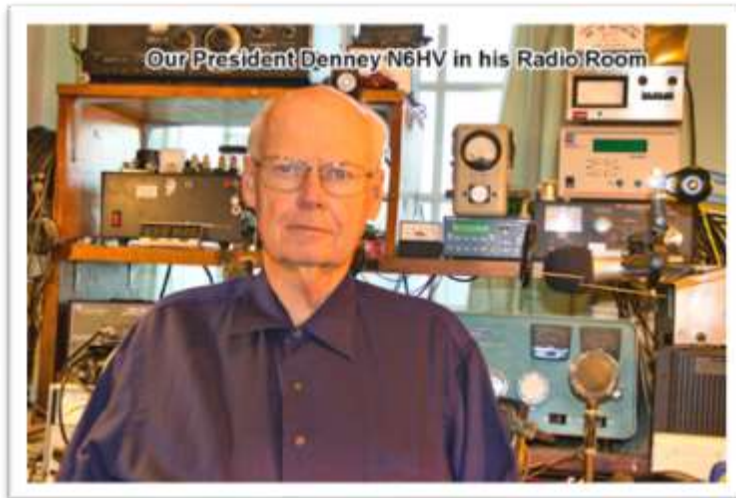




The April 10th physical club meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns and subsequently conducted via the Sulphur Mountain Repeater (19:00) and Zoom (20:00). The May 8th, 2020, 7pm (19:00) meeting will also be held on air by our club President Denney N6HV who will utilize the Sulphur Mountain Repeater, on 145.200 MHz with a minus offset and a PL of 127.3 Hz. He'll also schedule a Zoom meeting time TBA. Please join your club members in attending and sharing your recent amateur radio experiences.



President	Denney Pistole	N6HV
Vice-President	Clem Alberts	KM6OKZ
Secretary	Phil Cohen	WA6BUZ
Treasurer	John Gartman	W6JPG
Board Member	Stewart Stone	KG6BOV
Board Member	Robert Shank	KM6RSS
Board Member	Richard Abbey	WB6AEW
Photographer	Denney Pistole	N6HV
Facilities Mgr.	Richard Abbey	WB6AEW
Keyer Editor	Robert Shank	KM6RSS
PR chairman	Open	
Programs Chair	Open	
Webmaster	Robert Shank	KM6RSS
Domain Mgr.	Phil Cohen	WA6BUZ
New Members	Bob Brodie	KJ6AAE
License Trustee	Stewart Stone	KG6BOV
QSL Manager	Ben Holmes	K6QV
Safety Officer	Bob Brodie	KJ6AAE

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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. Layout and logos are the property of The Ventura County Amateur Radio Club, K6MEP. The stories printed in this journal remain the property of the writers, without whom we would not have a publication. Permission to reprint articles should be obtained from the authors. Articles and photos from the ARRL are reproduced with permission. Material submitted for inclusion is encouraged. Submit material by email to KM6RSS@gmail.com. Our club mailing address is **K6MEP, PO Box 2103 Oxnard, CA 93034-2103**

K6MEP holds general membership meetings at 7:30 PM on the 2nd Friday of each month (except December). Dues are \$20 per year.

Message from the President

The Prez Sez,

The club's Field Day committee is hard at work making plans for the June 27-28, 2020 Field day. And we are not the only ones. The committee is coordinating with other clubs to bring you the best possible Field Day.

There are a lot of unknown concerning the upcoming Field Day. The committee and club members would like to extend a hand if possible to other members in getting them on the air during Field Day. This Field Day may be an operate at home event. If you need help operating on field day, setting up antennas, or getting on HF, let us know.

We are in another phase of no sunspot or bright spots on the side of the sun facing earth. The solar flux has dropped below 70 for the first time in months. That means poor propagation on the HF bands. But a Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) that was supposed to miss the earth did strike it last week. This caused a lot of Aurora north in Montana and Canada. CMEs can cause unpredictable propagation. Keep an eye out for improved conditions.

I have been busy cleaning up my old 40 meter dipole and tuning it so I can get on the 40 meter SSB net. I'm usually on CW so I had to take up six inches off each ends of the dipole.

I don't know about you, but I have been seeing slow downs in the deliveries of emails. The Internet is bogging down under the weight of all the people on it. Hang in there.

I would like to thank all the members and visitors that have been checking into the club's Monday night net on the WD6EBY repeater and those who have also joined us on the Zoom meetings. Check in and say hello.

73 Denney N6HV

The Prez: Dits & Dahs:

How to find out if a band of frequencies is open. dxmaps is a visual source to see if a band is open and where stations are making contacts to and from.

Here's the link to dxmaps

<https://www.dxmaps.com/spots/mapg.php>

The following two links are to YouTube videos that explain how to use dxmaps.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XpaArKy9D2Q>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LvrtpukKVyQ>

The following are URLs of spot lists (lists of stations that are on the air and where they are communicating. The lists tabulate stations, their frequencies, and grid squares (locations).

dxwatch.com

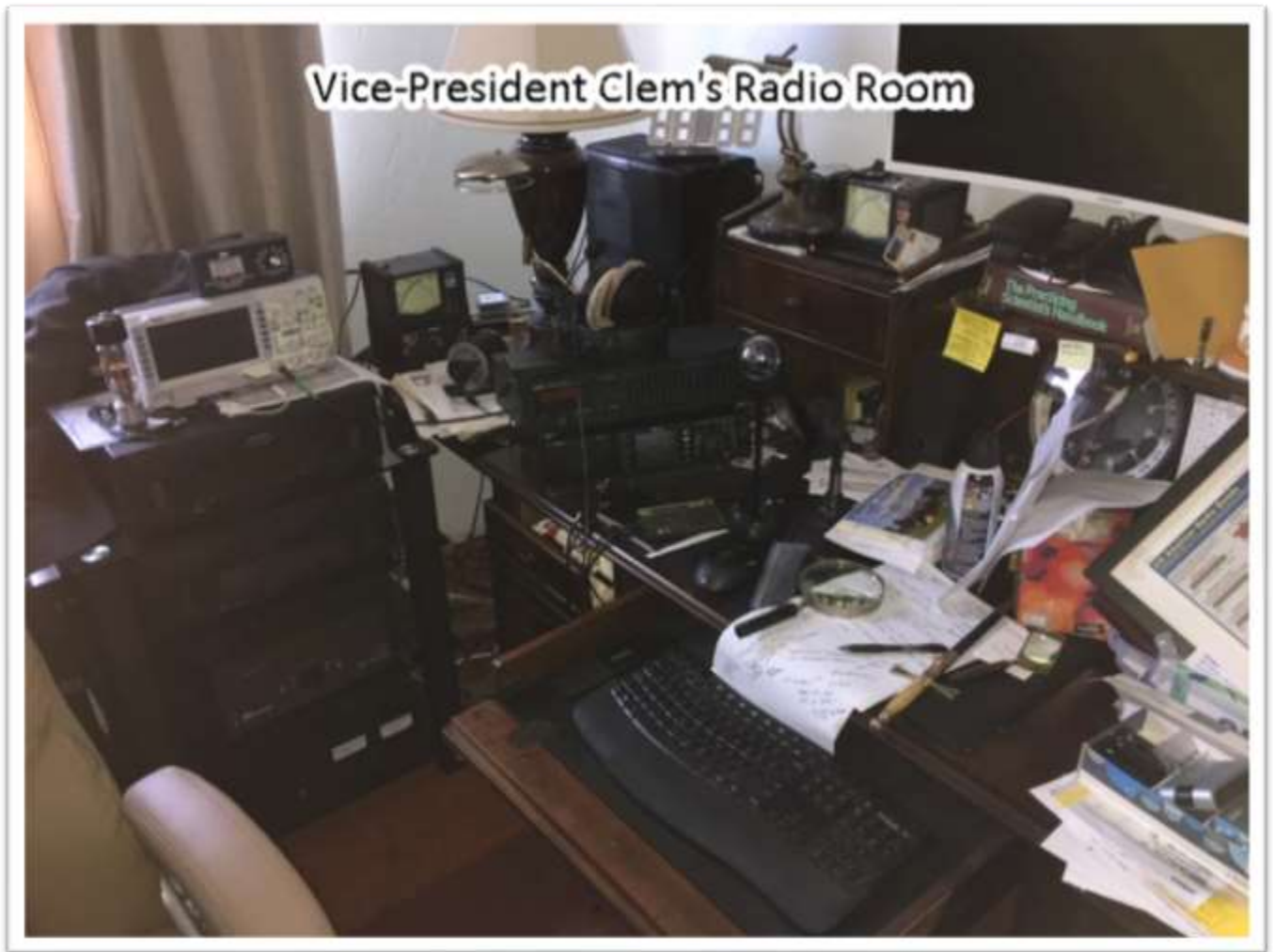
dxsummit.fi site is in from France, but the site is in English.

<http://www.dxscape.com/> another list of spots

2020 Field Day Committee Status Report 4-26-2020

Committee Members: Denney N6HV, Clem KM6OKZ, Stewart KG6BOV, Burt KA6BJA, Mark KD6ASL

Considering the state wide isolation requirements and after coordinating with other clubs the committee has decided to focus its efforts on an at-home field day this year. This includes at-home operations plus portable and mobile stations (Classes B, C, D and E) operating under your own call sign rather than the club site at Oxnard College. These efforts will concentrate on making field day a fun event. The club will continue to host HF nets to get members to check out and use their HF equipment and antennas in preparation for field day. We are investigating developing online video classes to explain what field day is and how to participate. We will be using our club's group site on groups.io to notify you of upcoming meetings, events and training, so please sign up if you have not already. You can do that by going to "groups.io" in your web browser. In the Search box of your browser type K6MEP, then click on K6MEP / K6MEP Ventura County Amateur Radio Club (VCARC). Near the bottom of that page click on the blue button that says "+Apply for Membership in this Group" then enter your email address. Click on "Confirm Email Address" and you'll be all set. You'll receive an email with additional instructions to add you to our membership list. Denney N6HV



Selected May 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.

