

January 2019

The KEYER

K6MEP

Ventura County Amateur Radio Club

Year 83 Issue 1



The Ventura County Amateur Radio Club, K6MEP will meet at 7:30 PM on Friday the 11th of January 2019 at historic Dudley House 197 N. Ashwood, Ventura 93003, at the corner of Loma Vista and Ashwood: 34d 16m 13.67s N 119d 14m 43.24s W: Grid square DM04jg: see map pg 18. Board Meeting precedes the General Meeting. Program is DMR Presentation by Dave Schmidt AI6VX.

Please note Services for Joe Krigbaum K6NE (sk) 12 January on page 17

K6MEP

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

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K6MEP KEYER -- The VCARC Journal

**HAM RADIO:
It works when nothing
else does!**

Ventura County Amateur Radio Club 2018 Officers and Chairs

President	Robert Shank	KM6RSS (303) 981-5956
Vice-President	Richard Abbey	WB6AEW (805) 947-7077
Secretary	Phil Cohen	WA6BUZ
Treasurer	John Gartman	W6JPG
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Board Member	Rod Austin	KA6GSU (805) 983-7141
Board Member	Steve Noll	WA6EJO
Photographer	Stewart Stone	KG6BOV (805) 488-7388
Facilities Mgr.	Richard Abbey	WB6AEW (805) 947-7077
ARRL Liaison	Chris Dimond	KJ6QOP
Editor/ Publisher	Stewart Stone	KG6BOV (805) 488-7388
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Awards Mgr.	VACANT - An Opportunity to serve your club	
Programs Chair	Steve Noll	WA6EJO
Webmaster	Robert Shank	KM6RSS (303) 981-5956
New Members	Bob Brodie	KJ6AAE
QSL Manager		
License Trustee	in transition	
Historian	VACANT - An Opportunity to serve your club	
Elmer Coordinator	VACANT - An Opportunity to serve your club	

The Inside Story

Message from the President.....	2
Meeting Notes.....	2
Contests, & Spec Events	3
Available Gear	3 - 4
A Look at First Radios.....	5 - 6
Upcoming FCC Exam Sessions.....	7 - 8
Upcoming Ham Fests, Trivia & K6MEP ARRL Field Day Results ...	8
Net Script & K6MEP Calendar.....	9
Volunteer Training Classes.....	10 & 11
ARES & Frequency information.....	12
ARRL Public Service Classes.....	13
Area Nets.....	14
Joe Krigbaum K6NE (sk) Memorial.....	17
Meeting Local Maps	18
Cal. Amateur Receives Notice of Unlicensed Op from FCC	19
Canadian National Parks on the Air Event to Start on Jan.1.....	19
New Two-Ham ISS Crew Launched to ISS	19
FCC Tells LED Sign Marketers to Abide by Statutes and Rules ...	20
AMSAT's Fox-1Cliff Am.Radio CubeSat Launched Successfully ..	20
Attorney Named as FCC's Administrative Law Judge.....	22
ExceedSat Designated as VO-96	22
Jordan's First CubeSat, JY1Sat, is Designated as JO-97	22
WSJT-X 2.0 Full Release Now Available.....	23
Broadcasters Intruding on Amateur Radio Frequencies.....	23
Radio Amateurs in Turkey Gain Access to Two Bands.....	23
New Am. Packet Gear Awaits Unpacking, Install on ISS	23
ARRL Petitions to Incorporate Parity Act Prov.into Part 97 Rules.	24
Countdown to Third Annual AM Rally.....	25

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
Dues are \$20 per year.

Message from the President

The Prez Sez,

Happy New Year 2019!

January, the month of new beginnings, is named after the two-faced Roman god Janus, whose image is composed of two heads, simultaneously looking to the past and the future. This month, we look to the past and thank the previous club officers who have served us so well. We look to the future and welcome in the newly elected officers. By reflecting on the events of the previous year, new officers will help bring new opportunities and the ability to take steps to improve club activities for the New Year.

The January poem that resonated with me is simply titled January by William Carlos Williams.

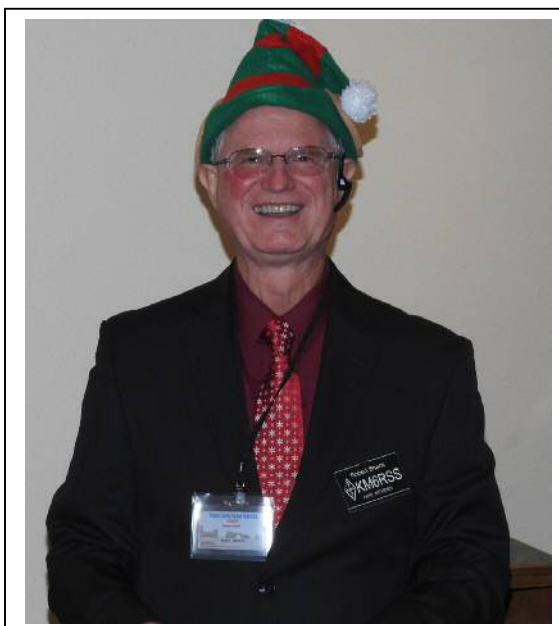
"Again I reply to the triple winds running chromatic fifths of derision outside my window: Play louder. You will not succeed. I am bound more to my sentences the more you batter at me to follow you. And the wind, as before, fingers perfectly its derisive music." I hope my antenna(s) stays up and that the eleven guy lines playing musical notes in the wind doesn't incite my neighbors to contact code enforcement again.

Looking backward: At December's DecemberFest party, we had 32 members and their guests attend a gala evening of food, entertainment and camaraderie at Carrow's Ventura. Denney Pistole N6HV organized the gift collection, wrapping and distribution and was a great quiz master of ceremonies as he attempted to stump everyone with humorous ham-related questions.

(Cont pg 4)

Secretary's Column and Meeting Minutes

DecemberFest Dinner Meeting Pictures



(Cont pg 14)

Elf Robert KM6RSS

Selected January 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.

-
- 12/31/2018 | Battle of Princeton Dec 31-Jan 4, 1400Z-2200Z, W2P**, Princeton, NJ. Delaware Valley Radio Association. Certificate & QSL. DVRAW2P. Work both W2T(Battle of Trenton) and W2P (Battle of Princeton) and get a certificate of Commission in the Continental Army Signal Corps. See website for details. www.w2zq.com
- 01/02/2019 | 13th Annual Straight Key CW Event Jan 2-Jan 31, 0000Z-2359Z, K3Y**, Various Cities. SKCC - Straight Key Century Club. QSL. SKCC c/o KD8VSQ. K3Y/0 thru 9 plus KH6, KL7, KP4 and DX member stations in six WAC areas operating straight key, bug and cootie keys. QSL card confirms one QSO per area, up to 19 for all-area sweep. See URL for sched, map, stats, etc. www.skccgroup.com/k3y
- 01/05/2019 | Picacho 50th Anniversary Jan 5, 1600Z-2000Z, K7T**, Picacho, AZ. Oro Valley ARC. Certificate. No paper QSLs, please send email for PDF, certificate. No paper QSLs, please. Send email for PDF certificate. www.TucsonHamRadio.org
- 01/09/2019 | Lake Havasu City Balloonfest Jan 9-Jan 14, 0000Z-0000Z, K7B**, Lake Havasu City, AZ. London Bridge Amateur Radio Association. Certificate. For Certificate, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403. www.lbara.org
- 01/12/2019 | USS Midway Museum Ship Special Event: Desert Storm Kickoff Jan 12, 1700Z-2359Z, NI6IW**, San Diego, CA. USS Midway (CV-41) Museum Ship. QSL. USS Midway (CV-41) COMEDTRA.
- 01/15/2019 | 4th Annual "RST" Special Event Jan 15-Feb 28, 0000Z-2359Z, VE8RST**, various, AK. North Country DX Association. All bands, all modes. Certificate & QSL. For QSL: US please send \$1 and SASE, foreign send \$3 and SAE. See website for information on receiving a certificate, and for more information on this event. Participating calls: KL7RST, VE8RST, OX7RST, VY1RST, VY0RST, N1RAC, and K7ICE. www.qrz.com/db/k7ice
- 01/19/2019 | Quartzfest Jan 19-Jan 27, 0800Z-1200Z, W7Q**, San Luis, AZ. Quartzfest.. QSL. quartzfest.org
- 01/26/2019 | Celebrating the Admission of the Kansas Territory in to the Union as the 34th State Jan 26, 1600Z-2100Z, KS0KS**, Olathe, KS. Santa Fe Trail Amateur Radio Club. QSL. Santa Fe Trail ARC. www.sftarc.org
- 01/26/2019 | Discovery of Gold in California 171th Anniversary Special Event Station Jan 26-Jan 28, 1700Z-0100Z, AG6AU**, Placerville, CA. El Dorado County Amateur Radio Club. QSL. El Dorado County ARC. www.edcarc.net
- 01/26/2019 | See The Light Jan 26, 1200Z-2359Z, WA4TRS**, Fairview, NC. The Road Show Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Certificate & QSL. The Road Show Amateur Radio Club, Inc. The practice run for the 2019 Lightbulb QSO contest, March 9th 20:00 UTC through March 10th 20:00 UTC. Test your "Lightbulb Antenna" and work ours! www.wa4trs.org

