



This is the 2020 Field Day Special Edition of the K6MEP Keyer.

Due to the California Governor's social distancing restrictions; we won't be able to hold our Field Day at the Oxnard College this year. Our Field Day committee, led by President Denney, has decided to focus its efforts on an at-home Field Day this year. This special edition contains at-home Field Day information from the club and other Ventura County Amateur Radio organizations to assist members who want to participate in this year's Field Day activities.



Special Field Day Edition of the K6MEP Keyer—The Journal of the Ventura County Amateur Radio Club June, 2020 Year 84 Issue 6.5

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Local Net	Wayne Woodhams	N6WIX
ACS/ARES	Rob Hanson	W6RH
SB Section	John Kitchens	NS6X

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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,

Welcome to the Field Day 2020 Special Edition of the Keyer, the Ventura County Amateur Radio Club Newsletter. We are publishing this issue to you to inform you of the many efforts of Amateurs around the county to make this unusual Field Day the best it can be.

First of all I want everyone to have fun on the weekend of June 26.

If you want to make a contact during field day all you have to do is exchange calls, your field day class and Santa Barbara (section).

See the link below to find out what field day class you are in. http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Field-Day/2020/1_61-2020%20Rules.pdf This is also the link to the rules for field day.

If you're not in Ventura county go to this link to determine what section you are in. <http://www.arrl.org/sections>. You can also look at this link to determine what section you are in. <http://www.arrl.org/section-boundaries>

Here is link to videos on how to make a contact during field day;

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5G6_cSr0LQE

If you want to get away from the field day crowd remember that the 630, 30, 17, and 12, meter bands are not used for field day.

If you are having problems with your equipment, you can ask questions to a dedicated group of Elmers on the 145.200 MHz the WD6EBY repeater, or the Bozo repeater (the repeaters should be linked for field day). The repeaters will be manned all weekend long.

You can also get help on Zoom. A county wide zoom meeting will be run all weekend long. I will send out the link to the Zoom meeting in another groups.io email.

The Zoom meeting will have a "before field day" get together at 10:00 Saturday. Then at 19:00 on Saturday there will be a social hour. On 11:00 am on Sunday there will be a closing and wrap up meeting on Zoom.

You can join the Zoom meeting if you just want to talk to someone.

There is a VHF initiative, sponsored by clubs around the county. 146.52, 146.55, and 146.58 simplex will be active, with hams monitoring the frequencies during field day. Simplex is where you transmit and receive on the same frequency. This does not involve using a repeater. Signal levels can be low and you may have to turn your radio's squelch off. With the squelch turned down or off the radio will emit a hiss. The hiss can be annoying, but you will be able to receive signals from farther away. I have a cheap Pofung or Baofeng hand held radio. (Cont. on page 3)

Message from the President (Cont. from page 2)

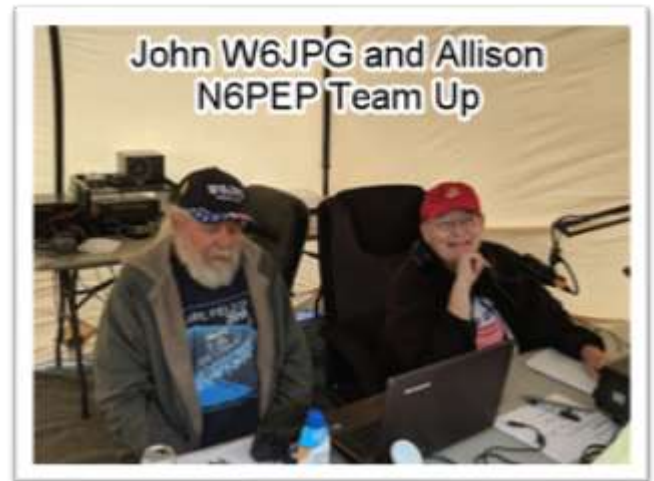
I have not figured out how to turn off or open the squelch on the radio.

To contact more stations a good antenna (better than a rubber duck) is needed. Keith W6KME has several antennas he will lend out. I also have a couple of antennas I can lend. You can contact Keith at w6kmeham@gmail.com.