- **05/01/2020 | Old Timers Day**
May 1-May 3, **0001Z-2359Z, W4T**, Dickson, TN. Dickson County Amateur Radio Club. 14.280 7.245 3.980 146.520. QSL. Vollie Miller, 1755 E. Piney Rd., Dickson, TN 37055-3835. www.wc4dc.org
- **05/02/2020 | IA State Park On The Air (Lake Darling)**
May 2, **1400Z-2200Z, W0ARC**, Washington, IA. Washington Area Amateur Radio Club, Inc.. 14.275 14.070 7.225 7.080. QSL. Mark Lukins, 802 N. 2nd Ave., Washington, IA 52353. www.waarc.net
- **05/02/2020 | Lahontan Dam 105th Anniversary, Churchill County, NV**
May 2, **1500Z-2300Z, K7L**, Fallon, NV. Amateur Radio of Churchill County. 14.280. Certificate. eCertificate, request to, nv7ccfallon@gmail.com. nv7ccfallon@gmail.com
- **05/02/2020 | Marion County Ohio Bicentennial - Celebrating 200 Years**
May 2-May 3, **1400Z-2100Z, WW8MRN**, Marion, OH. Marion Amateur Radio Club. 147.300; 14.300 14.030 7.250 7.030 3.950 3.530; digital 7.040 3.590 1.070. Certificate & QSL. Dustin Holbrook, P.O. Box 252, Marion, OH 43301.
- **05/03/2020 | The INDYCAR Grand Prix**
May 3-May 9, **0400Z-0400Z, W9IMS**, Indianapolis, IN. The Indianapolis Motor Speedway Amateur Radio Club. 18.140 14.245 7.245 3.840. Certificate & QSL. Indianapolis Motor Speedway Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 30954, Indianapolis, IN 46230. See website for all details. www.w9ims.org
- **05/04/2020 | Florence Nightingale Bicentenary**
May 4-May 31, **1400Z-2359Z, GB200FN**, Romsey, UNITED KINGDOM. RSGB. 14.190 3.650. QSL. John Wakefield, Oakhurst, Lower Common Road, Romsey SO51 6BT, UNITED KINGDOM. www.qrz.com/db/gb200fn
- **05/05/2020 | World Pulmonary Hypertension Day**
May 5, **0001Z-2359Z, W2H**, Forked River, NJ. K2JSS. 14.250 14.074 7.074 3.573. QSL. Jack Bartky, 2209 Longwood Dr., Forked River, NJ 08731. K2JSS@arrl.net
- **05/08/2020 | 75th Anniversary of the Victory in Europe**
May 8-May 23, **1800Z-2359Z, W2V**, Ansonia, CT. VOA Radio Club. 14.345 21.345 7.245 3.845. QSL. Dave Arruzza, 32 Benz Street, Ansonia, CT 06401. w2v.se@yahoo.com or www.qrz.com/db/w2v
- **05/08/2020 | Golden Spike Celebration Special Event Station W7G**
May 8-May 9, **1500Z-2300Z, W7G**, Corinne, UT. Ogden Amateur Radio Club (OARC) - W7SU. 14.255 7.235 14.040 7.040. QSL. Ogden Amateur Radio Club (OARC) - W7SU, P.O. Box 3353, Ogden, UT 84409. Golden Spike Celebration Commemorating the Anniversary of the 1869 Driving of the Golden Spike, completing the Transcontinental Railroad at Promontory Summit, Utah. Golden Spike National Historical Park - National Parks Service 6200 North 22300 West, Promontory Summit, UT 84307. <http://ogdenarc.org> or w7g.org
- **05/08/2020 | Utah Valley Hamfest 2020**
May 8-May 9, **0900Z-1700Z, K7UVA**, Orem, UT. Utah Valley Amateur Radio Club. 14.280 7.200 7.080. QSL. Utah Valley Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 1288, Orem, UT 84059-1288. <https://utahvalleyhamfest.com>
- **05/09/2020 | COSI Big Science Celebration**
May 9, **1400Z-2000Z, W8LT**, Columbus, OH. Friends of W8LT. 14.250 14.074. QSL. Larry Feth, 40 Bevis Hall, 1080 Carmack Rd., Columbus, OH 43210. <https://www.qrz.com/db/w8lt>
- **05/09/2020 | Jamestown Landing Day Event**
May 9, **1400Z-2000Z, K4RC**, Jamestown, VA. Williamsburg Area Amateur Radio Club. 14.265 7.265. QSL. QSL Manager, K4RC, P.O. Box 1470, Williamsburg, VA 23187. 413th anniversary of English establishing the oldest English-speaking colony on the American continent. www.k4rc.net
- **05/09/2020 | World War 1 Armistice Commemoration**
May 9, **1400Z-2200Z, WW1USA**, Kansas City, MO. National World War I Museum and Memorial. SSB 14.225 7.250 CW 14.060 7.060. Certificate. WW1USA Amateur Radio Station, 2 Memorial Drive, Kansas City, MO 64108. We are commemorating the 101st anniversary of the signing of the peace treaties ending World War 1. Our operations will be on the south lawn of the Museum. All local and visiting hams are invited to come visit. ww1usa@theworldwar.org or www.qrz.com/db/ww1usa

(Cont. on page 5)

Selected May Contests & Special Events (Cont. from page 4)

- **05/10/2020 | 2020 Dyess Big Country Air & Space Expo**
May 10, 1400Z-2300Z, WW2ADT, Dyess AFB, TX. World War II Airborne Demonstration Team. 14.250 7.250. QSL. David Snell, KE7EK, 13640 Kenosha Ave., Glenpool, OK 74033-3829. www.wwiadt.org
- **05/16/2020 | 2020 Emergency Medical Services Week**
May 16-May 24, 0000Z-2359Z, W9A, Junction City, WI. Wood County ARES/RACES W9WCA. 14.275 7.275 3.975; DMR 31550 / WiresX K9WCA. QSL. Wood County ARES/RACES, Attn: W9A Special Event, 3530 Bohn Dr., Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494. All modes will be in play on HF along with digital modes - DMR, WiresX, Fusion, NXDN, P25, and possibly D-Star. Monitor the Wood County ARES/RACES Facebook page for current information during the event. QSL with SASE. kb9stb@gmail.com or www.facebook.com/WoodCoARES/RACES
- **05/16/2020 | American Airpower Museum**
May 16-May 17, 1430Z-1930Z, W2GSB, Farmingdale, NY. Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club. 14.280 14.050 7.265 7.050. QSL. Great South Bay ARC, P.O. Box 1356, West Babylon, NY 11704. Armed Forces Weekend celebration at the American Airpower Museum at Republic Airport in Farmingdale, NY www.gsbarc.org
- **05/16/2020 | Armed Forces Day at the National Cryptologic Museum**
May 16, 1300Z-1900Z, N3M, Fort George G Meade, MD. National Cryptologic Museum. 7.200. QSL. Charles Dorcey, 9210 Dewberry Ln., College Park, MD 20740. See website; email QSL photo. In the event of hazardous weather, the station will be a static display inside the museum. www.qrz.com/db/ab3na
- **05/16/2020 | Clark County Amateur Radio Club's 90th Anniversary and Mt. St. Helen's Eruption 40th Anniversary Special Event Station**
May 16-May 25, 1400Z-0600Z, W7AIA, Vancouver, WA. Clark County Amateur Radio Club. 14.225 14.030 7.185 7.030. Certificate & QSL. Clark County Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 1424, Vancouver, WA 98668. www.w7aia.org
- **05/16/2020 | May in the Mountains**
May 16, 1400Z-2200Z, W4D, Sevierville, TN. Sevier County Emergency Radio Service. 7.180 LSB. QSL. Thomas Baxter, W9TPB, 2054 James Road, Sevierville, TN 37876. Celebrating the coming of Spring to the Great Smoky Mountains. For more information please visit our web site at <https://www.eventqsl.webs.com>
- **05/16/2020 | Tennessee Mountain Laurel Festival**
May 16, 1400Z-2000Z, W4BSF, Oneida, TN. Big South Fork Amateur Radio Club. 7.245. QSL. Big South Fork Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 334, Sunbright, TN 37872. www.bsfar.com/index.php/mtnlaurel
- **05/16/2020 | WHOA/SCOTA**
May 16, 1300Z-1900Z, W1M, Russell, MA. Western Mass Council-Scouting USA. 7.060 7.190 14.060 14.290. QSL. tom barker, 329 faraway road, Whitefield, NH 03598. paper logging is used--there is a delay in sending out qsl cards--sase is required
- **05/18/2020 | Memorial Day**
May 18-May 25, 0000Z-0000Z, K1A, Cleburne, TX. Club KC5NX. 14.250 14.045 7.233 7.045. QSL. Club KC5NX, 9200 Summit Court West, Cleburne, TX 76033-8212. K1A will be on the air the week May 18th till the 26th to honor the many lives lost in the service of the United State Military. Sponsored by Club KC5NX deep in the Heart of Texas! club.kc5nx@gmail.com or www.qrz.com/db/kc5nx
- **05/18/2020 | The Indianapolis 500**
May 18-May 24, 0400Z-0400Z, W9IMS, Indianapolis, IN. The Indianapolis Motor Speedway Amateur Radio Club. 18.140 14.245 7.245 3.840. Certificate & QSL. Indianapolis Motor Speedway Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 30954, Indianapolis, IN 46230. See the website for ALL information! www.w9ims.org
- **05/20/2020 | Apollo 11**
May 20, 1330Z-2030Z, K2CAM, Garden City, NY. Long Island Mobile Amateur Radio Club in support of the Cradle of Aviation Museum. 21.340 14.240 7240. QSL. LIMARC, P.O. Box 392, Levittown, NY 11756. The aerospace industry on Long Island was a significant part of the moon landing project. Much of that history is displayed at the Cradle of Aviation. Visit <https://www.cradleofaviation.org/> or www.limarc.org
- **05/22/2020 | Birthplace of Memorial Day -- Boalsburg, PA**
May 22-May 25, 2000Z-2000Z, W3M, Boalsburg, PA. Nittany Amateur Radio Club. 14.245 7.185 3.845 146.85 (-). QSL. W3M c/o, Nittany Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 614, State College, PA 16801. <https://www.qrz.com/lookup?callsign=W3M>