Available Gear

From the Bill Klope Sr. KW6PE donation:

4	ea.	Concrete mast bases price \$10 each
1	ea.	Cisco E 1200 Router
1	set	Gordon West Radio School Learn Morse Code cassette tapes
1	ea.	AT&T Cable Modem

Please contact Robert KM6RSS
805-275-2256

From the WT6JS Donation

Yaesu VX 3R, HT Dual Band 2m/440 whip antenna w/2 chargers, manual
3 HT Dual Band 'Rubber Duck' antennas
4" external speaker w/mag mount
Mag mount system for large mobile HF antenna
Arrow Handheld Yagi Dual Band Antenna

Please contact Stewart KG6BOV
Kg6bov@arrl.net

Looking for Antenna Instructions and manuals

Looking for antenna instruction and manuals for pre-1995 VHF and UHF antennas.

Hy-gain, Cushcraft, KLM are the big manufacturers, but there were dozen of little ones (K1FO, K2RIW, Tronna). Would like to start a repository of antenna manuals.

Manuals will be copied and originals will be returned. The copies will be posted on the web for use by everyone. Have needed the manuals for two 2 meter antennas recently and cannot find them.

Denney N6HV / denney@denneypistole.com

Equipment Tech and Operator Manuals

I have a large collection of radio tech manuals and operator manuals from Alinco / Icom / Kenwood / Yeasu and others. All are PDF format.

Stewart
KG6BOV@arrl.net

Prez Sez (cont from pg 2)

Accolades were given to Robert Byl KD6UDA in the form of a Certificate of Appreciation that read, in part, for his "outstanding organizational skills and excellent attention to detail" in the twelve years of dedication as VCARC Secretary. We also acknowledged our incoming officers and board members; many who have continued on in their previous positions for years. Additional thanks to Stewart Stone KG6BOV for taking photos and keeping everyone in fine spirit.

Looking Forward: At our next club meeting on January 11, David AI6VX is scheduled to present information about Digital Mobile Radio and its many mysteries. We will also discuss the status of our Field Day Venue Search Committee, led by Clement Alberts KM6OKZ. The meeting will be held at The Dudley House, 197 N Ashwood Ave, Ventura, CA 93003.

Safety Share: On a cold day, it is safer to wear glove/mittens and keep your hands outside your pockets to maintain balance and avoid falling. Mittens allow your fingers to touch each other, generating more body heat. Warm up or exercise your body before tackling outdoor tasks; that also reduces the risk of injury. Avoid caffeine and nicotine before outdoor work; they increase heart rate and may cause your blood vessels to constrict. Carry bottled water and hydrate often during those outdoor projects. Warm up your vehicle (but not in an enclosed garage) and remove all fog and other condensation from your auto's windows before driving off. During rainstorms, watch out for hydroplaning when you're driving and remember that 6 inches of running water is enough to sweep you off of your feet. Finally, after a winter storm, immediately report any downed power lines or broken utility lines and check your Ham equipment for proper grounding and antenna safety. Thanks to www.safetyservicescompany.com for the January safety tips.

See you all at the Friday the 11th of January club meeting at the Dudley House with your ideas, energy and resolutions!
73,

Robert Shank KM6RSS
President, VCARC

First Radios

Several recently licensed Hams have been inquiring how best to set up a new Ham Station and simultaneously separate themselves from a portion of their hard-earned salary (and hopefully not an overly large portion of that salary). That said, I thought I should re-visit the ideas of a basic radio set-up.

Some preliminaries –

- (1) All equipment discussed here is new, current pricing. Used radios, power supplies, antennas and COAX can normally be obtained, usually at a significant reduction from new costs and those options are always available, however the used market is a fluctuating one with few guarantees on quality.
- (2) I tend to select radios, especially first radios, with an eye towards ease of use and easy manual programming. There are computer programs available for PC/Mac and sometimes LINUX platforms that make the job of programming radio features, functions and memories very easy and repeatable; there are times, however when either the PC or interface cable is not available and manual programming is needed.
- (3) A first station should not break a bank account. Once a newly licensed ham sees their name and Callsign on the FCC Database, they can get on the air with anything from a \$25 to \$40 Baofang up to a station whose cost rivals a new car (any new car, I can show you station pictures to prove that).

What will be discussed here is a basic home station. Mobile/vehicle operation is simpler, easier and generally a bit more obvious. This study is looking at a home station with a target cost of approx \$500.

The Home radio station can be broken down to four basic areas -- (a) Power ; (b) radio ; (c) antenna and (d) cabling. These will be addressed in that order.

Power Supplies

Our radios, for the most part live in a 12V DC world. Our homes, however are a 120V AC world (actually 117vac 60~ +/- 10%). A power supply is needed to "translate" or convert the 120vac to 12VDC (actually 13.8 VDC, imitating what is fed from a standard automotive battery or electrical system). Current production radios call for power sources (whether home-based or vehicle-based) of 13.8VDC at a 10-20 Amps, and are usually fused at 10 or 15 Amps. A power supply with that capacity will run between \$75 to \$150, mostly depending on make, presence/absence of meters and how connections are made to the power supply. I tend to like a visual feedback or display, so my preference leans to analog meters (the bigger, the better) or a digital display of voltage and current; your preference may vary. My preference is the ASTRON SS-30M (analog current and voltage meters) or the Powerwerx SPS-30DM (digital current and voltage display).



Radios

Even if you walked into your VE Exam Session with your driver's license as ID and walked out with CSCE's for Technician, General AND Extra class, I do NOT recommend getting a HF Radio as a first radio. My recommendation is to get a good 2M/70cm radio; spend some time on local VHF/UHF repeater nets to get the operational courtesies and protocols ingrained. "It is better to embarrass yourself (and be chastised) locally, rather than internationally".

For the money, operational range and adaptability, the Dual-band Mobile can make an excellent home station radio. Single-Band Two-Meter radios are admittedly less expensive, but for generally 50% greater cost, you can get twice the radio.

Again, the basic radio needs to be easy to configure and program. As more features get built into radios, the configuration becomes less easy, less intuitive. None the less, there are radios available from Alinco, Icom, Kenwood and Yaesu that fit this requirement.

The Alinco DR-735T (or its immediate predecessor the DR-635) and the Kenwood TM-V71a are probably the easiest of the current batch of 2M/70cm radios to program with the Icom IC-2730a close behind. My preference is split between the Kenwood TM-V71a and the Icom IC-2730a. The Icom currently runs about \$250 with discounts while the Kenwood runs about \$100 more. Both have good displays and are easy to read. Both can be manually programmed (like all on this list). Manual programming of 30 to 50 frequencies into the radio memories is a good practice and builds a mental/muscle memory. Beyond that, the investment in a computer interface program can be very useful (especially with 300-500 channels to program).