The CVARC group has a web site with lots of field day information. Here's the link: <http://www.cvarc.org/2020/06/14/six-ways-to-get-the-most-out-of-field-day-even-if-we-can't-be-together/>

In preparation for next year's field day, we encourage everyone to use the N3FJP logging software. This year will be great practice for next year. Club member Burt KA6BJA has put together a presentation on using the logging software.

If you're really into logging software the county has set up an online scoreboard where your logging software can automatically upload your contacts to the score board. The online contest score board is at: <https://contestonlinescore.com/>



Six Ways to Get the Most Out of Field Day Even If We Can't Be Together (thanks to <http://www.cvarc.org/2020/06/14/six-ways-to-get-the-most-out-of-field-day-even-if-we-cant-be-together/>)



There are several special amateur radio initiatives planned in Ventura County during Field Day 2020, June 27-28th. The COVID-19 crisis makes us unable to gather in large groups as we have in the past. We are attempting to recapture some of the camaraderie and fellowship among hams in other ways by making the following options available for those who choose to participate in them. Nothing here is compulsory. The idea is to have some fun. Feel free to participate in whatever interests you.

1. **Field Day Net, Zak Cohen-N6PK:** During the 24 hours of Field Day we will maintain a linked repeater network throughout Ventura County to answer questions and help participants with problems. Volunteer net controllers will monitor the net and identify themselves every 20 minutes (20

minutes after hour/20 minutes before hour/and on the hour). Net controllers will try to answer any questions raised or, if needed, refer the caller to one of the volunteer “Elmers” who will be standing by to assist, either on the net or in the Zoom session as outlined in point 3 below.



Bozo

Repeater 147.885 -offset PL 127.3

- The linked repeaters all have a negative offset and PL of 127.3.
- Bozo (Rasnow Peak): 147.885 MHz
- Chatsworth Peak: 145.240 MHz
- Sulphur Mountain: 145.200 MHz

For more information contact Zak at N6PK@arrl.net

2. **“Agony Aunts” Initiative:** Via Zoom, every Wednesday until Field Day at 3:00 PM, starting May 27th. Andy Moorwood- K3CAQ will recruit a panel of radio experts to answer Field Day questions in weekly Zoom sessions. (Cont. on page 5)

Six Ways to Get the Most Out of Field Day Even If We Can't Be Together (Cont. from page 4)



Andy and the Elmers (the “Agony Aunts”) will solicit radio and Field Day questions from members and address a selection of the questions during the session. The Agony Aunts will appear in the currently ongoing, 3:00 P.M. Wednesday Zoom sessions hosted by Brad Ormsby-W6VO. [Click here for a link to the “Agony Aunts” sessions.](#) If you have a question for our panel of Elmers please follow the link below and enter it in the “comment” area. Questions will be accepted “live” at the meetings, but we will address the questions entered on the website first.

3. Zoom Initiative, Brad Ormsby-W6VO: Brad will open a 24-hour Zoom session that will remain open for the duration of Field Day. Members are free to drop-in anytime during the event, but three scheduled meetings, will be held in the room at:

- 10:00 AM Saturday (6/27) one hour before the start of FD
- 7:00 PM Saturday for a social hour
- 11:00 AM Sunday (6/28) at the close of FD to discuss results

Link to the 24- hour Zoom Initiative:

<https://zoom.us/j/96169662509>

Meeting ID: 961 6966 2509 No Password.

4. Real-Time Score Reporting Initiative, Stu Sheldon-AG6AG: Hams using logging software may opt to point their software to <https://contestonlinescore.com/> to report their Field Day QSO's as they make them. You'll see your own progress and be able to monitor progress of others in the county in “near-real-time.” Stu has posted five videos on Field Day prep, including how to set up this real-time reporting and how to monitor progress of ourselves and our colleagues. Find Stu's videos here: <https://youtu.be/Xn4k9waPZBQ?list=PLvg1CrZfziQsTmKoUS3yyJtTCeq5BRbgu>.

