



The August 14th, 2020, 7pm (19:00) meeting was held on the air by club President Denney N6HV who utilized 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 the topic was FT Talk, presented by Stu AG6AG.

The September 11th club meeting is scheduled to be held on the air by club President Denney N6HV who will use the Sulphur Mountain Repeater, on 145.200 MHz with a minus offset and a PL of 127.3 Hz. After check-ins and covering old and new business, we will go over to the Zoom meeting, which is scheduled for 19:30, and the topic will be zoom presentation by Stu Sheldon AG6AG on emergency communications.



Club Officers	And Keyer	Contributors
President	Denney Pistole	N6HV
Vice-President	Clem Alberts	KM6OKZ
Secretary	Phil Cohen	WA6BUZ
Treasurer	John Gartman	W6JPG
Board Member	Stewart Stone	KG6BOV
Board Member	Robert Shank	KM6RSS
Board Member	Richard Abbey	WB6AEW
Photographer	Denney Pistole	N6HV
Facilities	Richard Abbey	WB6AEW
Keyer Editor	Robert Shank	KM6RSS
Webmaster	Robert Shank	KM6RSS
Domain	Phil Cohen	WA6BUZ
Membership	Bob Brodie	KJ6AAE
License Trustee	Stewart Stone	KG6BOV
QSL Manager	Ben Holmes	K6QV
Safety Officer	Bob Brodie	KJ6AAE
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,

I attended a Santa Barbara ARC meeting Friday. They held their meeting on Zoom and it was also simulcast on YouTube.

Are the Ventura County Amateur Radio club members interested in attending our monthly club meeting on YouTube? It's a lot of work; it took the SBARC several minutes of effort after the meeting had started to get the YouTube feed to function correctly. If you are interested in having the club's monthly meeting held on YouTube, let me know.

At the next monthly meeting there will be a presentation by Jonathan Bower KJ6MID on Allstar, a form of digital 2 meter communication.

Conditions on the sun are getting interesting. For the week of August 24th we are seeing a slowdown in activity after several flares and Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) last week. That may pick up during the first week of September with CMEs and strong solar winds from a coronal hole. Additional activity is rolling around to the earth facing side of the sun. The activity is not predicted to be as strong as the week of 17 August, but it's an improvement over the past months where there was week after week of no activity. We are entering the active part of solar cycle 25, but there will be some quiet periods of no sunspot activity before the cycle takes off.

The change to cooler weather is helping. The last couple of weeks of hot weather have made working on my antennas hard. The antennas are coming along but I keep having setbacks; remember if all else fails, add more elements.

One of our club members introduced me to this month's speaker. I could use some more help rounding up a speaker for next month. I am interested in what topics you think the club would like to have presented. So let me or any of the club officers know what you want, or if you know someone that could give an interesting talk.

Elections for club officers are coming up in November. This year I'm (Cont. on page 3)

Message from the President (cont. from page 2)

proposing a vote by email election. The election results will be announced at the December on-the-air club meeting. Let me know your thoughts. Are you interested in running for a club office? Past experience, or having a ham license for a long time, is not necessary.

Speaking of December I have not gotten any inputs on what club members would like to do for a December meeting. Nobody seemed to like the idea of doing a car caravan and driving by houses of club members and honking CQ.

The recent fires in Ventura County have raised my concerns on how the club could prepare to help if we have a major fire in the county. Any suggestions or comments are welcome. Supporting our ARES members should be at the top of the list. If you are interested in helping with emergency communications contact:

ROBERT HANSON

Ventura County ACS Radio Officer

Ventura County ARES District Emergency Coordinator

805-901-0147 - w6rh@hotmail.com

Robert KM6RSS provided me with the web site that allows you to view the cameras at repeater sites. <http://wd6eby.actusa.net/cameras/>

If you're interested in wind advisories or weather information try <https://www.weather.gov/lox/> and enter your zip code in the green box at the top left column of the page.

Here is some information on remote ham license testing I came across. Here's the link <https://glaarg.org/remote-sessions/>.

The FCC granted a temporary waiver permitting the use of Pactor4 for emergency communications. This could be vital during the hurricanes such as Laura that just hit Louisiana. Is anyone in the club running or able to run Pactor4? Would you like to give a talk on it?

As a kid you may have seen picture after picture of the earth's magnetic field, with magnetic field lines coming out of the North Pole and smoothly going into the South Pole. It ain't so. The magnetic field is lumpy or dented. A recent study of the South Atlantic dent or Anomaly (SAA) was just completed. Satellites passing through this area, where the magnetic field is weaker, can have their electronics scrambled by solar radiation and particles. Also this dent impacts trans-Atlantic propagation. For more information see <https://phys.org/news/2020-08-nasa-track-slowly-dent-earth.html>.

Starlink satellites are in very low orbits. Solar flares and other space weather activity can heat up the upper atmosphere and increase the drag on these satellites. The satellites are just above the area where auroras occur. The spikes of an aurora, called cones, have been measured intruding into low-earth-orbit. These cones are ionized gas and thin, by sea level air pressure standards, but that thin air heavily impacts the satellites, slowing them down. It could mean the launching of replacement satellites as cycle 25 activity increases.73, Denney N6HV

K6MEP Monday Night Net Contest Status (VP Clem KM6OKZ)

As a consequence of the Pandemic and quite strangely enough, the Monday Night Net has, I believe, evolved into something more productive and positive than it was originally intended to be. True, we are still treated to hearing the usual check in's followed by the customary obligatory and somewhat perfunctory roundtable recitations by the various participants of their week's ham-radio-related activities. But aside from this, we are beginning to see more of what we affectionately refer to as Rag Chewing. This is nowhere more evident than when the Denney closes the Net and we switch over to the post-net Zoom Meeting. There are, typically speaking, not a great number of participants... perhaps only a handful. And the conversations may or may not lend themselves to topics concerning amateur radio. But they are always filled with (Cont. on page 4)

K6MEP Monday Night Net Contest Status (VP Clem KM6OKZ) (Cont. from page 3)

the goodness of genuine camaraderie. In these times of social distancing I believe it becomes all the more important, if not an imperative, for each and every one of us to embrace and enjoy encouraging the subtle bonds that bind us together not only in a common purpose and interest, but in unspoken friendship as well. There is a definite irony in knowing that the virus that separates us is also the instrument that subtly draws us together. “The Lord moves in mysterious ways...” 73, Clem KM6OKZ

Contest update: As of 8/24/20 AI6VX and KM6RSS are tied for first; KA6BJA and N6ZAI are tied for second and KG6BOV is in third place. There have been 572 check-ins averaging 17.33 per night, with 82 unique call signs.

Selected September 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.

Sombrore Rd. SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124. See website for certificates, frequencies and other information. w6jbt.org, www.qrz.com/db/w6jh or <https://groups.io/g/adxa>

Sep. 12 – Sep. 20, 0000Z – 2359Z, W6L, Tulsa, OK. Tulsa Amateur Radio Club. **Route 66 On the Air**. 14.266. QSL. Tulsa Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 4283, Tulsa, OK 74159. See website for certificates, frequencies and other information. w6jbt.org, www.w5ias.com

Sep. 12 – Sep. 22, 0000Z – 2359Z, K4MIA, Loxahatchee, FL. PBSE. **National POW MIA Recognition Day**. 28.400 18.150 14.265 7.195; various digital modes. QSL. Michael Bald. 8758 Hall Blvd., Loxahatchee, FL 33470. *Sister stations K4MIA/5, K4MIA/7, and K4MIA/8 will be in operation on some days. See website for a copy of this year’s QSL and additional information. Please take time to remember our POWs and MIAs as well as their families.* www.qrz.com/db/k4mia

Sep. 16 – Sep. 18, 0000Z – 0000Z, W8AL, Canton, OH. Canton Amateur Radio Club. **National Football League Centennial Celebration**. 14.300 14.030 7.250 7.030 3.950 3.530; watch for FT8 as well; BM DMR 313989. Certificate. Canton ARC W8AL, c/o Justin W8JKC, P.O. Box 8673, Canton, OH 44711-8673. www.w8al.org

Sep. 16 – Sep. 25, 0400Z – 2359Z, W3L, Harleysville, PA. WV2M. **The Saving of the Liberty Bell**. 14.074 14.030 7.074 7.030; modes are SSB, CW, and FT8 (primary mode is FT8). QSL. Frank Gallo, 106 Tweed Way, Harleysville, PA 19438. www.w3l.info

Sep. 19, 1100Z – 2300Z, W9ZL, Appleton, WI. Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club. **Wisconsin Parks on the Air**. 21.350 14.260 7.220 3.850. Certificate. Kenneth Ross, P.O. Box 2346, Appleton, WI 54912. wipota.com or www.fcarc.club

Sep. 19, 1300Z – 1900Z, W1M, Russell, MA. Western Mass Council BSA. **Woronoako Heights Outdoor Adventure/ Scout Camps on the Air**. 14.290 14.060 10.115 7.190. QSL. Tom Barker, 329 Faraway Rd., Whitefield, NH 03598. *Manual logging as well as eQSL will be used.*

Sep. 26, 1200Z – 2200Z, K1SV, North Bennington, VT. Southern Vermont Amateur Radio Club. **Covered Bridge Special Event**. 28.333 14.318 7.245 146.520. QSL. Charles Watson, Jr., 1071 East Rd., Bennington, VT 05201. www.sovarc.org

Sep. 26, 1200Z – 2300Z, K9A, Inver Grove Heights, MN. South Metro Amateur Radio Club. **US Airmail Beacon System, 100th Anniversary**. 14.250 7.074 7.040; CW, SSB, and FT8. Certificate. Downloadable, see website. www.semarc.org

Sep. 26, 1700Z – 2200Z, K4S, Somerset, KY. Lake Cumberland Amateur Radio Association. **Somermite Cruise 20th Season**. 14.268 7.238. QSL. Lake Cumberland Amateur Radio Association, 600 S. Highway 837, Nancy, KY 42544. www.lcara.net

Certificates and QSL cards: To obtain a certificate from any of the special event stations offering them, send your QSO information along with a 9 × 12 inch self-addressed, stamped envelope (three units of postage) to the address listed in the announcement. To receive a special event QSL card (when offered), be sure to include a self-addressed, stamped business envelope along with your QSL card and QSO information. *Note: Some clubs may ask for a nominal fee to cover the cost of the certificate or QSL. Request will be made on air during the event or on the club’s website.