(Cont. on page 6)

Selected May Contests & Special Events (Cont. from page 5)

- **05/22/2020 | Memorial Day**
May 22-May 26, 0100Z-1000Z, K5E, Rockdale, TX. KI5DQ. 144.250 14.265 7.265. QSL. James Hunt, 1026 Valentine Dr., Sherman, TX 75090. Memorial Day - to honor and remember those made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation. Camp out @ Apache Pass Event Center. 14.265, 7.265mhz +/-5 and 144.250 usb. SASE for QSL card @ KI5DQ.
- **05/23/2020 | 4th Annual Special Event at the Fort Pierce Navy Seal Museum Honoring National Military Month**
May 23, 1300Z-1900Z, W4OT, Fort Pierce, FL. Vero Beach Amateur Radio Club. 14.330 +/-; D-STAR Ref078C. Certificate. Vero Beach Amateur Radio Club, c/o IRC EOC, 4225 43rd Avenue, Vero Beach, FL 32967. The National Navy SEAL Museum is the only museum dedicated solely to preserving the history of the United States Navy SEALs and their predecessors. Located in Fort Pierce, Florida, the Museum resides on the training grounds of the original Navy combat divers, the Frogmen. Built to honor the men who served with fortitude and dedication, the Navy SEAL Museum first opened its doors on Veterans Day in 1985. From humble beginnings, the facility has experienced tremendous growth, achieving national stature in 2007. The main objective of the Museum remains the promotion of public education by providing the opportunity to explore the history of the United States Navy SEALs through interactive exhibits, while honoring the fallen at the Navy SEAL Memorial and caring for those warriors' families through the Trident House Charities Program. <https://w4ot.webs.com>
- **05/23/2020 | 4th Annual William Becknell Heritage Days Special Event - Founder of the Santa Fe Trail**
May 23-May 24, 1400Z-2200Z, WB0SFT/KC0VYS, Overland Park, KS. William Becknell Santa Fe Trail Heritage Days. 21.365 14.265 7.265 3.865 1.830; SSB CW FT8. Certificate & QSL. See website, for information on, receiving certificate or QSL. On the trail 1x1 calls, W0B through W9B, and Parks on the Air (K-4579) activation. QRZ and LoTW. See website for details, and how to receive a certificate and/or QSL. www.wb0sft.org
- **05/23/2020 | Gulf Coast Hurricanes Special Event 2020**
May 23-May 27, 0001Z-2359Z, AG5Z, Purvis, MS. Larry Morgan. 3.862 7.250 14.255 21.300. Certificate. Larry Morgan, 96 Oak Haven Rd., Purvis, MS 39475. Stations include W4F Florida, W4A Alabama, W5M Mississippi, W5L Louisiana, W5T Texas, bonus station K5H (Katrina 5 Hurricane) Hurricane experiences discussions are encouraged. For this reason FT8 contacts will not count. This special event is to increase awareness of the hurricane season that will start on June 1. www.ag5z.net
- **05/23/2020 | Strange Antenna Challenge**
May 23-May 25, 0001Z-2359Z, K0S, Springfield, MO. Erik Weaver, N0EW. 28.400 14.300 7.200 3.900. QSL. Erik Weaver, 4857 E. Farm Rd. 136, Springfield, MO 65809. Antennas for the Strange Antenna Challenge are to be constructed of unusual, make-shift, or debris material that may be on hand following a natural disaster. Past examples include bridges, statues, folding chairs, bed springs, fences, beer/pop cans, tomato cages, and shopping carts. Basically, just do NOT use standard pipe or wire antennas. We encourage any ham who wishes to become their own special event station, by simply appending /k0s onto your own call sign, and you need to respond to your own QSL requests. N0EW will be operating the three letter call sign K0S. This is tons of fun! I encourage you to promote your club with this "strange" event, and let the media know what you are doing! erikeweaver@gmail.com
- **05/30/2020 | Audie Murphy**
May 30, 1300Z-2200Z, W2A, Christiansburg, VA. New River Valley Amateur Radio Club. 14.262 7.262 3.860. QSL. Danny Wylam, 710 Mc Daniel Dr., Christiansburg, VA 24073. Brush Mountain, VA, on the Appalachian Trail near the Audie Murphy Memorial. dannywylam@gmail.com
- **05/30/2020 | Girl Scout Camporee**
May 30, 1500Z-2000Z, K2G, Kingston, NY. Overlook Mountain Amateur Radio Club. 14.240; DMR Tg 31630. QSL. Overlook Mountain Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 48, Hurley, NY 12443. Local talk-in 146.805, -0.6, PL 103.5 www.omarcclub.org
- **05/30/2020 | Mike the Headless Chicken Festival**
May 30, 1600Z-2359Z, W0M, Fruita, CO. Western Colorado Amateur Radio Club. 14.235 14.074 7.230 7.074. QSL. WCARC, Mike the Headless Chicken, 2695 Patterson Rd. Ste. 2 Box 118, Grand Junction, CO 81506-8815. Phone and FT8 on 20 and 40 meters. Local 2 meter repeater 146.940. CW demonstration as requested on 20 or 40 meters. QSL card direct or by LOTW. See City of Fruita site <http://miketheheadlesschicken.org> for history. www.w0rrz.org

(Cont. on page 7)

Selected May Contests & Special Events (Cont. from page 6)

- **05/31/2020 | Iowa State Parks On-the-Air Centennial – Backbone**

May 31, 1500Z-1900Z, W0OEL, Dundee, IA. Rural Iowa and Buchanan County Amateur Radio Clubs. 14.240 7.240. Certificate & QSL. Great River ARC, P.O. Box 1384, Dubuque, IA 52004. IASPOTA-2020 Dedicated in 1920 as Iowa's first state park. The steep and narrow ridge of bedrock from the Maquoketa River forms the highest point in northeast Iowa the Devil's Backbone - giving the park its legendary name. Certificate & QSL managed by Great River Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 1384, Dubuque, IA 52004. QSL for contact; certificate for 5 parks. See website for complete information. www.w0dbq.org/rules or www.w0oel.com

•

Available Gear

Yaesu FT-8 and accessories for sale

Please contact Ron K16YAX
vccert1@gmail.com



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@arri.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@arri.net

Upcoming FCC Exam Session Preparations (due to State and Local regulations, NO sessions are scheduled in the Ventura County or other nearby counties in the immediate future)

• 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
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Two number two pencils with erasers and a pen.
8. 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.
9. Bring a check, a money order or cash to cover the exam session fee(s). Check the ARRL VEC's current exam fee. The fee is normally \$15.00 for ARRL-sponsored tests.



Upcoming FCC Exam Preparation and Test Sites

(Due to State and local regulations, there are NO license preparation or test sites locations within 100 miles of Ventura County listed at the ARRL website)

Trivia for May 2020

Did you know???

T.V. Cartoon extras.

1. The great Gazoo on the Flintstones?
2. Professor Brunson Honeydew and his helper, Beaker? From the Muppets TV show
3. The Professor and helper Rock Bottom, from the Felix the Cat cartoon.

DE

Dana

kg6wxw us

Calendar

May 2020

4: K6MEP Monday Night Net

5: ACS/ARES Tuesday Night Net (Cinco de Mayo)

8: Club Meeting (held on the Sulphur Mountain repeater, on 145.200 MHz with a minus offset and a PL of 127.3 Hz. Please join us at 19:00 (7:00 pm) and say hello to your fellow club members and tell us about what you have been doing on amateur radio. There may also be a Zoom video meeting, time TBA

10: Mother's Day

11: K6MEP Monday Night Net

12: ACS/ARES Tuesday Night Net

18: K6MEP Monday Night Net

19: ACS/ARES Tuesday Night Net

25: K6MEP Monday Night Net (Memorial Day)

26: ACS/ARES Tuesday Night Net



From: main@vc-acs.groups.io

[mailto:main@vc-acs.groups.io] On Behalf Of Sheldon, Stuart - AG6AG

Just wanted to update everyone about the Auxiliary _Bored_ Meeting. The participation in these gatherings has been remarkable. To date we have almost 600 check-ins with over 100 individual operators participating over the last week. We now link the Bozo Repeater with Paul's (WD6EBY) repeater network for the 09:00 and the 21:00 meetup. Many thanks to Paul and the PVARC repeater group.