5. The VHF Initiative, Keith Elliott-W6KME: To promote the participation of those holding Technician-level privileges, experienced operators have been recruited to monitor VHF simplex frequencies and encourage Technicians to make Field Day QSO's with them. It is suggested you call during the first 10 minutes of each hour on the National Simplex Frequency: 146.520 MHz as well as 146.550 and 146.580. In addition, a special contest has been created as part of the VHF Initiative. The [Terry Graves Memorial Field Day Event](#) is a 2 meter voice contest that takes place during (Cont. on page 6)

Six Ways to Get the Most Out of Field Day Even If We Can't Be Together (Cont. from page 5)

Field Day. It awards points for QSOs in several categories and is designed so

that everyone in Ventura County is able to participate. If you are a Technician-level licensee and even if you have only a hand-held radio, get on the air and call CQ! Click [here](#) for more information on the VHF Initiative.

6. **Post Field Day Data**

Collection: Martin Hickey-AJ6CL plans to distribute a simple survey to operators in the various clubs across the county to collect final numbers of QSO's

made by members for publication on the CVARC website in order to highlight the accomplishments of hams in Ventura County. This will be an easy survey and is independent of the scores that members will submit to the ARRL as official Field Day entries.

Remember, all these initiatives are being made available for you to enjoy at your own discretion. Nothing here is mandatory. Feel free to participate in all, some, or none as you wish. Have a good Field Day. Stay safe and have fun!

73,

Martin-AJ6CL

AJ6CL@CVARC.org



2020 Field Day Committee Report; our goal is to make Field Day fun for everyone.



First I would like to thank Burt KA6BJA, Mark KD6ASL, and Clem KM6OKZ for their efforts in coordinating with other clubs and for generating presentations to support Field Day.

The committee is meeting weekly every Wednesday night until Field Day.

As I mentioned in Prez Says, we encourage everyone participating in Field Day to use the N3FJP logging software. In the past, after Field Day, someone has had to round up all the bits and pieces of paper that were used for logs, type information from the handwritten notes into a data base, and then send the results to the ARRL. Next year, with the use of a common logging software the person stuck with consolidating the logs will have less work and typing to do. It will also go a long ways in reducing the errors and omissions in the logs. This year offers a good chance to try out the software and get ready or next year.

Burt KA6BJA developed and presented a slide show on using the N3FJP logging software. Here's is a link to a YouTube video on using the N3FJP software. It is not interactive or as personnel as Burt's presentation was <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJEIXuoKWqc> . If you need further help contact us. Here's another link to a YouTube video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ojb8kj_qieY It's really simple; all you have to do is enter the other stations call, class, and section. The software can handle the rest. It helps if you have a CAT connected radio.

Mark KD6ASL presented on how to use Zoom and its many features. Some of these features are buried in the program. These features help members ask questions and point to areas in the presentations that they are having trouble with. This makes Zoom meetings come alive. He also created a presentation on how club members might participate in Field Day while maintaining social distancing, including recommended station classes

The committee is coordinating with other clubs to have all day Zoom meeting during Field Day. There will be someone monitoring the meeting all day and times are been coordinated for group check-ins. You can join the Zoom at any time and get help if you're having trouble getting on or if you would just like to talk to someone and see their face at the same time.

Stu AG6AG, (see page 3)among the many things he is doing for Field Day, is heading up a county-wide effort to get technician class hams on the air during field day. Zak N6PK has headed up a group of volunteers who will monitor 146.52, .55, and .58 MHz FM and someone should be on 28.200 MHz SSB.

The K6MEP committee will be holding a Zoom meeting on how to build simple antennas. We would start with two meters antennas. Even simple antennas can increase the distance you can communicate. We're thinking about showing how to build either a simple ground plane or a tape measure antenna. If you are interested let us know.
Denney N6HV

Special Field Day Edition of the K6MEP Keyer—The Journal of the Ventura County Amateur Radio Club June, 2020 Year 84 Issue 6.5

-----Original Message-----

From: ARRL Web site [mailto:memberlist@www.arrl.org]

Sent: Friday, June 19, 2020 4:52 PM

To: rshank1950@gmail.com

Subject: ARLX008 K6KPH Unable to Handle June 20 West Coast Qualifying Run or Field Day Transmissions for West Coast

