration form if you wish to operate N16BB during the special tour.

San Diego Hamfest 2017

Start Date: 10/07/2017 **End Date:** 10/07/2017 **Location:** Lakeside Rodeo Grounds 12584 Mapleview Street Lakeside, CA 92040 **Website:** <http://www.lakesidearc.org/sdhamfest/sdhamfest.php> **Sponsor:** Lakeside Amateur Radio Club **Type:** ARRL Hamfest **Talk-In:** 146.55 **Public Contact:** Paul Rios , KC6QLS 12207 Valhalla Drive Lakeside, CA 92040
Phone: 619-593-9445 **Email:** kc6qls@cox.net

Arizona State Convention (Copa Fest 2017)

Start Date: 10/28/2017 **End Date:** 10/28/2017 **Location:** UltraStar Multi-Tainment Center @ Ak-Chin Circle 16000 North Maricopa Road Maricopa, AZ 85238 **Website:** <http://copahams.org> **Sponsor:** Maricopa Amateur Radio Association **Type:** ARRL Convention **Talk-In:** 447.725 (PL 100.0) **Public Contact:** Bob Howard , W8RH 35881 West Catalan Street Maricopa, AZ 85138 Phone: 520-709-6176 **Email:** w8rh@live.com

Oro Valley Amateur Radio Club Hamfest

Start Date: 11/11/2017 **End Date:** 11/11/2017 **Location:** Marana Middle School 11279 West Grier Road Marana, AZ 85653 **Website:** <http://orovalleyarchamfest.com> **Sponsor:** Oro Valley Amateur Radio Club **Type:** ARRL Hamfest **Talk-In:** 146.62, 444.1, 147.32 (PL 156.7) **Public Contact:** Steven Wood , W1SR 6219 North Via de la Tortola Tucson, AZ 85718 Phone: 520-906-1204 **Email:** W1SR@arrl.net

HARKFEST

Start Date: 11/18/2017 **End Date:** 11/18/2017 **Location:** North Ranch Escapees RV Park 30625 South Highway 89 Congress, AZ 85332 **Website:** <http://harkaz.org> **Sponsor:** Hassayampa Amateur Radio Klub **Type:** ARRL Hamfest **Talk-In:** 146.58 **Public Contact:** Duane Grooms , KD0KYK 30736 South Wandering Way Congress, AZ 85332 Phone: 602-814-9603 **Email:** djgrooms@yahoo.com

K6MEP Net Script

“Is this frequency in use, or is there any emergency or priority traffic?”

“Hearing none , the following is a Q-S-T.”

“This is _____, net control station for the Ventura County Amateur Radio Club Net.”

“This is a directed, open net for all radio amateurs, sponsored by K6MEP, the Ventura County Amateur Radio Club. This net begins each Monday evening at Eight Thirty P-M local time, first on Two—Eight—Decimal—Four—Zero—Zero megahertz, and then will Q-S-Y to One—Four—Six—Decimal—Nine—Seven—Zero megahertz. This is linked to Four Four Eight Decimal Eight Zero Zero Megahertz. All amateurs are welcome to check in. A roundtable will follow roll call. A ragchew session may follow the formal net.”

“K6MEP, the Ventura County Amateur Radio Club, meets at Seven Thirty P-M on the Second Friday of each month at the Ventura County Port Authority 1603 Anchors Way Ventura, CA 93001.”

“The next meeting date is _____” (From the newsletter calendar section).

“A roll-call of club members will be followed by a request for late, missed and visitor check-ins.”

(Roll Call) ***** “Any late, missed, or visitor check-ins? Please call K6MEP”

(Roundtable) ***** “Any last comments?”

Ten Meter Closing: — “Control is now transferred to One—Four—Six Decimal—Nine—Seven—Zero megahertz. All net members are invited to Q-S-Y. This is _____.”

Two Meter Closing: — “Good evening to you all, this net is closed at _____. (Time) We would like to thank WB6YQN for the use of the repeater for our net”

“73, This is _____.”

K6MEP CALENDAR

July 2017

3: Moorpark 3rd of July Fireworks – ARES Support – contact Marc KM6B km6b@arri.net

4: Fourth Of July – Celebrate our Independence

14: Regular Monthly Club Meeting at 7:30pm. K6MEP Board meeting precedes the club meeting at 7:00pm

14-16: Santa Barbara 100 Ultra Run – ARES Support – contact Rick KG6VLB rickwhtr@cox.net

August 2017

11: Regular Monthly Club Meeting at 7:30pm. K6MEP Board meeting precedes the club meeting at 7:00pm

19-20: Wings over Camarillo Airshow -- ARES Support – contact Ted W6TEL ausprecher@gmail.com

September 2017

4: Labor Day

8: Regular Monthly Club Meeting at 7:30pm. K6MEP Board meeting precedes the club meeting at 7:00pm

15-17: ARRL SW Div Convention in Torrance

*To join Ventura Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
send form, along with \$20.00 annual dues to P.O. Box 2103, Oxnard CA 93034-2103*

Pro Rate Dues as follows: Oct thru Dec = \$20.00, Jan thru Mar = \$15.00, Apr thru June = \$10.00, July thru Sept = \$5.00

Name _____ Call _____ E-mail _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Date _____ New Member _____ Renewing _____ ARRL? yes ___ no ___ Telephone _____

Below line for club staff processing only.

Treasurer _____ Secretary _____ Membership Chairman _____ Roster entry _____

Membership certificate _____ New member letter _____

Emergency and Volunteer Training

Some excellent emergency and volunteer training is available through the American Red Cross of Ventura County, FEMA and the American Radio Relay League.

Red Cross Courses

The following is a list of locally available Red Cross courses and a current schedule of classes over the next two months. Enroll by calling the Red Cross Chapter House at 805-987-1514 Ext 320 leaving your name, course code and telephone number. If you are interested in a class not currently scheduled call to be placed on a waiting list for the next scheduled date.

Note: The classes **Fulfilling Our Mission** and **Introduction to Disaster Services** are required for all Red Cross classes if you are not currently registered as a Red Cross Volunteer.