The gatherings take place 7 days a week at 09:00, 12:00, 18:00 and 21:00 local time _except_ Sundays and Tuesdays at 18:00 to avoid conflicts with networks on Bozo.

The Bozo Repeater operates with the following settings:

Frequency: 147.885MHz

Offset: -

PL: 127.3

Please join the crowd!

Stu

AG6AG

K6MEP Monday Night Net Script

QST- QST- QST. This is _____ (Name) _____ (Call Sign), with the Ventura County Amateur Radio Club Net. If there is 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) _____ (Call Sign), 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 net, open to all amateur radio operators and is 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. repeater on 146.385 MHz with a positive offset and a PL of 127.3 Hz as backup.

All amateurs are welcome to check in after the following announcements.

A roundtable will follow the check-ins. 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. The next meeting date is Friday _____ (insert date). We urge any non-members interested in the VCARC to contact the club Secretary, Phil Cohen WA6BUZ or send an email to him at K6MEP@qsl.net. Non-members interested in amateur radio are welcome to attend our meetings. When you check-in, please give your call sign, name and if you are a VCARC member. If you are not a member of the club, please include your QTH or location.

(Check-ins completed): Hearing no other check-ins, we will now begin with our Roundtable

Any last comments? ***** Any late, missed, or visitor check-ins?
Please check-in now.

Hearing no new check-ins does anyone have anything else they would like to add to tonight's net?

Hearing none;

(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 _____ call sign), tonight's VCARC net control, signing off.

Upcoming Hamfests and Conventions

Due to State and local regulations, NO Southwestern State's Hamfests or Conventions currently show on the ARRL Calendar

Member's Radio Rooms



(Cont. on page 12)

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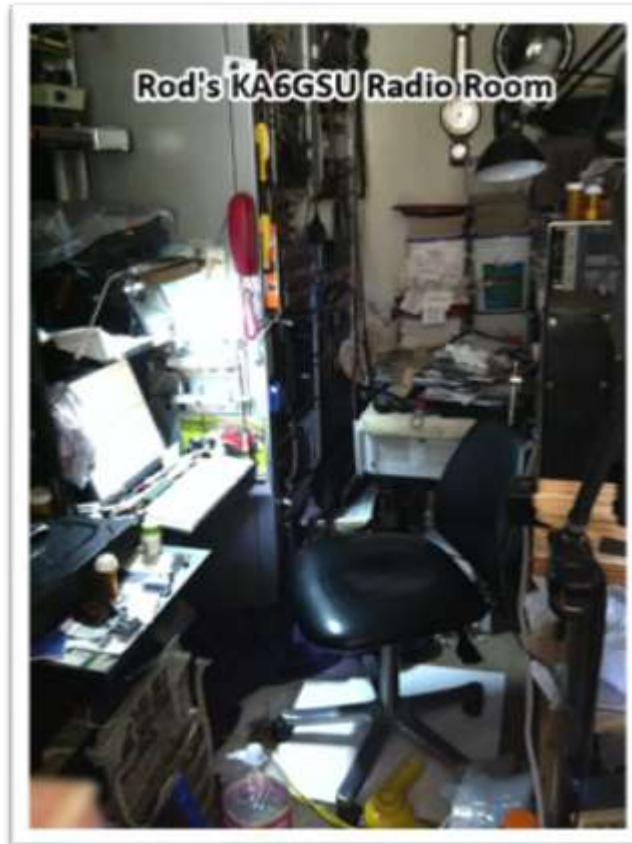
Member's Radio Rooms (Cont. from page 11)



(Cont. on page 13)

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Member's Radio Rooms (Cont. from page 12)



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

Please try to register for classes a week before the class is being offered



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-20.19 [Diversity Awareness Course 2019](#) - (1/30/2019)
- 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-33.19 [FEMA Initial Ethics Orientation 2019](#) - (1/30/2019)
- IS-35.19 [FEMA Safety Orientation 2019](#) - (1/30/2019)|S-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-162 [Hazard Mitigation Floodplain Management in Disaster Operations](#) - (11/16/2016)
- 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.b [An Introduction to the National Incident Management System](#) - (6/25/2018)
- 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-906 [Workplace Security Awareness](#) - (10/31/2013)
- 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)
- IS-2200: [Basic Emergency Operations Center Functions](#) - (5/17/2019)
- IS-2500 [National Prevention Framework, an Introduction](#) - (3/27/2018)
- IS-2600 [National Protection Framework, An Introduction](#) - (3/27/2018)
- IS-2700 [National Mitigation Framework, an Introduction](#) - (3/27/2018)
- IS-2900.a [National Disaster Recovery Framework \(NDRF\) Overview](#) - (7/11/2018)

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

K4INGL 145.360 Mhz (-) PL 156.7 Kimberly Peak

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: Avi Carmi, K6AVI Email: avi@carmi.us

Area 4 Oxnard, Hueneme, Mugu EC: Hovan Salibian, K6BQL Email: ki6bql@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 2018, 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.

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.

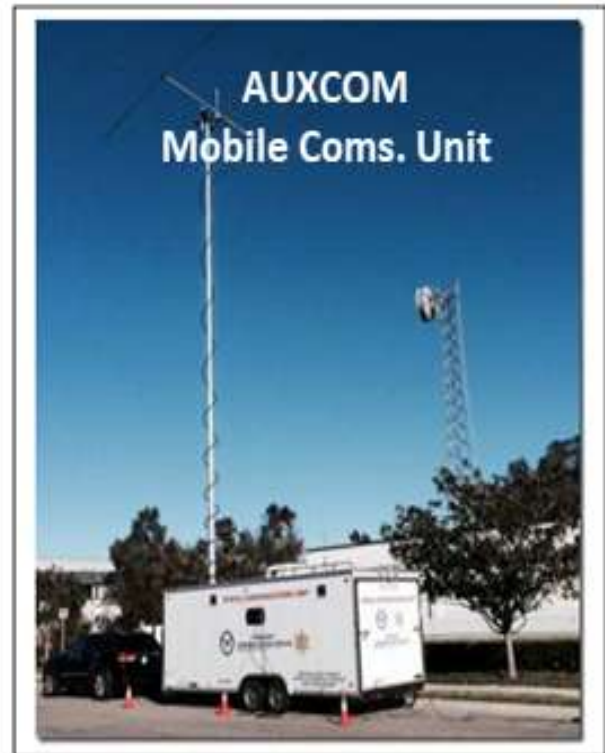
PR-101: ARRL Public Relations (EC-015)

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 Weekly Nets

Auxiliary Bored Meeting The gatherings take place 7 days a week at 09:00, 12:00, 18:00 and 21:00 local time except Sundays and Tuesdays at 18:00 The Bozo Repeater operates with the following settings:
Frequency: **147.885MHz** **Offset: -PL: 127.3**

Monday

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

California Rescue ARES Net **7.25 Mhz** MTWThF 8:30AM

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 **7.2353 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 (t 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 8:30AM

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 0:30 PM to 7:00 PM 40M on **7.235 Mhz LSB +/-;**

Ventura County ARES/ACS Nets between 7:00 and 8:00 PM. The 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 (1" 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 **148.790 Mhz (-) / 131.8 Hz PL RITZ** 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 8:30AM

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** K872 2000

Teamtalk voice net. It's at 8 p.m. on the k6pvr-svr.local.mesh server

<http://www.pvarc.club/mesh/mesh-applications/>

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 8:30AM

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 (4 / 131.8 Hz PL and 224.08 Mhz (-) 13t8 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**
[vAww.mrcuwestord/mrca-radio-nets/](http://www.mrcuwestord/mrca-radio-nets/)