SB SPCL @ ARL \$ARLX008

ARLX008 K6KPH Unable to Handle June 20 West Coast Qualifying Run or Field Day Transmissions for West Coast

ZCZC AX08

QST de W1AW

Special Bulletin 8 ARLX008

From ARRL Headquarters

Newington CT June 19, 2020

To all radio amateurs

SB SPCL ARL ARLX008

ARLX008 K6KPH Unable to Handle June 20 West Coast Qualifying Run or Field Day Transmissions for West Coast

Because of the National Park Service national park shutdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, K6KPH - the Maritime Radio Historical Society (MRHS) amateur station in California - will not be able to transmit the scheduled June 20 West Coast Qualifying Run or any Field Day bulleting transmissions for west coast listeners over the June 27-28 weekend.

MHRS Transmitter Supervisor Steve Hawes, WB6UZX, said personnel will not be allowed to enter park facilities at least until July 1, and plans for the annual "Night of Nights" event in mid-July are still in flux.

NNNN

/EX

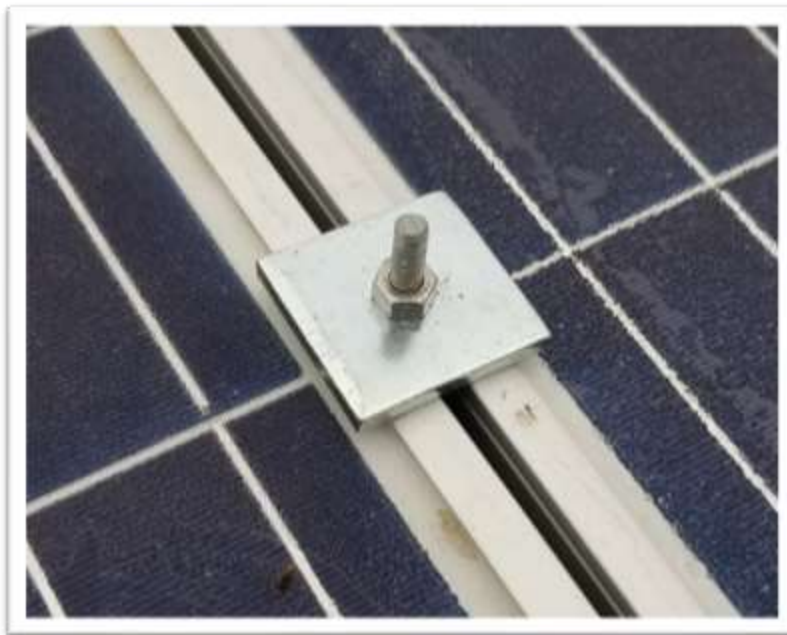


[Joe Partlow W6JWP](#)

Jun 19 #1710

I know this is a little late, but here goes.

Installed three 100 watt solar panels on the roof of my shack using unistrut from Home Depot. I painted the struts and unprotected hardware with gray rustoleum cold galvanizing compound before installing. The panels feed to a Renogy Rover 30 Amp 12V/24V MPPT Solar Charge Controller charging two 130AH AGM batteries. The output of the batteries goes to a PowerStream PST-SR500 DC to DC regulator to give me 14.0VDC for my radios.





- 73 -
- Joe W6JWP

ARRL Field Day 2020 -- A Time to Adapt (reprinted from May Keyer)

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.

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. (Cont. on page 12)

ARRL Field Day 2020 -- A Time to Adapt (Cont. from page 11) 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



Ventura County Star East Ventura County 06/24/2012 B: East County (U-D_U1_jyt_0624_ecuu_sun_v_.pdf.U) Page B01

Ham radio fans have a Field Day

■ Hobbyists get connected through contest

By Monica Lara
Special to The Star

Amateur radio clubs and hobbyists throughout Ventura County scanned the airwaves for the 24-hour Field Day this weekend.

Celebrated in the United States and Canada, Field Day is a social event to motivate hobbyists to test their equipment and connect to stations around the world.

From 11 a.m. Saturday to

11 a.m. today, amateur radio groups and individuals set up transmitters to communicate with as many stations as possible.

Although designed to be fun, Field Day serves as a drill to ensure licensed amateur radio operators are prepared for local or grander-scale emergencies, according to Dan Henderson of the National Association for Amateur Radio.