For training class registration, call: 805-987-1514 Ext 320.
Course schedule and descriptions:

<http://www.arcventura.org/DSCourseDescriptions.html>

http://www.arcventura.org/contact_us.html

- COLLABORATING TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY(ARC3089-4)*
- COMMUNITY SERVICES OVERVIEW (ARC 3068-1)*
- DISASTER ASSESSMENT (ARC 3067-1)*
- DISASTER HEALTH SERVICES: OVERVIEW (3076-1F)*
- DISASTER HEALTH SERVICES SIMULATION (ARC 3076-2F)*
- DISASTER MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (ARC 3077-1F)*
- DISASTER MENTAL HEALTH: AN OVERVIEW (ARC 3077-2)*
- DISASTER WELFARE INQ.:CONNECTING YOUR COMMUNITY(ARC 3085-1)*
- DISASTER WELFARE INQUIRY SIMULATION (ARC 3085-2)*
- EMERGENCY OPS CENTER/INCIDENT COMMAND LIAISON (ARC 3089-5)*
- ERVs: READY, SET, ROLL (ARC 3068-4)*
- FAMILY SERVICES: PROVIDING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE (ARC 3072-1)*
- FINANCIAL STATISTICAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT (ARC 3078-2)*
- HUMAN RESOURCES IN DISASTER (ARC 3087-3F)*
- LOGISTICS: AN OVERVIEW (ARC 3087-1)*
- LOGISTICS SIMULATION (ARC 3071-2)*
- MANAGING TOTAL DIVERSITY*
- MASS CASUALTY DISASTER (ARC 3079 1F)*
- PUBLIC AFFAIRS IN DISASTER 1 (ARC 3080 1F)*
- SAFE FOOD HANDLING WORKSHOP*
- SHELTER OPERATIONS (ARC 3068-11)*
- SHELTER SIMULATIONS (ARC 3068-12)*
- WORKING WITH TOTAL DIVERSITY*

Scheduled Red Cross Classes

For training class registration, call: 805-987-1514 Ext 320.
Please try to register for classes a week before the class is being offered



The Doghouse at Field Day – comfortable operating conditions for 2-3 positions -- photo by KG6BOV



Shameless Plug for Brett KJ6AAL, provider of "The Doghouse -- photo by KG6BOV

K6MEP Keyer – The Journal of the Ventura County Amateur Radio Club

The following free **FEMA Independent Study Courses** are recommended. There are several other FEMA courses available; see the other courses at <http://training.fema.gov/is>

- IS-5.a **An Introduction to Hazardous Materials** - (10/31/2013)
- IS-10.a **Animals in Disasters: Awareness and Preparedness** - (10/2/2015)
- IS-11.a **Animals in Disasters: Community Planning** - (10/2/2015)
- IS-15.b **Special Events Contingency Planning for Public Safety Agencies** - (10/31/2013)
- IS-20.16 **Diversity Awareness Course 2016** - (2/8/2016)
- IS-21.16 **Civil Rights and FEMA Disaster Assistance** - (1/4/2016)
- IS-26 **Guide to Points of Distribution** - (8/11/2010)
- IS-27 **Orientation to FEMA Logistics** - (10/31/2013)
- IS-29 **Public Information Officer Awareness** - (10/31/2013)
- IS-35.16 **FEMA Safety Orientation 2016** - (1/4/2016)
- IS-36 **Multi-hazard Planning for Childcare** - (10/31/2013)
- IS-42 **Social Media in Emergency Management** - (10/31/2013)
- IS-75 **Military Resources in Emergency Management** - (2/25/2011)
- IS-100.b **Introduction to Incident Command System, ICS-100** - (10/31/2013)
- IS-111.a **Livestock in Disasters** - (10/31/2013)
- IS-144 **Telecommunicators Emergency Response Taskforce (TERT) Basic Course** - (10/31/2013)
- IS-200.b **ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents** - (10/31/2013)
- IS-230.d **Fundamentals of Emergency Management** - (12/16/2013)
- IS-235.c **Emergency Planning** - (12/15/2015)
- IS-240.b **Leadership and Influence** - (6/16/2014)
- IS-241.b **Decision Making and Problem Solving** - (3/31/2014)
- IS-242.b **Effective Communication** - (3/31/2014)
- IS-244.b **Developing and Managing Volunteers** - (3/29/2013)
- IS-250.a **Emergency Support Function 15 (ESF15) External Affairs: A New Approach to Emergency Communication and Information Distribution** - (5/7/2012)
- IS-271.a **Anticipating Hazardous Weather & Community Risk, 2nd Edition** - (10/31/2013)
- IS-288.a **The Role of Voluntary Organizations in Emergency Management** - (2/12/2015)
- IS-315 **CERT Supplemental Training: The Incident Command System** - (8/13/2013)
- IS-317 **Introduction to Community Emergency Response Teams** - (6/26/2014)
- IS-320 **Wildfire Mitigation Basics for Mitigation Staff** - (10/31/2013)
- IS-322 **Flood Mitigation Basics for Mitigation Staff** - (10/31/2013)
- IS-323 **Earthquake Mitigation Basics for Mitigation Staff** - (10/31/2013)

- IS-325 **Earthquake Basics: Science, Risk, and Mitigation** - (10/31/2013)
- IS-326 **Community Tsunami Preparedness** - (10/31/2013)
- IS-366.a **Planning for the Needs of Children in Disasters** - (12/9/2015)
- IS-368 **Including People With Disabilities & Others With Access & Functional Needs in Disaster Operations** - (2/20/2014)
- IS-393.a **Introduction to Hazard Mitigation** - (10/31/2013)
- IS-405 **Overview of Mass Care/Emergency Assistance** - (12/10/2013)
- IS-454 **Fundamentals of Risk Management** - (10/31/2013)
- IS-546.a **Continuity of Operations Awareness Course** - (10/31/2013)
- IS-547.a **Introduction to Continuity of Operations** - (10/31/2013)
- IS-700.a **National Incident Management System (NIMS) An Introduction** - (10/31/2013)
- IS-775 **EOC Management and Operations** - (8/6/2008)
- IS-800.b **National Response Framework, An Introduction** - (10/31/2013)
- IS-815 **ABCs of Temporary Emergency Power** - (12/27/2016)
- IS-907 **Active Shooter: What You Can Do** - (12/28/2015)
- IS-909 **Community Preparedness: Implementing Simple Activities for Everyone** - (10/31/2013)
- IS-910.a **Emergency Management Preparedness Fundamentals** - (10/19/2012)
- IS-915 **Protecting Critical Infrastructure Against Insider Threats** - (7/10/2013)
- IS-916 **Critical Infrastructure Security: Theft and Diversion – What You Can Do** - (10/31/2013)
- IS-922 **Applications of GIS for Emergency Management** - (10/31/2013)
- IS-951 **DHS Radio Interoperability** - (9/22/2016)

The **ARRL** offers several on-line courses. The courses listed here are recommended for those involved in disaster and emergency service. See these and other courses at the ARRL web site.

