



The June 12th, 2020, 7pm (19:00) meeting was 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. As a part of the club meeting, a Zoom meeting was held at 19:30 and our topic was the upcoming Field Day. Check the K6MEP.groups.io website for updates. Please join your club members in attending and sharing your recent amateur radio experiences.



Club Officers	And Keyer	Contributors
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Vice-President	Clem Alberts	KM6OKZ
Secretary	Phil Cohen	WA6BUZ
Treasurer	John Gartman	W6JPG
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Board Member	Robert Shank	KM6RSS
Board Member	Richard Abbey	WB6AEW
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Programs	Open	
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Local Area 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,

The fireworks are over, mostly, and the sun is taking a vacation with another stretch of spotless days. Even without spots you can get on and make contacts. To see if anyone is on a band go to DXmaps.com. Click on the different bands to see what's open. Even 10 meters can be open with no sunspots. And there are a couple of hams in Cuba that will work anyone they can when the band is even partly open.

It's a drag that there is always someone with more power and a bigger antenna than you have, but with experience you can find ways to make contacts in very poor conditions.

I was recently asked "what frequency do I use if the band is dead"? See <https://ftp.unpad.ac.id/orari/library/library-sw-hw/amateur-radio/cw/docs/DX%20CALLING%20FREQUENCIES.htm> or <http://www.arrl.org/band-plan>.

Summer is a good time to build antennas. You never know if the old mag mount stuck up in the attic will work better than the rubber duck on top of the hand held until you try it. Will placing some aluminum foil or sheet metal under the mag mount help? Try it and see.

I salute the club members that have loaned their antenna analyzers or even gone over to other hams stations and helped them with their antenna problems.

Speaking of Mag Mounts, why not try something different, an HF mobile antenna? With all of the plastic used in cars today you just can't clamp an antenna to the car's bumper anymore. The bumpers are plastic and from all the broken and mangled ones I see along the side of the highway and street, they're disposable.

You can buy an HF mobile antenna mount or build one out of a cluster of magnets. With highway speeds of 75 to 80 miles an hour make a test run before you take off on a long road trip with your bug catcher. It's a good idea to tie a cord to the antenna and secure the cord to the car.

A mag mount uses the car's body as part of the antenna. The magnets are part of the antenna circuit and they couple to the metal underneath by capacitance, through the paint. For better
(Cont. on page 3)

Message from the President (Cont. from page 2)

results at HF, you need a good ground to the car's metal body. That means removing some of the car's paint, where it can't be seen, and connecting a wire from the antenna to that bare metal spot.

I run a mobile antenna off a trailer hitch. I have a small, light car and have a two wheel trailer that just big enough to haul a washing machine. When not hauling the trailer, I plug in an extra hitch mount in to the removable ball hitch on the car. The antenna is mounted to the square removable metal part that holds the hitch's ball. I drilled and tapped three holes in the square metal part where I attach, by brass screws, wires that run under the car. I scraped and sand-papered the metal shiny in the places under the car where the other end of the wires go. I don't use the mobile antenna in town, but on long road trips I have made contacts on HF and six meters. Of course I use a mag mount attached to the center the car's roof for two meters and 450 MHz, both on repeaters and simplex. It's hard to make contacts without an antenna and a mag mount is better than no

antenna.



73 Denney

N6HV



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

Last night on the "post two meter net" Zoom meeting, one of the topics was Field Day. Several members expressed unhappiness with the ARRL rules for Field Day, due to the emphasis of digital modes (FT8) over voice and CW. I urge all members that participated in Field Day to write down what they learned and what they had problems with during Field Day. You can forward your concerns to me or join us in future Zoom meetings (held at 20:30 Monday nights just after the K6MEP Monday Night Net/Contest held on the WD6EBY Sulphur Mountain repeater (see the K6MEP.org website for exact details.

The club could arrange a virtual meeting with the ARRL Section or Division personnel for a general presentation and where you could forward your concerns to the ARRL. Let me know if you're interested.

As always, pictures of your Field Day operations for inclusion in the Keyer are welcome.

Denney N6HV

From: Countyfd-planning [mailto:countyfd-planning-bounces@lists.ag6ag.org] **On Behalf Of** Martin Hickey

Sent: Sunday, June 28, 2020 7:31 PM

To: Ventura County Field Day Planning Group

Subject: [County Wide FD Planning] Field Day Reporting Options
Ventura County Amateur Radio Leadership,

Please forward to your members

1. If radio amateurs would like to report their Field Day score to the ARRL, they should submit their official entry at: <https://field-day.arrl.org/fdentry.php> (Cont. on page 4)

2020 Field Day Report; our goal was to make Field Day fun for everyone. (Cont. from page 3)

2. In addition, if any amateur from Ventura County would like to have their Field Day results published on the CVARC website, they may click this link and submit the form: <https://forms.gle/PEowD3MtuxEQEJpz7>
3. If amateurs have questions about their category or class, they may send me a brief description of how they operated and we'll figure it out! My e-mail: aj6cl@cvarc.org
4. I've posted this message to the CVARC groups.io, so the CVARC membership should have this in their inboxes already.

73,
 Martin AJ6CL
 CVARC Operations

Here is the unofficial <https://contestlinescore.com/clubs/> listing as of 6/30/20. Please note that many K6MEP members didn't use N3FJP's Amateur Radio Software and link their results to the contest online score* (Denney, Clem, Stewart, etc.).

56	Ventura County ARC	2,052
	K6QV	874
	KA6BJA	656
	W6JPG	420
	WA6EJO	48
	KM6RSS	38
	KD6ASL	16
2	All Ventura County	8,050
	K6QV	874
	AG6AG	864
	W6RH	824
	KA6BJA	656

Kudos to Ben K6QV for having the highest overall total for Ventura County (see * above) and to Burt KA6BJA, who did extraordinarily well as this was his FIRST Field Day (last year as a visitor he assisted installing the masts and observing the members, joining the club in August 2019).



Field Day 2020 Photos



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(Cont. on

Field Day 2020 Photos (Cont. from page 5)



Selected July Contests & Special Events

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

Bruce Draper, AA5B, aa5b.corral@gmail.com

Contest Corral

July 2020

Check for updates and a downloadable PDF version online at www.arrl.org/contest-calendar.

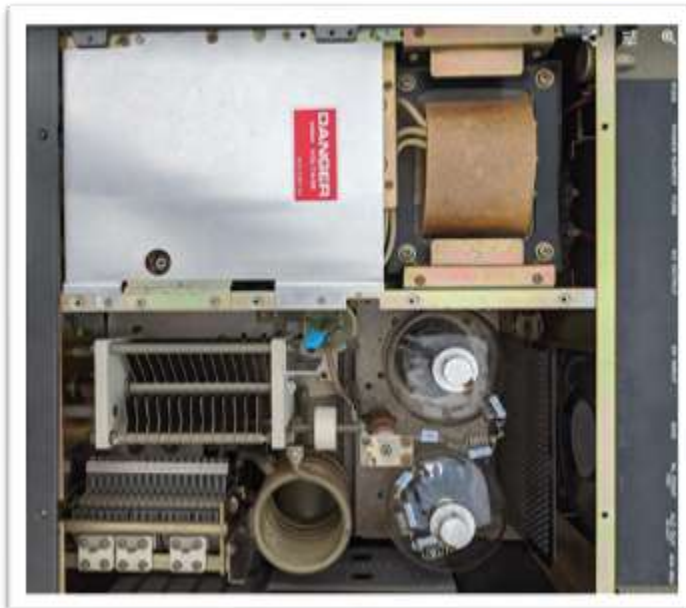
Refer to the contest websites for full rules, scoring information, operating periods or time limits, and log submission information.