All radio vendors provide (sometimes for free) a configuration program for their radios. Sometimes the vendor-provided program both works and is user friendly, sometimes less so. Avi Carmi K6AVI and Rob Hanson W6RH both use different



flavors of CHIRP -- a free/user supported interface program available from various internet sources; I tend to prefer the commercial products from RT Systems (unsolicited, shameless plug) (www.rtsystemsinc.com).

Antennas

The choice of an antenna will depend on local circumstances. An outside antenna, higher on the house/building structure is preferable, but not always possible. We will leave aside the discussion of Homeowner Associations, CC&R's, whiney neighbors and similar to another time; they CAN be worked around though. The home antenna can range from a Mag-Mount Mobile antenna on a steel filing cabinet to a high gain, mast-mounted antenna on a 50 ft tower (bank accounts cringe at this one). The antennas listed here range in cost from approx. \$40 to \$95. My preference is for the COMET-NCG GP-3 at \$85, the DIAMOND X-30A at \$70 or the DIAMOND X50A at \$95. All three are single-piece 2m/70cm fiberglass antennas less than 6 ft in height, so are "not that visible" depending on where they are mounted.

Cabling

Coaxial cabling is the link between your radio and the antenna. Most current radios have (and expect) a 50 Ohm output impedance and most antennas expect a 50 Ohm impedance match at the antenna feedpoint. It is thus a happy (non-) coincidence that 50 Ohm (nominal) coaxial cable is readily available. There are multiple manufacturers from Belden, Times-Microwave, Andrews-Cinta and Talley who all provide high-quality, reliable COAX cable. The specifications from each are close; the commercial market drives the similarities. The basic differences come down to the physical size you can allow for and the cable flexibility you may need for your situation. (Remember – “Take good care of your Coax, and it will take good care of you”)

The larger cables (1/2 inch nominal, .400 in) offer less signal loss, usually measured in dB over 100 ft; most home installations requiring less than 25 to 50 ft. The RG-8 class (an old government specification) includes LMR-400, Belden 9913, RG-213 and several others, some more flexible than others. A solid dielectric is preferred over a foam dielectric (these can be inconsistent through the cable), but that solid dielectric can make the cable difficult to work with and require a larger turn radius in cable bends. Kinks in the cabling should be avoided for a host of reasons. If the distance from the radio to the antenna is not long, 25 ft to 30 ft, or if a smaller opening from inside the house to outside is needed, the smaller RG-8x class (.240 in) of cables can be considered. Coaxial cabling costs run at about \$1.25 to \$1.50 per ft for RG-8/.400 class cable and \$.50 - \$.75 per foot for RG-8x/LMR 240 class cable. Cabling will run approx \$30 (25 ft RG-8x/LMR-240) to \$65 (50 ft LMR-400/Belden 9913/RG-213) -- this is for commercial pre-made cables with connectors already attached.

The attached spreadsheet shows a 2M/70cm station assembled for approx \$550. This could be cut down to under \$500 with other choices. A similar spreadsheet can be developed for an initial HF station with a target cost of \$1500. (your mileage may vary depending on other choices of sources).

de Stewart / KG6BOV

Item	Model	Item Ext Cost
Total Cost		\$549.80
1	Power Supply ASTRON SS-30M	149.95
2	Radios -- Base/Mobile ICOM IC-2730A	249.95
3	Antennas -- Base COMET-NCG GP-3	84.95
4a	COAX Cable -- .400 type 50 ft	64.95

Power Supplies

- ALINCO DM-430T HRO Discount Price: \$124.95*
- ALINCO DM-30TR HRO Discount Price: \$124.95*
- ASTRON SS-30E HRO Discount Price: \$149.95*
- ASTRON SS-30M HRO Discount Price: \$149.95*
- MFJ MFJ-4125P HRO Discount Price: \$89.95*
- Powerwerx SS-30DV HRO Discount Price: \$109.95*
- Powerwerx SPS-30DM HRO Discount Price: \$159.95*
- SAMLEX SEC-1235M HRO Discount Price: \$129.95*
- YAESU FP-1023A HRO Discount Price: \$144.95*

Radios -- Base/Mobile

- ALINCO DR-735T HRO Discount Price: \$289.95*
- ICOM IC-2730A After Rebate Price: \$249.95
- KENWOOD TM-V71A HRO Discount Price: \$346.95*
- YAESU FTM-100DR HRO Discount Price: \$304.95*
- YAESU FTM-7250DR HRO Discount Price: \$259.95*

Antennas -- Base

- ARROW ANTENNA GP-146/440 HRO Discount Price: \$48.95*
- COMET-NCG GP-1 HRO Discount Price: \$74.95*
- COMET-NCG GP-3 HRO Discount Price: \$84.95*
- DIAMOND X-30A HRO Discount Price: \$69.95*
- DIAMOND X50A HRO Discount Price: \$94.95*
- MFJ MFJ-1522 HRO Discount Price: \$69.95*
- MFJ MFJ-1754 HRO Discount Price: \$39.95*

Antennas -- Mobile

- COMET-NCG CA-2X4SR HRO Discount Price: \$64.95*
- COMET-NCG CSB-770A HRO Discount Price: \$89.95*
- COMET-NCG SBB-5 HRO Discount Price: \$58.95*
- COMET-NCG SBB-7 HRO Discount Price: \$79.95*
- COMET-NCG M-24M HRO Discount Price: \$34.95*
- DIAMOND NR-7900A HRO Discount Price: \$84.95*
- DIAMOND NR-770HA HRO Discount Price: \$48.95*
- DIAMOND SG7500A HRO Discount Price: \$69.95*
- DIAMOND MR77 HRO Discount Price: \$37.95*
- PulseLarsen MM2/70PL HRO Discount Price: \$56.95*

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

01/12/2019 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:** Impulse Communications 1503 Cook Place, Ste C Goleta, CA 93117

01/19/2019 Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) **Sponsor:** ARALB-W6RO **VEC:** ARRL/VEC **Contact:** F Louise Chapman (562) 429-1355 **Email:** n6elk@aol.com
Location: American Red Cross 3150 E 29th St Redondo & Temple Long Beach CA 90806-2319

02/02/2019 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

02/06/2019 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

02/10/2019 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

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Olsen Rd Thousand Oaks CA 91360-6861 Betw 23 Hwy & Reagan Library

02/16/2019 Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) Sponsor: ARALB-W6RO VEC: ARRL/VEC Contact: F Louise Chapman (562) 429-1355 Email: n6elk@aol.com
Location: American Red Cross 3150 E 29th St Redondo & Temple Long Beach CA 90806-2319

03/02/2019 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

03/09/2019 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: Impulse Communications 1503 Cook Place, Ste C Goleta, CA 93117

03/16/2019 Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) Sponsor: ARALB-W6RO VEC: ARRL/VEC Contact: F Louise Chapman (562) 429-1355 Email: n6elk@aol.com
Location: American Red Cross 3150 E 29th St Redondo & Temple Long Beach CA 90806-2319

Upcoming HamFests & Conventions

Thunderbird Hamfest

Start Date: 01/12/2019 **End Date:** 01/12/2019 **Location:** Glendale Nazarene Church 5902 West Cactus Road Glendale, AZ 85301 **Website:** <http://www.w7tbc.org> **Sponsor:** Thunderbird Amateur Radio Club **Type:** ARRL Hamfest **Talk-In:** 147.040 (PL 162.2) **Public Contact:** Walter Reinert , NJ8G 5546 West Sweetwater Avenue Glendale, AZ 85304 Phone: 602-668-7804 **Email:** hamfest@w7tbc.org

Quartzfest Convention

Start Date: 01/20/2019 **End Date:** 01/26/2019 **Location:** Road Runner BLM La Paz Valley Road (53rd Street North) Quartzsite, AZ 85346 **Website:** <http://www.quartzfest.org> **Sponsor:** Quartzfest Planning Committee **Type:** ARRL Convention **Talk-In:** 146.550 FM Simplex **Public Contact:** Kristyn Weed , KR1SS 1519 North Camino Emiliano Tucson, AZ 85745 Phone: 520-730-1806 **Email:** KristynWeed@gmail.com

Arizona Section Convention (Yuma Hamfest)

Start Date: 02/15/2019 **End Date:** 02/16/2019 **Location:** Yuma County Fairgrounds 2520 East 32nd Street Yuma, AZ 85364 **Website:** <http://www.yumahamfest.org> **Sponsor:** Yuma Amateur Radio Hamfest Organization **Type:** ARRL Convention **Talk-In:** 146.780 (PL 103.5) **Public Contact:** Jeff Weeks , W7JLW 10337 South Fairway Drive Yuma, AZ 85367 Phone: 928-941-0131 **Email:** jeff@weekspcservices.com

Trivia for January 2019

DID YOU KNOW?