- Introduction to Emergency Communication EC-001**
- HF Digital Communications EC-005**
- PR-101: ARRL Public Relations (EC-015)**
- Public Service and Emergency Communications Management for Radio Amateurs- EC-016**

There are some costs with the ARRL courses but discounts and occasional scholarships are available to ARRL members. See www.ARRL.org for details and enrollment.



ARES-ACS Frequency Updates

The Tuesday night Ventura County ARES/ACS Net is held on the SMRA ERN South Mt Repeater. Local nets are 7:00 to 7:30 PM; County Net starts at 7:30 on WD6EBY Sulphur Mt. Repeater 145.200 (-) PL 127.3 / 447.580 Mhz(-) PL 141.3

Good Frequencies to have pre-programmed into your radios...

Area 1 Simi Valley – K6ERN 146.805 Mhz (-) PL 100.0

Area 2 Conejo Valley, T. Oaks, Newbury Park – N6JMI 147.885 Mhz (-) PL127.3 BOZO

Area 3 Camarillo, Somis– K6ERN 147.915 Mhz (-) PL 127.3

Area 4 Oxnard, Port Hueneme, NBVC – WB6YQN 146.970 Mhz (-) PL 127.3

Area 5 Ojai Valley – N6FL 145.400 Mhz (-) PL 114.8

Area 6 Ventura City – K6ERN 147.765 Mhz (-) PL 127.3 Olivas Park / SMRA

Area 7 Santa Paula, Fillmore, Piru – WA6ZSN 146.385 Mhz (+) PL 127.3

Area 8 Moorpark, Santa Rosa Valley – K6ERN 145.460 Mhz (-) PL 127.3

County-Wide – WD6EBY 145.200 (-) PL 127.3

ACS Portable – VCACS/p 144.930/147.585 Mhz PL 127.3

Other Good Area Frequencies ...

AA6DP 147.090 Mhz (+) No PL Catalina

K0AKS 147.150 Mhz(-) PL127.3 TOaks

K6CPT DCS 145.300 Mhz (-) PL100.0 LA DCS

K6CPT DCS 147.270 Mhz (-) PL100.0 LA DCS

K6DCS DCS22 147.225 Mhz (+) PL 94.8 LA DCS

K6ERN 146.880 Mhz (-) PL 127.3 SMRA Red Mt.

K6ERN 147.765 Mhz (-) PL 127.3 Olivas Park / SMRA

K6TZ 146.790 Mhz (-)PL131.8 SBARC

KB6C 147.735 Mhz (-) PL 100.0 Oat Mt / MMRA

N6EVC 146.850 Mhz (-) PL 94.8 Rasnow

N6FDR 145.260 Mhz (-) PL 100.0 Malibu

W6AAX 147.180 Mhz (+) PL 186.2 Verdugo Peak

W6GRG 146.940 Mhz (-) PL 127.3 Simi DSW Repeater

W6YJO 145.180 Mhz (-) PL 131.8 Sta Ynez

WA6FGK 146.640 Mhz (-) PL 127.3 Simi Valley

WA6PPS 147.300 Mhz (-) PL 110.9 L.A.City ACS

WB6OBB 147.000 Mhz (+) PL 131.8 Sta Barbara

WD6EBY 145.420 MHz (-) PL 127.3 Chatsworth Pk

Due to assignment and coordination of several D-Star Repeaters, TASMA, the southern California Two meter amateur frequency coordination body, has had to re-align several frequencies. Among these changes are the channelization (15 KHz spacing) of the 145.5 - 145.6 simplex allocation and reassignment of several frequencies from simplex to other uses.

None of the local Ventura County repeaters are directly affected; however several previous simplex frequencies are now in use either as repeater inputs or outputs. **New County ARES Packet frequency is 145.050 Mhz;**

Ventura County ARES-ACS simplex frequencies have been re-assigned as follows:

Area 1 Simi Valley – 145.510 Mhz (S)

Area 2 Conejo Valley, T.O., Newbury Pk – 146.445 Mhz (S)

Area 3 Camarillo, Somis – 146.550Mhz (S)

Area 4 Oxnard, Port Hueneme, NBVC – 146.595Mhz (S)

Area 5 Ojai Valley – 145.555Mhz (S)

Area 6 Ventura City – 147.510Mhz (S)

Area 7 Santa Paula, Fillmore, Piru – 145.540 Mhz (S)

Area 8 Moorpark – 146.535Mhz (S)

County ARES Simplex – 145.615 Mhz (S)

National Simplex – 146.520Mhz(S)

Ventura County ARES / ACS Emergency Coordinators

ACS RO/ARES DEC: Rob Hansen, W6RH, Email: w6rh@arrl.net

Assist ACS RO/Deputy DEC: Rick Tate, KQ6NO Email: kq6no@arrl.net

Area 1 Simi Valley EC: Steve King, KE6WEZ Email: ke6wez@arrl.net

Area 2 TO, Conejo Valley EC: Zack Cohen, N6PK, Email: n6pk@arrl.net

Area 3 Camarillo, Somis EC: Ted Lansing KI6PTX Email: ki6ptx@arrl.net

Area 4 Oxnard, Hueneme, Mugu EC: Stewart Stone, KG6BOV Email: kg6bov@arrl.net

Area 5 Ojai EC: Wayne Francis, W6OEU Email: w6oEU@arrl.net

Area 6 City of Ventura EC (acting): Grant Mohr, KG6SFW, E-mail gmohr12@hotmail.com

Area 7 Santa Paula, Fillmore, Piru EC: Grant Mohr, KG6SFW, E-mail gmohr12@hotmail.com

Area 8 Moorpark, Santa Rosa Valley EC: Marc Hanley KM6B, Email: km6b@arrl.net

ARRL offers online training for hams who want to participate in the Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

The time for training is before a disaster...not during one.