Special Events Announcements: For items to be listed in this column, use the ARRL Special Events Listing Form at www.arrl.org/special-events-application. A plain-text version of the form is available at that site. You may also request a copy by mail or email. Off-line completed forms can be mailed, faxed (Attn: Special Events), or emailed.

Submissions must be received by ARRL HQ no later than the 1st of the second month preceding the publication date; a special event listing for **December QST** would have to be received by **October 1**. In addition to being listed in *QST*, your event will be listed on the ARRL Web Special Events page. Note: All received events are acknowledged. If you do not receive an acknowledgement within a few days, please contact us. ARRL reserves the right to exclude events of a commercial or political nature.

You can view all received Special Events at www.arrl.org/special-event-stations.

Bruce Draeger, AA5B, aa5b.correl@gmail.com

Contest Corral

September 2020

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

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

Start Date-Time	Finish Date-Time	Bands	Contest Name	Mode	Exchange	Sponsor's Website
2 1700	2 2000	144	VHF-UHF FTB Activity Contest	Dig	4-char grid square	fbactivity.eu/index.php/en
2 2000	2 2100	3.5	UKEICC 80-Meter Contest	Ph	4-char grid square	ukeicc.com/80m-rules.php
2 2300	4 2300	3.5-28	G9ZQS Memorial Straight Key Contest	CW	RST, SPC, name, mor or power	www.listsna.org
3 1700	3 2100	28	NRAU 10-Meter Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid square	nrau.net/activity-contests
3 1900	3 2100	1.8-50	SKCC Sprint Europe	CW	RST, SPC, name, mor or power	www.skccgroup.com
5 0000	5 2359	1.8-28	CWops CW Open	CW	Serial, name	cwops.org/cwops-tests
5 0000	5 2359	3.5-28	All Asian DX Contest, Phone	Ph	RS, 2-digit age	www.jarl.org/English
5 0600	5 0800	7.14	Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	CW	RST, serial, suffix of previous QSO	qrz.ru/contest/wakeup
5 1300	8 0400	1.8-UHF	Colorado QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	Name, CO county or SPC	qpraa.org/coqp
5 1300	6 1259	1.8-28	IARU Region 1 Field Day, SSB	Ph	RST, serial	darc.de/der-club/referate/conteste
5 1300	6 1300	3.5-28	RSGB SSB Field Day	Ph	RS, serial	www.rs.gb.org/hf
5 1400	6 1400	145	IARU Region 1 145 MHz Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), serial, 6-char grid	iaru-r1.org/on-the-air
5 1600	5 1900	7	AGCW Straight Key Party	CW	RST, serial, class, name, age	agcw.org/index.php/en
5 2000	6 2000	3.5	PODXS 070 Club Jay Hudak Memorial 80-Meter Sprint	Dig	RST, SPC	www.podxs070.com
6 1000	6 1400	144	WAB 144 MHz QRP Phone	Ph	RS, serial, WAD square or country	wab.internip.net
6 1800	7 0300	1.8-UHF	Tennessee QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), TN county or SPC	tnqp.org/rules
7 1900	7 2030	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Autumn Series, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	www.rs.gb.org/hf
7 2300	8 0300	1.8-50	MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	miqrp.net/contest
8 0100	8 0300	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, power	ansrqp.blogspot.com
9 1700	3 2000	432	VHF-UHF FTB Activity Contest	Dig	4-char grid square	fbactivity.eu/index.php/en
12 0000	12 2359	3.5-28	Russian RTTY WW Contest	Dig	RST, oblast or QO zone	qrz.ru/contest/detail/93
12 0000	13 2359	2.3 GHz +	ARRL EME Contest	CW Ph Dig	Signal report	www.arrrl.org/eme-contest
12 0000	13 2359	3.5-28	WAE DX Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	darc.de/der-club/referate/conteste
12 1000	13 1000	1.8-28	SARL Field Day Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), number of xmits, category, province or "DX"	www.sarl.org.za
12 1200	13 2359	1.8-50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
12 1400	12 2200	3.5-28	Ohio State Parks on the Air	Ph	Park abbreviation or "OH" or SPC	ospota.org
12 1400	13 2000	1.8-UHF	Texas QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), TX county or SPC	www.txqp.net
12 1500	13 0300	3.5-28	Alabama QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), AL county or SPC	alabamaqsoparty.org
12 1500	13 0959	3.5-28	Russian Cup Digital Contest	Dig	Serial, 4-char grid square	qrz.ru/contest/detail/66.html
12 1800	14 0300	50 +	ARRL September VHF Contest	CW Ph Dig	4-char grid square	www.arrrl.org/september-vhf
13 0000	13 0400	3.5-14	North American Sprint, CW	CW	Other station's call, your call, serial, name, SPC	ncjweb.com
14 0000	14 0200	1.8-28	4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, mor or power	www.4sqrp.com
16 1800	16 2030	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Autumn Series, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.rs.gb.org/hf
17 0030	17 0230	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	naqcc.info/contests.html
17 1930	17 2059	3.5	BCC QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), T-shirt size	bavarian-contest-club.de/2328
18 2100	18 2359	3.5	AGB NEMIGA Contest	CW Ph Dig	RST, serial, mbr (if any)	ev5agb.com/index_eng.html
19 0000	19 2359	1.8-VHF	FCC QSO Party	CW	RST, name, mbr (if any)	g4foc.org/qsoparty
19 0000	20 2359	1.8-UHF	Collegiate QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	School name, RS(T), operating class	collegiateqsoparty.com
19 0600	20 2359	10 GHz +	ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	CW Ph Dig	6-char maidenhead locator	www.arrrl.org/10-ghz-up
19 1200	20 0800	144, 432, 1296	SARL VHF/UHF Digital Contest	Dig	RST, 6-char grid locator	www.sarl.org.za
19 1200	20 1200	3.5-28	Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial	sactest.net/blog
19 1200	20 1200	1.8-28	All Africa International DX Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), serial	www.sarl.org.za
19 1400	20 0200	1.8-UHF	Iowa QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), IA county or SPC	www.wbyl.com/IAGP
19 1500	19 2100	1.8-28	QRP Africa	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), SPC, mor or power	newenglandqrp.org/qrp-africa-2018
19 1600	19 2300	3.5-144	Wisconsin Parks on the Air	Ph	WI park abbreviation or SPC	wipota.com
19 1600	20 0359	3.5-28	New Jersey QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), NJ county or SPC	k2td-bccr.org/njqp
19 1600	20 2200	1.8-UHF	New Hampshire QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), NH county or SPC	w1wqm.org/nhqp
19 1800	20 2359	1.8-144	Washington State Salmon Run	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), WA county or SPC	wwdx.org/salmonrun
19 1800	19 1959	1.8-50	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig	RST, mbr, SPC, grid	sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub
20 0000	20 0400	3.5-14	North American Sprint, RTTY	Dig	Other station's call, your call, serial, name, SPC	ncjweb.com
20 1700	20 2059	3.5-28	BARTG Sprint 75	Dig	Serial	bartg.org.uk
20 2300	21 0100	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	qrpcontest.com/pigrun
21 1900	21 2300	144	144 MHz Fall Sprint	CW Ph Dig	4-char grid square	svhfs.org
23 0000	23 0200	1.8-28	SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mor or power	skccgroup.com
24 1900	24 2030	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Autumn Series, Delta	Dig	RST, serial	rs.gb.org/hf
26 0000	27 2359	3.5-28	CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY	Dig	RST, CQ zone, US state or VE area (if US/VE)	www.cqwwrtty.com
26 1200	27 1200	1.8-28	Maine QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), ME county or SPC	ve1sm.com/MEQP.html
26 1400	26 1800	144, 432	AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	CW	RST, serial, power, 6-char grid	agcw.org/index.php/en
28 1900	28 2030	3.5	RSGB FT4 Contest Series	Dig	4-char grid square	www.rs.gb.org/hf
29 1800	29 2300	222	222 MHz Fall Sprint	CW Ph Dig	4-char grid square	svhfs.org
30 2000	30 2100	3.5	UKEICC 80-Meter Contest	CW	4-char grid square	ukeicc.com/80m-rules.php

There are a number of weekly contests not included in the table above. For more info, visit: www.qrpfoxhunt.org, www.nccsprint.com, and www.cwops.org. All dates refer to UTC and may be different from calendar dates in North America. Mor = 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 Horv, WA7BNM, in providing this service.

Available Gear

Denney N6HV: One roll, 250 feet 14/2 clear speaker wire \$30.00, [new, still in wrapper, old stock]. Various rolls of wire, big rolls; 8 gauge, shielded single pair and other gauges, good prices. Three-quarter-inch wide, flat, heavy, copper-braid, \$1.00/ft; great for grounding.

Items Given to the Club for Donations: Multimeter, Micronta brand \$5.00. HP 1706A oscilloscope, as is, \$50. Various lengths of Ethernet cables, \$0.25 each. Radio Shack Power Supply, 13.8 volt at 3 amps, \$3.00. Swing arm desk lamp includes light bulb and other various items; \$5.00 to \$25.00. Vacuum tubes donated by Scott Vilander with delivery by Dave A16VX.