Start - Finish	Date-Time	Date-Time	Bands	Contest Name	Mode	Exchange	Sponsor's Website
1	0000	1 2359	1.8-144	RAC Canada Day Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), VE province/territory or serial	rac.ca/our-programs
2	1700	2 2100	28	NRAU 10-Meter Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid square	nrau.net/activity-contests
2	1900	2 2100	1.8-50	SKCC Sprint Europe	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	www.skccgroup.com
4	0000	4 0400	3.5-28	FISTS Summer Slow Speed Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	fistsna.org
4	0900	5 0859	3.5	YBDCX 80-Meter Contest	Ph	RS, serial	80m.ybdcxcontest.com
4	1100	5 1059	3.5-28	DL-DX RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, serial	www.drog.de/dldxrtty
4	1400	5 1400	1.8-28	Marconi Memorial HF Contest	CW	RST, serial	arifano.it/contest_marconi.html
4	1500	5 1500	3.5-14	Original QRP Contest	CW	RST, serial, power category	www.qrpcc.de/contestrules
4	2000	5 2000	7	PODXS 070 Club 40-Meter Firecracker Sprint	Dig	RST, SPC	www.podxs070.com
6	0100	6 0300	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, power	arsqrp.blogspot.com
6	1900	6 2030	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
11	0000	11 0400	3.5-28	FISTS Summer Unlimited Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	www.fistsna.org
11	1200	12 1200	1.8-28	IARU HF World Championship	CW Ph	HQ stations: RS(T), IARU Society Others: RS(T), ITU zone	arrl.org/iaru-hf-world-championship
11	1200	12 2359	1.8-50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
12	2000	12 2300	1.8-28	QRP ARCI Summer Homebrew Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	qrparki.org
13	0000	13 0200	1.8-28	4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, mbr or power	www.4sqrp.com
15	1900	15 2030	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
16	0030	16 0230	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	naqcc.info
18	0700	18 1459	7-28	Russian Radio Team Championship	CW Ph	RS(T), 3-char code or ITU zone	srr.ru/championat-rossli-poradiosvyazi-na-kv-rttc
18	0800	18 1400	1.8-7	Trans-Tasman Low-Bands Challenge	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), serial	wia.org.au/members/contests
18	1200	18 1359	1.8-50	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig	RST, mbr, SPC, grid	sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub
18	1800	19 0559	3.5-28	North American QSO Party, RTTY	Dig	Name, state/DC/province/country	www.ncjweb.com/haqp
18	1800	19 2100	50, 144	CQ Worldwide VHF Contest	CW Ph Dig	4-char grid square	www.cqww-vhf.com
19	0900	19 1600	3.5-14	RSGB Low Power Contest	CW	RST, serial, power	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
19	1900	19 2359	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	qrpcontest.com/pigrun
19	2000	19 2159	14	CQC Great Colorado Gold Rush	CW	RST, SPC	www.coloradoqrpclub.org
22	0000	22 0200	1.8-28	SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	www.skccgroup.com
23	1900	23 2030	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, Data	Dig	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
25	1200	26 1200	3.5-28	RSGB IOTA Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial, IOTA number (if applicable)	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
26	1700	26 2100	7-28	ARS Flight of the Bumblebees	CW	RST, SPC, power or bumblebee number	www.arsqrp.blogspot.com
27	1300	27 1400	1.8-28	QCX Challenge	CW	RST, name, SPC, rig	www.qrp-labs.com/party.html
27	1900	27 2000	1.8-28	QCX Challenge	CW	RST, name, SPC, rig	www.qrp-labs.com/party.html
27	1900	27 2030	3.5	RSGB FT4 Contest Series	Dig	4-char grid square	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
28	0300	28 0400	1.8-28	QCX Challenge	CW	RST, name, SPC, rig	www.qrp-labs.com/party.html

All dates refer to UTC and may be different from calendar dates in North America. Contests are not conducted on the 60-, 30-, 17-, or 12-meter bands. Mbr = Membership number. Serial = Sequential number of the contact. SPC = State, Province, DXCC Entity. XE = Mexican state. Listings in blue indicate contests sponsored by ARRL or NCJ. The latest time to make a valid contest QSO is the minute listed in the "Finish Time" column. Data for Contest Corral is maintained on the WA7BNM Contest Calendar at www.contestcalendar.com and is extracted for publication in QST 2 months prior to the month of the contest. ARRL gratefully acknowledges the support of Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, in providing this service.

Available Gear

The club has a new in-the-box (just the box is a little worn) Hustler 6-BTV. The asking price \$50.00 (it sells for \$250.00 at HRO and there's a discount for club member who is going to use it (not re-sell it). The club also has a 450 MHz Ringo Ranger antenna; the asking price \$30.00 with a serious discount for a club member who is going to use the antenna (and not re-sell it). The club has a Kenwood TL-922A linear amplifier. The price is \$700.00 , not tested and as-is. Denney N6HV



Yaesu FT-8 and accessories for sale
Please contact Ron K8YAK
ycocet1@cox.net

From the W7UJS Donation
Yaesu VX-3R HT Dual Band 2m/440 whip antenna
w/2 chargers, manual
3 HT Dual Band 'Rubber Duck' antennas
4" external speaker w/mag mount
Mag mount system for large mobile HF antenna
Arrow Handheld Yagi Dual Band Antenna
Please contact Stewart KG6BOV
Kg6bov@arrl.net

Equipment Tech and Operator Manuals
I have a large collection of radio tech manuals and operator manuals from Alinco / Icom / Kenwood / Yaesu and others. All are PDF format.
Stewart
KG6BOV@arrl.net

- **Upcoming FCC Exam Session Preparations**

Upcoming FCC Exam Session Preparation

- LICENSING CLASS
07/01/2020 | Cerritos CA 90703
Start/End Dates: 07/01/2020 - 07/22/2020
Times: 7pm to 9pm
of Sessions: 4
Class level: Technician
[Learn More](#)
- LICENSING CLASS
07/19/2020 | Agoura Hills CA 91302
Start/End Dates: 07/19/2020 - 07/19/2020
Times: 9am to 3pm
of Sessions: 1
Class level: Technician
[Learn More](#)

GLAARG is offering remote testing; see <https://glaarg.org/remote-sessions/> for details)

• 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 Test Sites

- EXAM SESSION
07/04/2020 | Van Nuys CA 91405-4542
Sponsor: ARES LAX
Location: Valley Presbyterian Hospital (Health Education Center)
Time: 11:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
[Learn More](#)
- EXAM SESSION
07/11/2020 | Pasadena CA 91105-3010
Sponsor: ARES LAX
Location: Huntington Hospital Check in Wingate Info Desk
Time: 11:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
[Learn More](#)
- EXAM SESSION
07/11/2020 | Santa Monica CA 90405-6130
Sponsor: PAPA Repeater System
Location: Spitfire Grill
Time: 7:00 AM (No Walk-ins / Call ahead)
[Learn More](#)
- EXAM SESSION
07/11/2020 | Santa Monica CA 90405-6130
Sponsor: The PAPA system
Location: Fromin's Deli and Rest
Time: 7:00 AM (No Walk-ins / Call ahead)
[Learn More](#)
- EXAM SESSION
07/16/2020 | Huntington Beach CA 92647-4359
Sponsor: West Coast ARC
Location: Community United Methodist Church
Time: 5:30 PM (No Walk-ins / Call ahead)
[Learn More](#)
- EXAM SESSION
07/16/2020 | La Habra CA 90631-5401
Sponsor: Western ARA
Location: La Habra Community Center
Time: 6:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
[Learn More](#)
- EXAM SESSION
07/18/2020 | Valencia CA 91355-2008
Sponsor: Santa Clarita Amt Radio Club
Location: United Methodist Church of Valencia
Time: 8:00 AM (No Walk-ins / Call ahead)
[Learn More](#)
- EXAM SESSION
07/18/2020 | Weldon CA 93283-9697
Sponsor: Sequoia Amt Radio Group
Location: Valley Estates Community Ctr
Time: 11:00 AM (No Walk-ins / Call ahead)
[Learn More](#)
- EXAM SESSION
07/19/2020 | Calabasas CA 91301-5332
Sponsor: Goodkin Ham Radio Classes
Location: Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center
Time: 2:30 PM (No Walk-ins / Call ahead)
[Learn More](#)
- EXAM SESSION
07/25/2020 | La Verne CA 91750-5846
Sponsor: Tri-County ARA
Location: Brackett Airport Pilot's Lounge
Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
[Learn More](#)
- EXAM SESSION
07/26/2020 | Calabasas CA 91301-5332
Sponsor: Goodkin Ham Radio Classes
Location: Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center
Time: 8:00 AM (No Walk-ins / Call ahead)
[Learn More](#)

Trivia for July 2020

Did you know???

1. 1896 Henry Ford drove his quadmobile?
2. There is 2000 species of snakes in the world?
3. Did you know that apple juice and apple cider are the same. Some people like "cider" during the holidays, so a different label is placed on the bottle.

Happy 4th of July

Be safe and sane.

Dana KG6WXE

Calendar July 2020

4: Independence Day

6: K6MEP Monday Night Net, ACS/ARES District Meeting on Zoom (details TBA)

7: ACS/ARES Tuesday Night Net

12: 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 will be a Zoom video meeting at 20:30 (see groups.io)

13: K6MEP Monday Night Net

14: ACS/ARES Tuesday Night Net

20: K6MEP Monday Night Net

21: ACS/ARES Tuesday Night Net

27: K6MEP Monday Night Net

28: ACS/ARES Tuesday Night Net

Repeated from June's Keyer

From: main@vc-acs.groups.io

[mailto:main@vc-acs.groups.io] On Behalf

Of Sheldon, Stuart - AG6AG

Updated per email 07/01/20:

Just wanted to update everyone about the Auxiliary _Bored_ Meeting. The participation in these gatherings has been remarkable. To date we have over 600 check-ins with over 100 individual operators participating over the last several weeks. We now link the Bozo Repeater with Paul's (WD6EBY) repeater network for the 09:00 (M-Sat) and the 21:00 meetup (Saturday only but not on July 4th). Many thanks to Paul and the PVARC repeater group.

The gatherings take place 6 days a week at 09:00, Monday through Saturday and 21:00 on Saturday (not on 7/4).