"What we try to do is build a good working relationship with community leaders and amateur radio operators, but also with the community at large,

to help demonstrate what amateur radio brings to the table for emergency response," Henderson said.

Amateur radio hobbyists, or "hams," are licensed by the Federal Communications Commission to help bridge communication gaps during major disasters, such as earthquakes.

In the event an earthquake causes landlines and cellphone signals to black out or overload, the amateur radio operators can communicate with first responders.

The Ventura County

See RADIO, 10B



Stewart Stone, a member of the Ventura County Amateur Radio Club, talks to someone in Washington. The radio club is participating in a worldwide contest to see who can make the most contacts in 24 hours. The club members set up their tents near Ventura Harbor.

June 25, 2012 Powered by TECNAVIA

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PHOTOS BY JUAN CARLO/THE STAR

Steve Noll, a member of the Ventura County Amateur Radio Club, talks to someone who is set up at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in Simi Valley.

RADIO from 1B

Amateur Radio Club is part of the county's emergency preparedness effort. As volunteers, its members participate in the countywide disaster drills.

The organization also provides technical mentoring for residents and youths interested in gaining their amateur radio operating license and a working knowledge of the trade that touches on subjects including engineering, astronomy, math and weather.

The club set up its Field Day site near Ventura Harbor in an open field where Schooner Drive runs perpendicular to Anchors Way. It was the club's first year back in Ventura after spending the past four Field Days at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in Simi Valley.

The club chose the Ventura Harbor location amid a populated area to put equipment to the test and better prepare for emergencies. Members wanted to be accessible for the public to stop by, see their gear and participate, as well, according to Joe Krigbaum, club president.

"We have a lot of fun talking on the radio," Krigbaum said. "It's a picnic and radio celebration."

Within the campsite were seven transmitters as tall as 40 feet. They connected to various types of radio communicators, including voice and digital. The digital radio was connected to a netbook to send and receive messages in text.

To power the radios, the club used solar panels and batteries.

Several club operators brought food, set up tents and channeled the frequencies overnight. They expected about 50 people to participate over the course of



John Gartmen, member of the Ventura club, talks to someone in Utah. The radio club is participating in a worldwide contest to see who can make the most contacts in 24 hours. Club members set up their tents near Ventura Harbor.

the event, according to Krigbaum.

The Ventura County Amateur Radio Society teamed up with the Simi Settlers Amateur Radio Club at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in Simi Valley and the Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club set up at 403 W. Hillcrest Drive in Thousand Oaks.

"We do it for fun. We enjoy radio arts," said Robert Hanson, the Conejo Valley club's president. "Some build radios, but most participate in emergency correspondence in some way. Our goal is to get more people involved."

On the Net: <http://www.arrl.org>

June 25, 2012 Powered by TECNAVIA Copyright © 2012 Ventura County Star 06/24/2012 2:16 am

From: markcats@juno.com [mailto:markcats@juno.com]

Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2020 8:58 AM

To: km6rss@gmail.com; markcats@juno.com

Subject: Re: Request for Recipes for the special FD edition of the Keyer

I can't find the original email from Denny. But I do have a recipe that our kids have really liked for years. My mom used to make us this when we were growing up, so it is not my invention (probably handed down to her).

Macaroni and Cheese not from a box: Take a bag of elbow macaroni and slightly toast it in a pot or skillet with a little bit of cooking oil stir occasionally. Add a bit of chopped onions (as much onion as desired 1/4 - 1/3 cup) stir more. After macaroni is slightly browned with onions, add a can of chopped tomatoes along with some water (enough water to cook the pasta, like a 1/2-3/4 filled can of water the tomatoes came in). Stir mixture, add a very small amount of salt if desired, put a lid on the pan, and let it simmer to cook the macaroni over a low heat (about 20 min. more or less as needed). During the final five minutes of cooking, add some cheddar cheese on top and replace the lid. If the pasta is cooked to desired texture, turn off the heat. The pasta with melted cheese can sit on the stove so the cheese can melt more if needed. Makes a great pasta side dish for any meal.

Enjoy,
Mark Ortega
KI6YLH