Equipment Tech and Operator Manuals

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

Stewart
KG6BOV@arri.net

Yesu FT-8 and accessories for sale

Please contact for details
stewart@arri.com



From the VTLUS Donator

Yesu VTL-2R HT/Dual Band (20m/40m) systems
VTL charger manual
2 x 17" Dual Band Rubber Duck antenna
2 x external speaker (mag mount)
Mag mount system for large mobile HF antenna
AeroVehicled HF/OUVB antenna

Please contact Stewart #KG6BOV
stewart@arri.com

Vintage Vacuum Tube Inventory

22-Jun-20
Scott Vilander
5336 Traci Drive, Santa Barbara Ca. 93111
Mobile: 805 453 4533
Email: scottvilander@gmail.com

23 Tubes

Item	Date (Month/Year)	Manufacturer	Country	Service Branch	Type	Serial No. or Contract No.	Description	Package
1	3/1/1954	RCA Manufacturing Co., INC	USA	US NAVY	U.S.N CRC 811A	N1265-51354-P	Vacuum Tube	Original Box? ✓ 34
2	Not Marked	Electronic Enterprises, Inc	USA	Not Marked	866-866A	254 0424 00	Tube, Mercury Vapor Rectifier	Original Box? ✓ 30
3	5/1/1943	RCA Manufacturing Co., INC	USA	US NAVY	CRP-836	NXS, 6967	Vacuum Tube	Original Box? ✓ 20
4	6/1/1943	RCA Manufacturing Co., INC	USA	US NAVY	CRP-836	NXS, 6967	Vacuum Tube	Original Box? ✓ 20
5	8/1/1944	Jestingouse Electric & Mfg C	USA	US NAVY	Jan-832A	NXSA-31225	Vacuum Tube	Original Box? ✓ 20
6	5/1/1944	Jestingouse Electric & Mfg C	USA	US NAVY	Jan-832A	NXSA-31225	Vacuum Tube	Original Box? ✓ 20
7	11/1/1944	RCA Manufacturing Co., INC	USA	JS NAVY, US Arm	Jan-832A	NXSA-55620	Vacuum Tube	Original Box? ✓
8	5/1/1945	General Electric Co.	USA	JS NAVY, US Arm	Jan-CXR-829B	NXSR-86356	Tube (Box Marked "Used")	Original Box? ✓
9	Not Marked	Not Marked	USA	Not Marked	1625	V105,V106,V107	e, Transmitting Beam Power Af	Original Box? ✓ 13
10	12/1/1942	RCA Manufacturing Co., INC	USA	US NAVY	CRC 6L6	94712	Vacuum Tube	Original Box? ✓ 22
11	7/1/1944	National Union	USA	JS NAVY, US Arm	JAN CNU 1625	VT136, NXSA 32848	Vacuum Tube	Original Box? ✓ 250
12	6/1/1944	National Union	USA	JS NAVY, US Arm	JAN CNU 1625	VT136, NXSA 20124	Vacuum Tube	Original Box? ✓ 250
13	6/1/1944	National Union	USA	JS NAVY, US Arm	JAN CNU 1625	VT136, NXSA 20124	Vacuum Tube	Original Box? ✓ 35
14	9/1/1944	Electronic Enterprises, Inc	USA	JS NAVY, US Arm	JAN CDZ-866A	VT46A	Vacuum Tube	Original Box? ✓ 30
15	2/1/1949	RCA Victor Div of RCA	USA	JS NAVY, US Arm	JAN CRC-829B	Not Marked	vacuum Tube (Box Marked "Wea	Original Box? ✓ 25
16	Not Marked	Sylvania	USA	Not Marked	JAN CHS 6L6GA	6L6G	Vacuum Tube	Original Box? ✓ 50
17	Not Marked	RCA Victor Div of RCA	USA	Not Marked	JAN CRC813	VT144	Vacuum Tube	Original Paper? ✓
18	Not Marked	TBD. Unopened Package	USA	Not Marked	68380	838	Vacuum Tube	Original Paper? ✓
19	Not Marked	TBD. Unopened Package	USA	Not Marked	68380	838	Vacuum Tube	Original Paper? ✓
20	Not Marked	TBD. Unopened Package	USA	Not Marked	68380	838	Vacuum Tube	Original Paper? ✓
21	Not Marked	General Electric Co.	USA	Not Marked	GL807	6146	Vacuum Tube	Incorrect RCA Box? ✓ 12
22	Not Marked	Sylvania	USA	Not Marked	JAN CHS 6V6GT/G	VT107A	Vacuum Tube	incorrect Olson Box? ✓ 26
23	Not Marked	National Co	USA	Not Marked	AN/URR-13	NOBAR-52304	Radio Receiver Transformer	Original Box? ✓
24	Not Marked	Olson Radio?	USA	Not Marked	TUNG-SOL	3221-03	Vacuum Tube	Original Box? ✓
25	Not Marked	Chatham Electronics	USA	Not Marked	AN CHAG-SR4WG	252	Vacuum Tube	No Package ✓
26	3/1/1943	RCA Radiotron	USA	Not Marked	1B3GT		Vacuum Tube	No Package ✓ 3
27	Not Marked	RCA Radiotron	USA	Not Marked	CFH5		Vacuum Tube	No Package ✓
28	Not Marked	KEN-RAD	USA	Not Marked	JAN CKR-6L6	5C43/ 748-188-5	Vacuum Tube	No Package ✓ 25
29	Not Marked	KEN-RAD	USA	Not Marked	6AC7	043/ 188-5	Vacuum Tube	No Package ✓ 4
30	Not Marked	GE Electronics	USA	Not Marked	1B3GTE	56-09/188-21	Vacuum Tube	No Package ✓

August 14th Meeting Minutes (submitted by President Denney N6HV)

The On-The-Air meeting started at 19:00 hours on the WD6EBY repeater on 145.200 MHz. There were 17 check-ins.

A call was made for any old business. Another call was made for new business. No business was brought up. If anyone has anything they think should be talked about by the club, please contact any club director or me and let us know.

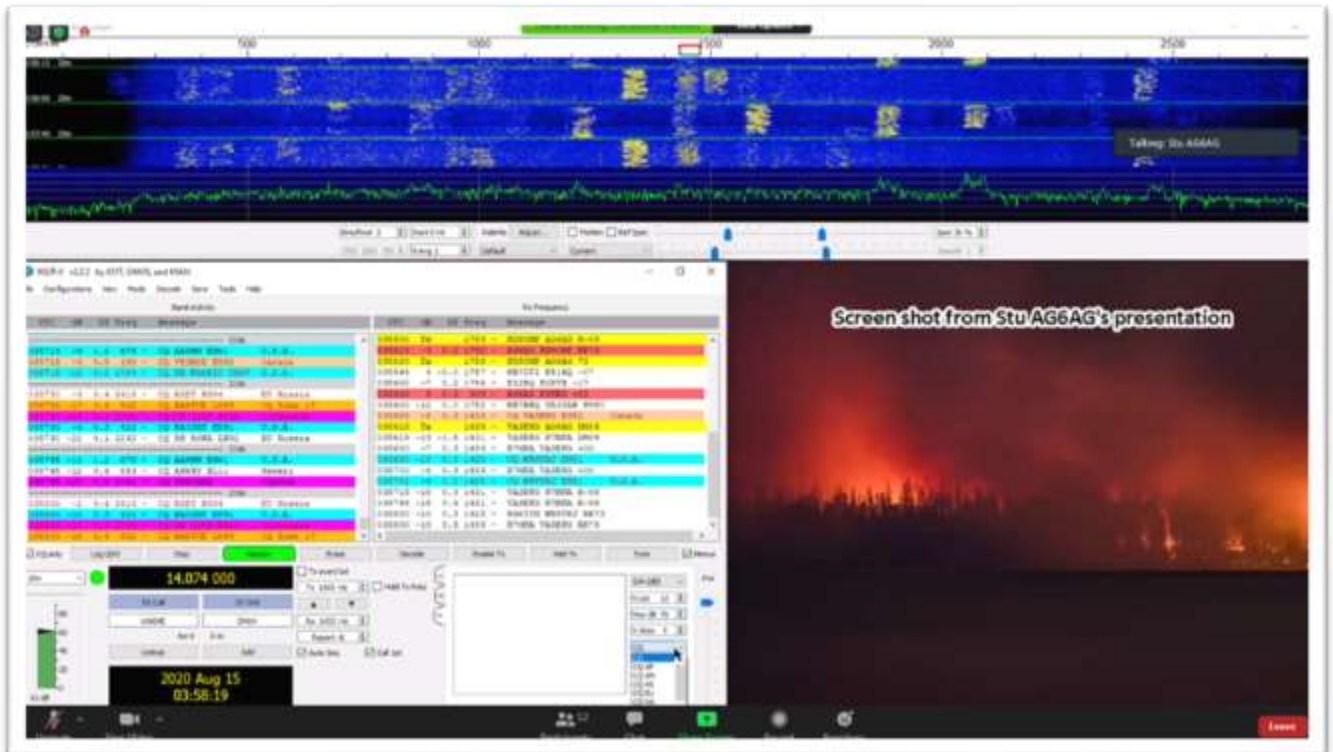
During check-ins I urged everyone to attend the presentation that was given by Stu Sheldon on FT-8. The presentation was held on Zoom. I apologize when I forgot to email anyone with the link to the presentation.

I am saddened that everyone could not get on Zoom. Some still feel that Zoom is an unsafe form of communication. I know that the Zoom Corporation has worked hard over the months to improve their program and make it safer.

I am also concerned that some club members cannot get on Zoom because of lack of equipment. The club and I have some old computers that could be put into operation and loaned to club members. I need a computer guru to help with this. I can't do it all.

Next month we will have a presentation on Allstar digital communication. Join us on Sep 11th at 7:00 pm for the next club meeting.

Denney N6HV



Upcoming FCC Exam Session Preparation (All those "local" within 25 mi. scheduled this year)

Thousand Oaks CA 91360

09/19/2020
Start/End Dates: 09/19/2020 - 10/17/2020
Times: 8:00am - Noon
of Sessions: 5
Class level: General
Morse code offered: No
Pre register required: Yes
Fee: 0
Pre Study required: No
Class Type: Weekend/One Day
Exam offered: No
Sponsoring Club/Organization: Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club
Instructor: KF6JQO
Contact: Kathryn Hunley K6VQN
Phone: (805) 218-3277
Email: k6vqn@arrl.net
Location: East Ventura County Sheriff's Station
2101 East Olsen Road
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
Additional Information: A exam will be offered at the same location on October 18. Fee is \$15.