The former Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (AREC) series of three training courses has been reconfigured into two courses: An introductory course and a course for leaders and managers.

Introduction to Emergency Communication (#EC-001)

Revised in 2011, this is an update of the former Level 1 course. It is designed to provide basic knowledge and tools for hams who want to serve as a Public Service volunteer. It provides an opportunity for non-hams who rely on communications in emergency situations to learn about Amateur Radio and its unique role in emergencies.

The course is offered online using the Moodle learning platform. The *Introduction to Emergency Communication* course has six sections with 29 lesson topics and a 35 question final assessment. Participants should plan on completing the course in approximately 45 hours over a nine week period. This is a mentored course, in which you may work according to your own schedule. Cost is \$50 for ARRL members and \$85 for non-members.

For start dates, registration deadlines and more visit www.arrl.org/online-course-catalog

Public Service and Emergency Communications Management for Radio Amateurs (#EC-016)

Launched in 2010, this course is designed for Amateur Radio operators who will be in leadership and managerial roles, organizing other volunteers to support public service activities and communications emergencies. Participants will learn how radio amateurs prepare to support local community events and, when working in coordination with governmental and emergency response organizations, how to deploy their services. This is a self-study course. For more information and to register visit www.arrl.org/online-course-catalog.

PR-101: ARRL Public Relations (EC-015)

This is a basic training course for PIOs and anyone interacting with the media and promoting Amateur Radio.

This course is designed to give hams a quick overview in public relations activities. It uses the skills of experts in various aspects of public relations to provide volunteer Public Information Officers with the basic skills and expectations that a PIO needs to know to be effective in their home region. PR-101 covers everything from the basic news release to Web sites and video work.

This course is available--free! – on-line, or can be purchased in CD format from the ARRL store.

The new Ventura County ACS Trailer at SkyWarn Operations, NWS Oxnard, 7 Dec 2014



**Local Area Radio Nets
Weekly Nets**

Monday

Cuckoo Net 146.790 Mhz (-) / 131.8 Hz PL every weekday morning from 7:00 AM to about 8:20 AM

California Rescue ARES Net 7.25 Mhz MTWThF 8:30 AM

K6MEP / VCARC Club Net -- 8:30 PM 28.400 Mhz USB / 146.970 Mhz (-) / 127.3 PL (WB6YQN repeater) linked to **K6JLW 448.800 Mhz (-) PL 131.8**

Santa Barbara South County ARES net 7:30 p.m. on 146.79 Mhz (-) PL 131.8.

LA Section ARES Net - HF Every Monday following the VHF/UHF net (~2130 hrs) 1st, 3rd and 4th Monday - **75 meters 3.995 MHz (± 45 kHz) / 2nd Monday - 10 meters 28.495 MHz**

LA DCS-22 Net -- 1930 Hrs. - K6DCS - 147.225 MHz (+) then on **7.235± MHz LSB**

Southern California ACS NET MONDAY AT 2000 HOURS LOCAL TIME ON 3992, 3960 KHz LSB

Tuesday

Cuckoo Net 146.790 Mhz (-) / 131.8 Hz PL every weekday morning from 7:00 AM to about 8:20 AM

California Rescue ARES Net 7.250 Mhz MTWThF 8:30 AM

Ventura County ARES/ACS Nets between 7:00 and 8:00 PM, the Ventura County Amateur Radio Emergency Service / Auxiliary Communications Service holds their local and County-wide nets. Local Nets are by area and normally run from 7:00 to 7:30 PM. The County-wide Net starts at 7:30 PM and normally finishes by 8:00 PM on **WD6EBY 145.200 (-) / 127.3 PL**

Ventura County ARES-ACS 6 Meter Net -- between 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM K6SMR **52.980 Mhz (-) PL 82.5** SMRA Red Mt

Ventura County ARES-ACS HF Net -- between 6:30 PM to 7:00 PM 40M on **7.235 Mhz LSB +/-** ;

West SB ARES HF Net (1st Tuesday, Monthly) 3822 KHz LSB 2030 / 8:30 PM

2000 **6-Meter Roundtable - 50.125 Mhz USB** First Tuesday of each month.

2030 **ATV Net 146.790 Mhz (-) / 131.8 Hz PL K6TZ** repeater

Wednesday --

Cuckoo Net 146.790 Mhz (-) / 131.8 Hz PL every weekday morning from 7:00 AM to about 8:20 AM

California Rescue ARES Net 7.25 Mhz MTWThF 8:30 AM

Southern California ACS NET 1000 Hours, 40 Meter Net 7230 KHz

SMRA Tech Net 146.880 Mhz (-) / 127.3 PL (SMRA Red Mt) 8:00 PM

SBARC Swap Net 146.790 Mhz (-) / 131.8 Hz PL K6TZ 2000

Thursday

Cuckoo Net 146.790 Mhz (-) / 131.8 Hz PL every weekday morning from 7:00 AM to about 8:20 AM

California Rescue ARES Net 7.25 Mhz MTWThF 8:30 AM

So Cal 6 meter net, 51.940 Mhz – pl 82.5. 1900-2000 local Thursdays.

Southern Calif 6M SSB Technical Roundtable Net Thursday night at 8:00 PM on **50.2 MHz USB SSB**

SBARC / K6TZ Technical Mentoring Net -- Thursday nights 8:00-9:00 PM **146.790 Mhz (-) / 131.8 Hz PL and 224.08 Mhz (-) 131.8 PL (linked)**

Friday

Cuckoo Net 146.790 Mhz (-) / 131.8 Hz PL every weekday morning from 7:00 AM to about 8:20 AM

California Rescue ARES Net 7.250 Mhz MTWThF 8:30 AM

Saturday

Military Radio Collector Net 1800 / 6:00PM 3985 Kc +/- AM www.mrcqwest.org/mrcq-radio-nets/

Sunday

Newbie Net 7:00-7:30 pm Sundays; Bozo Repeater **147.885 Mhz (-) / PL127.3**

Rabbit Net 7:00- ??? pm Sundays Linked Rabbit repeaters

Meeting Minutes (Cont fm pg 2)

NEW BUSINESS

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Field Day Planning. Coordination of site setup and band captains, equipment, refreshments.