The Bozo Repeater operates with the following settings:

Frequency: 147.885MHz

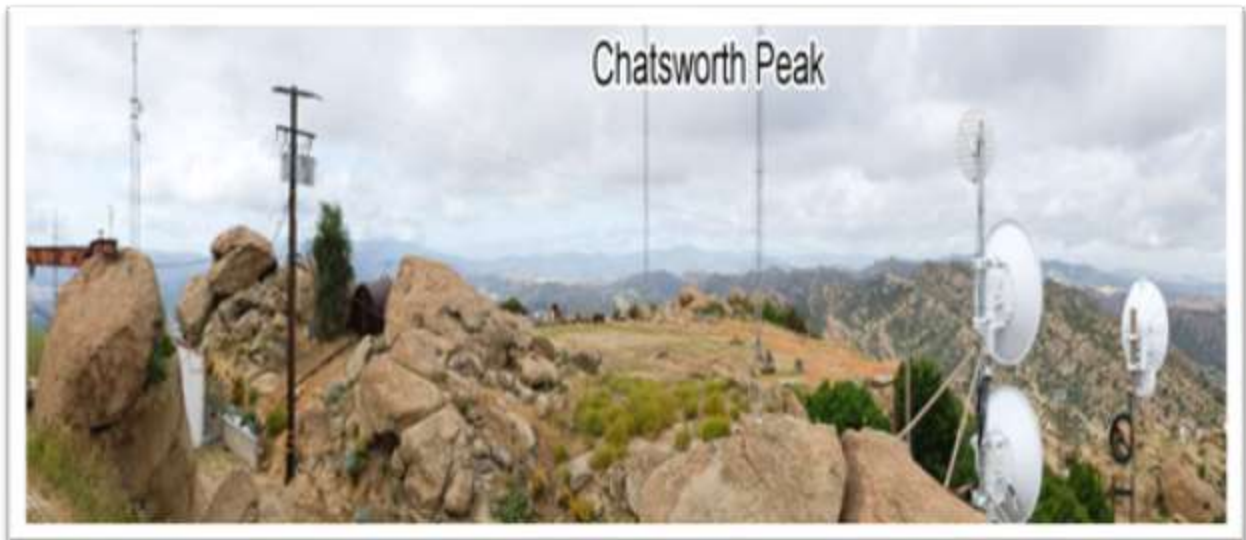
Offset: -

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

Eric Casey, KC2ERC, ecasey@arrl.org; www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar

Convention and Hamfest Calendar

Abbreviations

Spr = Sponsor
Ti = Talk-in frequency
Adm = Admission

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, many organizations are canceling or rescheduling events. This is the information we had at the time we went to press. We suggest you contact the event organizer to confirm. — *Ed.*

ROCKY MOUNTAIN DIVISION CONVENTION

August 7 – 9, Parker, CO

D H Q R S

7 AM. *Spr*: HamCon Colorado. CU Denver South, 10035 S Peoria St. *Ti*: RMHam "Wide" (DRM) and Colo Connection. HamCon Colorado *Adm*: Advance \$40, door \$50. www.hamconcolorado.com

Florida (Milton) — July 10 – 11 **D H R T V**

Fri. noon – 7 PM, Sat. 8 AM – 1 PM. *Spr*: Milton ARC. Santa Rosa County Auditorium, 4350 Spikes Way. *Ti*: 145.49 (100 Hz). *Adm*: \$6. www.miltonarc.org

Illinois (Carlinville) — Aug. 1 **D F H Q R S T V**

6 AM – 12:30 PM. *Spr*s: Macoupin County ARC, Montgomery County ARC, Okaw Valley ARC, Sangamon Valley ARC. Macoupin County Fairgrounds, 21149 State Rte. 4. *Ti*: 444.25 (103.5 Hz). *Adm*: \$5. www.k9mce.com

Illinois (Paloma) — Aug. 8 **D F H R T V**

8 AM – noon. *Spr*: West Illinois ARC. Paloma Shelter House, 1825 E. 1635th St. *Ti*: 147.03 (103.5 Hz). *Adm*: \$7. <http://www.w9awe.org/Swapfest.pdf>

Illinois (Peotone) — Aug. 2 **D F H R S T V**

6 AM – 1 PM. *Spr*: Hamfesters RC. Will County Fairgrounds, 710 S. West St. *Ti*: 146.52, 442.45 (114.8 Hz). *Adm*: Advance \$8, door \$10. www.hamfesters.org

Indiana (Angola) — Aug. 8 **F H R T**

8 – 11 AM. *Spr*: Land of Lakes ARC, LLC. Gateway Community Church, 225 N. Gerald Lett Ave. *Ti*: 147.18 (131.8 Hz). *Adm*: \$5.

Indiana (Auburn) — July 11 **D H T**

9 AM – 3 PM. *Spr*: Northeastern Indiana ARA. Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum, 1600 S. Wayne St. *Ti*: 147.015. *Adm*: \$5, children under 12 are free. www.w9ou.org

IOWA STATE CONVENTION

August 8 – 9, Central City, IA

D F H Q R S T V

Sat. 8 AM – 5 PM, Sun. 8 AM – 3 PM. *Spr*: Cedar Valley ARC. Linn County Fairgrounds, 201 Central City Rd. *Ti*: 146.52 (192.8 Hz). *Adm*: \$10. www.w0gq.org/hamfest

Kentucky (Lexington) — Aug. 8 **D F H Q R S V**

7 AM – 3 PM. *Spr*: Bluegrass ARS. Jackpot Bingo, 1230 Eastland Dr. *Ti*: 146.76. *Adm*: Advanced \$5, door \$6. www.bluegrassars.org

Louisiana (Slidell) — July 24 – 25 **D F H R S V**

Fri. 2 – 5 PM, Sat. 8 AM – 2 PM. *Spr*: Ozone ARC. Slidell Auditorium, 2056 2nd St. *Ti*: 147.27 (114.8 Hz). *Adm*: \$5. www.w5sla.net

Michigan (Escanaba) — Aug. 1 **D F H R S**

9 AM – 2 PM. *Spr*: Delta County ARS. Bay de Noc Community College, 2001 N. Lincoln Rd. *Ti*: 147.15 (100 Hz). *Adm*: \$5. www.k8pl.org

Michigan (Gladwin) — July 25 **D F R**

10 AM – 3 PM. *Spr*: Gladwin Area ARC. Gladwin City Park Activity Center, 240 City Park St. *Ti*: 147.18 (173.8 Hz). *Adm*: \$5.

Michigan (Temperance) — July 11 **D F H R**

9 AM – 1 PM. *Spr*: Northwest Ohio Black Swamp Radio Society. St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 1690 W. Stearns Rd. *Ti*: 146.42. *Adm*: \$5.

Minnesota (Roseville) — July 11 **F R T V**

8 AM – noon. *Spr*: Galilee Lutheran Church, 145 N. McCarrons Blvd. *Ti*: 145.17. *Adm*: Free. www.magicrepeater.net/fest.htm

Missouri (O'Fallon) — Aug. 9 **D F H R V**

7 AM – 12 PM. *Spr*: St. Charles ARC. Elks Lodge, 1163 Tom Ginnever Ave. *Ti*: 146.67, 145.33. *Adm*: \$5 for one ticket, \$20 for five tickets. www.wb0hsi.org/hamfest

Missouri (Warrensburg) — July 18 **D H R S T**

8 AM – 1 PM. *Spr*s: WAAACI, Johnson County ARS, Mo-Kan Council. Johnson County Fairground Rural Youth Community Center. *Ti*: 146.88 (107.2 Hz) *Adm*: Free. www.waarci.org

MONTANA STATE CONVENTION

July 16 – 19, Essex, MT

D F H Q R S T V

8 AM – 8 PM. *Spr*: GFAARC. Glacier Meadow RV Park, 15735 US Hwy. 2. *Ti*: 146.52. *Adm*: Advance \$15, door \$20.

New Jersey (Augusta) — July 12 **D F H Q R T V**

8 AM – 2 PM. *Spr*: Sussex County ARC, Inc. Sussex County Fairgrounds, 37 Plains Rd. *Ti*: 147.3 (151.4 Hz). *Adm*: \$8. www.scarcnj.org/hamfest.html

New York (Alexander) — July 18 **D F H R T V**

6 AM. *Spr*: Lancaster ARC. Alexander Fire Department Grounds, 10708 Alexander Rd. (Rte. 98). *Ti*: 147.285 (141.3 Hz). *Adm*: \$8. www.w2so.org

New York (Deerfield) — July 26 **D F H R T V**

8 AM – noon. *Spr*: Utica ARC. Deerfield Fire Department Grounds, 5476 Trenton Rd. *Ti*: 146.76. *Adm*: \$5. www.uticaarc.com

New York (Syracuse) — July 11 **D F H R T V**

7:30 AM – 12:30 PM. *Spr*: Radio Amateurs of Greater Syracuse. Lakeside Fire Station, 1002 State Fair Blvd. *Ti*: 146.91/31 (103.5 Hz). *Adm*: \$5. www.ragsclub.org

A = AUCTION

D = DEALERS / VENDORS

F = FLEA MARKET

H = HANDICAP ACCESS

Q = FIELD CHECKING OF QSL CARDS

R = REFRESHMENTS

S = SEMINARS / PRESENTATIONS

T = TAILGATING

V = VE SESSIONS

New York (Trumansburg) — Aug. 1 DFHRTV
7 AM – 2 PM. *Spr:* Tompkins County ARA. Trumansburg Fairgrounds, 2150 Trumansburg-Ithaca Rd. (NYS Rte. 96). *Tl:* 146.97, 146.146, 146.37 (103.5 Hz). *Adm:* \$5. www.tcara-ny.org

North Carolina (Cary) — July 18 DFHRTV
8 AM – 1 PM. *Spr:* Cary ARC. Ritter Park, 301 W. Lochmere Dr. *Tl:* 146.88 -.6. *Adm:* \$4. www.caryarc.org

North Carolina (Fayetteville) — Aug. 8 DFHRTV
8 AM – noon. *Spr:* Cape Fear ARS. Cumberland County Shrine Club, 7040 Ramsey St. *Tl:* 146.91 (100 Hz). *Adm:* Free. www.cfarsnc.org

North Carolina (Salisbury) — July 11 DFHRTV
8 AM – 2 PM. *Spr:* Rowan ARS. Salisbury Civic Center, 315 Martin Luther King Ave. S. *Tl:* 145.41 (136.5 Hz). *Adm:* Advance \$4, door \$5. www.rowanars.com