Calabasas CA 91301

LICENSING CLASS

10/18/2020
Start/End Dates: 10/18/2020 - 10/18/2020
Times: 9am to 3pm
of Sessions: 1
Class level: Technician
Morse code offered: Yes
Pre register required: Yes
Fee: \$100
Pre Study required: Yes
Class Type: Weekend/One Day
Exam offered: Yes
Sponsoring Club/Organization: Goodkin Radio Classes
Instructor: K6YXH
Contact: Norm Goodkin K6YXH

Phone: (818) 613-2257
Email: norm@goodkin.net
Location: Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center
27040 Malibu Hills Road
Class Room
Calabasas, CA 91301
Additional Information: Register at <http://hamclass.goodkin.net>. Please obtain an FCC Registration Number (FRN) and use it to fill out a license application Form 605, downloaded from <http://glaarg.org/glaarg-forms>. Fill it out on your computer, print and sign it. Bring it to the class, along with a Drivers License or Passport for identification. Exam immediately after the class. If you don't pass, there will be test sessions on the following two Sunday mornings at 8am.

Thousand Oaks CA 91360

LICENSING CLASS

11/07/2020
Start/End Dates: 11/07/2020 - 12/05/2020
Times: 8:00am - Noon
of Sessions: 5
Class level: Extra
Morse code offered: No
Pre register required: Yes
Fee: 0
Pre Study required: No
Class Type: Weekend/One Day
Exam offered: No
Sponsoring Club/Organization: Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club
Instructor: K6VQN
Contact: Kathryn Hunley K6VQN
Phone: (805) 218-3277
Email: k6vqn@arrl.net
Location: East Ventura County Sheriff's Station
2101 East Olsen Road
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
Additional Information: An exam will be offered at the same location as class on December 6. Fee is \$15.

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.



Stu AG6AG gives an FT Talk at the August 14th K6MEP Zoom Meeting

Upcoming FCC Exam Test Sites (none scheduled within 25 miles of Ventura in September; Due to the Coronavirus outbreak, please verify with your VE team that the exam session is being held.)

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

Trivia for September 2020

Did you know???

1. 1834 Samuel Colt made his first firearm?
2. The world's largest potato was 50 lbs. in 2008.
3. In 1883, Buffalo Bill opened his first Wild West show.

DE

Dana KG6WXE

Calendar September 2020

1: ACS/ARES Tuesday Night Net

7: K6MEP Monday Night Net (Labor Day)

8: ACS/ARES Tuesday Night Net

10: K6MEP Monday Night Net

11: 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 (Allstar digital communication))

14: K6MEP Monday Night Net, ACS District Zoom Meeting

21: K6MEP Monday Night Net

22: ACS/ARES Tuesday Night Net

28: K6MEP Monday Night Net

29: ACS/ARES Tuesday Night Net

(Taken from the CVARC website). The wildly successful "Auxiliary Bored Meetings" will

continue on a new schedule beginning Monday, June 29, 2020. The informal nets have been running four times daily on the Bozo repeater. Over 7,500 calls from 275 unique hams have been logged on the nets. Under the new schedule, the net will be called to order at 9 A.M. Monday through Saturday. The Saturday morning net will run 9 A.M. to noon with a swap and the repeater will link with Paul Strauss' (WD6EBY) repeater network for full Ventura County coverage. Starting July 11, 2020, there will be a second Saturday net at 9 P.M.

The Bozo Repeater operates with the following settings:

Frequency: 147.885 MHz

Offset: -

PL: 127.3

Stu AG6AG

<http://www.cvarc.org/event/auxiliary-bored-meetings-on-bozo-2/all/>



W6JWP enjoying Stu AG6AG's presentation

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.

Eric Casey, KC2ERC, ecasey@ar1.org; www.ar1.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar

Convention and Hamfest Calendar

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

Abbreviations

Spr = Sponsor
Tf = 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.

Alabama (Chickasaw) — Oct. 3 D H R S V
8 AM – 2 PM. Spr: Deep South ARC, J.C. Davis Auditorium, 400 Grand Ave. Tf: 146.745. Adm: \$5. www.k4dsr.com

Arizona (Tucson) — Sep. 26 D F H Q R T V
7 – 11 AM. Spr: Radio Society of Tucson, K7RST, Target Shopping Plaza North End Parking Lot, 9615 Old Spanish Trail. Tf: 145.25 (156.7 Hz). Adm: Free. www.k7rst.org/index.html

California (Lincoln) — Sep. 19 D F H R V
7 AM – noon. Spr: Western Placer ARC, McBean Park, 65 McBean Park Dr. Tf: 147.3 (67 Hz). Adm: Free.

California (Northridge) — Oct. 10 D H R S V
9 AM – 1 PM. Spr: So. CA Preparedness Foundation, Northridge Fashion Square NW Lot. Tf: None. Adm: Free. www.valleydisasterfair.com

Georgia (Dalton) — Sep. 12 F T
Ends at noon. Spr: Dalton ARC, Prater's Mill, 5845 SR-2. Tf: 145.230 (141.3 Hz). Adm: Free. www.w4drc.com

Iowa (Columbus Junction) — Oct. 4 D F H R S T V
7 AM – 2 PM. Spr: Muscatine ARC, Washington Area ARC, Louisa County Fairgrounds, 101 Fairground Rd. Tf: 146.985 (192.8 Hz). Adm: \$8. www.muscatineARC.org/se-ia-hamfest

Kansas (Wichita) — Oct. 3 D F H R S V
8 AM – 1 PM. Spr: Valley Center ARC, RiverWalk Church of Christ, 225 N. Waco Ave. Tf: 146.94 (103.5 Hz). Adm: \$5. www.varc.org

Kentucky (Shepherdsville) — Sep. 12 D F H Q R S T V
8 AM – 2 PM. Spr: Greater Louisville Hamfest Association, Inc. Paroquet Springs Conference Center, 395 Paroquet Springs Dr. Tf: 146.7, 443.7 (79.7 Hz). Adm: Advance \$6, door \$8 (cash only). www.louisvillehamfest.com

Louisiana (Slidell) — Oct. 9 – 10 D F H R S V
Friday 2 – 5 PM, Saturday 8 AM – 2 PM. Spr: Ozone ARC, Slidell Auditorium, 2056 2nd St. Tf: 147.27 (114.8 Hz). Adm: \$5. www.w5sla.net

Michigan (Adrian) — Sep. 20 D F H R T V
8 AM. Spr: Adrian ARC, Lanawa County Airport, 2651 W. Cadmus Rd. Tf: 145.37 (85.4 Hz). Adm: \$5. www.w8tqe.com

Michigan (Wyoming) — Sep. 12 D F H Q R T V
8 AM – 1 PM. Spr: Grand Rapids ARA, HSB, Inc., 5625 Burlingame Ave. SW. Tf: 147.26 (94.8 Hz). Adm: 6. www.w8dc.org

Minnesota (Carlton) — Sep. 26 D F H Q R V
9 AM – 1 PM. Spr: ARAC, Four Seasons Event Center, 90 Chestnut Ave. Tf: 146.94 (103.5 Hz). Adm: \$7. www.thearac.org

Minnesota (Cologne) — Sep. 19 D F H Q R S V
8 AM – noon. Spr: SMARTS Radio Club, Cologne Community Center, 1211 Village Pkwy. Tf: 147.165. Adm: \$10. www.smartsfest.org

Minnesota (Plymouth) — Sep. 29 R T
7 AM – noon. Spr: Twin City FM Club, West Medicine Lake Community Club, 1705 Forestview Ln. Tf: 146.78 (114.8 Hz). Adm: Buyers \$5, sellers \$10. www.tcfmc.org

New Jersey (Tinton Falls) — Sep. 26 D F H Q R V
8 AM – noon. Spr: KJI Electronics, MOESC Parking Lot, 100 Tornillo Way. Tf: 147.045 (67 Hz). Adm: \$5. www.gsara.club

New Jersey (Township of Washington) — Oct. 10 D H Q R T V
8 AM – 1 PM. Spr: Bergen ARA, Westwood Regional Jr./Sr. High School, 701 Ridgewood Rd. Tf: 146.79 (141.3 Hz). Adm: \$5. www.bara.org

New York (Ballston Spa) — Sep. 27 D F H R S T V
7 AM – 2 PM. Spr: Saratoga County ARA, Saratoga County Fairgrounds, 162 Prospect St. Tf: 147, 147.24 (91.5 Hz). Adm: \$6. www.k2dlf.org

New York (Lancaster) — Sep. 12 D F H R T
7:30 AM. Spr: Lancaster ARC, Bowen Road Grove, 3845 Bowen Rd. Tf: 147.255 (107.2 Hz). Adm: \$8. www.w2so.org

New York (Middletown) — Oct. 4 D F H Q R T V
8 AM – 12:30 PM. Spr: Orange County ARC, Town of Walkkill Community Center, 2 Wes Warren Dr. Tf: 146.76 (100 Hz). Adm: \$6. www.ocareny.org

Ohio (Berea) — Sep. 27 D F H Q R S T V
8 AM – 1 PM. Spr: Hamfest Assn. of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, 164 Eastland Rd. Tf: 145.41 (110.9 Hz). Adm: \$6. www.hac.org

Ohio (Findlay) — Sep. 13 D F H R T
8 AM – 1 PM. Spr: Findlay RC, Hancock County Fairgrounds, 1017 E. Sandusky St. Tf: 147.15 (88.5 Hz). Adm: \$10. www.findlayradioclub.org

Ohio (Westminster) — Oct. 10 F H R T
8 AM – 1 PM. Spr: NW Ohio ARC, Westminster UMC, 6650 Faulkner Rd. Tf: 146.67. Adm: \$10, children under 12, with an adult, are free. www.nwoarc.com

Pennsylvania (Butler) — Sep. 13 F H R T V
8 AM – 3 PM. Spr: BCARA, Unionville Fire Dept., 102 Mahood Rd. Tf: 147.36 (131.8 Hz). Adm: \$5. www.w3udx.org

Pennsylvania (East Stroudsburg) — Sep. 20 D F H R T V
8 AM. Spr: Eastern PA ARA, American Legion Post 346, 126 E 5th St. Tf: 147.045 (131.8 Hz). Adm: \$7. www.qsl.net/n3ls

Pennsylvania (Revloc) — Sep. 19 D F H Q R S T V
9 AM – 4 PM. Spr: Cambria RC, Revloc VFD, Revloc Volunteer Fire Co., 547 Cambria Ave. Tf: 145.21 (123 Hz). Adm: Free. www.cambriaradio.com

Cont. on page 13

Cont. from page 12

SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY SECTION CONVENTION

September 13, Mantua, NJ

D F H Q R S T V

8 AM – 2 PM. *Sprs:* Gloucester County ARC, Gloucester County 4-H Fairgrounds, 462 Harrison Ave. *Tl:* 147.18 (131.8 Hz). *Adm:* \$10.