COMMENTS

Notes

Roll Call

Total attendance :

Guests:

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MEETING ADDRESS : Ventura Port District meeting room 1603 Anchors Way, Ventura

OFFICER ATTENDEES

CALL TO ORDER

Joe calls brief meeting

MEETING MINUTES

Joe had asked for any board issues

Secretary report is 35 members, no actions on the business calendar

Treasurers report on bank balances.

OLD BUSINESS

Field day. Joe asks for approval of total approximately \$200.00 for expenses. \$125.00 is for the portable toilet rental. The motion is approved by unanimous show of hands.

Honorarium for guest speakers. Steve is asked for suggestions on the amount for an incentive for speakers who may travel from some distance. Other clubs offer dinner, a monetary gift, accommodation for example.

However an individual presenting a sales or promotional program would not benefit. A motion to add a budget item of up to \$350.00 per year allocated for a gift amount that varies based on the distance a speaker travels.

The motion is approved by unanimous show of hands.

NEW BUSINESS

COMMENTS

ADJOURN

Board meeting adjourned and proceed to General meeting at 1928 hours.



John Gartman, AG6GL when not on 20M
-- photo by KG6BOV

K6MEP Keyer – The Journal of the Ventura County Amateur Radio Club



FCC and OSHA Release Communications Tower Best Practices Guide

06/01/2017

The FCC and OSHA have announced the release of a free publication, [Communications Tower Best Practices Guide](#). While aimed more at those who tend commercial communication towers, the guide offers guidance applicable to the Amateur Radio community and contractors working on Amateur Radio antenna support structures. The FCC said the guide was a result of two tower safety workshops.

“Recognizing the risks that tower employees face, OSHA and the FCC held a workshop on communication tower employee safety on October 14, 2014,” the new guide explains. “During this workshop, industry stakeholders, along with employee safety advocates and the families of communication tower employees who had been killed on the job, gathered to discuss issues affecting the safety of communication tower employees.”

A second workshop followed in February 2016, during which a panel of industry stakeholders and advocates discussed best practices that could reduce injuries and fatalities among tower workers. “This document is a collection of the best practices gathered from those workshops and from the discussions that continued beyond those events,” the guide says.

Among other points, the guide emphasizes that all tower workers need “to have and use proper safety equipment at all times,” and that, “no work should be done if proper safety equipment is unavailable or if the safety equipment available is not functioning properly.”

The guide also notes that drones are being used today for tower inspection. “This technology has the potential to reduce unnecessary climbing and can avoid putting [tower workers] at risk,” the guide says.

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai said that communications tower workers today face potential hazards that can prove fatal if not performed safely. “Every tower climber death is preventable,” he stressed.

Our Sun’s 11-Year Magnetic Cycle Destined to Disappear

06/01/2017

The Sun’s 11-year magnetic cycle appears to be ending, but that won’t happen anytime soon. In a [paper](#) submitted on May 26 to the journal *Solar Physics*, two solar scientists are reinterpreting earlier evidence to hypothesize that the Sun’s rotation rate and magnetic field are in a transitional phase that could lead to lengthening solar cycles, with the cycle ultimately disappearing altogether between 800 million and 2.4 billion years from now. Travis S. Metcalfe and Jennifer van Saders propose the scenario in their paper “Magnetic Evolution and the Disappearance of Sun-like Activity Cycles.”

“After decades of effort, the solar activity cycle is exceptionally well characterized, but it remains poorly understood,” the authors say in the paper’s abstract. “Pioneering work at the Mount Wilson Observatory demonstrated that other Sun-like stars also show regular activity cycles and suggested two possible relationships between the rotation rate and the length of the cycle. Neither of these relationships correctly describe the properties of the Sun, a peculiarity that demands explanation.”

The authors cite stellar evidence for the shutdown of “magnetic braking” in stars similar to our Sun. “The new picture of rotational and magnetic evolution provides a framework for understanding some observational features of stellar activity cycles that have until now been mysterious,” they said.

Metcalfe explained their observations through a recent Forbes magazine [article](#). “Our previous discoveries identified an unexpected transition in the rotation and magnetism of middle-aged stars,” Metcalfe is quoted in the article, “The Sun’s Magnetic Dynamo Is Weakening” by Bruce Dorminey. “We now have direct evidence that the stellar dynamo — the mechanism inside stars that sustains their magnetic fields — actually shuts down during this transition.”

In their paper, the authors said that future observations with the Las Cumbres Observatory global telescope network “promise to probe the onset and duration of the magnetic transition that drives the evolution and eventual disappearance of Sun-like activity cycles.”

A 2016 paper Travis co-authored — “Stellar Evidence that the Solar Dynamo May Be in Transition,” published in *The Astrophysical Journal Letters*, concluded, “The Sun still exhibits a dipole component to its global field, particularly near magnetic minimum, but the solar analogs also suggest a gradual concentration of the field into smaller spatial scales, leading to weakened magnetic braking.”

Metcalfe is listed on the paper as being associated with the Space Science Institute and the White Dwarf Research Corp, both in Boulder, Colorado. Van Saders is listed as being associated with the Observatories of the Carnegie Institution for Science in Pasadena, California, and the Department of Astrophysical Sciences at Princeton University in New Jersey.

Buildout of Nationwide First Responder Broadband Network Could Drive ARES Changes



06/01/2017

The First Responder Network Authority ([FirstNet](#)) — a nationwide wireless broadband network for first responders — could change the complexion of how the Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) functions to support communication for responders during disasters and emergencies. As an independent authority within the US Department of Commerce’s National Telecommunication and Information Administration ([NTIA](#)), FirstNet’s mission is to build out, deploy, and operate an interoperable nationwide broadband network dedicated to first responders. Ralph Haller, N4RH, the chairman of the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council ([NPSTC](#)), told ARRL that the advent of FirstNet “will likely be as significant as when public safety first began using radio.”

“The nationwide network will be hardened, so that it will be more likely that many of today’s public safety systems remain operational in emergencies,” Haller said, pointing out that Amateur Radio should not expect to have access to FirstNet. He cautioned, “The endurance of Amateur Radio systems in disasters has been a big selling point in the past for incorporating amateur operators in emergency plans, but perhaps not so much in the future.”