Sunday

ARRL Southwestern Division Net 0800 / 8:00 AM **3965 MHz.**

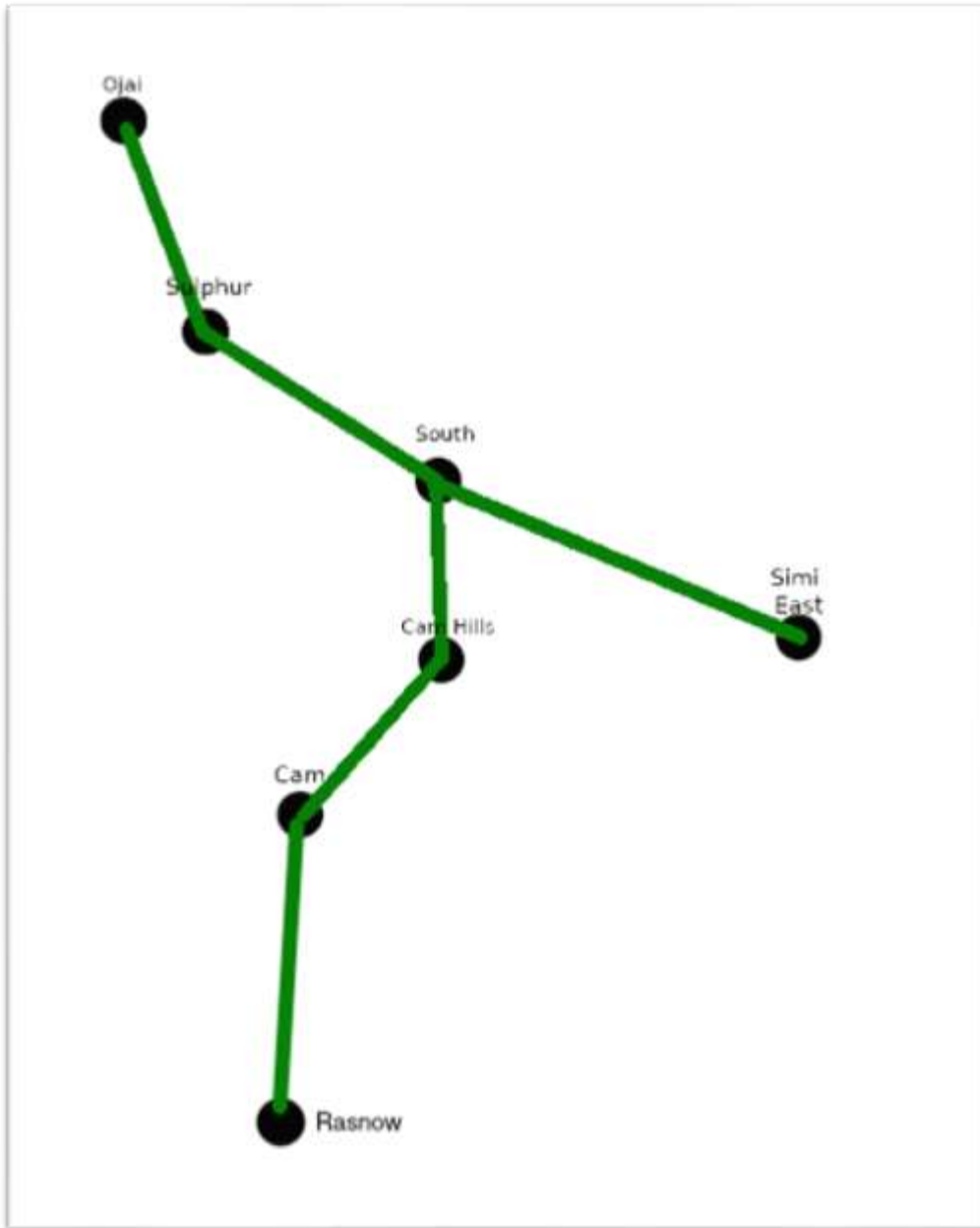
Newbie Net 7:00-7:30 pm Sundays: Bozo Repeater **147.885 Mhz (-) / PL127.3**

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

News from PVARC

[Warning! Technical stuff! :-)]

This is the PVARC Part 15 microwave network running on 5 GHz transceivers throughout most of the county. Among other things, the mesh network nodes utilize it to move ham radio digital traffic from place to place:

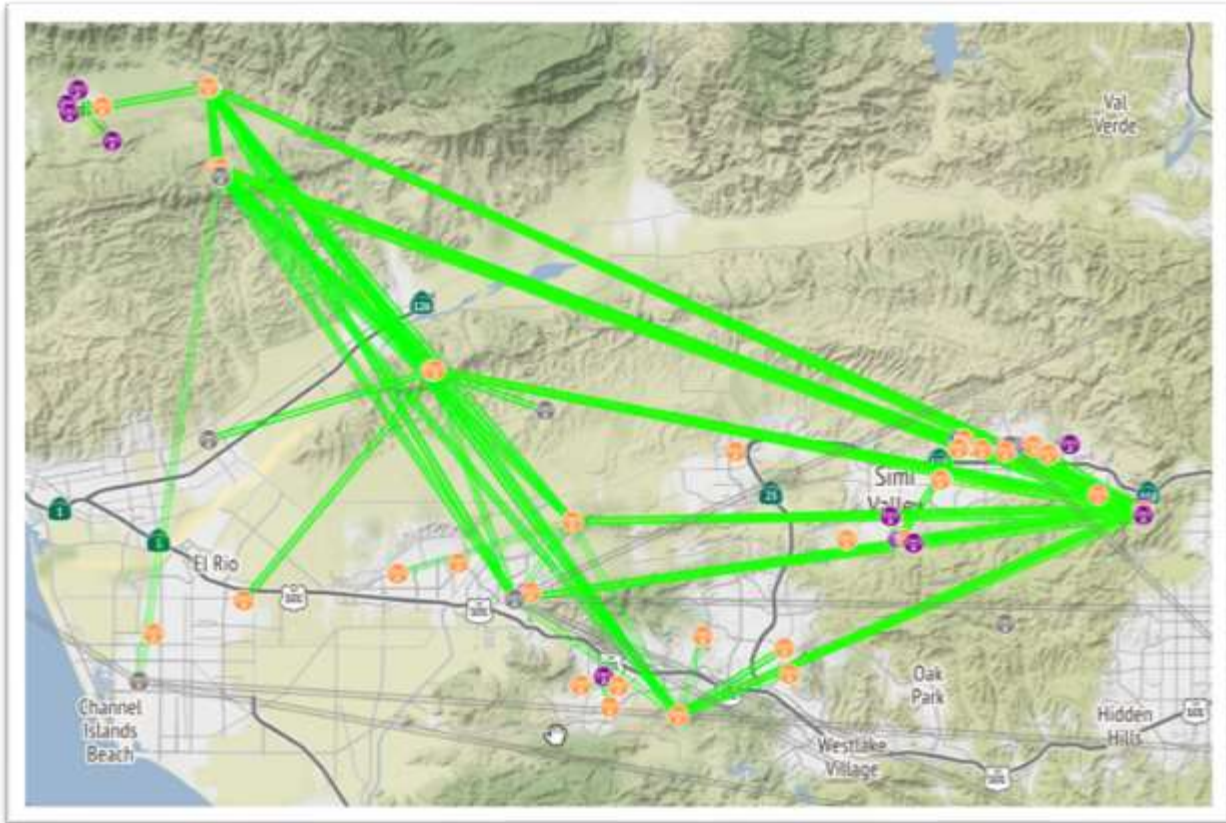


(Cont. on page 20)

News from PVARC(Cont. from page 19)

But since the IP addresses assigned to the mesh nodes on the Part 15 network are all on the same subnet, all the mesh nodes see routes to all of the other nodes, so it looked like this to the ham mesh network:

Which wouldn't be a problem, but - the AREDN software running on the mesh network nodes uses a routing protocol called OLSR (Optimized Link State Routing Protocol). It turns out that it

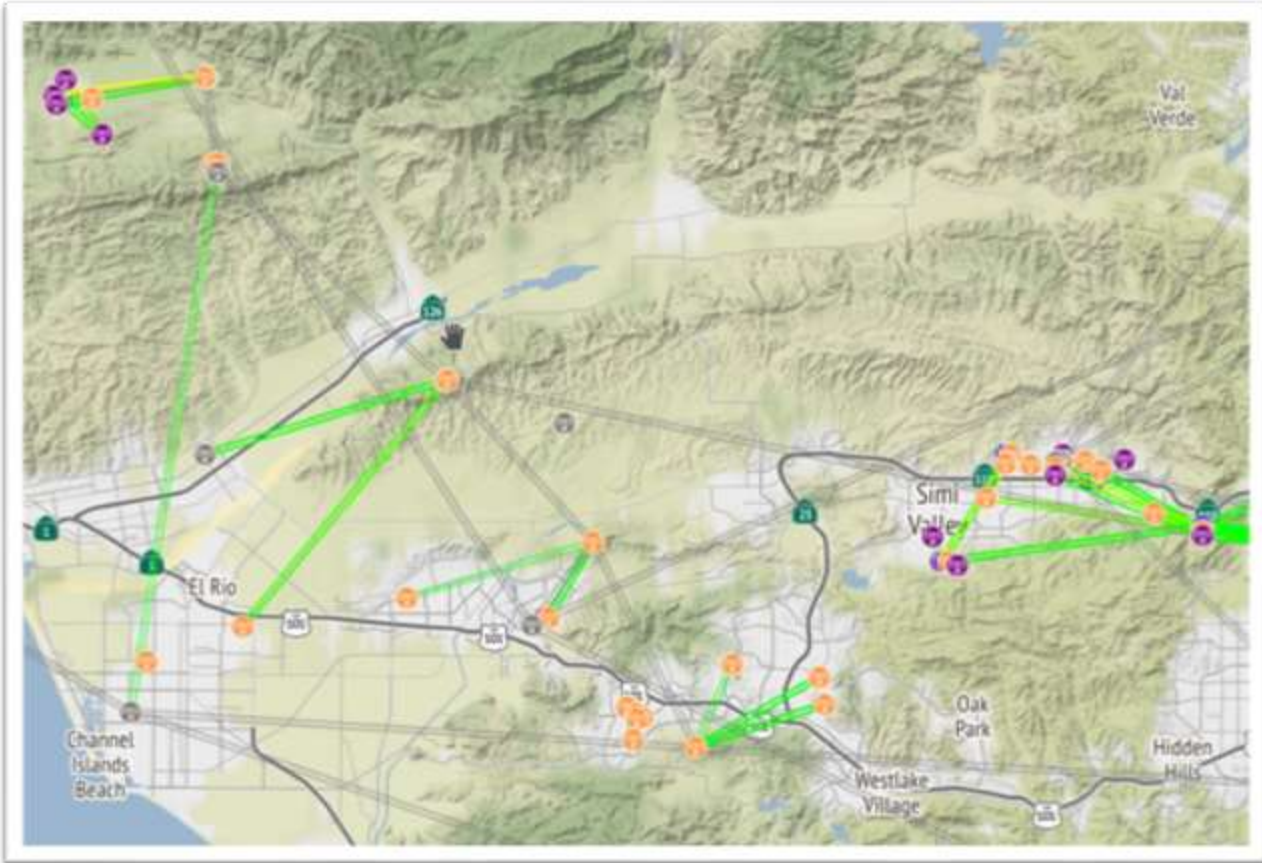


doesn't handle multiple paths of almost equal quality well at all leading to "route flapping", which is pretty much what it sounds like. If you have two routes to the destination of almost equal quality and one starts running traffic, its link quality will drop below that of the 'secondary' link, and it will revert to the secondary link. Then the traffic running on the secondary causes its link quality to drop while that on the (former) primary link recovers. Then the traffic route 'flaps' back to the original path. Rinse and repeat... While the links are flapping, no traffic is moved, leading to brief outages each time. Several years ago it rarely occurred but as the network has grown and the traffic along with it became a persistent problem.