South Carolina (Spartanburg) — Sep. 12 D F H R T V

8 AM – 3 PM. *Sprs:* Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Society, Piedmont Interstate Fairground, 575 Fairgrounds Rd. *Tl:* 146.61. *Adm:* Advance \$9 (see website), door \$10. www.brars.cc

Tennessee (Sevierville) — Sep. 19 D F H R S T V

8 AM – 4 PM. *Sprs:* Sevier County ARS, 470 ARG, Sevier County Fairgrounds, 754 Old Knoxville Hwy. *Tl:* 146.94. *Adm:* \$5. www.seviercountyars.com

WASHINGTON STATE CONVENTION

September 26, Spokane Valley, WA

D H Q R S V

9 AM – 4 PM. *Sprs:* Inland Empire VHF Radio Amateurs, Kamiak Butte Amateur Repeater Assn., University High School ARC, Spokane DX Assn., Palouse Hills ARC, University High School, 12420 E. 32nd Ave. *Tl:* 147.38. *Adm:* \$5.

Wisconsin (Milwaukee) — Sep. 25 – 26 D H R S V

Friday noon – 5:30 PM, Saturday 9 AM – 4 PM. *Spr:* Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club, Ham Radio Outlet Milwaukee, 5710 W. Good Hope Rd., Ham Radio Outlet Superfest. *Tl:* 145.13 (127.3 Hz). *Adm:* Free. www.w9rh.org/club-events/superfest/superfest-2020. Call ARRL's toll-free number at 1-800-243-7768, or email ads@arri.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 **September 1** to be listed in the **November** 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.



John checks his contest calendar

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 (-) PL 127.3 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(-) PL 127.3 TOaks

K6CPT DCS 145.300 Mhz (-) PL 100.0 LA DCS

K6CPT DCS 147.270 Mhz (-) PL 100.0 LA DCS

K6DCS DCS22 147.225 Mhz (+) PL 94.8 LA DCS

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

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

K6TZ 146.790 Mhz (-) PL 131.8 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 Hanson, W6RH, Email: w6rh@arrl.net

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

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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

ACS/ARES Training

Rob Hanson Ventura County ACS Radio Officer, Ventura County ARES District Emergency Coordinator

ARRL Hires First Director of Emergency Management

As another step in ARRL's increased focus on strengthening its emergency communications capabilities and long-standing working relationships with federal and state agencies and private emergency response organizations, ARRL has hired Paul Z. Gilbert, KE5ZW, of Cedar Park, Texas, as its first Director of Emergency Management.

Gilbert brings more than 30 years of experience in public service in both his professional and amateur radio endeavors. Beginning with his appointment as Emergency Coordinator in 1987, he has held multiple positions in the ARRL Field Organization. Currently in his second term as South Texas Section Manager, he has also served for more than a decade as the West Gulf Division's Assistant Director for Public Service, acting as liaison between Division leadership and local, state, and federal emergency management organizations.

Professionally, Gilbert most recently was Radio Officer, HQ Staff, for the Texas State Guard, where for the past 6 years he has been responsible for planning and implementation of the organization's communications capabilities. Previously he was a Public Safety Radio Coordinator for a Texas agency, charged with overseeing that organization's large-scale disaster communications response and identifying and eliminating in-state interoperability issues.

Gilbert, who has an Amateur Extra-class license, is a member of Army MARS, and holds numerous DHS certifications, including COML, COMT, COMT Instructor, and AUXCOM Communicator. He is a member of the FEMA Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Working Group (RECCWG), a graduate of the FEMA Emergency Management Institute's Exercise Design Course, and was a founding member of the Texas Division of Emergency Management Communications Coordination Group.

In his new role, Gilbert will manage a team responsible for supporting ARRL Emergency Communications programs and services, including the Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) and National Traffic System (NTS), as well as lead the continued modernization of those programs in consonance with the future emergency communications needs of the public and ARRL's key partners. —
ARRL

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.

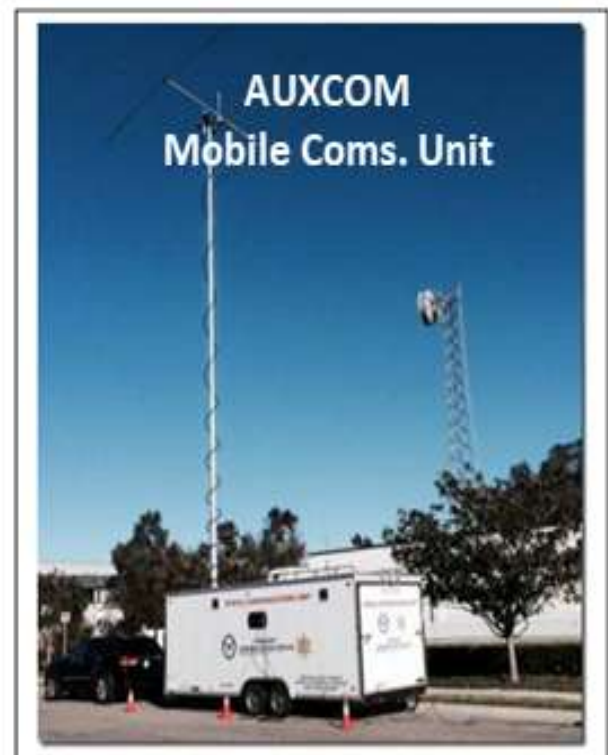
PR-101: ARRL Public Relations (EC-015)

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 Discipline of Operating on a Net by Wayne Woodhams N6WIX

Over the years I have participated in many nets of just about all types. During those many experiences I have formed some opinions on what type of things should happen, and equally important, what shouldn't happen on a net. My first thought about this month's article was to share some of those opinions in hopes that it might help provide some insights for those that read this article. Then, I thought some more about that idea, and decided to scrap the idea of sharing my thoughts, and instead, go another direction. In addition to my own opinions over the years, I have also listened to the opinions of countless others as I have participated in all those nets. So, I decided to share some of the thoughts and good advice of others, from the last 20 or 30 years. I hope each of you will consider their thoughts.

Rule #1: Be Yourself. Amateur Radio is NOT broadcasting, as we normally think of the broadcasting industry. It is communicating! The ultimate goal is to share your thoughts clearly, easily understood, and so that everyone listening can benefit from what you have shared. Some operators alter their voice, either by voice manipulation, or by electronic means. Some operators have a ton of equalization, frequency optimization, noise reduction, compression, and other processors to attempt to have the "network news" sound. A very little effort here goes a long ways. Talk clearly, use good microphone and keying habits, and be yourself.

Rule #2. Keep it Clean. The FCC prohibits most of the 4-letter words, and your good sense should probably add a few more expressions to avoid. You can easily make your point, contribute your thoughts, and share whatever, without going to the garbage can to find words or expressions.

Rule #3. Keep it Positive. Many who hear your voice also like to hear your positive thoughts and ideas. In general, negative contributions tend to drive others away, and often make them cringe in the future when you come online. Negative contributions consist of more than just the tone of your comments. It also includes arguments, opinion contests, putting others down, and other negative comments about others. If other operators are glad you've been online with them, and are eager to hear you again, then you have done a fabulous job of communicating. Be positive. (Cont. on page 20)

The Discipline of Operating on a Net by Wayne Woodhams N6WIX (Cont. from page 19)
Rule #4. Avoid Repetition. There are some operators who consider it a challenge to “one up” or out due the idea, story, or contribution of the last operator. You can quite easily spot this issue with words from the offender that start with “that reminds me of my experience.....”, “well, I have a better story than that...”, or “you think that’s great, wait till you hear this.” There are probably a few nets where this type of offering is the nature of the net, and so be it. But, in general this type of expression is not beneficial or enjoyable for others to hear.

Rule #5. Prepare Your Thoughts. There are a very few operators who think fast enough on their feet, to be able to go forward with a conversation with good comments and contributions on the fly. For the majority, however, that doesn’t happen quite that smoothly. Here’s a little hint that may help. Have paper and pen/pencil handy, and jot down single outline words that will focus what you want to say, and use those to keep on subject. It also sometimes helps to suggest how much your thoughts or ideas are going to amount to, as opposed to having all listeners wonder “when is he/she going to shut up?” A short expression like “I have two short things to add” can really help. If at the end of a QSO someone else says they really enjoyed your thoughts, then you have done it well.

There are many more thoughts from others, but I’ll save those for another time.

Here’s your “assignment” this month. Find a net you particularly like, or think that it’s really enjoyable or beneficial, and tell at least one person about it. That’s one way of how nets grow.

73, Wayne N6WIX



Wayne Woodhams (from QRZ)

Page 20 of 38

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 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

No repeater news this month (but lots of work going on for future publication!)

It's been a busy month on the network, both with maintenance and usage!

We had several fires visible from the SimiEast site (aka Chatsworth Peak). Video of those fires



were successfully streamed off of the ham radio network onto YouTube for wider viewing. And of course we had some equipment failures to deal with. The Ubiquiti network switch on Chatsworth Peak locked up. It was pulled down and tested, but worked properly. It was reinstalled, but naturally failed permanently several days later (fortunately right after being used to stream video from yet another brushfire.

It was replaced with another switch but somehow either coincidentally or as a side-effect of the switch failure, the PTZ camera there failed. With the help of several generous donations the camera was replaced and a new Netonix switch is on order.

While the current network switch is working, the Ubiquiti switches have gained a reputation in the region (not just PVARC) for being less than reliable. A replacement switch has been ordered and will be installed at Chatsworth Peak soon. It's from Netonix, a brand that we've had good luck with in Ventura County. It has the advantage of being a DC-powered switch, whereas the Ubiquiti switch is AC-powered and uses an inverter off of the battery bank. Eliminating the inverter will mean one less thing to break in the future.

