



The February 12<sup>th</sup> club meeting (held on Lincoln's Birthday; born 212 years ago) was held on the air by club President Denney N6HV using the Sulphur Mountain Repeater, on 145.200 MHz with a minus offset and a PL of 127.3 Hz. A Zoom meeting followed the on-the-air net. Our President presented slides containing his suggestions for the types of "Go Containers" and their contents.

The March 12<sup>th</sup> club meeting will be held on the air by club President Denney N6HV using the Sulphur Mountain Repeater, on 145.200 MHz with a minus offset and a PL of 127.3 Hz. A Zoom meeting will follow the on-the-air net. Our president will announce the topic and presenter. Please check our website, [K6MEP.org](http://K6MEP.org), for any announcements.

Reese West KQ6TT continues to pen his "Thoughts from the West" column in our Keyer; this month's article is entitled "Antennas". We are appreciative of the positive feedback his previous column, entitled "A Layman's View of the Universe", has garnered.

Our club recently donated money to PVTAC to support interest in amateur radio. PVTAC, "The Pleasant Valley Telecommunications Advisory Council", is organized under section 501(c) (3) as a tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation dedicated to providing telecommunications advise, education, training and technical experience. Many of the Ventura County repeaters are supported by donations, including the Sulphur Mountain Repeater we use for our Monday Night Net and monthly on-the-air club meetings.

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Keyer Editor	Robert Shank	KM6RSS
Webmaster	Robert Shank	KM6RSS
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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,

In the March issue of the ARRL magazine QST there is a chart that graphs the number of contacts made on 10 meters during the CQ World Wide contest during solar cycle 24. It shows that two years after the sunspot minimum, at the beginning of cycle 24, the number of contacts jumped from a hand full the year before, to near 4000. The next year the number of contacts almost doubled.

Solar cycle 24 came to an end (hit minimum) in 2019. It's been a year since that minimum, so I'm looking for a great 2021. The lower frequency bands should come alive long before 10 meters hits its peak. You need to get on the air and start calling to make the band come alive. 40 and 20 meters are becoming so active that hams are complaining they can't find an open spot on FT-8.

Side note. Consider joining the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). They publish several magazines, including QST and the ARRL radio handbook. Every ham should have a copy of the ARRL handbook. The QST magazine comes with your membership in the ARRL. The ARRL also lobbies Washington and the International Telecommunication Union to protect amateur radio frequencies. It also supports clubs and conferences across the nation.

Sky and Telescope magazine had a front cover article on "How Well Do We Know the Sun?" Researchers have added two satellites, and the biggest ground based solar telescope ever made to their solar research tools. The solar telescope has a 13 foot primary mirror. Think of what a great hot dog cooker a 13 foot mirror would make. This equipment has not been around long enough to observe a solar maximum, but the data they have given researcher have upset several theories. **(Cont. on page 3)**

## Message from the President (Cont. from page 2)

You have been taught that the sun is made up of Hydrogen and Helium, with a tiny bit of other elements. Well, it's those other elements that have scientists divided into two camps. Their experiments don't agree on the amounts of these elements are in the sun. After all the years of studying the sun they still don't what it's make of. Would knowing what the amounts of trace elements in the sun help with predicting sun spots? I don't know, but it couldn't hurt.

They found a way to extend the sun spot count past the 400 years that we have records for. Out of the 400 years, it wasn't until the 1750s that they codified the method of counting sun spot. Even today different observatories around the world determine the sun spot numbers is slightly different ways. To extend the record of sun spot numbers researchers used the amount of carbon 14 compared to the amount of carbon 13 in wood from the past. Sun spots cause the sun to emit emits more radiation that turns nitrogen 14 (in the atmosphere) into carbon 14. The more sun spots the more carbon 14. Trees soak up the carbon 14 and carbon 13. The more carbon 14 adsorbed by a tree, compared to the carbon 13 it soaked up, the more sun spots there were while the tree was growing. Then they used wood from buildings that have known dates when they were built. The data was used to generate a chart of sun spots and they feel chart is good for the past 1000 years. From this chart, the current sun spot numbers are about what they were in 1250 AD. The sun spot number plateau around 1250 AD then dropped before climbing back to current levels. Of course, as the stock traders say, "Past performance does not guarantee future results".

After the bad weather in Texas you should reconsider your emergency preparedness. What really concerns me is that an earthquake hit Oklahoma right after the storm. Luckily, it was only a 4.2 magnitude quake and no one was reported hurt. Many are complaining that the power companies knew that cold weather could hit Texas, but the power companies did not prepare for it. Weather that bad had never hit Texas before. You can't prepare for all possibilities. Has Ventura County prepared for a giant meteor strike? It could happen.

Seriously, a polar coaster (a polar express front filled with cold and rain coming down the coast from the north) could waltz down from Alaska along the coast of Canada and California and bring wave after wave of freezing temperatures, rain, or both. The front that hit Texas was thousands of miles wide.