So Eric KG6WXC and Paul WD6EBY put a ton of work in figuring out how to make the mesh network see the true physical network. And they were successful. Here's what it looks like after they'd made the needed topology changes: (Cont. on page 21)

News from PVARC(Cont. from page 20)

It's not nearly as colorful, but you can see the grey links (replacing the green ones on



the “Before” map) much more closely follow the true physical network, which yields one route from node to node. This change has improved the stability of the network in Ventura County substantially. The Wednesday night Teamtalk nets used to be plagued with frequent voice dropouts, but since the network change was implemented they’ve been for the most part rock solid and a pleasure to participate in.

The map is on the Internet at <https://bit.ly/2UsFTwM> if you’d like to look at it.

Other stuff:

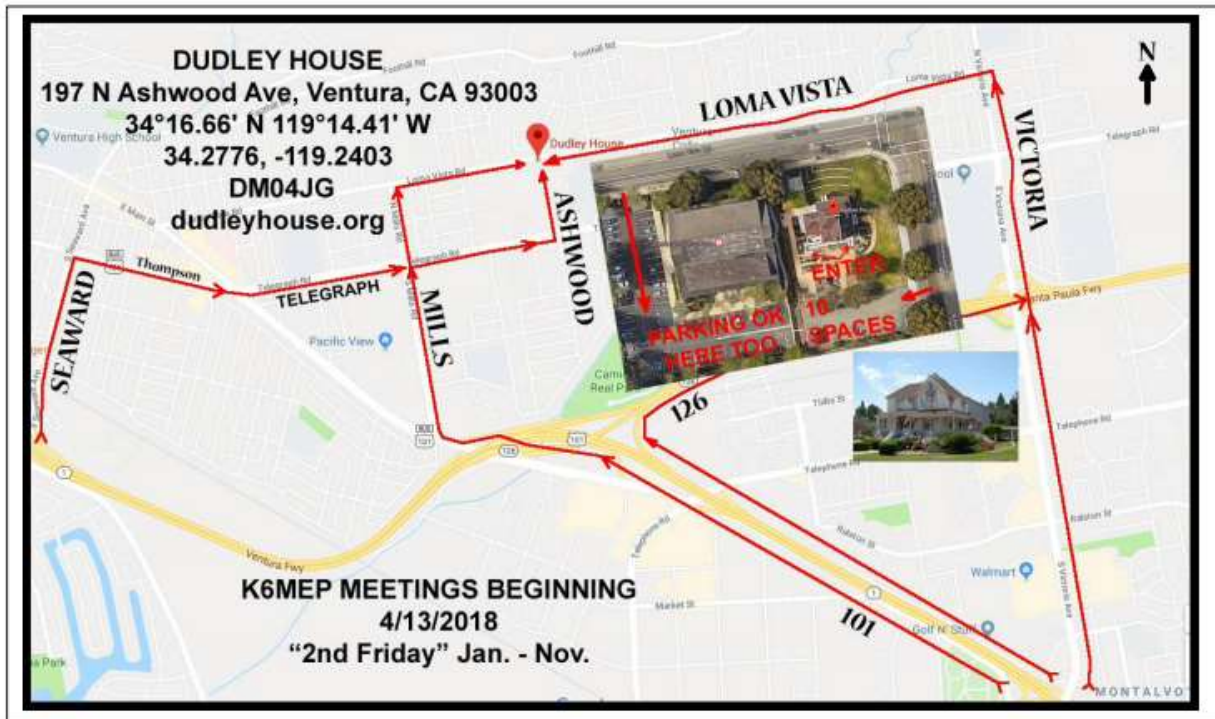
We’re also working on a possibility of improving network coverage in the Conejo Valley, and also possibly improving the microwave link from SimiEast (AKA Chatsworth Peak) to South Mountain (the “weakest link” :-)).

We also hope to extend the ‘forced route’ mesh network configuration east to Verdugo Peak, and perhaps north to Magic Mountain and farther east to Mount Wilson. More news on all of those potential projects later, if and when they do materialize.

73

Orv W6BI

Meeting Location Maps (meetings may be on-the-air, please check K6MEP.org)



Local ACS/ARES News for Ventura County

The team that we will rely on moments after a disaster strikes! Thank you Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) Operators [#NationalVolunteerWeek2020](#). They devote over 5,000 volunteer hours every year. When infrastructure goes down, this team is up and running to bring help in.



 VENTURA COUNTY
SHERIFF'S
OFFICE

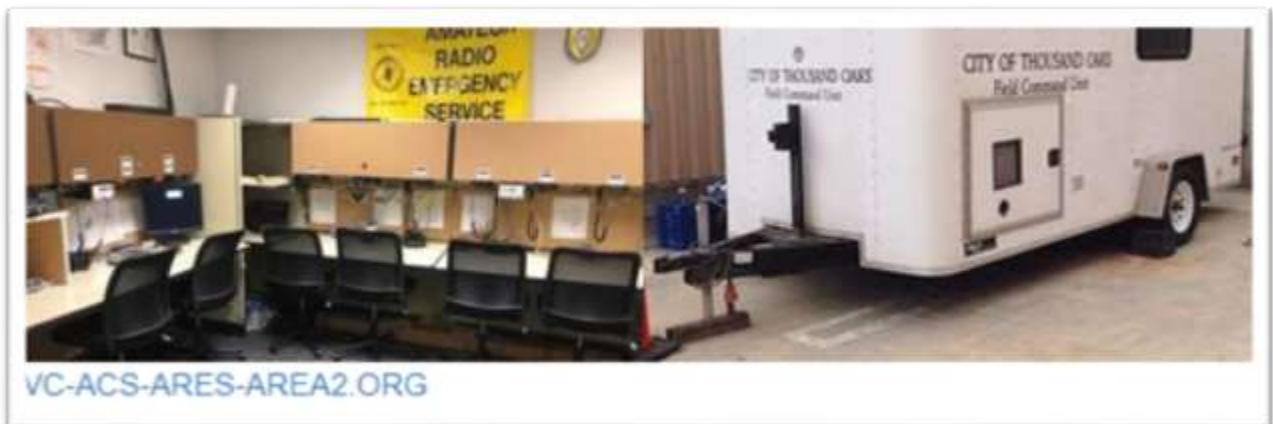
Don Aguilar, Assistant Police Chief
Thousand Oaks Police Department


aptain Don Aguilar
Thousand Oaks Police Department AGENCY
ational Volunteer Week - Thousand Oaks Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) Team

(Cont. on page 25)

Local ACS/ARES News for Ventura County (Cont. from page 24)

Join me in thanking our Thousand Oaks ARES operators for the many volunteer hours they dedicate to keep us ready in the event of a natural disaster. This team works hard behind the scenes in ham radio projects and testing to help us stay connected in critical communications. Some of these disasters such as earthquakes, wildfires, or floods result in interruptions or hampering of our local infrastructure capabilities. Thank You ARES Operators for the amazing work you do to prepare in helping our community when we'll need it the most. For more information on Thousand Oaks ARES, visit <http://vc-acs-ares-area2.org/>



(Cont. on page 26)

Local ACS/ARES News for Ventura County (Cont. from page 25)

Pictures of ACS in action Needed



Hanson, Robert - W6RH

Do you have any photos of our ACS team in action?

We are always looking for them, but right now have a specific need for some photos requested by Captain Agular.

Please send them directly to me, not to the group so we can keep the bandwidth down.

THANKS

Rob



ROBERT HANSON

Ventura County ACS Radio Officer

Ventura County ARES District Emergency Coordinator

805-901-0147 - w6rh@...



Local ARRL Santa Barbara Section News (new article)

I reached out to our ARRL Section Manager, John Kitchens NS6X, who is a member of our club, about initiating an article in the Keyer. He provided the following details for us about all of the ARRL-associated Ham radio clubs in the SB section and I appreciate his response:

From: John Kitchens [mailto:ns6x.john@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 2:32 PM
To: rshank1950@gmail.com
Subject: Re: FW: May 2020 Keyer Submissions

10-10 #36639
QRP ARCI #5697
K6MEP Ventura County Amateur Radio Club
Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club
Simi Settlers Amateur Radio Club
Ventura County Amateur Radio Society
Santa Barbara Amateur Radio Club
Satellite Amateur Radio Club
Big Bear Amateur Radio Club
Paso Robles Amateur Radio Club
San Luis Obispo Emergency Communications Council
Estero Amateur Radio Club
SoCal Contest Club
NorCal QRP Group
Northwest VHF Society
Flying Pigs #3688
Sasquatch #903
Zombie #1159

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ARRL News (all photos and icons from ARRL.org or other specified sources)

ARRL Field Day 2020 -- A Time to Adapt

Many individuals and groups organizing events for ARRL [Field Day](#) 2020 have been contacting ARRL for guidance on how to adapt their planned activities in this unprecedented time of social distancing and uncertainty.

"Due to the unique situation presented this year, this can be an opportunity for you, your club, or your group to try something new," ARRL Contest Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE, said. "Field Day isn't about doing things the same way year after year. Use this year to develop and employ a new approach that is in line with the current circumstances."