1. The first ice cream parlor opened in New York in 1776?
2. 1930's radio station. WLW am 700 was authorized to operate at 500,000 Watts?
3. Fireflies (lighting bugs) glow brighter when air pressure is higher.

de Dana KG6WXE

2018 ARRL Field Day Results

9A

Woodbridge Wireless W4IY (+W4AD)	4,424	2	30	16,988	VA
Forsyth ARC W4NC (+W4S)	3,541	2	74	13,050	NC
Stanislaus ARA W6ERE	481	2	33	2,820	SJV
South Wake ARC N4SWC (+WB4TAL)	767	2	50	2,550	NC
Ventura Co. ARC K6MEP	262	2	19	2,218	SB

K6MEP Net Script

QST- QST- QST. This is <Name> <Callsign>, with the Ventura County Amateur Radio Club Net.

If there is there any station with EMERGENCY or PRIORITY Traffic that needs the immediate use of this frequency, please come now.

Hearing none, the following is a QST. This is <Name> <Callsign>, tonight's net control station for the Ventura County Amateur Radio Club Net. If, at any time during tonight's net, anyone needs this frequency for emergency or priority traffic, please call net control, and we will respond appropriately.

This is a directed, open net for all amateur radio operators, sponsored by K6MEP, the call sign for VCARC. This net begins each Monday evening at 20:00 local time on the WD6EBY linked repeater system.

The primary frequency of this net is 145.200 MHz with a minus offset and a PL of 127.3 Hz. If the repeater should fail for any reason, we can use South Mtn. 146.385 minus offset and a PL of 127.3 as backup. All amateurs are welcome to check in after these announcements. A roundtable will follow the open check-in. A rag chew session may follow the formal net.

K6MEP, the Ventura County Amateur Radio Club, meets at 19:30 hours on the second Friday of each month at The Dudley House, 197 N Ashwood Ave, Ventura, CA 93003. The next meeting date is <say next meeting date from calendar>. We urge any non-members interested in VCARC to contact our Secretary, Bob Byl, KD6UDA, at 805-650-3661 or send an email to him at K6MEP@qsl.net.

As we continue with the check-in process, please give your call sign, name and if you are a VCARC member. If you are not a member of the VCARC, please include your QTH or location.

(Check-ins completed): We will now begin with our Roundtable ***** Any last comments? ***** Any late, missed, or visitor check-ins?

Please check-in now.

(Closing): This concludes the VCARC weekly net at _____ hours. Thank you for your interest and participation. Also thanks to Paul Strauss, WD6EBY, for the use of the repeater for our K6MEP net.

73, this is <Name> <Callsign>, tonight's VCARC net control, signing off.

K6MEP CALENDAR

January 2019

- 1: **New Year's Day**
- 11: **Regular Monthly Club Meeting at 7:30pm.** K6MEP Board meeting precedes the club meeting at 7:00pm -- DMR Presentation by AI6VX
- 12: **K6NE Memorial Service 7061 Mallard Ave Ventura, CA**
- 21: **Martin Luther King Day**

February 2019

- 2: **Ground Hogs' Day**
- 8: **Regular Monthly Club Meeting at 7:30pm.** K6MEP Board meeting precedes the club meeting at 7:00pm
- 12: **Lincoln's Birthday**
- 14: **Valentine's Day**
- 18: **Presidents' Day**
- 22: **Washington's Birthday**

March 2019

- 8: **Regular Monthly Club Meeting at 7:30pm.** K6MEP Board meeting precedes the club meeting at 7:00pm
- 10: **Daylight Savings Time Starts**
- 17: **St. Patrick's Day**

*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.
Enter processing dates:

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

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-20.17 **Diversity Awareness Course 2017** - (1/25/2017)
- IS-21.17 **Civil Rights and FEMA Disaster Assistance** - (1/25/2017)
- 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-35.17 **FEMA Safety Orientation 2017** - (1/25/2017)
- 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-559 **Local Damage Assessment** - (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** - (1/20/2017)
- 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 WD6EBY Sulphur 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 / 445.560 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 – WA6ZSN 146.385 Mhz (+) PL 127.3

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 Olivias 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 145.240 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@gmail.com

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

Area 3 Camarillo, Somis EC: Ted Lansing W6TEL Email: w6tel@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.



**Local Area Radio Nets
Weekly Nets**

Monday

Cuckoo Net 146.790 Mhz (-) / 131.8 Hz PL and 145.180 Mhz (-) / 131.8 Hz PL every weekday morning from 8:00 AM to about 8:20 AM

California Rescue ARES Net 7.25 Mhz MTWThF 8:30 AM

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

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

K6MEP / VCARC Club Net -- 145.200 Mhz (-) / 127.3 PL (WD6EBY linked system) 8:00 PM

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

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

Tuesday

Cuckoo Net 146.790 Mhz (-) / 131.8 Hz PL and 145.180 Mhz (-) / 131.8 Hz PL every weekday morning from 8:00 AM to about 8:20 AM

California Rescue ARES Net 7.250 Mhz MTWThF 8:30 AM

Ventura County ARES-ACS 6 Meter Net -- between 6:45 PM to 7:00 PM K6SMR 52.980 Mhz (-) PL 82.5 SMRA Red Mt

Ventura County ARES-ACS Simplex Net -- 6:30pm on 147.510 Simplex

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

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**

SBARC Swap Net 146.790 Mhz (-) / 131.8 Hz PL and 145.180 Mhz (-) / 131.8 Hz PL 7:30-8:00 PM

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

6-Meter Roundtable - 50.125 Mhz USB First Tuesday of each month 2000 / 8:00 PM

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

SBARC Digital Communications Net 146.790 Mhz (-) / 131.8 Hz PL and 145.180 Mhz (-) / 131.8 Hz PL 8:00 – 10:00 PM

Wednesday --

Cuckoo Net 146.790 Mhz (-) / 131.8 Hz PL and 145.180 Mhz (-) / 131.8 Hz PL every weekday morning from 8:00 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 and 145.180 Mhz (-) / 131.8 Hz PL every weekday morning from 8:00 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 and 145.180 Mhz (-) / 131.8 Hz PL every weekday morning from 8:00 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.mrcgwest.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)