North Carolina (Waynesville) — July 25 DFHRTV
8 AM – 2 PM. *Spr:* Western Carolina ARS. Haywood County Fairgrounds, 758 Crabtree Rd. *Tl:* No talk-in. *Adm:* Advance \$5, door \$7. www.wcars.org/wcarshamfest.htm

Ohio (Ravenna) — July 26 DFHRV
8 AM – 2:30 PM. *Spr:* Portage ARC. Maplewood Career Center, 7075 State Rte 88. *Tl:* 144.79 (145.39 Hz). *Adm:* \$5. www.hamfair.com

OHIO SECTION CONVENTION

August 8, Tallmadge, OH

DFHQRSTV
7 AM – 2 PM. *Spr:* DX Engineering. DX Engineering, 1200 Southeast Ave. *Tl:* 146.985. *Adm:* \$Free. www.dxengineering.com

Ohio (Van Wert) — July 19 DFHRT
8 AM – 1 PM. *Spr:* Van Wert ARC. Van Wert County Fairgrounds, 1055 S. Washington St. *Tl:* 146.25/.85. *Adm:* \$5. www.w8fy.org

OKLAHOMA STATE CONVENTION

July 24 – 25, Oklahoma City, OK

DFHRSV
Fri. 3 – 10 PM, Sat. 8 AM – 3 PM. *Spr:* Central Oklahoma Radio Amateurs. Oklahoma City Community College, 7777 S. May Ave. *Tl:* 147.21 (141.3 Hz). *Adm:* Advanced \$10, door \$12. www.hamholiday.com

Pennsylvania (Chambersburg) — July 25 DFHQRSTV
8 AM – noon, license exam at 1 PM. *Spr:* Cumberland Valley ARC. Cumberland Valley Engine and Machinery Association Showgrounds, 1501 Crider's Church Rd. *Tl:* 147.12 (100 Hz). *Adm:* \$5. www.w3ach.org

Pennsylvania (Kimberton) — July 11 DHRTV
8 AM. *Spr:* Mid-Atlantic ARC. Kimberton Fire Company Fairgrounds, 762 Pike Springs Rd. *Tl:* 145.13, 147.06 (both 131.8 Hz). *Adm:* \$7. www.marc-radio.org

Pennsylvania (Somerset) — July 19 DFHRTV
8 AM – 1PM. *Spr:* Somerset County ARC. Somerset County Technology Center, 281 Technology Dr. *Tl:* 147.195 (123 Hz). *Adm:* \$5. www.k3smt.org/hamfest/famfest.htm

Pennsylvania (Uniontown) — Aug. 8 DFHRTV
8 AM – 2 PM. *Spr:* Uniontown ARC. Uniontown ARC Clubhouse, 433 Old Pittsburgh Rd. *Tl:* 147.045 (131.8 Hz). *Adm:* Free. www.w3pie.org

South Dakota (Sioux Falls) — July 18 FHRT
8 AM – noon. *Spr:* Sioux Empire ARC. Marlin's Truck Stop, 47056 271st St. *Tl:* 146.895 (146.2 Hz). *Adm:* Free. www.w0zwy.org

Tennessee (Lebanon) — July 25 DFHQRSTV
8 AM – 3 PM. *Spr:* Wilson County ARC, Inc. James E. Ward Agricultural Center, 945 E. Baddour Pkwy. *Tl:* 147.105 (156.7 Hz). *Adm:* \$5. www.midtnhamquest.com

Texas (Texas City) — July 11 DFHQRSTV
9 AM – 1 PM. *Spr:* Tidelands ARS. Doyle Convention Center, 2101 5th Ave. N. *Tl:* 147.14 (167.9 Hz), 442.025 (103.5 Hz). *Adm:* Advance \$4, door \$5. www.tidelands.org

Virginia (Berryville) — Aug. 2 DFHQRSTV
8 AM – 4 PM. *Spr:* Shenandoah Valley ARC. Clarke County Ruritan Fairgrounds, 890 W. Main St. *Tl:* 146.82 (146.2 Hz). *Adm:* \$10. www.svarc.us/hamfest

Virginia (Salem) — Aug. 1 DFHRV
8 AM – noon. *Spr:* Roanoke Valley ARC. American Legion Post 3, 710 Apperson Dr. *Tl:* 146.985 (107.2 Hz). *Adm:* Free. www.roanokehamfest.info

West Virginia (Huntington) — Aug. 8 DFHQRSTV
8:30 AM – 1:30 PM. *Spr:* Tri-State ARA, Inc. New Baptist Church, 610 28th St. *Tl:* 146.76/16. *Adm:* \$5, children under 12 are free. www.qsl.net/w8va

Wisconsin (Onalaska) — Aug. 8 DHQRSTV
8 AM – 1 PM. *Spr:* Riverland ARC. Onalaska American Legion, 731 Sand Lake Rd. *Tl:* 146.97 (131.8 Hz). *Adm:* \$5.

Wisconsin (Racine) — Aug. 8 DFHRT
6 AM – 1 PM. *Spr:* Racine Megacycle Club. Greater Racine Kennel Club, 6320 Six Mile Rd. *Tl:* 147.27 (127.3 Hz). *Adm:* Free. www.w9udu.org

To All Event Sponsors

Before making a final decision on a date for your event, you are encouraged to check the Hamfest and Convention Database (www.arri.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar) for events that may already be scheduled in your area on that date. You are also encouraged to register your event with HQ as far in advance as your planning permits. See www.arri.org/hamfest-convention-application for an online registration form. Dates may be recorded up to 2 years in advance.

Events that are sanctioned by ARRL receive special benefits, including an announcement in these listings and online. Sanctioned conventions are also listed in *The ARRL Letter*. In addition, events receive donated ARRL prize certificates and handouts. Once the form has been submitted, your ARRL Director will decide whether to approve the date and provide ARRL sanction.

The deadline for receipt of items for this column is the **1st of the second month preceding publication date**. For example, your information must arrive at HQ by **July 1** to be listed in the **September** issue. Information in this column is accurate as of our deadline; contact the sponsor or check the sponsor's website for possible late changes, driving directions, and other event details. Please note that postal regulations prohibit mention in QST of games of chance, such as raffles or bingo.

Promoting your event is guaranteed to increase attendance. As an approved event sponsor, you are entitled to special discounted rates on QST display advertising and ARRL web banner advertising. Call ARRL's toll-free number at 1-800-243-7768, or email ads@arri.org.

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)
- ERV's: 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)IS-36 [Multi-hazard Planning for Childcare](#) - (10/31/2013)
- IS-42 [Social Media in Emergency Management](#) - (10/31/2013)
- IS-75 [Military Resources in Emergency Management](#) - (2/25/2011)
- IS-100.b [Introduction to Incident Command System, ICS-100](#) - (10/31/2013)
- IS-111.a [Livestock in Disasters](#) - (10/31/2013)
- IS-144 [Telecommunicators Emergency Response Taskforce \(TERT\) Basic Course](#) - (10/31/2013)
- IS-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

WD6EBY SP 145.420 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

K4NGL 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.



The Net Difference...by Wayne Woodhams N6WIX

A few weeks ago I was asked to assist with the information and perhaps perspective of the information regarding “nets” and net operations available to amateur radio operators who live in this general area, and who receive the K6MEP Newsletter. The editor, Robert KM6RSS, passed on this request to me, and after some discussion and careful thought, I accepted his request. In this July issue I want to provide just a short overview of what I will share with the readers of this newsletter that hopefully will be of interest and benefit to all. I have chosen to call my monthly contributions, “The Net Difference”, simply because nets are an important part of the entire amateur radio experience, and how you deal with them shapes that experience.

Here’s just a very brief word or two about my background, for those who don’t know me. This is my 45th year enjoying amateur radio. Amateur Radio is an incredible activity, hobby, and service. It is not a spectator sport, but a participating “player” activity, and nets fall into that category, as well. I have participated in, initiated, and restructured quite a number of nets over the years, and to me they represent part of the “pursuit of excellence” that is the cornerstone perspective of my entire life. If you were to visit my house, you would see that perspective in just about all that I do, including amateur radio, music, audio sound, and some of the technical issues I work on. I don’t brag or complain about this perspective. It’s just simply who I am.

Here’s what I would like to contribute, as part of what was asked of me.

- 1) Correct Net listings, in terms of important detail (date, time, frequency, etc.)
- 2) General Promotion of all nets, but especially those that readers/members are perhaps not aware of, and participate in.
- 3) Thoughts of why specific nets are important.
- 4) The opportunities and responsibilities for participating in both general nets, and specific ones.
- 5) How to deal with nets.
- 6) The benefits (what you get from participation)
- 7) Specific net functions, such as net control, control protocols, relays (including both single and stacked relays, and signal reporting.
- 8) How each person can contribute, change, or initiate a net, should that be a personal interest.

That’s just a short list of what I will be focusing on. Of course, I won’t be doing that all in one month, but focusing on a single issue or two each month.

I will be fully open to ideas, contributions, or suggestions from anyone, and I can be contacted as follows:

Email: w.wixman@yahoo.com

Cell phone: 805-701-4103. As backup, you can contact me via my wife’s cell number which is similar to mine (805-701-4108). She keeps her cell phone with her at all times, which I do not! If you call her, just leave a message, and I will get back with you. Some of you may have another phone listing for us. That is no longer in place, as we dropped our landline for numerous reasons.