NPSTC is a federation of organizations that work toward improving public safety communication and interoperability, and ARRL has a seat on NPSTC’s Governing Board. Haller predicted that Amateur Radio’s role in emergencies will not disappear. “There is no substitute for eyes and ears on the ground in an emergency,” he said, adding that radio amateurs “can and should continue to play an important part” in supporting emergency communication.

“Amateur operators can continue to provide valuable information to emergency operations centers in the recovery phase of disasters,” he said. “Whether that intelligence gathering is reporting on storm clouds, power outages, or road closures, amateurs can help provide critical, real-time information about conditions over a vast area. While first responders are treating the injured or protecting life and property, the amateur community can concentrate on assessing the overall picture.”

On March 30, FirstNet and the Commerce Department announced a 25-year partnership with AT&T as the primary contractor to make FirstNet a reality. “The ability to communicate seamlessly across jurisdictions is critical for law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services (EMS) when securing large events or responding to emergencies and disasters,” a Commerce Department news release said. “In those instances, networks can become overloaded and inaccessible, limiting responders’ use of vital communication technologies, such as smartphones and applications dedicated to public safety services.”

Public safety agencies already use commercial wireless networks, such as AT&T and Verizon, to supplement their own radio systems and networks, although such communication is not point to point. FirstNet is initially targeted primarily to provide video and data, with mission-critical voice communication at least a decade away. EMS is likely to become a heavy user of the network, which will employ voice command functions a la Siri or Alexa.

**“Be sure the public safety organizations never forget how valuable the amateurs are!” —
NPSTC Chairman Ralph Haller, N4RH**

Inevitably there will be coverage gaps, and the development of “deployables” is critical. These devices can expand the network to areas it doesn’t cover but where it may be needed for a specific incident. Deployables could include satellites — Inmarsat is a member of the AT&T team. Network security and encryption is a high priority. The Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) now uses encryption on its data nets.

While images in the form of digital Amateur Radio television (DATV) and a plethora of digital modes are available to ARES, FirstNet could nudge ARES to more quickly adopt a similar approach. A new generation of radio amateurs steeped in data, image, and video technology is likely to drive ARES to think beyond analog.

Haller advised that the Amateur Radio community should continue to work closely with public safety organizations at all levels to assure that they remain a part of emergency plans.

“The hype about broadband should not result in amateurs inadvertently being swept under the rug,” Haller stressed. “Be sure the public safety organizations never forget how valuable the amateurs are!”

FirstNet will use spectrum at 700 MHz — no immediate threat to Amateur Radio allocations, although there is no guarantee that this won’t change as the network approaches the shift to 5th generation (5G) technology. Amateur Radio has access to significant spectrum above 700 MHz.

The expectation is that within a couple of years, a nationwide “core” network will be ready to roll out, and the first public safety users will be on board. Some regional networks have been set up for proof-of-concept purposes and to work out wrinkles. — *Thanks to Mike Corey, K11U, and Ralph Haller, N4RH*

President to Name Jessica Rosenworcel for New FCC Term



06/15/2017

In a low-key announcement on June 13, President Donald Trump indicated that he planned to nominate former FCC Commission member Jessica Rosenworcel to fill the open Democratic slot on the FCC. Rosenworcel served on the Commission from 2012 to 2016, leaving at the end of last year after the US Senate was unable to extend her term before time ran out on that session of Congress. Rosenworcel has been a vocal supporter of net neutrality and supported rules drafted by then-FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler that would treat Internet providers more like utilities. The FCC's new Republican Chairman, Ajit Pai, has reversed course on that initiative.

"I congratulate Jessica Rosenworcel on the announcement that President Trump will nominate her to serve another term on the Federal Communications Commission." Pai said in a prepared statement. "She has a distinguished record of public service, including the four-and-a-half years we worked together at this agency, and I look forward to working with her once again to advance the public interest."

Rosenworcel also has advocated for FCC initiatives that seek to close what she calls "the homework gap" stemming from disparities in the availability of broadband service, especially in rural communities, which can hamper the ability of students in those areas to use the Internet for school assignments. Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer formally recommended Rosenworcel's appointment to the open FCC slot.

The lone Democratic member on a now three-member FCC, Mignon Clyburn, also congratulated Rosenworcel. "Jessica has been a tireless advocate for bridging the 'homework gap,' a leader in the effort to modernize our 9-1-1 call centers, and a champion for freeing up more unlicensed spectrum," Clyburn said. "I look forward to working with her in the fight for an open Internet, affordable broadband and strong consumer privacy protections." Clyburn's term expires this month, and it's not yet clear that she will be renominated.

Republican Commissioner Michael O'Rielly, in a statement, said Rosenworcel would "bring her expertise, insight and thoughtfulness to communications issues," if she achieves Senate confirmation. "I look forward to the prospect of returning to work with her on these matters," O'Rielly added.

President Trump is expected to announce a Republican candidate to the FCC, to return the Commission to its full five-member complement.

Federal Register Publishes New MF/LF Rules, But Operation is Not Yet Legal



06/15/2017

The FCC *Report and Order* ([R&O](#)) spelling out operational rules to allow secondary Amateur Radio access to 630 meters and 2,200 meters [now has appeared](#) in the *Federal Register*, but radio amateurs still may *not* access the new bands. That's because specific procedures now under development to detail how radio amateurs will notify the Utilities Technology Council ([UTC](#)) of their proposed station location, prior to commencing operation, still must undergo approval. The FCC said the notification requirement is necessary to confirm that a station is not located within 1 kilometer of an active power line communication (PLC) system.

"While the *R&O* has been published in the *Federal Register*, amateurs may not begin using the new bands until after the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau issues a *Public Notice* outlining necessary procedures to notify UTC of pending operation, as the new rules require," ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, said. "There is no timetable for that *Public Notice* to be released. Amateurs need to practice patience."

The FCC said the notification requirements it adopted "seek to strike a balance between amateur operations used for experimental purposes and PLC operation used by electric utilities for the reliability and security of electric service to the public." Once notification procedures are in place, radio amateurs intending to operate on either band will notify UTC of their geographical location. If UTC does not object within 30 days, amateur operation may commence. The FCC turned away an ARRL request for direct access to the PLC database that UTC maintains.