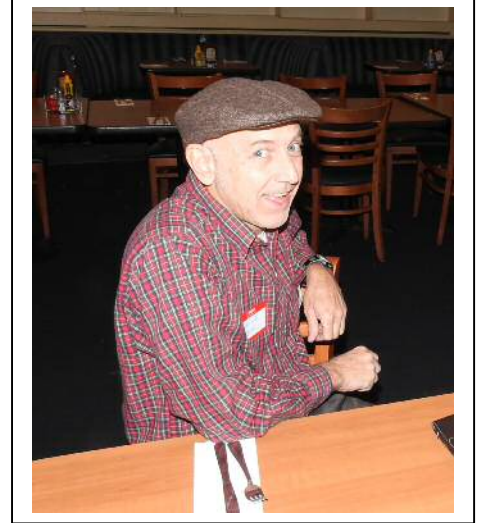
More DecemberFest Pictures



Dana KG6WXE & Pam



Allison N6PEP



Bob KD6UDA



Santa Phil WA6BUZ



Mark KI6PTE / Mark KD6ASL & Joe KM6YTO



Clement KM6OKZ & Katy



Bob KD6UDA Appreciation for years as Club Secretary



Grinch Stewart KG6BOV



Rod KA6GSU & Lily



Steve KI6BSQ



Reese KQ6TT & Ellie



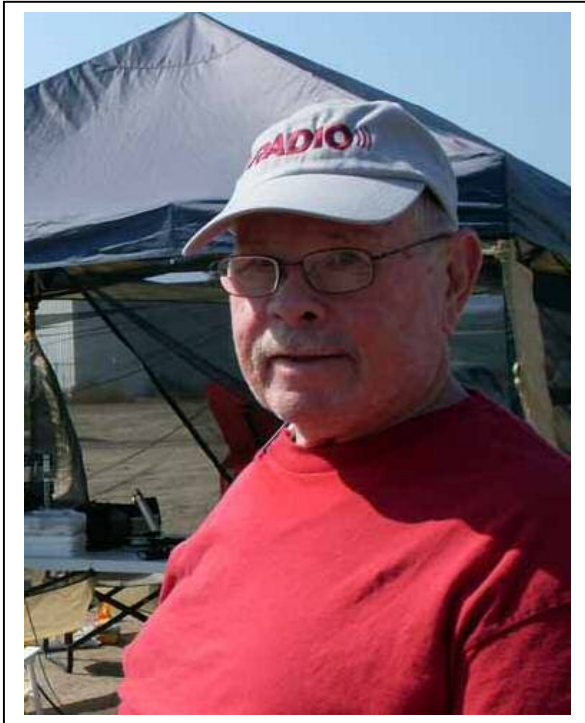
Denney N6HV, Paul WA6ECB & Nancy



Denney N6HV



Elf John W6JPG



K6NE Memorial Service

The memorial for Joe K6NE will be on January 12th from noon to 4PM. It will be held in the clubhouse of Joe's condo complex.

7061 Mallard Ave Ventura, CA

Clubhouse is at the (north) end of the cul de sac Mallard Avenue (on map)

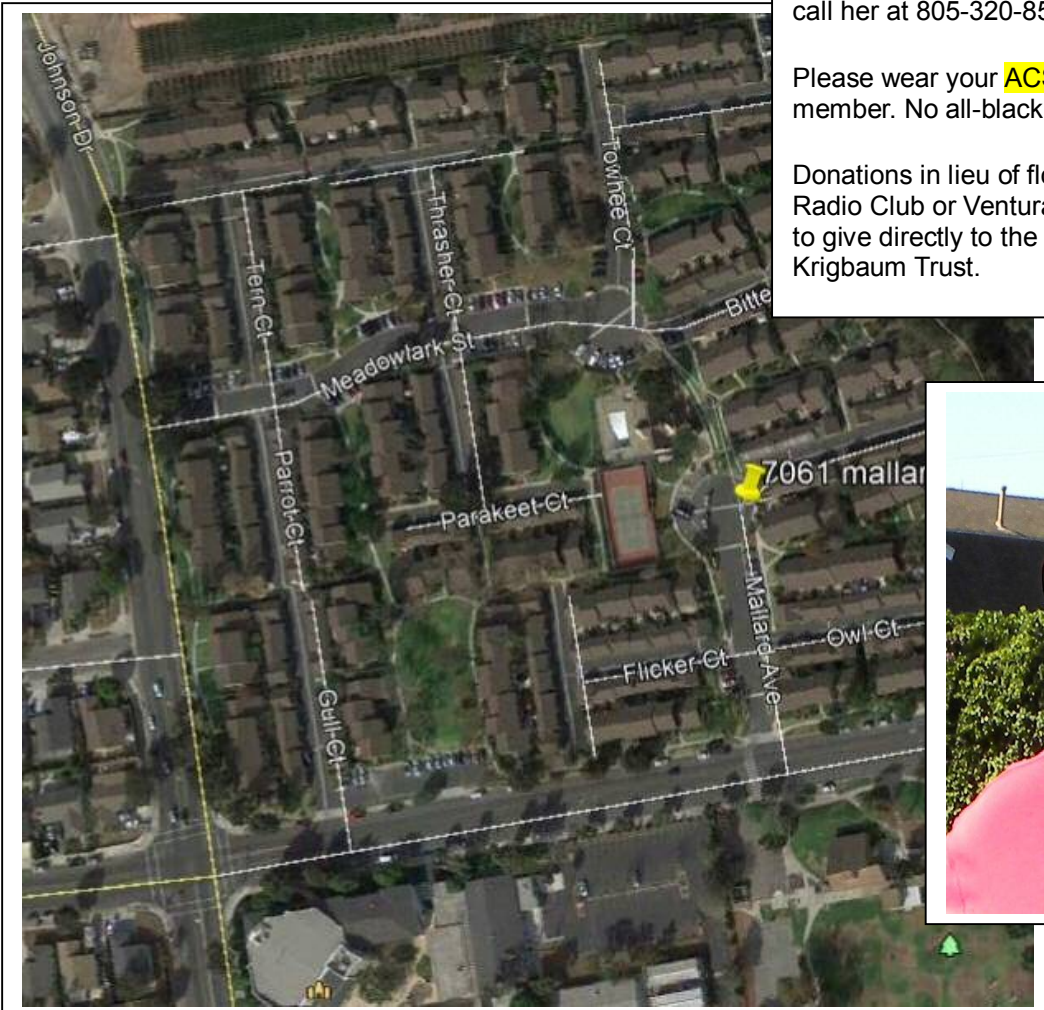
Take Ralston Street between Victoria and Johnson to Mallard Ave and park in the townhouse complex or across the street at the Barranca Vista Recreational Center.

Parking in the townhouse complex is limited so you may end up parking on Ralston Street.

Please RSVP Allison McKowen N6PEP@pacbell.net or call her at 805-320-8544.

Please wear your **ACS/ARES yellow shirts** if you are a member. No all-black outfits, please.

Donations in lieu of flowers to Ventura County Amateur Radio Club or Ventura County Red Cross. Anyone wishing to give directly to the family may write a check to the Krigbaum Trust.



California Radio Amateur Receives Notice of Unlicensed Operation from FCC

11/26/2018

The FCC Enforcement Bureau on November 7 issued a *Notice of Unlicensed Operation (NoUO)* to Technician licensee Daryl Thomas, KE6MWS, of Carmichael, California, for allegedly operating an unlicensed FM radio station.

On October 10, 2018, an Enforcement Bureau agent from the FCC's San Francisco Office responded to a complaint of an unlicensed FM station operating on 95.7 MHz in Carmichael. The agent confirmed by direction-finding techniques that a signal on 95.7 MHz was emanating from a residence, and Thomas subsequently admitted that he was the operator of this station, the FCC said in the *NoUO*.

The agent measured the field strength of the signal found that it exceeded the maximum permitted level of 250 μ V per meter at 3 meters, established under Part 15.

The *Notice* cautioned Thomas that operation of radio transmitting equipment without a valid radio station authorization, or in violation of the Commission's RF radiation limits, constitutes a violation of the federal laws cited above and could subject the operator to severe penalties, including, but not limited to, substantial monetary fines, in rem seizure of the offending radio equipment, and criminal sanctions including imprisonment.

"Unlicensed operation of this radio station must be discontinued immediately and must not resume," the *Notice* warned.



Canadian National Parks on the Air Event Set to Start on January 1

12/04/2018

The Canadian National Parks on the Air event ([CNPOTA](#)) will get under way on January 1, 2019, and continue until year's end. A volunteer group of a half-dozen hams in Nova Scotia, working with a zero budget, came up with the notion of attempting to replicate the success of the National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) event in 2016, first created to mark the centennial of the National Park Service.

Radio Amateurs of Canada ([RAC](#)) has announced its support for CNPOTA, in cooperation with Parks Canada. All radio amateurs are invited to activate any of Park Canada's 48 national parks and 171 national historic sites, while "chasers" attempt to land a contact.