We very recently had a brief outage on Rasnow Peak – both the Bozo repeater and the network equipment went down. Paul found that the surge protector had tripped off-line, maybe due to an electrical surge. Cycling power to the surge protector brought all the equipment back on line.

To the east, a repair was recently attempted at Verdugo Peak (also with an apparent Ubiquiti switch failure). There, it appears that besides the switch most of the microwave gear (all of the Part 15 gear and two of three the mesh network nodes) is now dead, (cont. on page 23)

NEWS FROM PVARC (cont. from page 22)

perhaps from an electrical issue. Another trip will be made to the site in the near future to inventory the equipment and determine exactly what need\$ to be replaced. It could be a couple of thou\$and dollar\$ worth of equipment.

If you're on the network and have a VOIP phone but haven't had an extension from the K6PVR PBX assigned to it, drop Orv an email and he'll get you set up.

73, Orv W6BI Paul WD6EBY



Calendar

< 2019 < AUG SEPTEMBER 2020 OCT > 2021 >							Month ▼
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		1	2	3	4	5	
		ACS Net – HF 8:30 LVARC Net 2:00 PM ACS Net – VHF UHF CVARC HF Net 7:0 Teamtalk Mesh Ne				Newsline / ARRL A	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Newsline / ARRL N K6MEP Net 8:00 PM Newbie Net 7:00 PM	NBEMS monthly mtg CVARC HF Net 7:0	ACS Net – HF 6:30 Teamtalk Mesh Ne ACS Net – VHF UHF				Newsline / ARRL A	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
Newsline / ARRL N K6MEP Net 8:00 PM Newbie Net 7:00 PM	ACS Net – HF 6:30 CVARC HF Net 7:0	ACS Net – VHF UHF Teamtalk Mesh Ne				Newsline / ARRL A	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
Newsline / ARRL N K6MEP Net 8:00 PM Newbie Net 7:00 PM	ACS Net – HF 6:30 CVARC HF Net 7:0	ACS Net – VHF UHF Teamtalk Mesh Ne				Newsline / ARRL A	
27	28	29	30				
Newsline / ARRL N K6MEP Net 8:00 PM Newbie Net 7:00 PM	ACS Net – HF 6:30 CVARC HF Net 7:0	ACS Net – VHF UHF Teamtalk Mesh Ne					

ARRL SB Section Mgr. John Kitchens NS6X

www.arrl.org/sections

ARRL Section Managers

The 15 Divisions of ARRL are arranged into 71 administrative Sections, each headed by an elected Section Manager (SM). Your Section Manager is the person to contact when you have news about your activities, or those of your radio club. If you need assistance with a local problem, your Section Manager is your first point of contact. He or she can put you in touch with various ARRL volunteers who can help (such as Technical Specialists). Your Section Manager is also the person to see if you'd like to become a Section volunteer. Whatever your license class, your SM has an appointment available. Visit your Section page at www.arrl.org/sections.

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Our section manager, John
Kitchens NS6X

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



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

IARU Announces HF Digital Mode Band Plan Review

An International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) working group has been formed to develop solutions to reduce congestion within very popular mode segments while preventing mutual interference between "incompatible modes" as much as possible. The working group includes representatives of the three regional band-planning committees, marking the first time the three IARU regions have joined together to directly coordinate band-planning efforts.

"Because frequency allocations and amateur radio operating interests vary in different parts of the world, the development of band plans – voluntary guidelines on the use of the spectrum that is available to radio amateurs – is a responsibility of the three IARU regional organizations," the IARU explained in announcing the working group. "Each of the three regions has a band-planning committee to focus on this work."

The IARU says this approach to band planning has generally kept pace with the evolution of amateur radio operating, but the explosive growth in HF digital modes, particularly FT8, has led to perceived overcrowding of HF digital-mode band segments.

The new working group has already had fruitful discussions with the *WSJT* Development Group headed by Joe Taylor, K1JT. Additional discussions including other HF stakeholders will be held as part of a fundamental review of the different HF digital modes, and how they can best be categorized and arranged to share the limited spectrum available.

In recent years, moves have been made to bring the regional band plans into alignment wherever possible. Final approval of any band plan revisions typically occurs during regional conferences of IARU member-societies, held every 3 years on a rotating basis.

Due to recent administrative changes, however, revisions can be implemented without having to wait for the regional conferences.



New Smartphone App Can Identify Unknown Data Modes

An incredible number of digital-mode radio signals occupy the spectrum, and it's not always possible to identify the particular mode of operation. CW, PSK31, and FT8 are pretty easy, but how about CIS405, STANAG, or CHIP64? A new smartphone app can simplify things. [SignalID](#) can recognize about 20 signal modes (more may be



on the way), in just 5 seconds of recording time. The app is open source and free.

Using it is simple. Once the frequency and bandwidth have been set, the user places the cell phone's microphone near the receiver's speaker, presses the large button, and waits for 5 seconds. The quieter the external environment is, the fewer errors.

"The algorithm is based on frequency, [so incorrect tuning] will result in an erroneous detection. The recording is limited to 5 seconds, for practical reasons. Mode recognition may require several attempts, the developer, Tortillum, said, and upgrades are already in the works. "The easiest way to try [it] is RTTY or STANAG," the developer

added.

The very few comments so far from users suggest some further work may be needed, but they praised the concept. The developer invites additional [comments](#).

The application, which includes a complete list, could prove a valuable tool in determining the types of emissions that may stray into amateur radio bands. A [demonstration video](#) is available. — *Thanks to Southgate Amateur Radio News via Stephen Walters, G7VFX*

New Contest for Portable Stations to Debut

A new amateur radio contest for portable operators – the Fox Mike Hotel Portable Operations Challenge ([POC](#)) – will debut October 3 - 4. The event is aimed at leveling the competitive playing field between fixed stations and portable stations. [Scoring](#) for the POC, based upon a kilometers-per-watt metric, will be handicapped in favor of the portables. The contest is the brainchild of Frank Howell, K4FMH. Sponsors include *National Contest Journal* ([NCJ](#)) – an ARRL publication – but the POC will not be an official *NCJ* or ARRL contest.

"*NCJ's* role is to encourage hams who don't contest to give it a try," *NCJ* Editor Dr. Scott Wright, K0MD, said. "It will encourage activity by operators who are limited by real estate and do not have a full-blown contest station. Events like this stimulate more interest in contesting, and this will have an international scope to give chances to snare some new DXCC entities."



The [contest rules](#) say scoring will be calculated using the distance between stations (Maidenhead grid squares) in kilometers divided by power output in watts. Fixed (QTH) stations will compete against portable (P) stations on 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. Allowable modes include phone, CW, and digital.

The exchange is call sign, station class (P or Q), consecutive serial number, and four-character grid square.

Contact [Howell](#) for more information. Read [more](#).

Technology and Technique Making Ham Radio Testing Possible During Pandemic

Amateur radio license testing continues during the pandemic, with a combination of remote Volunteer Examiner (VE) test sessions and careful in-person session planning. In Hawaii, VE Team leader and Section Manager Joe Speroni, AH0A, said he and his team passed the 100-candidate mark on August 10 for video-supervised remote test sessions. Speroni said the most recent session administered exams to 10 candidates simultaneously. (Cont. on page 31)

Technology and Technique Making Ham Radio Testing Possible During Pandemic (cont. from page 30)

"Candidates from all Hawaiian Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, and US military bases in Okinawa have had an opportunity to sit for licenses," he told the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator. "The high pass rate of 95% is most likely due to candidates having had time to prepare for the exam." Speroni also said his VEs' willingness to contribute their time has made the program a success and available to a wide geographical range.

"Zoom meeting video lends itself to handling three candidates per session, and each requires three VEs," Speroni explained. "The 1:1 ratio of candidates to VEs makes planning important. Fortunately, the team of 15 VEs has volunteers from Oahu, Maui, the Big Island, California, and the Pacific. Often, hams from Okinawa and Guam are helping to license and upgrade hams in Hawaii."

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected licensing numbers as well as testing protocols. ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, reports that through the end of July, overall FCC license activity was down by 15% compared to the same period last year. New amateur licenses are down by 12% so far in 2020, with 15,849 new licensees compared to 17,947 in 2019. "Upgraded licenses are down by a staggering 23% -- 6,501 versus 4,984," Somma said. "The year-end prediction of 7,500 upgrades is much lower than in previous years, which have averaged around 9,500."

On the other side of the US, Rhode Island Section Manager and VE Bob Beaudet, W1YRC, reports his club, the Blackstone Valley Amateur Radio Club, conducted a "pandemic-compliant" open-air test session on August 8.

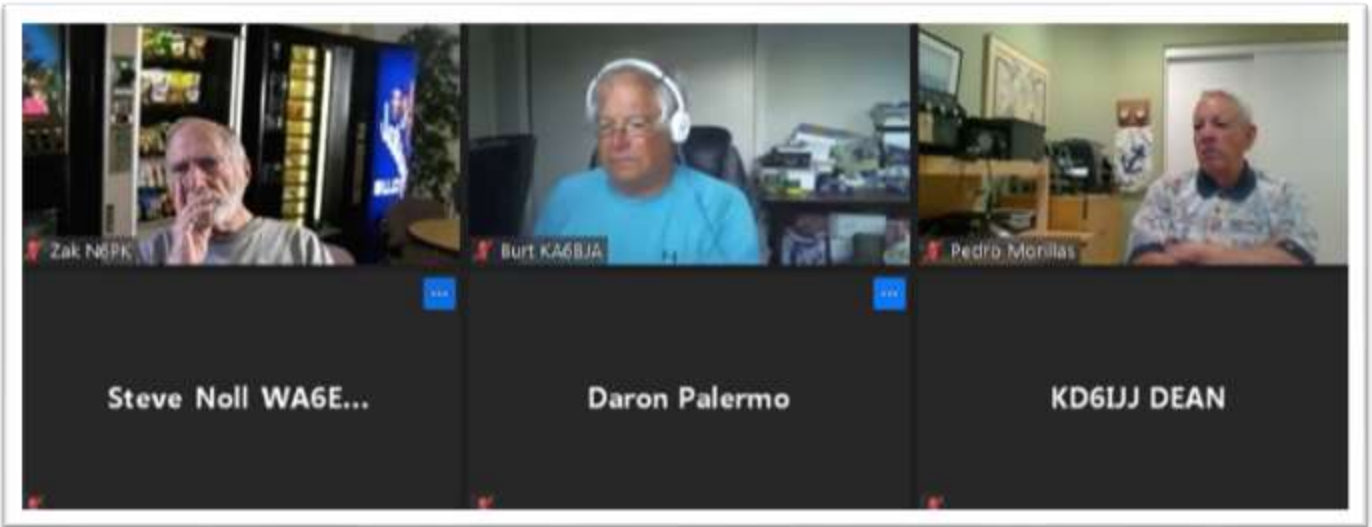


"Our governor in Rhode Island has directed citizens not to congregate in groups greater than 15 outdoors," Beaudet said, estimating that group size remained at around that number at any given time as candidates arrived and left. "Some came early and left as new people arrived," he said. "Also, we were rather widely spread out in the parking lot." Everyone wore masks and observed