Once UTC has developed the new information collection procedures, the FCC must submit them for review to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). "The Commission will publish a separate notice in the *Federal Register*, inviting comment on the new information collection requirements adopted herein," the FCC said in the *R&O*. "The requirements will not go into effect until OMB has approved [the notification procedures] and the Commission has published a notice announcing the effective date of the information collection requirements."

In an unrelated action, the FCC allocated 1,900-2,000 kHz to the maritime mobile service (MMS) on a primary basis for non-Federal use in ITU Regions 2 and 3, and limited the use of this allocation to radio buoys on the open sea and the Great Lakes. Amateur Radio was upgraded from secondary to primary in the 1900-2000 kHz segment in 2015.

FCC Chairman to Appoint New Enforcement Bureau Chief

06/21/2017

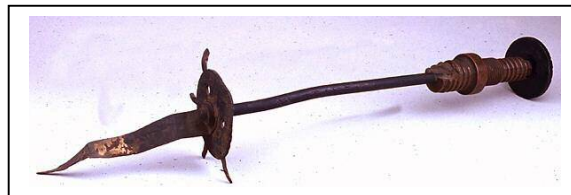
FCC Chairman Ajit Pai has [announced](#) that he intends to appoint Rosemary C. Harold to serve as chief of the Enforcement Bureau. Michael Carowitz, who has been serving as acting bureau chief, will become the Bureau's deputy chief. Harold is an attorney with experience

within the FCC agency and in private practice; she's also a former journalist.

"This agency has a critical role to play in enforcing the law to protect consumers and support competition in the communications marketplace," Pai said "Our Enforcement Bureau has been getting back on track in recent months, and I am confident in Rosemary's ability to continue this progress."

Pai also praised Carowitz's work as acting chief. "Michael's steady hand at the helm of this important Bureau has helped us stay on task in protecting consumers and enforcing the law," he said.

The Enforcement Bureau is charged with enforcing the Communications Act, FCC rules, and various licensing terms and conditions. It also investigates instances of possible unlawful conduct involving the regulated RF spectrum.



Amateur Radio Poised to Retain Full 76-81 GHz Band, Sharing with Vehicular Radars

06/27/2017

In a draft *Report and Order* (ET Docket No. 15-26) to be considered at its July 13 open meeting, the FCC is proposing to lift a nearly 2-decade-old suspension of Amateur Radio access to 76-77 GHz, giving the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite services access to the full 76-81 GHz band on a secondary basis. The FCC also reduced Amateur Radio's status from primary to secondary in the 77-77.5 GHz segment, to match the rest of the 76-81 GHz band, and it imposed a uniform power-level limit for users of the band. The draft *Report and Order* (R&O) concludes that Amateur Radio and vehicular radars will be able to successfully share the millimeter-wave band with minor adjustments in the Amateur Service rules. A goal of the proceeding has been to expand and consolidate the spectrum available worldwide for 76-81 GHz radar operations. It brings the US *Table of Allocations* into line with decisions at the 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15) and makes the entire band available internationally for vehicular radars operating in the Radiolocation Service (RLS). The FCC said its proposal "received significant support" and no opposition from commenters regarding the proposed allocation.

"The rule changes we adopt modifying the regulatory status of amateur stations and capping their power levels will ensure the continued operation of amateur stations in this band, and are a reasonable alternative to expanding the suspension of amateur operations from the 76-77 GHz band to the remainder of the 76-81 GHz band or removing the amateur allocations altogether from the 76-81 GHz band," the draft R&O said. "In addition, these changes, coupled with the nature of amateur operations in the band (e.g., largely experimental, occurring temporarily on mountaintops and locations where motor vehicle operation is not typical, and using antennas mounted on masts as high as practical), will ensure that the potential for harmful interference from amateur operations to vehicular radar operations in the 76-81 GHz band is negligible and satisfy our efforts to ensure protection for the important safety functions that vehicular radars will provide."



The FCC R&O would impose a 55 dBm peak effective isotropic radiated power (EIRP) limit (316 W EIRP) on Amateur operations in the band. This is the same as that allowed to vehicular radars. The R&O reasons that the risk for potential interference between Amateur Radio operation and RLS operations “is mitigated by the directionality of vehicular radars’ antennas — downward in orientation and mounted on a low position on the vehicles.” The R&O also cites the periodic and transient nature of amateur operations in the band coupled with high path losses in a band that is conducive to frequency re-use.

In reaching its tentative conclusions in the proceeding relative to the Amateur allocation, the FCC considered the comments of several individual radio amateurs as well as ARRL, Bosch, Delphi, the Automotive Safety Council, the Consumer Technology Association (CTA), and automakers and their representatives, among others. Several automotive manufacturers had asked that Amateur Radio be ousted from the band.

President Names FCC General Counsel Brendan Carr to Fill Vacant Republican Seat

06/29/2017

President Donald Trump has announced plans to nominate FCC General Counsel Brendan Carr, a Republican, to fill one of the two vacancies on the Commission. One FCC vacancy, to be filled by a Democratic candidate, remains in order for the Commission to be back to its full five-member complement. The president on June 14 named former

Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel, a Democrat, to fill one vacancy. No more than three members of the FCC may be of the same political party. FCC Chairman Ajit Pai released a congratulatory statement.

“Brendan has a distinguished record of public service, having worked at the agency for over five years, including most recently as the FCC’s General Counsel,” Pai said. “In particular, Brendan’s expertise on wireless policy and public safety will be a tremendous asset to the Commission. I look forward to working with him in his new role and wish him all the best during the confirmation process.”

Democratic FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn said Carr would be “a great asset to the Commission, calling him “well respected on both sides of the aisle” and saying that he’s “demonstrated a deep knowledge of the legal and policy issues facing the communications sector.”

As part of the Chairman’s staff, Carr is expected to support Pai’s efforts to reverse controversial “net neutrality” rules passed by the FCC’s then-Democratic majority that would subject broadband providers to the sort of oversight that conventional telecommunication carriers have faced.

Observers believe that both Rosenworcel and Carr will be confirmed by the US Senate.