Activity for activators and chasers will be tracked on a dedicated website and a real-time leader board, and operators may compete for online awards and certificates. For updates on the program's progress, [visit](#) the CNPOTA website. (<https://cnpota.ca/>)

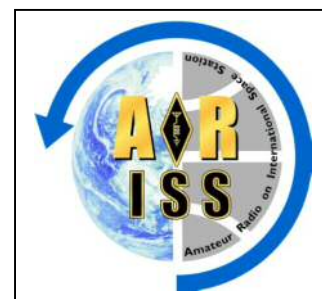


New Two-Ham ISS Crew Launched to ISS is the First Since Aborted October Flight

12/05/2018

Three astronauts — including two radio amateurs — have docked at the International Space Station (ISS) on the first crewed *Soyuz* vehicle launch since a dramatic failure in October. The astronauts the US, Canada, and Russia, left Kazakhstan at 1130 UTC on December 3, and the Russian space agency Roscosmos confirmed their successful docking at the station. On board were David Saint-Jacques, KG5FYI, a Canadian engineer, astrophysicist, and medical doctor; space veteran Oleg Kononenko, RN3DX, of Russia, and Anne McClain, of the US. Investigators have blamed a faulty sensor, said to have been damaged during assembly in Kazakhstan. Crew commander Kononenko said his crew recognized the risks of spaceflight as part of their profession and expressed confidence in the flight preparation.

The three-person crew's mission was originally set for later this month, but officials moved up the date to avoid leaving the space station unstaffed, when the current ISS crew of cosmonaut Sergey Prokopyev and astronauts Serena Auñón-Chancellor, KG5TMT, and Alexander Gerst, KF5ONO, return to Earth on December 20.



Meanwhile, NASA astronaut Nick Hague, KG5TMV, who was on the aborted October 11 *Soyuz* launch, is getting ready for another try. Hague, NASA astronaut Christina Hammock Koch, and cosmonaut Alexey Ovchinin are scheduled to launch from Baikonur Cosmodrome on February 28 aboard the Russian *Soyuz* MS-12 spacecraft.

The trio will join the ISS Expedition 58 crew that just went up, and they will return to Earth in October 2019 as members of Expedition 60. Hague and Koch will serve as flight engineers for Expeditions 59 and 60. Ovchinin will serve as a flight engineer on Expedition 59 and as the commander of Expedition 60.

This will be Koch's first spaceflight. Hague and Ovchinin were on their way to join the station's Expedition 57 crew on October 11, when their *Soyuz's* rocket booster experienced a malfunction shortly after launch, aborting the mission. Both returned safely to Earth. The MS-10 flight abort marked the first Russian human spaceflight booster accident in 35 years.

Investigators looking into the October 11 incident said afterward that other Soyuz vehicles may have been similarly defective, but pointed out that additional pre-flight checks had been introduced. NASA offered its own reassurances about continued cooperation with and confidence in the Russian space program.

FCC Tells LED Sign Marketers to Abide by Statutes and Rules

12/03/2018

The FCC Enforcement Bureau [has called on](#) marketers of light-emitting diode (LED) signs to ensure that these lights comply with FCC rules. Since March of this year, the agency has entered into 21 settlement agreements with companies that marketed noncompliant LED signs in violation of the Communications Act and FCC rules. The settlements yielded approximately \$850,000 in penalties, and commitments to ensure compliance with the law going forward. Adherence to the FCC's equipment authorization and marketing rules is critical because radio frequency emissions from the signs may cause harmful interference to licensed communications, such as wireless services, the FCC said.

"In light of these recent settlements, we remind LED sign marketers of their obligations under the law," said Enforcement Bureau Chief Rosemary Harold. "The FCC takes seriously its responsibility in ensuring that energy-emitting devices like LED lights do not interfere with authorized transmissions."

LED lights are often used in digital billboards and other commercial and industrial applications, including billboards and large video displays in sports arenas. Given the electrical design of these lights, they may emit RF energy. Prior to being marketed in the US, LED sign models must be tested and comply with FCC technical standards and must include the proper labeling, identification, and user information disclosures. The FCC Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) oversees the equipment authorization [process](#) for RF devices, including LED signs.

The Enforcement Bureau investigated hundreds of indoor and outdoor LED sign models and discovered repeated FCC rule violations concerning the failure to market the models with the required equipment authorizations, labeling, and user information disclosures. To settle its respective investigation, each company verified that the models at issue were brought into compliance with FCC rules, agreed to pay a monetary penalty, and committed to abide by a compliance plan to improve internal procedures to avoid future violations.

The Bureau has settled 21 investigations to date, with penalties as high as \$115,000. [Each settlement](#) is available on the FCC Enforcement Bureau home page.

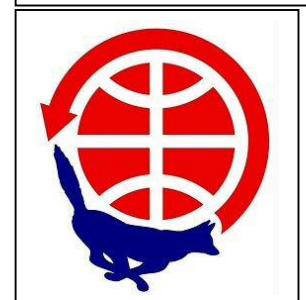


AMSAT's Fox-1Cliff Amateur Radio CubeSat Launched Successfully

12/03/2018

[UPDATED: 2018-12-04 @ 1320 UTC] SpaceX has announced that the SSO-A: SmallSat Express mission carrying AMSAT's Fox-1Cliff CubeSat has been deployed into orbit. A SpaceX Falcon 9 vehicle carried Fox-1Cliff and several other satellites into space on December 3 at approximately 1334 UTC from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, following a 1-day launch delay. ([See](#) the launch on YouTube.) According to AMSAT, at approximately 0030 UTC on December 4, several stations in Brazil — including PS8MT, PT9BM, and PT2AP — reported hearing the voice beacon "Fox-1Cliff Safe Mode," confirming that the satellite was alive.

"Just before 0040 UTC, AMSAT Fox-1 Team Member Burns Fisher, WB1FJ, was the first to submit and upload telemetry to the AMSAT servers," AMSAT [reported](#) on its website. "Initial



telemetry values show the satellite to be in good health. Thanks to the 29 stations that contributed telemetry during Fox-1Cliff's initial orbits."

The Fox-1Cliff downlink for FM voice and data-under-voice (DUV) is 145.920 MHz. Uplinks are 435.300 and 1267.300 MHz.

In addition to Fox-1Cliff, the SSO-A mission carried several other Amateur Radio satellites, including FUNcube on ESEO, JY1-SAT, K2SAT, and ExseedSat. The reusable Falcon 9 vehicle launched 64 payloads in all.

Fox-1Cliff carries the Fox-1 U/v FM repeater, AMSAT's L-Band Downshifter, the flight spare of the AO-85 Vanderbilt University Low Energy Proton (LEP) radiation experiment, and the standard Fox-1 Penn State University-Erie MEMS gyroscope experiment. Virginia Tech provided a video graphics array camera that's similar to the one on AO-92 but which will provide images at a higher 640 × 480 resolution.

Fox-1Cliff is named in honor of long-time AMSAT member, contributor, and benefactor Cliff Buttschardt, K7RR (SK), who died in 2006. His contributions to AMSAT and other Amateur Satellite programs — including his service as an adviser during the initial development of the CubeSat specification at California Polytechnic State University — earned him the Lifetime Achievement Award from Project OSCAR in 2006.

AMSAT is asking Amateur Radio satellite enthusiasts to listen for Fox-1Cliff's telemetry for the initial 72 – 96 hours as on-orbit checkout gets under way.

"If you are capturing telemetry with *FoxTelem*, please be sure that "Upload to Server" is checked in your settings and your Ground Station Params are filled in as well," AMSAT said in advance of the launch. In the initial Safe Mode or Beacon Mode after startup, the transmitter is limited to 10 seconds on time followed by a 2-minute off cycle. "You will hear Veronica announcing 'Fox-1Cliff Safe Mode,' while in Beacon Mode," AMSAT said, noting that the on-orbit check-out procedure will be similar to Fox-1D and could be completed in as few as 7 days.

"It is very important, not to mention just plain good Amateur operating practice, to refrain from using the transponder uplink, so we can do the on orbit tests, including when we turn on transponder mode for testing," AMSAT said. "AMSAT will make it broadly known when the tests are complete and the transponder is available for all to use." — *Thanks to SpaceX and AMSAT Vice President-Engineering Jerry Buxton, N0JY*

Fox-1Cliff/AO-95 Receiver Suffers Apparent Failure

12/10/2018

The receiver on the newly launched Fox-1Cliff/AO-95 CubeSat seems to have suffered a receiver failure that could render the satellite unusable, AMSAT said over the weekend. Efforts continue by AMSAT Engineering to establish the cause of the problem and determine if a fix is possible. AMSAT Vice President-Engineering Jerry Buxton, N0JY, reported over the weekend that the issue cropped up during efforts to commission Fox-1Cliff/AO-95.