It is my great desire that “The Net Difference” will be helpful, useful, and a benefit to those who read and enjoy this newsletter.

73,

Wayne Woodhams, N6WIX

Ventura

Local Area Radio Weekly Nets by Wayne Woodhams, N6WIX

Monday

Cuckoo Net **146.790 MHz (-) 131.8 Hz PL and 145.180 MHz (-) 131.8 Hz PL** MTWThF from 08:00 Hrs

Auxiliary Bored Meeting: MTWThF at 09:00 and on Saturday (not on 7/4) at 21:00 Hrs : Bozo Repeater Frequency: **147.885 MHz Offset: -PL: 127.3**

California Rescue ARES Net **7.25 MHz** MTWThF 08:30 Hrs

Santa Barbara South County ARES net 19:30 Hrs on **146.79 MHz (-) PL 131.8.**

Southwest ACS Nets Every Monday at 18:30 Hrs, on a local station on the Cactus Intertye Network. Check-in by roll call. 4th Monday "grid test" 20:30 Hrs.

LA DCS-22 Net – 19:30 Hrs - **K6DCS - 147.225 MHz (+)** then on **7.2353 MHz LSB**

K6MEP Net -20:00 Hrs **145.200 MHz (-) 127.3 PL**

CESN (California Emergency Services Net) at 20:00 Hrs **Primary frequency - 3992 kHz, Backup frequency - 3960 kHz.** All free to listen, check-in by membership only.

LA Section ARES Net - HF Every Monday following the VHF/UHF net (21:30 Hrs) 1st. 3rd and 4th Monday - **75 meters 3.995 MHz (± 45 kHz) / 2nd Monday -10 meters 28.495 MHz**

Tuesday

Cuckoo Net **146.790 MHz (-) 131.8 Hz PL and 145.180 MHz (-) 131.8 Hz PL** MTWThF from 08:00 Hrs

California Rescue ARES Net **7.250 MHz** MTWThF 08:30 Hrs

Ventura County ARES-ACS 6 Meter Net - between 18:45 Hrs to 19:00 Hrs **K6SMR 52.980 MHz (-) PL 82.5** SMRA Red Mt

Ventura County ARES-ACS Simplex Net - 18:30 Hrs on **147.510 MHz Simplex** ORT schedule only

Ventura County ARES-ACS HF Net - between 18:30 Hrs to 19:00 Hrs 40M on **7.235 MHz LSB +/-**

Ventura County ARES/ACS Nets between 19:00 and 20:00 Hrs. The County-wide net starts at 19:30 Hrs and normally finishes by 20:00 Hrs on **WD6EBY 145.200 MHz (-) /127.3 PL**

SBARC Swap Net **146.790 MHz (-) / 131.8 Hz PL and 145.180 MHz (-) / 131.8 Hz PL** 19:30-20:00 Hrs

West SB ARES HF Net (1st Tuesday, Monthly) **3822 kHz LSB** 20:30 Hrs

6-Meter Roundtable - **50.125 MHz USB** First Tuesday of each month 20:00 Hrs

ATV Net 20:30 Hrs **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** MTWThF from 08:00 Hrs

California Rescue ARES Net **7.25 MHz** MTWThF 08:30 Hrs

CESN (California Emergency Services Net 10:00 Hours, Primary frequency 7192 kHz, Backup frequency - 7230 kHz All free to listen, check-in by membership only.

SMRA Tech Net **146.880 MHz (-) / 127.3 PL** (SMRA Red Mt) 20:00 Hrs

SBARC Swap Net **146.790 MHz (-) / 131.8 Hz PL** K872 20:00 Hrs

Teamtalk Voice Net.20:00 Hrs 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** MTWThF from 08:00 Hrs

California Rescue ARES Net **7.25 MHz** MTWThF 08:30 Hrs

So Cal 6 meter net. **51.940 MHz - pl 82.5.** 19:00-20:00 Hrs

Southern Calif 6M SSB Technical Roundtable Net 20:00 Hrs on **50.2 MHz USB SSB**

SBARC / K6TZ Technical Mentoring Net 20:00-21:00 Hrs **146.790 MHz (-) / 131.8 Hz PL and 224.08 MHz (-) 131.8 PL** (linked)

Friday

Cuckoo Net **146.790 MHz (-) 131.8 Hz PL and 145.180 MHz (-) 131.8 Hz PL** MTWThF from 08:00 Hrs

California Rescue ARES Net **7.250 MHz** MTWThF 08:30 Hrs

Saturday

Military Radio Collector Net 18:00 Hrs **3985 kHz AM** vavw.mrcuwestord/mrca-radio-nets/

Sunday

ARRL Southwestern Division Net 08:00 Hrs 3965 MHz. ARRL Officers check in first. All visitors welcome at end of that net

Newbie Net 19:00-19:30 Hrs Bozo Repeater **147.885 MHz (-) PL127.3**

Rabbit Net 19:00 Hrs Linked Rabbit repeater.

NEWS FROM PVARC

Hello All,

It's been a unique time for us all and I hope you are coping well with the socialization restrictions. During this time PVARC has continued to plan, build, maintain, update and also expand its support to the Amateur Radio Community. I have included some of the projects we have been working on.

May 2020, Duplexers

I received a gracious donation of three VHF duplexers to use for supporting Amateur Radio repeaters in Ventura County. These units are all in excellent mechanical and electrical condition. The units were used in VHF commercial service and can easily be returned for Amateur Radio service as they have a tuning frequency range between 144MHz to 174MHz. Confirming they tuned them to an Amateur Repeater test repeater frequency and they perform as expected.

Average tuning results:

TX Port - <1.1db insertion loss, -71db rejection

RX Port - <1.4db insertion loss- -68db rejection

I did have to make a small repair on one cavities Johanson' tuning capacitors. I could not be happier with the duplexers performance. One of the duplexers was just put into service on a new repeater. See below.



May 2020, Rasnow Peak

I made a visit to Rasnow Peak for a little general site maintenance. While there I reset the
(Cont. on page 22)

NEWS FROM PVARC (Cont. from page 21)

audio levels of the Radio Over Internet (ROIP) JPS NXU link interface between the Bozo Repeater and the PVARC network. After this adjustment the interconnect is providing proper audio levels and frequency response between the systems. Occasionally there is a interconnect dropout that is related to the interference on the 5GHz link between Rasnow Peak and the Camarillo Hills. While on site I did a VSWR check of the standalone PVARC 447.480 standalone repeater. The check was good so and I cleaned up, locked the building, came down the hill and went home. Later that night I tried the repeater and nothing. After some thought...OOPS...I forgot to turn-back-on the repeaters power supply. As soon as I can find some time I will go back to Rasnow Peak to turn on the power supply. I guess I need to add 'Check Power Supply' to my checklist before I leave a hilltop.

June 2020, Chatsworth Peak

Chatsworth Peak

This day saw two tasks completed, the site weed clearing and the acquisition of a VHF 4-Bay antenna. The two teams arrived at 8:00 am and we were off the hilltop by 11:00 pm. The day was foggy and cool, an excellent day for hilltop work. Weed clearing. The crew on the hilltop did a wonderful job of brushing clearing waking the weeds down to the dirt. Prior to the clearing it was difficult to access the hilltop building. Thank you for your time and support in this brush clearing. This days crew was Dean KD6IJJ, Nathan KN6ISM, Neil AF6CD, Frank KI6OQ, and Robert KM6RSS.

Tower/Antenna Work. There was a second team that removed a VHF 4 bay open dipole antenna from a 40 foot tower. This is a commercial VHF broadband antenna that is operational from 136 to 174 MHz. This antenna is less than 5 years old and is in excellent condition. I look forward to putting this into service at one of the repeater sites. Thank you to the tower team of Rob W6RH and Eric KE6MLF as the tower climbers and Keith W6KME and Roger WD6EVT as ground support. They were able to safely remove the antenna. The antenna removal was tried last fall but the winds came up and the project was halted. (Cont. on page 23)



NEWS FROM PVARC (Cont. from page 22)

The Chatsworth Peak UHF repeater has been experiencing a noisy RF transmitter. As it appeared that the Transmitter was the issue I installed a replacement unit. Well a day later the noise reappeared. More research and discussion with other repeater owners I think I have a corrective action. The radios I use for the repeaters use a Mini-UHF connector. Apparently these can arc and cause a burn mark in the connectors. Having only changed out the transmitters I never thought to look at the Male Mini-UHF connector used on the RG141 coax going to the transmitter. OK this makes sense; apparently I was never curing the problem. Next trip to the hilltop I will replace the jumper/connector going to the transmitter. While there I will inspect all connectors to make sure they have not been compromised. Just when you think you have everything figured out.

June 2020, Sulphur Mtn

The UHF repeater transmitter replaced as it was not generating a Reverse Burst with the PL tone. OK what is reverse burst? Just prior to the transmitter turning off the radios PL generator does a phase shift of the sine wave. The user receivers PL decoder will turn off sharply not hear any squelch burst when the repeater drops.

The HF remote station was reinstalled and again failed. I am trying to schedule a return trip to Sulphur see what can be done. Hopefully I can repair it on site.

The site backup batteries were checked and topped off with distilled water.

June 2020, Camarillo Hills

A weed clearing was performed at the entire property of the Camarillo Hills repeater site. While he was clearing the majority of his property he also did a second round of weed clearing around the repeater building. I followed up with a vegetation killer to try to keep the weeds in check.

I am looking to clean and paint the building in the fall. The building is holding up well but does need to be painted.