Social distancing and state and local requirements very likely will impact just how -- and even whether -- you are able to participate in Field Day this year. ARRL continues monitoring the coronavirus situation, paying close attention to information and guidance offered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)). If social distancing means that Class A with a 30-member team set up in a city park won't work this year, then it's time for a Plan B. Part of the Field Day concept has always been adapting your operation to the situation at hand. At its heart, Field Day is an emergency communication demonstration. Field Day rules are flexible enough to allow individuals and groups to adjust their participation and strategies in a way that still addresses their needs while being fun. Some possibilities include:

- Encouraging club members to operate from their home stations on emergency power (Class E).
- Using the club's repeater as a means for individual participants to keep in touch during the event.
- Setting up a portable station in the backyard with a temporary antenna for family members interested in operating Field Day, who are now unable to participate as part of a larger group.

One big impact this year will be a decline in public visibility and any interaction with the visitors. Prudence may dictate dispensing with the ham radio PR table to attract passersby, should you set up in a more public location. It's okay not to score all the bonus points you may have attempted in the past. Local and served agency officials may be unwilling to visit, which is understandable under the circumstances. (Cont. on page 29)

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Do be sure to reach out to them as part of your preparations and remind them that you look forward to continuing your working relationship with them in the future.

The impact will differ from place to place, so ARRL recommends that all amateur radio clubs participating in Field Day stay in regular contact with local or state public health officials for their advice and guidance on hosting Field Day activities.

"With any emergency preparedness exercise, it's not about adapting the situation to your operation; it's about adapting your operation to the situation that presents itself," Bourque said. "Try something different." Read [more](#). -- *Thanks to Paul Bourque, N1SFE, and Dan Henderson, N1ND*



Central States VHF Society Conference Canceled

The 2020 Central States VHF Society (**CSVHFS**) conference, set for July, has been put off until next year — July 30 – 31, 2021. The conference hotel is not yet ready to accept 2021 reservations. "Be well and get on the VHF+ bands!" CSVHFS President Bruce Richardson, W9FZ, offered in announcing the cancellation.



Japan's 7-CALL Amateur Radio Club Celebrates Anniversary with Unique Call Sign Prefix

The **7-CALL Amateur Radio Club** (JS1YEY) based in Tokyo is celebrating its 30th anniversary with a special event station, using the call sign 8J17CALL. This is a new call sign prefix. The event will continue until April 21, 2021. The first 7 Call, 7K1AAA, was issued on April 23, 1990, and the last, 7N4XZZ, on June 20, 2003. — *Thanks to Satoshi Yamaguchi, 7M4VQJ*
(Cont. on page 30)

ARRL News (Cont. from page 29)

Emergency Ventilator Designed and Constructed by Hams Going to FDA



Radio amateurs have succeeded in providing a complete, working ventilator system to University of Florida researchers who are in the process of applying to the Food and Drug Administration for an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). A successful submission would blaze the way for volunteers and manufacturers around the world to create low-cost, highly functional Intensive Care Unit (ICU) or anesthesia-care ventilators that offer many of the features of modern ventilators at a fraction of the typical cost. Dr. Gordon Gibby, KX4Z, who is

associated with the project, said efforts to further improve the device are ongoing.

“We made a stunning improvement in accuracy of the system and measuring volumes last night at about 1 AM,” he told ARRL. “Accuracy of that particular alarm measurement went from about 300%, down to about 10%. The FDA submission is being readied, but we keep making engineering improvements.”

Gibby credited some of the primary volunteers. “Bob Benedict, KD8CGH, has provided incredible volunteer testing, now exceeding 1.6 million cycles on one crucial valve and 300,000 on another. Jack Purdum, W8TEE, is the main ‘code-cleaner’ for one of multiple teams building software, following the initial lead of Marcelo Varanda, VA3MVB. Ashhar Farhan, VU2ESE, not only created the ventilator controller schematic but the printed circuit board layout that will be part of an expected University of Florida submission.” Farhan was among the founding code writers of what we now know as Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP).

Other hams worked on mechanical designs for flow measurements and retooled potential manufacturing capabilities otherwise used to produce transceivers. In another example of ham radio ingenuity, Marc Winzenried, WA9ZCO, modified a readily available lawn sprinkler to serve as a durable expiratory valve. This development enabled the ventilator to go more than 1 million breaths before significant valve issues developed, and the part can be replaced for less than \$15.

The completed prototype in Florida was built using typical tools by a radio amateur, and assembled boards provided by LifeMech, a manufacturer working with the project. Farhan crafted an extendable menu structure for the Arduino Nano-based controller, and gas-flow measurements are made every few milliseconds by an I2C-based differential pressure transducer that can measure down to tiny PSI fractions, allowing the design to accurately track patient-induced variations in the volume of delivered gasses. (Cont. on page 31)

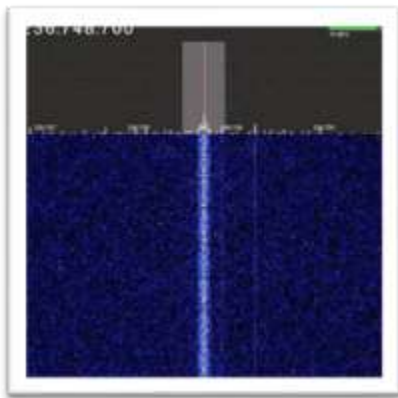
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“Using Wenzelried’s expiratory valve, electronic on-off control at the rate of 30 Hz allows modulation of the valve to set the continuous airway pressure used to keep the patient’s lung alveoli open against virus-induced water-logging of the connective tissue,” Gibby explained. An improved software design allows faster monitoring that accurately measures patient breaths despite gas flow perturbations, with the only valve component showing wear after nearly a million cycles is the nitrile diaphragm.

“Perhaps the most surprising development was the addition of the ability to sense patient effort to take a breath and immediately switch to assisting the patient with that breath, known as ‘assist-control’ ventilation,” Gibby said. “This is expected to allow far lighter sedation of patients — potentially even no sedation — and allows patients’ crucial respiratory muscles to keep up their strength.” He said the current design goes far beyond the FDA’s guidance document for emergency ventilator development.

Radio amateurs delivered the operational control system, basic manufacturing instructions, software, and software explanation to the University of Florida on April 24.

Radio Amateur Finds Another “Zombie Satellite”



British Columbia radio amateur Scott Tilley, VE7TIL, has found another “zombie satellite,” as he calls them. This time, he tracked and identified radio signals from the experimental UHF military communication satellite LES-5. Tilley says he found the satellite in what he called a geostationary “graveyard” orbit after noting a modulated carrier on 236.7487 MHz.

“Most zombie satellites are satellites that are no longer under human control, or have failed to some degree,”

Tilley **told** National Public Radio (NPR) earlier this month. It’s not clear whether LES-5 is still capable of receiving commands. LES-5 was built by MIT’s Lincoln Laboratory and launched in 1967 as part of the military’s Tactical Satellite Communication Program. It was supposed to shut down in 1972, but it continues to operate as long as its solar panels are facing the sun. Tilley

told NPR that he was inspired by a ham in Cornwall who, in 2016, found an earlier satellite — LES-1 — built by the same lab and launched in 1965. What intrigued Tilley about LES-5 was that it might be the oldest functioning geostationary satellite in space.

After British Columbia went on lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Tilley found himself with a lot of free time for such a search. He located LES-5 on March 24.

From his home in Roberts Creek, British Columbia, Tilley, an amateur astronomer, routinely scans the skies for radio signals from classified objects orbiting Earth. Since he started, he’s located dozens of secret or unlisted satellites.

In 2018, while hunting for an undisclosed US government spacecraft lost in a launch mishap, he spotted the signature of IMAGE (Imager for Magnetopause-to-Aurora Global Exploration), a NASA spacecraft believed to have died in December 2005. The **discovery** delighted space scientists. NASA and another ham in the UK confirmed his finding. Launched in 2000 on a mission to monitor space weather, IMAGE mapped plasma patterns around Earth. (Cont. on page 32)

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RSGB Aims to Promote Health and Wellbeing within the Amateur Radio Community



The Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) has launched a major campaign — Get on the air to care (**GOTA2C**) — in association with the UK National Health Service (NHS) to help promote health and wellbeing within the amateur radio community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Now, more than ever, we need to optimize all modes of communication to help reduce loneliness and isolation within communities,” said Paul Devlin, of the NHS England Emergency Care Improvement Support Team. “Amateur radio provides a wonderful, unprecedented opportunity to help make this a reality.” The RSGB is urging radio amateurs in the UK and around the globe to get on the air to chat and “support each other across the airwaves.”

Radio amateurs can “get on the air to care” with a simple handheld transceiver.

RSGB General Manager Steve Thomas, M1ACB, said, “We want this campaign to inspire even more to get involved and also to use #GOTA2C when they share photos, videos, and news of what they’re doing on social media.”

Devlin said that GB1NHS, the UK’s National Health Service ham station, gives the NHS “the ability to reach communities anywhere in the world, regardless of geographic location or connection to domestic power supplies, land lines, cell phone, or internet services. It will be on the air as part of this campaign, so listen out for it!”