"After a few days of tests, analysis, and discussion, it appears that Fox-1Cliff/AO-95 will not be commissioned as our fourth Fox-1 Amateur Radio satellite," Buxton said. Commissioning began on December 4, right after the CubeSat's successful launch a day earlier.

"AMSAT Engineering will continue to evaluate and test Fox-1Cliff/AO-95 for solutions to the anomaly, and your continued help in providing telemetry is appreciated so that we can have data throughout her daily orbits, rather than limited data over our US stations," Buxton said. "The data, analysis, and testing could lead to a positive solution, but at the very least will be important to AMSAT's satellite programs in providing information that would help us and others avoid similar situations with future missions."

In a post to AMSAT-BB, Buxton mentioned one suggestion of employing a high-power station to see if AO-95 could hear its signal, but he added that AMSAT Engineering would not be offering a blow-by-blow narrative of its efforts to restore the satellite to operating condition, "unless it is something of merit or actionable."

Buxton noted that AMSAT's resources are limited, and all involved are volunteers. "Most — if not all — of our remaining Fox-1 engineers are also involved in the GOLF-TEE project, so I have asked them to give that first priority with their available volunteer time in order to keep the schedule," Buxton said. "AO-95 is in orbit now, and we can vary the amount of attention on her as resources allow in order to achieve both goals. If the results of our investigation point to a possibility of recovery, be it partial, full, or some workaround method, we would all like to see her working as much as the rest of you, and that is a driver for this investigation."

Buxton said he anticipates that AMSAT Engineering will continue to seek the cause of the apparent receiver failure, "until we have results or reach a dead end, because of the inability to take the lid off and look inside AO-95."

"I will certainly be keeping everyone posted when we have something new to report," Buxton said.



Attorney Jane Hinckley Halprin Named as FCC's Administrative Law Judge

12/07/2018

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai has announced that Jane Hinckley Halprin will serve as the agency's Administrative Law Judge (ALJ). She succeeds Judge Richard Sippel, who retired on December 1.

"Jane has done tremendous work at the FCC, and I congratulate her on this new role," Pai said. "The good judgment she displayed working on ethics issues at the agency for over a decade will serve her well as our Administrative Law Judge." Pai also thanked Sippel for his 32 years of service as an ALJ, during which he dealt with several Amateur Radio cases.

Halprin joined the FCC in 1987 as a staff attorney in the former Common Carrier Bureau and has occupied positions in the former Mass Media Bureau, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, and the Office of General Counsel. For the past 14 years, she has served in the Office of General Counsel as an Ethics Counsel and for the past year has led the agency's ethics team as Assistant General Counsel for Ethics.

The FCC Office of Administrative Law Judges is responsible for conducting Commission-ordered hearings. An ALJ acts on interlocutory requests filed in the proceedings, such as contested discovery requests. ALJs are appointed by a vote of all Commissioners.



ExseedSat Designated as VO-96

12/07/2018

At the request of Exseed Space, AMSAT has designated the 1U *ExseedSat* CubeSat, launched on December 3 on a Falcon 9 vehicle from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, as VUosat-OSCAR 96 (VO-96).

ExseedSat was built by a team of Indian radio amateurs, including Ashhar Farhan, VU2ESE; George Phillips, VU2GT; Gurudatta Panda, VU3GDP; Sasi Bhushan, VU3ELR, and Nitin Muttin, VU3TYG. Initial telemetry has been received around the world. The downlink is 145.900 MHz for the FM repeater (CTCSS = 67 Hz) and digipeater, plus telemetry, and 435.340 MHz for FM repeater and digipeater uplink.

[Visit](#) the IARU Satellite Frequency Coordination page for more information. — *Thanks to Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA, AMSAT VP Operations/OSCAR Number Administrator*



Jordan's First CubeSat, JY1Sat, is Designated as JO-97

12/11/2018

JY1Sat, launched on December 3 from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California as part of the SpaceX SSO-A: SmallSat Express launch, has been designated as Jordan OSCAR 97 (JO-97). The 1U CubeSat is a project of the Crown Prince Foundation of Jordan. Telemetry has been received and decoded around the world since the launch.

The spacecraft's name recalls the Amateur Radio call sign of Jordan's late King Hussein, JY1. JO-97 carries a 435/145 MHz SSB/CW inverting Amateur Radio transponder and a Slow-Scan Digital Video (SSDV) system to transmit stored images.

The telemetry downlink is on 145.840 MHz, the transponder downlink passband is 145.855 – 145.875 MHz, with an inverting uplink on 435.100 – 435.120 MHz. — *Thanks to AMSAT*



WSJT-X 2.0 Full Release Now Available; FT8 Enthusiasts Urged to Upgrade Now

12/10/2018

The *WSJT-X* 2.0 software suite has been released, and developer Joe Taylor, K1JT, is urging FT8 and MSK144 users to upgrade to what will become the new standard, because the FT8 and MSK144 protocols have been enhanced in a way that is *not* backward compatible with older versions of the program. That includes any version 1.9 releases.

“The new protocols become the worldwide standards starting on December 10, 2018, and all users should upgrade to *WSJT-X* 2.0 by January 1, 2019,” Taylor said on the *WSJT-X* [home page](#). “After that date, only the new FT8 and MSK144 should be used on the air.”

Users are encouraged to read the new [Quick Start Guide](#) for *WSJT-X*. Gary Hinson, ZL2IFB, has released an [FT8 Operating Guide](#).



Broadcasters Intruding on Exclusive Amateur Radio Frequencies

12/13/2018

The International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 ([IARU-R1](#)) Monitoring System ([IARUMS](#)) reports that Radio Hargeisa in Somaliland has returned to 7,120 kHz after a break of several weeks, while Radio Eritrea has been reported on 7,140 and 7,180 kHz. Radio Sudan has been transmitting on 7,205 kHz with excessive splatter, IARUMS said. German telecommunications authorities have filed official complaints.

IARUMS has also reported digital signals attributed to the Israeli Navy on 7,107 and 7,150 kHz. In addition, a Russian military F1B signal was observed in mid-November on 7,179 kHz. A Russian over-the-horizon radar has returned to 20 meters on 14,335 – 14,348 kHz. It was monitored on November 22. Earlier this fall, IARUMS reported digital signals from the Polish military daily on 7,001.8 kHz where Amateur Radio has a worldwide primary allocation. Telecommunications officials in Germany filed a complaint.

IARUMS has received reports of short “beeps” exactly 1 second apart, as well as frequency hopping between 10,108 and 10,115 kHz and 18,834 and 18,899 kHz. The signals are believed to emanate from a site near Chicago associated with an FCC-licensed Experimental operation involved with low-latency exchange trading on HF (see

[“Experiments Look to Leverage Low-Latency HF to Shave Microseconds off Trade Times”](#)). Although Amateur Radio is secondary on 30 and 17 meters, Experimental licenses may not interfere with Amateur

Radio operations.



Radio Amateurs in Turkey Gain Access to Two Bands

12/16/2018

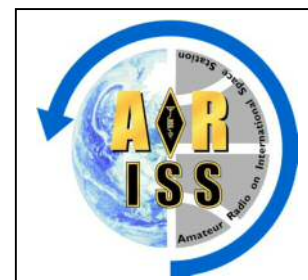
Turkey’s telecom regulator has released two new allocations to Amateur Radio. They are a new 60-meter secondary allocation of 5,351.5 – 5,366.5 kHz with a power limit of 15 W EIRP, all modes permitted, and a 6-meter allocation of 50 – 52 MHz, all modes allowed, with a power limit of 75 W. — *Thanks to Paul Gaskell, G4MWO, Editor, The 5 MHz Newsletter*



New Amateur Radio Packet Gear Awaits Unpacking, Installation on Space Station

12/18/2018

New Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARISS](#)) packet equipment awaits unpacking and installation on board the station after arriving in November as part of the cargo transported via a Russian 71P *Progress* resupply vehicle. The new packet module for NA1SS will replace the current packet gear, which has been intermittent over the past year.