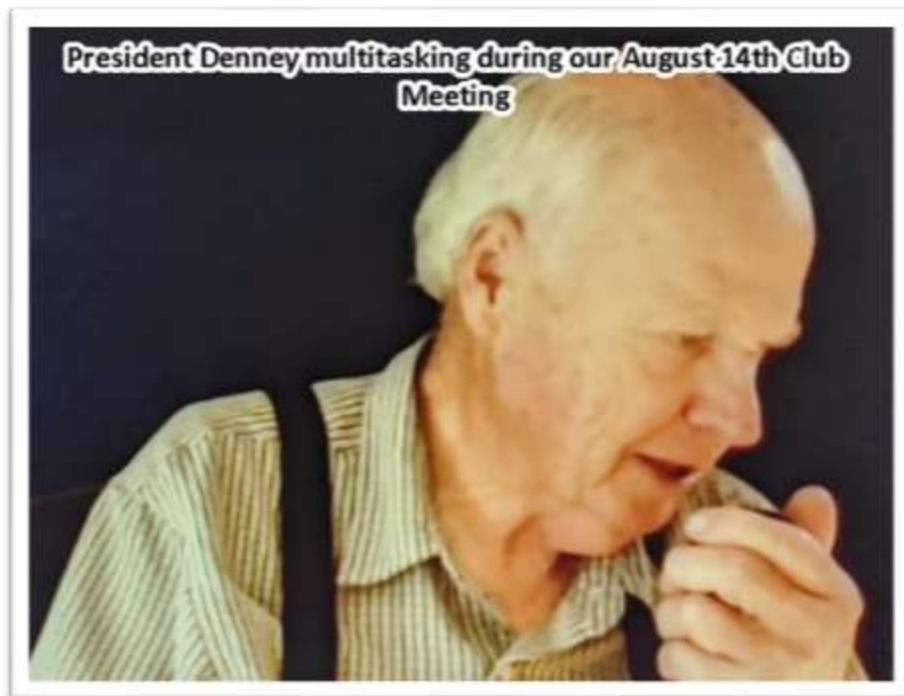
appropriate social distancing. The VEs grading and processing applications were also spread widely apart. "We planned to keep applicants a car width apart from one another, but many applicants came in rather large trucks," Beaudet recounted. "That changed our parking pattern a little." (Cont. on page 32)

Technology and Technique Making Ham Radio Testing Possible During Pandemic (cont. from page 31)

The session accommodated one candidate who was severely vision impaired and successfully upgraded to a General-class license, with a VE reading the questions and recording his answers. -- *Thanks to Joe Speroni, AH0A, and Bob Beaudet, W1YRC*



Some of the attendees during Stu AG6AG's FT presentation



Jon Jones, N2JK, n0jk@arrl.org

The World Above 50 MHz

The FT8 One-and-Done Phenomenon

It's common to see only one or two FT8 decodes from both DX and state-side stations, followed by no further reception. A few explanations of this could be a fixed E_s cloud bubbling above (and then below) the MUF, or a moving cloud. The "one-and-done" phenomenon is where you see one or perhaps two decodes from a station, and then they are gone. Many operators have noted this, and it appears on DX Cluster spots as well. So many operators wonder what is involved.

Wait, AJ6T, mentions E_s clouds right at the MUF. Other possibilities include E_s cloud movement. A small cloud moves across the path from you to a distant station at a 90-degree angle. It is briefly in position to support propagation, then continues drifting and then no propagation. Meteor scatter is another consideration. A meteor burns up in the right place to raise the MUF above 50 MHz. Once the ionization decays, the MUF drops.

This effect can be observed during a major meteor shower, such as the Geminids or Perseids. Stations pop in for a decode or two, then they are gone. MSK144 is able to utilize meteor bursts more efficiently for communication, as is SSB. FT8 sequences are 15 seconds each, with a repeat starting 30 seconds after the start of the first. Thus, MSK144 or SSB can take advantage of one-and-done propagation — sometimes to successfully complete a contact. FT4 may also be useful, due to the shorter sequences. Joe Taylor, K1JT, reported on the WS/7-X Development Group reflector that on June 7, he made 39 DX contacts using the FT4 mode on 50.318 MHz in just 44 minutes.

On the Bands

50 MHz. Adrian, VE7NZ, mentioned he worked Europe on May 31. June started off with a bang. Lee, KX4TT (EL87), worked several European stations, including UR0MC on June 1. K6QXY worked ON4GG, F1IXQ, and G8BCG around 1528Z. Congratulations to W6TOD (DM15), who logged PA4VHF for his 100th DXCC entity on June 1. On June 3, Lloyd, K2KJ/1 (FN55), worked into W4. There was a big opening from Japan to W4 on the evening of June 3. From Utah, K7ULS/P (DN41) worked YS1AG and Japan. AA0MZ (EM29) logged a contact with KO6FE in rare grid CN71. On June 4, K7ULS added HC5VF, and on June 5, he logged 9H1TX and other European stations.

Rich, K1HTV (FM18), found a good European opening on June 7. The next day, Rich logged OD5KU for his 163rd 6-meter DXCC entity. Rich noted that, by end of day on June 8, he'd made contacts with 51 DX sta-

tions in 21 countries. Mario, K2ZD, logged TA1BM on June 8. On June 9, Bob, K2DRH (EN41), put Nicholas, TT8SN, in the log.

On June 9, Mario worked TT8SN for his 213th DXCC entity. K1HTV heard KH6CJJ on Maui. I, N0JK, caught one decode of KH6CJJ sending "73" to AD6D at 2337Z. Rich worked NH6Y (BL10). John, KF0M (EM17), worked KH6U for his 49th state on 6 meters during this opening. From Maui, Kent, KH6CJJ, says he runs 175 W to a four-element Yagi up 35 feet and made 65 stateside contacts that day.

On June 11, WA2GFN worked VE2CSI (FO60) on SSB. Dave, NM5Z, made a 6-meter contact with KH6U in Hawaii on June 12, at 2039Z. Jay, N1AV (DM43), also worked Hawaii, adding BA4SAI, HL3GOB, and HL2DAA on June 12. From northern California, Fred, K6IJ, worked KH6, W4, XE, PV8, and HK on June 12. During the ARRL June



Figure 1 — The PSK report for FT8 reception of TF3ML on June 17, 2020, on 50 MHz. Stations are seen across the entire eastern half of North America.

(Cont. from page 33)

VHF Contest, KF0M worked several stations in Japan. K1HTV worked 17 DXCC countries during the contest, including S0WS in southern Sudan.

On June 16, K1TOL, WW1L, and N2QT (FM07) worked several stations in Kazakhstan. From Wichita, Kansas, John, KF0M, made contacts with eight European stations. Lou, W0FK, in St. Louis (EM48), worked four new European countries. He noted that there are many operators home during the COVID-19 pandemic, who were able to take advantage of the great conditions, which he called "a ray of sunshine in an otherwise awful year."

TF3ML in Iceland had a big opening to the eastern half of North America on the afternoon of June 17 (see Figure 1). I even copied TF3ML on a mobile whip. John, KF0M (EM17), said TF3ML peaked to "+20" and worked him at 2133z. Meanwhile,

Rich, K1HTV, found good conditions to Ecuador. Rich worked 5 HC stations between 2325 – 2330Z on FT8 using "TX2" to expedite the contacts.

On June 18, Trent, N4DTF (EM55), worked K0LU (DN86) on SSB. K7ULS worked LB9RE for a new country. Pat, K7LNP (DN30), worked G4AMT, F6HRP, and OH3SR (KP21). He used an Icom IC-7300 transceiver and an M2 three-element Yagi. On June 19, Frank, W3LPL, in Maryland worked 75 stations in Japan using FT8 from 2130 – 2340Z. W3ATV (FN20) managed to work JG1TSG, while using only 200 W to a 40-meter dipole. Jose, N4BAA, in Indiana worked Japan and HL3GOB with only 80 W. On June 20, K0BJ (DM99) received ZF1EJ on MSK144, possibly via sporadic E. K7ULS found P43A and more stations in Japan on June 21 and in Europe on June 22. K1AV logged KL7HBK for his 50th state on 6 meters on June 23. Hasan, N0AN

(EN22), worked 14 stations in Japan on June 25. He uses a five-element LFA Yagi at 60 feet.

On the Sunday afternoon of ARRL Field Day, Bob, WB0NRV (EM17), said, "I called CQ once on FT8, and my screen turned red with stations calling from Japan." He worked 24 stations. Larry, N0LL, went on grid expedition to grid DN90, and he managed to work JF8QNF (QN02) in Japan and decoded JF6EZE and HL3GOB before it started hailing (see Figures 2 and 3).

144 MHz. On Friday, May 29, an extensive sporadic-E opening took place in Europe. D4VHF was heard by SP5XMU in Poland at a distance of 5,600 kilometers. D4VHF worked DL5MCG on FT8 at 1531Z. This opening may have been a combination of tropospheric propagation from Cape Verde with sporadic-E links. On June 10, K7ULS/P (DN41) worked K7EME (DM42) on tropo using JT65. On June 13, N1AV (DM43) worked W5CMP (EM12) on E_s with 90 W and an "18XXX" Yagi. On June 25, Sam, K5SW (EM25), worked K5HCS (EM20) on tropo.