RSGB Communications Manager Heather Parsons said the campaign has attracted media coverage that included a spot on the BBC, plus a video of support from Spandau Ballet lead singer Tony Hadley. “We’re asking for photos and short video clips of support with the hashtag #GOTA2C,” Parsons added, “and we’ll be using them in [the RSGB journal] *RadCom* and for our weekly Photo Friday on social media.” — *Thanks to Heather Parsons, RSGB Communications Manager*



UN International Center in Vienna Joins Stay-at-Home Movement

The Vienna International Center in Austria has authorized the call sign 4U2STAYHOME for use by the UN Amateur Radio Contest DX Club, 4U1A. United Nations Amateur Radio Club President, James Sarte, K2QI, approved the call sign to promote amateur radio goodwill and over-the-air social networking. QSL cards go to UA3DX. Contacts with 4U2STAYHOME count for both **CMA and SHA awards**. — *Thanks to [The Daily DX](#) (Cont. on page 33)*

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International Marconi Day Canceled

Add International Marconi Day (**IMD**) to the roster of amateur radio events canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. IMD celebrates the role of wireless pioneer Guglielmo Marconi played in the development of radio technology. The 24-hour event is held annually to celebrate Marconi's birthday on April 25, 1874, and is typically held on the Saturday in April closest to that date. This year, IMD would have fallen on Marconi's actual birth anniversary. The event would have involved amateur radio operations from historic Marconi sites. — *Thanks to Southgate Amateur Radio News via Ronny Plovie, ON6CQ*

Ballot Counting Postponed in Four ARRL Section Manager Elections



During these unprecedented times of social distancing and staying at home, the ARRL Ethics and Elections Committee (E&E) has postponed ballot counting for four contested Section Manager elections.

Since March 23, ARRL Headquarters staff has been working remotely under the Governor of Connecticut's mandate, which is currently in effect through May 20 and may be extended into June. The ballots for the Section Manager races in Illinois, Indiana, Oregon, and Maine were scheduled to be counted on Tuesday, May 19 as directed by the ARRL rules and regulations for Section Manager elections. Due to the circumstances, ARRL Interim CEO Barry Shelley, N1VXY, asked the E&E Committee for an extension that would allow ballot counting to

happen as soon as practicable before mid-June.

Although this extension was granted, it does not change the Friday, May 15, 2020 deadline for ballots to be received at ARRL HQ. Standard operating practice dictates that any ballots received after this deadline will not be counted. The Governor's mandate and social distancing practices do not affect this section of the election rules.

Terms for election winners are scheduled to begin on July 1, 2020. ARRL hopes to see the Governor's restrictions relaxed in time to have a team of tellers inside HQ to count the ballots and publish the elections' results in enough time that the terms of office will not change. The E&E Committee will have to decide the course of action, should any unforeseen circumstances not allow the ballots to be counted by mid-June.

The safety of our staff and members remains the highest priority as we work through these difficult times. Thank you for your understanding. (Cont. on page 34)

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Japan's Radio Amateurs Gain Expanded Access to 160 and 80 Meters



Effective on April 21, Japan radio amateurs have **new privileges** on 160 and 80 meters. The new allocations are 1800 – 1810, 1825 – 1875, 3575 – 3580, and 3662 – 3680 kHz. ARRL Life Member Kenji Rikitake, JJ1BDX/N6BDX, said the new regime allows Japanese radio amateurs to operate FT8 on 80 meters (3574 ~ 3577 kHz), and on 160 meters (1840 ~ 1843 kHz) as well as WSPR (1836.6 kHz).

On 160 meters, the allocations are:

1800 – 1810: All modes (new assignment)

1810 – 1825: CW only

1825 – 1875 kHz: All modes (as secondary service, new assignment)

1907.5 – 1912.5: CW and data (A1A, F1B, F1D, G1B, and G1D)

On 80 meters, the allocations are:

3500 – 3520: CW (A1A) only

3520 – 3535: CW and data (A1A, F1B, F1D, G1B, and G1D)

3535 – 3575: CW, phone, and image, and data only permitted for making contacts with non-JA amateurs

3575 – 3580: All modes (as secondary service, new assignment)

3599 – 3612: CW, phone, image, and data

3662 – 3680: All modes (as secondary service, new assignment)

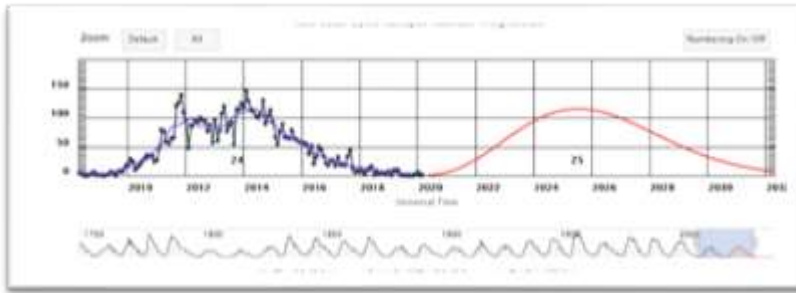
3680 – 3687: CW, phone, and image

3702 – 3716, 3745 – 3770, and 3791 – 3805: CW, phone, and image (no data).

Additional details are on the Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL) website. — *Thanks to Kenji Rikitake, JJ1BDX/N6BDX*

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NOAA Updates Solar Cycle 25 Prediction

Frank Donovan, W3LPL, notes that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC) has published its official updated

prediction of Solar Cycle 25 in new, interactive [Solar Cycle Progression graphs](#). The updated prediction is based on the results of NOAA's Solar Cycle 25 Prediction Panel.

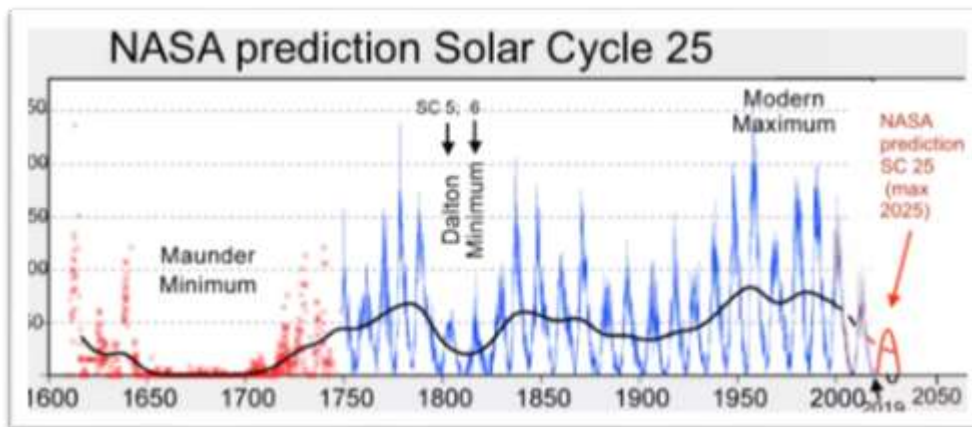
"SWPC forecasts a solar maximum between 105 and 125, with the peak occurring between November 2024 and March 2026," Donovan said. "There is broad consensus that solar minimum is ongoing this year — or may have already occurred — and that Cycle 25 will have no major change in the level of solar activity compared to Cycle 24."

As Donovan explained, for many years the SWPC's solar cycle predictions have used the Royal Observatory of Belgium's International Sunspot Number. SWPC's official solar cycle prediction **now uses** the SWPC sunspot number. The International Sunspot Number is typically **about one-third lower** than the SWPC sunspot number.

"While this is SWPC's official Cycle 25 prediction, it's important to note there is still divergence among various forecasting methods and members of the space weather forecasting community," Donovan said. "Most forecasts and forecasters agree that the Cycle 25 peak is likely to be within $\pm 20\%$ of Cycle 24 and is likely to occur between 2024 and 2027."

More information is on the Springer Nature website. — *Thanks to The Daily DX*

(Cont. on page 36)



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ARRL New England Division Convention Postponed to November



The ARRL New England Division Convention, hosted by the **Northeast HamXposition** at its new location in Marlborough, Massachusetts, has been postponed until November 6 – 8 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The show had been scheduled for July. HamXposition Chair Bob DeMattia, K1IW, said many logistical

problems exist with holding the convention in July, even under the most favorable scenarios. “We believe it is unlikely that [Massachusetts’] ban on large gatherings will be completely lifted by the end of July,” he said in an April 10 announcement. “Even if it were, we believe attendance will be severely impacted due to lingering — and quite appropriate — caution.” DeMattia said nearly all exhibitors indicated they were unwilling to commit to any date earlier than June. “The convention is subject to penalties for cancellation,” he continued. “The penalties increase as we get closer to the convention date. By moving to November, we move out the schedule on these penalties. This will allow us to reassess the viability of the convention in early August. By then we will have further insight into prevailing conditions.”

DeMattia said the November weekend was the only alternative for the show.

ARRL 2020 Teachers Institute Sessions are Canceled



The landscape of education in the US has been greatly affected by the current pandemic. As K – 12 school systems and universities have been forced to move entirely to remote learning, teachers and students have had to make dramatic adjustments to their teaching and learning methods. After considering these educational challenges, along with travel restrictions and restraints on the ability to gather in groups, ARRL leadership feels it is appropriate and necessary to cancel the 2020 Teachers Institute. We look forward to bringing back this important program in 2021, so that we can continue promoting amateur radio in the classroom through our Education and Technology Program (**ETP**).

Contest University (CTU) 2020 will be Free and Online



Tim Duffy, K3LR, has announced that Contest University (**CTU**) USA 2020 will be held online via Zoom on Thursday May 14, starting at 1245 UTC. CTU 2020 is free. The CTU [course outline](#) has been posted online. Connection details to the CTU Zoom bridge will be posted on the Contest University site one week prior to CTU. Sessions will be recorded for viewing any time after May 14. Slide decks will be posted on the CTU website as well. At the end of CTU 2020, Dave Siddall, K3ZJ, will present the 2020 CQ Contest Hall of Fame awards.