June 2020, Santa Paula

On Friday June 26, 2020 a new repeater was installed in Santa Paula.

WD6EBY SP CW ID

145.420MHz PL 127.3Hz Repeater Output

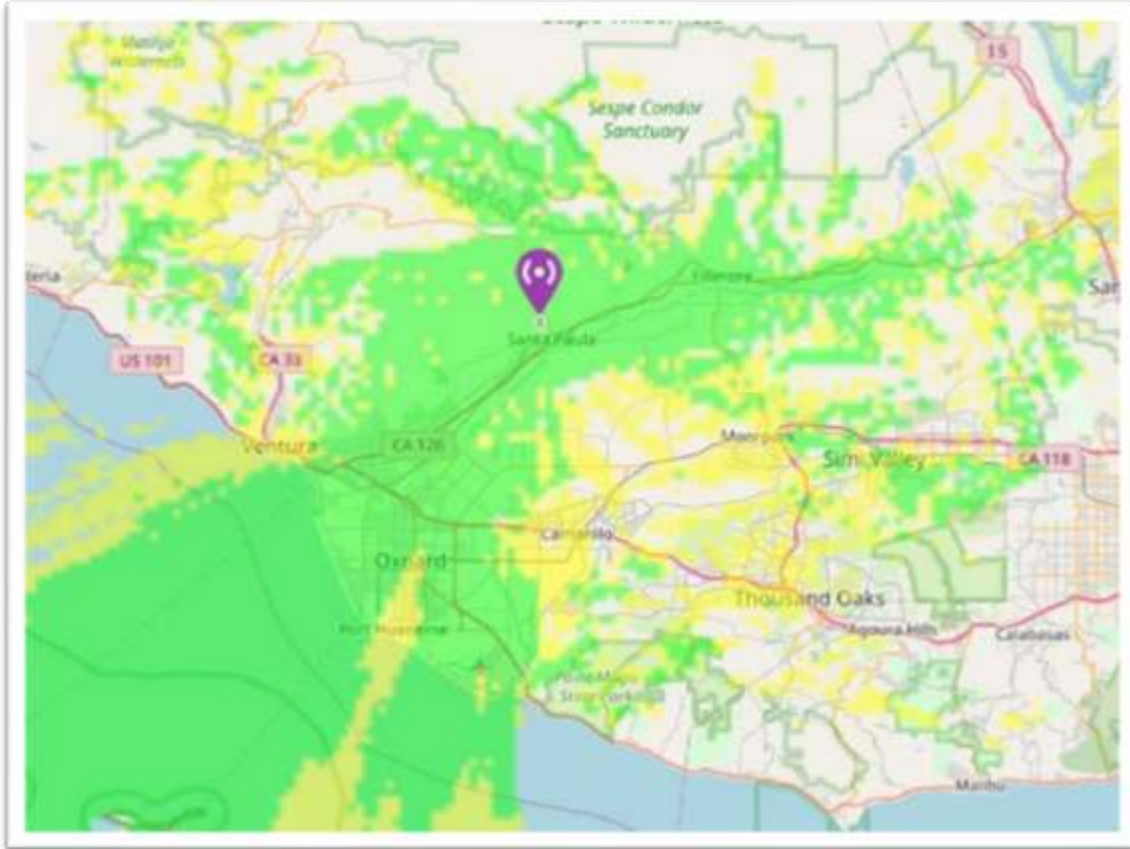
144.820MHz PL 127.3Hz Repeater Input

Due to controller availability, this is a temporary RF package and the repeater is currently operating as a standalone system. In time the system will be linked to the PVARC network and will have the ability to be un-linked as required. Shortly a Site UPS will be installed with a generator coming on line in the fall. After lunch I did a bit of coverage testing, within the Santa Paula area I could not find any area that my portable could not work the repeater. Next I did some driving coverage checks. My setup for this test is a 5-watt commercial hand held radio connected to a mag-mount dual band antenna on the roof of my vehicle. Coverage East on HWY 126 was great along the road into and through Fillmore. Driving into and through Piru still provided good coverage. I passed the LA County line on the 126 and coverage was still good. After a couple of miles into LA County I turned around, not because (Cont. on page 24)

NEWS FROM PVARC (Cont. from page 23)

the coverage ran out, but I did not want to go to Interstate 5. Now heading west I had good coverage through Saticoy, across the Santa Clara River Bridge, past Rio Mesa High School, and into the Costco gas station. Back on the 101 heading home coverage was great until just past Central Avenue where the repeater went away. I was really impressed with the coverage I was seeing using a 5-watt portable with a mag-mount antenna. As always, your performance may vary.

I want to thank Rich W7KI and Grant KG6SFW for their help today. Their work made for an easy installation.



May/June 2020, Antenna's

PVARC received a donation of two additional antennas. These are VHF 2 bay open dipole antennas. Just as the VHF antenna from Chatsworth Peak these are 136 to 174 MHz antennas and are in excellent condition and will provide excellent performance in the 2Mtr Amateur band. (Cont. on page 25)



NEWS FROM PVARC (Cont. from page 24)

All network nodes owned and managed by the Pleasant Valley ARC in Ventura County and the San Fernando Valley have been renamed to use the K6PVR club callsign.

We continue to have equipment failures impacting the network. Most of them have been failures of Ubiquiti EdgeSwitch network switches. In contrast, the Netonix switches we've deployed in Ventura County have been quite reliable. Another Netonix switch has been purchased and will replace a recently failed network switch on Verdugo Peak. That repair is tentatively scheduled for July 10th, and when completed will re-link Ventura and L.A. counties.

Another EdgeSwitch has failed on Mt. Wilson further dividing the network, but we don't manage that so it's not known how that repair will be effected.

Just prior to the Verdugo Peak switch going down, a VOIP PBX was placed at that site to provide service to phones in ham shacks in the San Fernando Valley. When the link is repaired, roll-out of phone services in the Valley will resume. At some point in the future the Sulphur Mountain PBX and the Valley PBX will be trunked together.

We're 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" :-). As part of that last project network coverage will be enhanced in the northwest corner of Simi Valley

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.

Thank you all for your time. If you have any questions do not hesitate to ask.

Paul Strauss WD6EBY
pgstrauss@verizon.net

Orv Beach W6BI
orv.beach@gmail.com



News from SB Section Manager John Kitchens NS6X

Yeah, I am your ARRL Section Manager, and I guess I am supposed to write something about that, but more importantly to me, my personal focus, is that I am writing this as a member of the K6MEP club, Ventura County Amateur Radio Club. I've been a member almost consecutively since about 1982. There was a hiccup about 20 years ago, when I was a board member. There was a small group of people who rewrote the by-laws that allowed the Board to change the by-laws without membership vote. The members provided money; the Board spent it as they wanted. Maybe a bit simplistic of a statement, but there was a member revolt. Mac Shroyer, K6VMN (SK) was not aware of the consequences of the by-laws changes, and I did not think that they would be enacted as they were being used.

The members appropriately revolted, but it became more than a reversal of what was being done. Sides were taken, politics were invoked. Other clubs became involved. Unfortunately, there seemed to be a radio club virus that spread throughout Southern California. Many clubs had similar problems. Some clubs folded, or lost traction.

ARRL time—doesn't this sound similar to what has been recently, and is still going on with the ARRL Headquarters management?

People stepped up and kept K6MEP in operation. Our club responded and has continued as the positive, friendly group we have today. A very simplistic overview, but for me, personally, I dropped out of ham radio clubs. I liked contests, specifically Field Day type operations for all contests.

I am finally getting around to organizing and cleaning my garage and storage stuff. I don't want to leave my mess for my kids to manage when I no longer am able to, or can't, do the organization. I found old ARRL contest championship certificates for K6MEP and the many VHF and HF contests we won, as a club. When I joined the club, we were focused on DX and contests. Mac K6VMN was on the DX Honor Roll. Ray Benny, N6VR opened his station for operators to learn contesting, working all ARRL and CQ Magazine HF contests. One of my first events was the ARRL DX Phone contest that we operated as a multi-single from Triunfo Peak. We operated many DX and VHF contests from Triunfo, winning our Section, Division and Nationally a few times. We set records for Sweepstakes Phone and CW contests. Our call is still on the VHF contest record rolls.

Before we moved from having meetings at the Oxnard Community Center, I was honored to hold all elected positions. Bob Cerasuolo, WA6IJZ (SK), was the "permanent" treasurer. When he moved to Arizona, there was quite a hole in the impetus and enthusiasm of the club. He had been a driving force for his desired club projects. He had many contacts, or thought he had many contacts. He was an entrepreneur, to be kind. He was a junk dealer, but to make money for the club, we had an annual booth at the Pt. Mugu Air Show selling sodas, a TRW-like annual swap meet, conferences and more. I took over the treasurer position when Bob left, but did not think it was wise to have any one person in one position for an extended period of time, which I defined as 2 years. We need to develop people to fill positions, to bring in new thinking, which is why I left the treasurer position to be vice-President and then President. We were kicked out of the Community Center as the City wanted us to pay for the use of the space, so club members found the Oxnard Library.

News from SB Section Manager John Kitchens NS6X (Cont. from page 26)

We initiated the West Coast VHF Conference that Denny Pistole first started that we eventually brought to the Holiday Inn (Ventura, on the beach, whatever it is today) was made even better when Steve Noll brought his vision and enthusiasm to it.

My point – our club has had a few bumpy periods that could have caused us to fail and close, but the members overcame and have made us what we are today. We are getting stronger and with the input of everyone, making it a club for all of us. Denny and Steve are the only members who were members or active when I became a member.