Boy Scouts’ Jamboree on the Air Announces Theme for 60th Annual Event

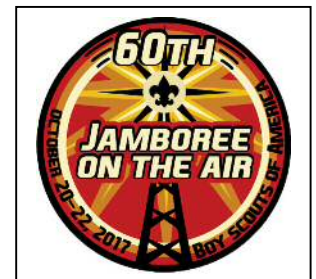
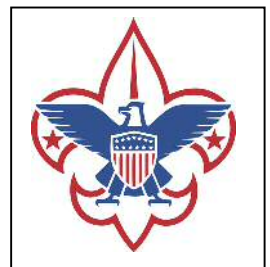
06/29/2017

“60 Years Connecting Scouts” is the theme for the Boy Scouts’ 2017 Jamboree on the Air (JOTA), set for October 20-22. JOTA Coordinator Jim Wilson, K5ND, said the theme “recognizes the start of the event in 1957 and commemorates its growth in participation and in the expanding communication channels that are activated on the third weekend in October.” The official JOTA patch will be available by July 19. The JOTA-JOTI (Jamboree on the Internet) patch is available now.

Wilson said JOTA’s “communication channels” now include Amateur Radio on the air and via Internet-based channels, as well as many other Internet-based options including social media, ScoutLink and IRC chat services, Skype, and more.

“It also recognizes the goal of the event — connecting Scouts so that they can engage in conversations with other Scouts across town and around the world,” Wilson said. “This allows them to discover geographic and cultural differences and similarities. Plus, they are exposed to the technology that makes all this happen.”

The World JOTA-JOTI Team said it would announce “a number of weekend activities supporting the 2017 theme.”



ARRL CEO, Technical Relations Specialist Represent US at Pre-WRC-19 Session

06/29/2017

ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, and ARRL Technical Relations Specialist Jon Siverling, WB3ERA, served on the US delegation to the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) Permanent Consultative Committee II (PCC.II) hosted by the US in Orlando, June 26-29. Approximately 170 delegates from 16 countries throughout the Americas attended the meeting. PCC II serves as an advisory committee to CITEL, and the Florida session was part of the run-up to World Radiocommunication Conference 2019 (WRC-19). Others defending Amateur Radio interests at the meeting included IARU Region 2 Secretary José Arturo Molina, YS1MS/KD2GXZ, and Flávio Archangelo, PY2ZX, who were delegates to WRC-15.

The most significant work of the delegates this week was in the Working Group on Preparation for Regional and World Radiocommunication Conferences, chaired by Carmelo Rivera of NOAA/Department of Commerce,” Siverling said. “This is the working group that will develop proposals from the Americas region to WRC-19.”

Siverling said that while it’s still early in the process, the working group continued to identify delegates who will attend WRC-19 to serve as chapter chairmen and agenda item rapporteurs. The US proposed Siverling to serve as the alternate rapporteur for WRC-19 agenda item 1.1, “to consider an allocation of the frequency band 50-54 MHz to the Amateur Service in Region 1” in accordance with WRC-15 Resolution 658.

The delegates to PCC II are preparing preliminary views — which will mature into proposals and later Inter-American Proposals, or IAPs, to the Conference for each WRC-19 agenda item, including several that may impact Amateur Radio. These include agenda item 1.11, railway train-to-trackside radiocommunication systems; agenda item 1.12, Intelligent Transport Systems; agenda item 1.16, wireless access systems/radio local area networks (WAS/RLANs) in the bands between 5,150 and 5,925 MHz, including additional allocations to the mobile service; agenda item 1.13, International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) above 24 GHz, and agenda item 1.15, land mobile and fixed service applications in the 275-450 GHz range.

“This meeting also advanced the work to update the International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP) to allow administrations to process applications and issue the permit electronically, a requirement for many countries as they transition to eGovernment,” Siverling said.



Mark Ortega KI6YLH on 15M SSB and Jim Barnett W6JB on 20M CW – photo de K6NE



John Gartman AG6GL at the 20M SSB Solar/Battery array – photo de K6NE

FCC Crackdown on Pirate Broadcasters Targets at Least One More Amateur Licensee

07/06/2017

A recent flurry of FCC Enforcement Bureau correspondence to alleged unlicensed broadcasters has targeted at least one more radio amateur — this time in the Greater New York City area. It's not the first time Winston A. Tulloch, KC2ALN, of Paterson, New Jersey, has heard from the FCC, which has had Tulloch in its sights for at least several months regarding a pirate FM station on 90.9 MHz. Last November, the Enforcement Bureau sent Tulloch a *Notice of Unlicensed Operation* after receiving information that he was operating a radio station. FCC agents used direction-finding techniques to zero in on a signal on 90.9 MHz coming from his residence.

“The field strength of the signal on frequency 90.9 MHz was measured at 105,451 microvolts per meter ($\mu\text{V}/\text{m}$) at 101 meters, which exceeded the maximum permitted level of 250 $\mu\text{V}/\text{m}$ at 3 meters for non-licensed devices,” the FCC said at the time.

Tulloch was sent a second *Notice of Unlicensed Operation* on June 8, after Enforcement Bureau agents from the FCC's New York Office on May 2 responded to a complaint of an unlicensed FM station operating on 90.9 MHz in Paterson. This time the signal, measured at 176,526 $\mu\text{V}/\text{m}$, was determined to be emanating from another residence about 1 mile from Tulloch's. The FCC said someone at the residence identified Tulloch as the station's operator.

A **third Notice of Unlicensed Operation** followed on June 30, after Enforcement Bureau agents following up in the unlicensed FM station investigation in Paterson on June 12 confirmed by direction-finding techniques that the signal on 90.9 MHz was continuing to come from the same residence. On that occasion, the agents measured the signal at 5,705 $\mu\text{V}/\text{m}$ at 185 meters, still greatly exceeding the maximum permitted under FCC Part 15 rules for unlicensed devices.

FCC Enforcement Bureau Region 1 Director David C. Dombrowski now has advised Tulloch at least three times that the unlicensed radio operation on 90.9 MHz “must be discontinued immediately.” The Commission's enforcement resources are already suffering from last year's closing of FCC field offices and the layoffs of field agents, however, and the current administration's budget allocates less money for the FCC.

In late May, the Enforcement Bureau issued a *Notice of Violation (NoV)* to Lyle E. Hilden, KD6LUL, of Vista, California, alleging that he had engaged in pirate radio broadcasting on the FM band.

In the past week, the Enforcement Bureau also sent *Notices of Unlicensed Operation* to other individuals in the Greater New York City area as well as to individuals and couples in Massachusetts and Florida.