“With the arrival of *Progress* complete, the crew has to find free time unpack *Progress*, uninstall the intermittent module, and then set up and test the replacement packet module,” explained Dan Barstow, KA1ARD, senior education manager of the ISS National Laboratory ([CASIS](#)), an ARISS sponsor.

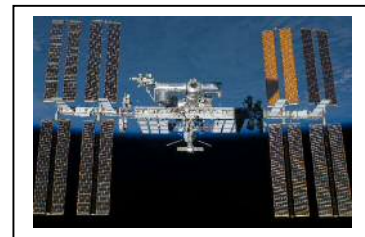
The ISS packet system was reported to have gone down in July 2017, although it unexpectedly came back to life the following summer. At the time of the failure, NASA ISS Ham Radio Project Engineer Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO, said the revived system would fill the gap until the replacement packet module was launched and installed. The packet system operates on 145.825 MHz. ARISS hardware team members on the ground were able to locate a functional duplicate of the ISS packet module that has been in use on the ISS for 17 years. ARISS said the subsequent installation will depend on the crew’s busy schedule.

In an email to ARISS and other groups CASIS supports, Barstow pointed out that ARISS is an official back-up system for astronauts to talk with Mission Control in the unlikely failure of the station’s primary communication systems.

Bartow said that in 2017, hams relayed nearly 89,000 packet messages via the ISS — an average of 243 every day. The statistic so intrigued and amazed Barstow that he decided to get his Amateur Radio license and gear to join in the activity.

Satellite stalwart and ARISS supporter Patrick Stoddard, WD9EWK, won the December 2018 QST Cover Plaque Award for his article, “Making Digital Contacts through the ISS.”

Current International Space Station (ISS) crew members Serena Auñón-Chancellor, KG5TMT, Alexander Gerst, KF5ONO, and cosmonaut Sergey Prokopyev are scheduled to return to Earth on December 20 on a *Soyuz* vehicle.



ARRL Petitions FCC to Incorporate Parity Act Provisions into its Amateur Radio Rules



12/19/2018

The ARRL has filed a *Petition for Rulemaking* ([PRM](#)) asking the FCC to amend its Part 97 Amateur Service rules to incorporate the provisions of the Amateur Radio Parity Act. The *Petition* has not yet been assigned a rule making (RM) number and is not yet open for public comment. In the past, the FCC has said that it would not take such action without guidance from the US Congress, but, as ARRL’s *Petition* notes, the Congress “has overwhelmingly and consistently” offered bipartisan support for the Amateur Radio Parity Act.

“Private land use regulations which either prohibit or which do not accommodate the installation and maintenance of an effective outdoor antenna in residences of Amateur Service licensees are unquestionably the most significant and damaging impediments to Amateur Radio Service communications that exist now,” ARRL said in its *Petition*. “They are already precluding opportunities for young people to become active in the avocation and to conduct technical self-training and participate in STEM [science, technology, engineering, and mathematics] learning activities inherent in an active, experiential learning environment. Without the relief in this *Petition*, the future of Amateur Radio is bleak indeed.” The proposed amendments would have no effect on the FCC’s limited preemption policy in §97.15(b), which pertains to state and municipal governing bodies, ARRL said.

Specifically, ARRL is proposing that the FCC amend Part 97 by adding a new subsection under §97.15, that prohibits and ceases the enforcement of, “Any private land use restriction, including restrictive covenants and regulations imposed by a community association,” that either fails to permit a licensee to install and maintain an effective outdoor antenna capable of operation on all Amateur Radio frequency bands, on property under the exclusive use or control of the licensee; precludes or fails to permit Amateur Service communications, or which does not constitute the minimum practicable restriction on such communications to accomplish the lawful purposes specifically articulated in the declaration of covenants of a community association seeking to enforce such restriction. ARRL’s proposed rule would not affect any existing antenna approved or installed before the effective date of a *Report and Order* resulting from ARRL’s petition.

The proposed provisions reflect the accommodation reached in the ultimate version of the Parity Act bill at the urging of federal lawmakers between ARRL and the Community Associations Institute (CAI), the only organization representing homeowners’ associations. “That legislation was passed unanimously by the House of Representatives four separate times and has the support of the Senate Commerce Committee and the current Administration,” ARRL stressed.

“Private land use regulations are not ‘contracts’ in the sense that there is any meeting of the minds between the buyer and seller of land,” ARRL said. “Rather, they are simply restrictions on the use of owned land, imposed by the developer of a subdivision by recordation in the land records of the jurisdiction when it is first created. They bind all lots in the subdivision. If an Amateur Radio licensee wants to buy a home in a subdivision burdened by deed restrictions, that licensee has precisely two options: Buy the residence subject to the restrictions, or do not buy the residence. There is no negotiation possible because the restrictions are already in place and cannot be waived by a seller in favor of a buyer.”

ARRL noted in its *Petition* that an increasing number of homes available for purchase today are already subject to restrictive covenants prohibiting outdoor antennas, and that the Community Associations Institute data show that 90% of new housing starts in the US are subject to deed restrictions and other limitation that make installation of outdoor Amateur Radio antennas ineffective or impossible.

Also, ARRL pointed out that the Telecommunications Act of 1996 gives the FCC jurisdiction “to preempt private land use regulations that conflict with federal policy and that private land use regulations are entitled to less deference than municipal regulations, because the former are premised solely on aesthetic considerations rather than safety issues, whereas municipal regulations are concerned with both.”

“It is now time for actual and functional parity in the Commissions regulations in order to protect the strong federal interest in Amateur Radio communications,” ARRL said.

Countdown to Third Annual AM Rally Has Begun

12/18/2018

The third annual [AM Rally](#) is on the near horizon — just about 6 weeks away — getting under way at 0000 UTC on February 2 and continuing until 0700 UTC on February 4. The event aims to encourage the use of AM on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, and 6 meters while highlighting the various types of AM equipment in use today. The event is open to any and all radio amateurs running AM using any type of radio equipment — modern, vintage, tube, solid-state, software-defined, military, boat anchor, broadcast, homebrew, or commercial.

“We’re very excited about the upcoming AM Rally in February, given its growth over the past 2 years and the positive comments we’ve received,” said Clark Burgard, N1BCG, who is spearheading the event with Steve Cloutier, WA1QIX, and Brian Kress, KB3WFV. “In particular, it’s great to hear how so many ops are giving this classic mode a try, many for the first time, and of the help offered to them by those who have mastered the technology.”

For many, if not most, radio amateurs getting on AM is as simple as pressing the AM mode button on the front panel. Numerous transceivers in use today offer AM capability. A lot of hams enjoy restoring and using vintage Amateur Radio equipment, which typically means a separate transmitter and receiver. Until SSB subsumed it on the ham bands, AM was the primary HF voice mode. The change to SSB did not happen without some pushback, however.

Today, a group of dedicated radio amateurs keeps the flame alive, getting on AM frequently, and for many of them, AM is their primary operating mode. The AM Rally gives the uninitiated a chance to dip a toe into the pool, so to speak.

The [event website](#) has complete AM Rally details, contact information, award categories, logging, and tips on how to get the most out of your station equipment in AM mode. [Contact](#) Burgard for more information.

The event is sponsored by Radio Engineering Associates ([REA](#)), in cooperation with ARRL, which supports all modes of Amateur Radio operation. W1AW will play a leading role in the event, as it has for the past two years.

Certificates will be awarded to stations scoring the highest number of points in each of the five power classes, regardless of rig category, both for most contacts and most states/provinces.

“All it takes is a turn, push, or click to participate!” Burgard said. There’s also plenty of time to dig out and dust off that old AM-capable tube gear sitting in your attic or basement.



Many of you may remember Sam Stanifer, KJ6BU while he was here in Ventura County. He re-located to Texas and became K5SEJ. I was recently advised he had become a Silent Key