Problems at the ARRL are parallel to what we went through with K6MEP. The main issue at Headquarters is transparency and letting membership know how their money is being spent. Members have to work to know how their membership dollars are being spent.

There is a lot of good coming out of Headquarters, too. Members now have access to all four monthly ARRL publications, not just QST. QST comes in the mail. The other three, *QEX*, *NCJ (National Contest Journal)* and the fairly new publication for newly licensed hams, all available at the ARRL website, ARRL.org. Be sure to create an account using your callsign as your user name, which all members may access.

Field Day rules were modified to allow group scoring while maintaining safe social distancing. K6VQN has completed her EC-016 coursework, which is sort of like a CAPSTONE program for emergency communications. Not only did she have to do the EC-016 work, there are 8 FEMA courses that must be completed and the Section Manager must write a letter. Kat made good use of her sheltering by completing the on-line work. I had the pleasure of writing the culmination letter recommending her for the recognition and new title.

I am still looking for volunteers to help with the Section management. I need someone to be the Section Emergency Coordinator. Not really hard. The position lets the three District Coordinators we have, one for each county, what the ARRL/ARES needs from them, and reports volunteer time, for those who report it. Ask me if you want a few details on how the Section's ARES programs are operating and what you would need to do.

I would like to have an Assistant Section Manager/Section Liaison from each club in the Section. I have been driving around to each club meeting in the Section, which includes San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties.

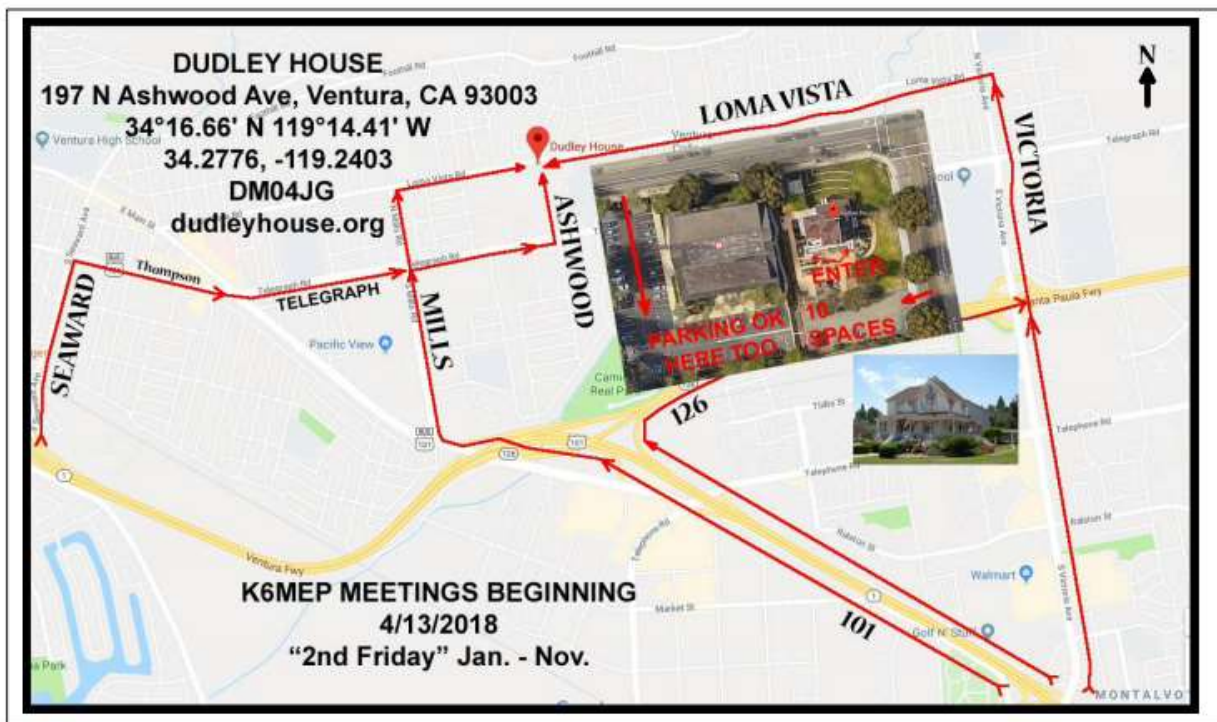
We don't live forever, and should not be a permanent fixture in any one spot. I forgot the Coca Cola President's name who said, sort of, that the legacy of any leader is how well the organization continues when they are gone. So, who wants to be Section Manager? I am in the position until January, 2022, but the election is in September, 2021. If you want to see what it is about, let me know. Become involved in a volunteer position. Make me do my job.

One of my goals is to figure out how to have a Section convention/Hamfest, and maybe the Division Convention. We had a conference in the 70's and one in the late 90's (or was it early 2000's?). I am hoping that the Cal Poly club will host a meeting on their campus.

There are a variety of COVID viruses. The common cold is a covid virus. This covid-19 isn't going away, like the cold, although it is much more dangerous. Do the simple stuff to protect yourself, family and the public, like wash your hands, wear your mask and stay apart as appropriate.

72/73 NS6X

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



K6MEP Membership Application.

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

Maria Somma, AB1FM, ab1fm@arrl.org

Exam Info

New Amateur Extra-Class Question Pool

On July 1, 2020, the new 2020 – 2024 Amateur Extra-class question pool takes effect for examinations. Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) and Volunteer Examiners (VEs) must have new Element 4 Extra-class test designs available for use at exam sessions effective that date.

The new question pool released in January 2020 (re-released in February and again in March with minor updates) by the Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) incorporates significant changes compared to the current 2016 – 2020 question pool, which expires on June 30, 2020.

The number of questions in the pool was reduced from 712 to 622. The result was 239 modified questions, 49 new questions, and 139 questions removed due to an abundance of outdated questions. Areas of new technology and subjects were added. The 2020 pool has 10 diagrams, which have been renumbered because it has two fewer than the 2016 question pool.

It's important to note that question E3B08 was withdrawn from the new pool and may not be used on exams. Questions in that section were not renumbered, leaving 11 questions.

To view all three question pools, visit the NCVEC website at www.ncvec.org.

New Amateur Extra-Class Exams

With the Amateur Extra-class examination questions changing July 1, 2020, new test designs must be used effective that day. Previously supplied ARRL VEC Extra-class exam booklet versions (2016 series) and computer-generated Extra-class exams created from the 2016 question pool are only valid until midnight June 30, 2020. At that time, VE team leaders may dispose of the old versions of the Extra-class exams (do not return them to VEC). To avoid confusion at the session, do not save old exam versions.

ARRL VE Exam Maker Software (www.arrl.org/ve-exam-maker-software) has been updated with the new Amateur Extra-class question pool and is available for generating new exam versions.

ARRL VEC will supply its officially appointed Field-Stocked VE teams with new exam booklet designs. An updated package will not be provided to field-stocked teams that no longer meet the field stock requirements, have not conducted a session in the past year, or have been keeping

Question Pool Schedule

The three current question pools (and any exam designs based on these question pools) are valid as follows:

Technician-class (Element 2) pool effective July 1, 2018 is valid until June 30, 2022.

- Questions withdrawn from use: none.

General-class (Element 3) pool effective July 1, 2019 is valid until June 30, 2023.

- Questions withdrawn from use: none.

Amateur Extra-class (Element 4) pool effective July 1, 2020 is valid until June 30, 2024.

- Questions withdrawn from use: E3B08 deleted from pool.

Each question pool is reviewed and updated on a 4-year rotation. No question pools will be updated or released in 2021.

supplies without qualifying through the VEC. Non-stocked VE teams should be returning their exam packages and supplies to ARRL VEC after each session is completed.

The ARRL VEC VE Resources page (www.arrl.org/resources-for-ves) offers information needed to help conduct exam session business. Our support page offers easy access to exam forms and information, question pools, FCC rules, basic qualification question information, and more.

Compare FCC Results Through April

COVID-19 has significantly affected amateur radio testing. New amateur radio licenses issued are down by 24% and upgraded licenses are down by 39% over the same period last year.

Hopefully, as life begins to return to some normalcy, exam session opportunities will resume and increase in frequency.

FCC Results Through April			
FCC License Action	2019	2020	% Change
New licenses	10,843	8,277	-24%
Upgraded licenses	3,640	2,221	-39%
Total licenses	14,483	10,498	-28%

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(Cont. on page

ARRL News (Cont. from page 30)

Prominent Radio Amateur Helping to Lead US Convalescent Plasma Expanded Access Study



Well-known contester, DXer, and *National Contest Journal (NCJ)* Editor Scott Wright, K0MD, has been “substantially” stepping back from ham radio while offering his expertise to the US convalescent plasma **COVID-19 Expanded Access Program**. The study began in early April under the leadership of Dr. Michael Joyner, MD, of the Mayo Clinic; Dr. Peter Marks, MD, PhD and Dr. Nicole Verdun, MD, of the US Food and Drug Administration; Dr. Arturo Casavedall, MD, PhD, of Johns Hopkins University, and Wright, who is with the Mayo Clinic. Dr. Marks is AB3XC. “The US Convalescent Plasma Expanded Access Program is a collaborative project between the US government and the

Mayo Clinic to provide access to convalescent plasma for patients in the US who are hospitalized with COVID 19,” Wright told ARRL. The work has been referenced during White House press briefings and in congressional testimony. The US government-supported study collects and provides blood plasma recovered from COVID-19 patients, which contains antibodies that may help fight the disease. The Mayo Clinic is the lead institution for the program.