▼ **Figure 2** — Larry, N0LL, used a five-element Yagi during his grid expedition. [Larry Lambert, N0LL, photo]

◄ **Figure 3** — Larry's, N0LL, grid expedition was interrupted with golf ball-sized hail. [Larry Lambert, N0LL, photo]



Here and There

Lance, W7GJ, reported, "Because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we regret that the W7GJ 6-meter EME DXpedition to FO/A and FO/M and the KB7Q 2-meter EME DXpedition to FO/M must be delayed until 2021." The approximate dates for the new DXpeditions: FO/A (6 meters only) on October 15 – 24, 2021; FO/M (TX7MB on 2 and 6 meters) on October 26 to November 4, 2021.

The August 2020 "World Above 50 MHz" column was missing a citation for the study conducted by the WSJT-X development team: S. Franke, K9AN; D. Hill, AA5AU; E. Muns, W0YK; I. Saje, S52D, and J. Taylor, K1JT, "Digital Contesting," *NCJ*, May/June 2020, p. 29.

Rescued Radio Amateur Says, “Ham Radio Saved My Life”

Alden Sumner Jones IV, KC1JWR, of Bennington, Vermont, is thankful for amateur radio, after suffering a medical incident and losing consciousness on June 15 while hiking with others along a remote section of the Long Trail, not far from his home. An EMT from Appalachian Mountain Rescue (AMR), who was hiking nearby, saw Jones pass out, but was unable to connect with 911 via his cell phone. Jones, 41, regained consciousness and was successful using his handheld radio to contact Ron Wonderlick, AG1W, via the Northern Berkshire Amateur Radio Club’s K1FFK repeater on Mount Greylock. Wonderlick initiated what turned into an 8-hour effort to get Jones off the trail and to a medical facility, acting as a relay among Jones, emergency crews, and other agencies involved. As the *Bennington Banner* reported, “The Vermont State Police also received assistance from several licensed amateur radio operators who helped facilitate communications, greatly assisting in the rescue.”

Matthew Sacco, KC1JPU, headed to a rescue staging area, and when he could not make it into the repeater, he employed some ham radio ingenuity. He fashioned a J-pole antenna from some window line he had on hand, casting it into a tree using a fishing pole. It worked, and an individual on site was able to obtain an accurate location for Jones using the GPS on his cell phone.

Rescuers could not reach Jones using an all-terrain vehicle, so arrangements were made to have a search-and-rescue crew from New York retrieve Jones by helicopter. Amateur radio participants were able to relay critical information, including an accurate location, as preparations continued.

Jones, meanwhile, took advantage of his time with the EMT and other rescuers to talk up amateur radio and explain how to get licensed. According to one account, rescuers were having trouble making contact with the helicopter, so Jones loaned them a better antenna he happened to have. During his flight to a hospital in Albany, New York, Jones again leveraged the occasion to promote amateur radio to the helicopter pilot and crew.

“Ham radio saved my life last night, and I am very thankful for how everyone helped me,” Jones said afterward.



A helicopter-supported litter carries Alden Sumner Jones IV, KC1JWR, to safety. [Vermont State Police photo via the *Bennington Banner*]



2020 Simulated Emergency Test

Test your readiness on October 3 – 4, 2020.

Steve Ewald, WV1X

ARRL's 2020 Simulated Emergency Test (SET) will take place October 3 and 4. This nationwide exercise is the chance to test your personal emergency operating skills and the readiness of your communications equipment in a simulated emergency-like deployment. In consideration of the COVID-19 pandemic, everyone who participates in the SET must follow Center for Disease Control (CDC) and local health department guidelines by staying home if you can, maintaining safe distances when around people, and following recommended cleaning and disinfecting practices at all times. For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov.

ARRL Field Organization leaders at the Section and local levels, and many other volunteers that are active in public service and emergency communications, are developing simulated emergency-like scenarios in consultation with a variety of agencies and organizations for whom radio amateurs are known to provide service during emergencies. ARRL's Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES[®]), the National Traffic System (NTS), the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), SKYWARN[™], Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN), and other allied groups and public service-oriented radio amateurs are among those who are eligible to participate in the simulated exercise and to practice emergency operation plans, nets, and procedures.

Visit www.arrl.org/served-agencies-and-partners for more information on ARRL's served agencies and partners.



Ed Compos, K5CRQ, (left) and Bart Pickens, N5TWB, (right) served as net control operators from the Tulsa County Emergency Operations Center during the 2019 SET in Tulsa County, Oklahoma. [Paul Teel, WB5ANX, photo]

The 2020 ARRL SET offers the chance to reach out to these partners to establish or review plans and develop working relationships.

National Preparedness Month

National Preparedness Month is in September, and is a nationwide effort to encourage everyone to take steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, workplaces, schools, and communities. We encourage you to consider this year's Simulated Emergency Test and all preparations for it as a demonstration of amateur radio's readiness. More information on National Preparedness Month can be found at www.ready.gov.

SET to Go!

ARRL Field Organization leaders have the option of conducting their local or Section-wide SET on another

weekend besides October 3 and 4. 2020 SETs should be conducted no later than the end of the fall season or calendar year.

To find out how to be involved in this year's SET, please contact your local ARRL Emergency Coordinator or Net Manager. Contact your local club or other area clubs to find out who the Emergency Coordinator is and/or where the nearest ARES or NTS nets meet. In addition, refer to the ARRL Section web pages at www.arrl.org/groups/sections.

Guidelines and specific SET reporting forms for the ARRL Section and Field Organization leaders are posted at www.arrl.org/public-service-field-services-forms. If you're in charge of reporting this year's SET activity on behalf of your group, download the forms, fill them out as appropriate, and return them to sewald@arrl.org at ARRL Headquarters.

OPERATING TIP

Move FTx Contacts to CW and SSB using Custom Messages

Peter, WW2Y, extensively reported on his operation from grid FN24 during the recent CQ WW VHF Contest for the August 2020 Mt. Airy [Cheese Bits](#). Of particular note is his use of WSJT-X free-form messages to move stations to CW and SSB from FT4/8: "After working VE2HAY in FN35 on 2M FT8, I noticed that K1TEO was booming in and I didn't want to work Jeff on that mode. I loaded up the TX5 message saying, go to 195 SSB. He disappeared quickly, and I knew he figured it out. In a flash, he started calling me on 144.195 on SSB and worked him with S9 signals both ways. We quickly moved to 6M for a double." Later in the contest, N2NT called Peter: "N2NT's signal was definitely up now, and he noticed I was lurking on FT8. Suddenly, a modified TX5 message pops up saying go to 50099 CW. I knew this had to be John at N2NT, and I instantly changed bands to 6M CW." VHF/UHF operators who want to maximize paths and openings should learn how to customize the *WSJT-X* or *JTDX* TX messages on the fly to obtain contacts on CW and SSB.

CONVERSATION

Game Changers?

"Battery technology has advanced greatly in power capacity during recent years for their size and weight. Imagine someone who spends several hours hiking up to a peak with packed gear on their backs, only to operate in poor radio propagation conditions for 6 hours, only to return unsatisfied." - Pete, WW2Y, in the Mt. Airy VHF Society *Cheese Bits* newsletter.

Pete was describing the 6-hour limit that the CQ WW VHF Contest places on Hilltopper QRP Class entries, and how it can affect operators that happen to operate during 6 hours of poor propagation.

A related, more general question is, "what other technology assumption has changed, or is changing, that affects contesting and amateur radio in general?"

This year, we've all faced the near-overnight changes in social interaction due to the pandemic. Remote is the new black! But what about incremental technology changes that we may be taking for granted?

To Pete's point: battery technology is one that we "know" about, but in real terms, lead-acid batteries provide about 10 and 30 Watt-hours per kilogram. Lithium ion batteries? Between 130 and 180 Watt-hours per kilogram. A low power (vs QRP) battery-powered transmit signal doesn't seem out of the question. (Cont. on page 38)

CONVERSATION (Cont. from page 37)

Solar cell efficiencies have been increasing, too. Add that to the battery advances and overall miniaturization of electronics and you can understand why [high-altitude balloon flights](#) using amateur radio for position reporting are interesting. A recent flight by the [W5KUB team](#) lasted over 72 days, circling the Earth three times.

For those that want to set some communication [distance records](#) using light wavelengths, it might be helpful to note that the laser diode power-vs-cost curve has been increasing exponentially for the past few years. There are plenty of high-power laser "pointers" available from eBay and other sources, but on the internet, someone always takes it to the next level: [someone built a 100 watt output hand held laser](#), using an industrial part usually used in DLP projectors. Safety demands the emission from these parts to be respected and used responsibly -- just like high voltage in tube amplifiers and RF emissions at amateur frequencies that can cause human tissue damage.

Autonomous driving technology has spurred advances in radar, already trickling down to hobby use: The May/June 2020 [QEX article](#) "A Simple 122-GHz Transverter" uses a radar-on-a-chip device to reduce the cost and complexity of projects for this band.

The power of computing elements keeps increasing, while costs continue to decrease, especially at the low end. Today, for under \$10, the [ESP32](#)-based modules with WiFi, USB-C Serial port, color LCD Display, buttons, plenty of I/O, Bluetooth, and compatibility with the Arduino programming ecosystem seems appealing for all sorts of projects. Combined with various mixed-signal PCB-level modules for DDS, PLL, power measurement, and so on it's possible to have higher-functionality projects with less time and effort.

Mike, K7MDL, used an M5Stack computing element based on an ESP32 and various analog modules to build an [RF power meter with a graphical user interface](#). He has made his source code available via [Github](#).

Github, and the general ability to find source code for software that has already been written to do that task you need done, is also one of those game-changers. For example, searching for "N1MM" on Github, one can find code ranging from decoding *N1MM Logger+*'s UDP packets to extracting contact information for a big screen for Field Day.

What do you think is a game-changer in 2020?

That's all for this time. Remember to send contesting related stories, book reviews, tips, techniques, press releases, errata, schematics, club information, pictures, stories, blog links, and predictions to contest-update@arrl.org

73, Brian N9ADG