“My role was to organize the infrastructure and the research approach, and to help lead the set-up of the data collection and of the website teams, while overseeing the study conduct and regulatory compliance,” Wright explained.

According to a June 18 *Washington Post* [article](#), “A large study of 20,000 hospitalized COVID-19 patients who received transfusions of blood plasma from people who recovered found the treatment was safe and suggests giving it to people early in the disease may be beneficial.”

An initial [safety report](#) on 5,000 patients appeared in May in the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. The [safety study](#) on 20,000 subjects referenced in the *Washington Post* article was published earlier this month in the *Mayo Clinic Proceedings*.

Wright said most scientific studies of this magnitude take months to a year with planning and execution to get under way. In this case, the study team went from zero to 60 in a few short weeks.

“We started in less than a week. Most studies recruit 2,500 – 5,000 patients,” Wright said. “We have recruited over 30,000 patients in 10 weeks, exceeding all expectations.”

Hospitals in all 50 states and several US territories are participating, Wright said, and more than 8,000 physician-scientists are working with the team as investigators at their hospitals. “We also helped manage the start-up of collection of convalescent plasma by the large blood organizations, such as the American Red Cross, by strategically connecting donor pools and people willing to donate with the blood collection centers.”

Wright’s study responsibilities, which are on top of his regular day job, have required him to work daily, including weekends, for all of April, most of May, and all of June. “It has been intense,” he said. (Cont. on page 32)

ARRL News (Cont. from page 31)

Wright said an FDA announcement on the benefit of convalescent plasma was expected soon. “We are working on a third publication now to submit to a major international medical journal for publication on whether the study has shown that use of convalescent plasma reduces mortality,” Wright added. The FDA has been **inviting donations** of convalescent plasma from individuals who have fully recovered from COVID-19.

Wright will be the keynote speaker at the [QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo](#) August 8 – 9 to discuss the study, its results, and, he said, “linking it to skills acquired through ham radio.”

New IARU Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) Coordinator Appointed



The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Administrative Council has appointed Martin Sach, G8KDF, as global Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) Coordinator, succeeding Tore Worren, LA9QL. “EMC is a major challenge for all radiocommunication services,” the IARU noted. “Radio amateurs are experiencing increased interference caused by unwanted radio frequency emissions from a wide variety, and rapidly growing number, of electronic devices.” The EMC Coordinator’s mission is to ensure that the concerns and needs of radio amateurs are effectively addressed in international standards bodies — particularly CISPR and the ITU — as well as in

regional telecommunication organizations and at national levels through IARU member-societies. Assisting in the effort is a network of volunteers with expertise in the field of EMC.

IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH, said, “The IARU Administrative Council is grateful for Tore’s leadership and for his willingness to continue contributing to this vital work. We are fortunate that someone as qualified as Martin is willing to take the reins. He has already represented the IARU effectively at important international meetings and we look forward to working even more closely with him.”

Radio amateurs throughout the world support the work of the IARU through membership and involvement in their national IARU member-societies. The IARU **needs qualified volunteers** in this and other fields.



Annual 13 Colonies Event Gets Under Way on July 1

The annual **13 Colonies** special event will begin on July 1 at 1300 UTC and conclude on July 8 at 0400 UTC. Stations representing the original 13 British colonies, plus two bonus stations, will be on the air with 1 × 1 call signs. The event sponsor stresses that participants do not need to work all 13 colony stations to obtain a certificate and do not need to work the two bonus stations for a clean sweep. All HF bands will be in play, with the exception of 60 meters, and simplex on 2 and 6 meters is encouraged. All modes of operation may be represented. **(Cont. on page 33)**

ARRL News (Cont. from page 32)

- This year will mark the 12th occurrence of the event. Look for:
- K2A, New York
- K2B, Virginia
- K2C, Rhode Island
- K2D, Connecticut
- K2E, Delaware
- K2F, Maryland
- K2G, Georgia
- K2H, Massachusetts
- K2I, New Jersey
- K2J, North Carolina
- K2K, New Hampshire
- K2L, South Carolina
- K2M, Pennsylvania.

Bonus station WM3PEN will be in Philadelphia (the call sign commemorates the Pennsylvania colony's founder, William Penn). The other bonus station will be GB13COL in the UK.

National Hurricane Center's WX4NHC Annual Station Test is Successful



On May 30, operators at WX4NHC at the National Hurricane Center (NHC), working from home, conducted the annual readiness check of the station and of other amateur radio stations and operators around the country and world. WX4NHC is marking its 40th year of public service in 2020. Assistant Amateur Radio Coordinator at the NHC Julio Ripoll, WD4R, reported that five WX4NHC operators made 146 contacts with US and Caribbean stations.

Despite poor HF propagation, operators made contacts with stations as far north as Maine and as far south and west as Aruba and Curacao, Puerto Rico, and Texas. Operators also made many contacts using digital modes, including Winlink as well as Florida's statewide SARNET UHF repeater network that connects 27 repeaters from Key West to Tallahassee. — *Thanks to the [ARES E-Letter](#) (Cont. on page 34)*

ARRL News (Cont. from page 33)



MARS Announces HF Skills Exercise

Members of the Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) will conduct an HF skills exercise July 20 – 24 to hone their operating skills and messaging-handling capabilities. MARS members will be reaching out to the amateur radio community via the 60-meters Channel 1 Net (5330.5 kHz dial) twice a day, the SATERN HF net (14.265 MHz), and by contacting various stations via HFLink throughout the exercise. MARS members will be requesting assistance with collecting county status information as well as airport weather information, called METARs. MARS members will also be passing ICS 213 messages to numerous Department of Defense (DoD), federal, and amateur radio addressees.

This exercise will be announced via WWV at 00:10 and via WWVH at 00:50 starting on or about July 13. WWV and WWVH listeners will be asked to take an online listener survey. This HF radio training event will not impact regular communications. — *Thanks to Paul English, Chief, Army MARS*

Virginia Air & Space Center Ends Relationship with Ham Radio



Virginia Air & Space Center (**VASC**) Executive Director and CEO Robert Griesmer has advised that the Center's amateur radio station exhibit will be discontinued, effective July 1, when the Center, in Hampton, Virginia, reopens. VASC is the official visitor center for NASA's Langley, Virginia, facility. The KE4ZXW display station was shut down on March 13. It was to be out of the VASC by June 30. A main feature of the exhibit was the ability to communicate with amateur radio satellites and with the International Space Station.

Randy Grigg, WB4KZI, of the VASC Amateur Radio Group said the station's equipment would be relocated. "Thanks to all who have supported KE4ZXW during the last 25 years, especially the volunteer operators who manned the station during that time," Grigg said. "To the many visitors we have met and school groups that have stopped by and talked with us about ham radio,

communications, satellites, and STEM Program related subjects, thank you!" (Cont. on page 35)

ARRL News (Cont. from page 34)

On June 30, it was announced that the Virginia Tech Amateur Radio Association (K4KDJ) in Blacksburg will be the new host for the KE4ZXW Amateur Radio Demonstration. — *Thanks to Randy Grigg, WB4KZI, and Ed Gibbs, KW4GF*

Radio Amateur's Call for Help Relayed from across the Atlantic



When Richard Tashner, N2EO, of Massapequa, New York, suffered a medical emergency on May 18, his DMR radio was closer than his phone. His call for help was answered by Maxis Johnston, GM0MRJ, who put out a call for “anyone in the states.”

Kent County Amateur Radio Club member Ken Dix, KB2KBD, in Delaware heard the call on the local 146.91 MHz repeater, which was linked to the North American talk group. Dix called authorities in Tashner's vicinity, and help was dispatched.

Dix said the dispatcher in New York was able to hear part of the call and was amazed at how an amateur radio communication had gone from New York to Scotland to Delaware and then back to New York. The dispatcher expressed surprise at how quickly the information had been relayed across the Atlantic. The Delaware repeater, at the Delaware State Communications complex, is set on C4FM Fusion and linked to DMR on “America's Net.” — *Thanks to the ARES E-Letter via Jerry Palmer, N3KRX*

QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo Set for August

QSO Today podcast host Eric Guth, 4Z1UG/WA6IGR, has announced that the first **QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo** will take place Saturday and Sunday, August 8 – 9. Attendance is free to all, **registration** is open, and there are early bird prizes for registering now.



Built on a live, virtual reality platform used by Fortune 500 companies and major universities, the ARRL-sanctioned hamfest will feature a lineup of well-known speakers. Guth and his team, including George Zafiropoulos, KJ6VU, have assembled more than 50 of the best ham radio mentors in multiple tracks to address this conference from the virtual Expo's auditorium.

Presenters will include Ward Silver, N0AX, on grounding and bonding; Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, on DXpeditions, and John Portune, W6NBC, on building slot antennas for antenna-restricted locations. Demonstrations of new amateur radio gear will be presented, and attendees can speak with exhibitors via video/audio or chat, as well as interact with others online.

“This platform simulates a full convention experience, with an exhibit hall and exhibit booths staffed by live attendants, speaker auditorium, lobby, and lounges,” the announcement said. Guth, an ARRL member, decided to go forward with the virtual event after many in-person ham radio conventions were canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. ARRL will be among the exhibitors filling the virtual exhibit hall.

Attendees will be able to share ideas and network with each other via the virtual platform. Following the 48-hour live event, audio/video from presentations and resources published by exhibitors will remain available to registrants on demand for 30 days.