What can you do? It's not just having a heavy jacket or even long johns. You should have an extra blanket for everyone in your household. A weeks' worth of water would be needed. Extra socks are at the top of my list. I was involved in an unexpected snow storm and socks sold out everywhere within an hour. Having water and food is not going to do you any good if it is frozen solid. You will need a way to start a fire (outside). Propane will not vaporize if it gets too cold; they add Butane to propane to get it to work in winter. That is why people in Texas were begging for fire wood. Also a heat pump (an air conditioner run backwards) will not function if it gets too cold. Sleeping bags for everyone in your household could come in handy. An ice scraper in the glove box is very handy. I have had my windshield wipers freeze to the wind shield. That is a lot of stuff to sit in a closet unused for years, but if you needed it, it would be invaluable. Also think about having enough for family members not living with you or if friends get displaced by burst water pipes. Cold weather hit China Lake years ago and it burst a lot of water pipes. China Lake is near Death Valley, and Death Valley is one of the hottest places on earth. (Cont. on page 4)

## Message from the President (Cont. from page 3)

Think of what would it be like if temperatures dropped to 19 degrees, or even 6 degrees, and there was 8 inches of snow on the ground for days in Oxnard or Simi. That happened in Texas. It will take more than a space blanket to make it through.

The club needs someone to step forward and volunteer to be the club's secretary. Please contact the club's board at [k6mep@qsl.net](mailto:k6mep@qsl.net) if you're interested.

73, Denney N6HV

## K6MEP Monday Night Net by Denney N6HV

On January 11, 2021, we started the 2021 next contest. So far we've had 7 nets with a total of 138 check-ins.

### There were 17 check-ins to the 02-08-2021 Monday night net.

During the net Dave AI6VX announced that the Yaesu 7250DR was going out of production.

That was a surprise, since I own one that I bought a year ago.

Clem KM6OKZ is busy building a circuit with a Schottky diode to prevent the battery in his go box from being discharged when the charger is unplugged. He is also looking for an Icom 7300.

He like the one he played with during winter field day.

Burt KA6BJA has been working with Robert KM6RSS on Winlink and VARA. He also got an e-bike and has found it to help with hills.

Pedro and crew had a good time working Winter Field Outing day over the weekend.

Paul WD6EBY has been hard at work on the repeater system. He got a donation of a set of batteries for Sulphur Mountain. They are going to be installed this weekend. His Winlink controller is being programmed. Paul is looking for someone to be the System operator for the Winlink setup.

The radio portion of the net closed at 8:31 PM.

The Zoom get together wrap up:

Pedro KE6MIL mentioned that he worked Chile on 17 meters.

Tim KN6JGB asked what would be a good radio for 2 meters/45050 was not available. The Kenwood TMV-71 was suggested. It was also suggested to try a listing on QRZ.com. Another suggestion was to try Facebook marketplace.

Stu AG6AG has posted an updated video on how to program a Baofeng radio with the click software on his YouTube channel.

What to do on the next field day was discussed. Currently, there is a six person limit on how many people can gather at one time out in the open. A possible outing on a boat was mentioned. Another idea was an overnight outing to one of the Channel Islands. Island Packers is back in business, so that is an option.

There was a lot of discussion about Li-ion Iron Phosphate batteries and where to get them.

### 2021-2-22 Monday night net wrap up

We had 19 check-ins.

Members have been busy. (Cont. on page 5)

## **K6MEP Monday Night Net by Denney N6HV (Cont. from page 4)**

Paul WD6EBY started off with an update on the work going on with the repeater systems. As you will find in the Keyer newsletter, new batteries have been installed at the Sulphur mountain site, and the connectors have been installed on the hard line on the South Mountain site.

Mark KA6ASL took some time off and flew a small plane up to Oceano, CA.

Simhan KM6ZXP spent some time watching the Mars Rover land.

Dave AI6VX made another Slim Jim antenna. Contact him for more information.

Burt rode his electric bike over to Ojai and back

Pedro added an Icom 7100 to his shack.

Jeff KQ6MY checked-in from Santa Cruz Island. (Cont. on page 5)

Jeremy KN6JMD wrote a script to help make packet check-ins to 18 different machines. He offered to send the script to anyone that is interested in it.

### **Monday night after net zoom get together wrap up for 2-22-2021**

Pedro's GAP antenna does not work like it used to. He took it down and checked it out, but cannot find out what changed. The antenna is useable but is not as broad banded as it was. If anyone has information on how wide the bandwidth should be with a GAP antenna or how to improve it please contact us.

He also told us why he got an Icom 7100 when he already has a Icom 7300. He likes the remote head of the 7100 and the flexibility it allows him in mounting the radio.

We had a report that Tamitha Skov, the space weather woman, who does YouTube reports on the Sun's activity, father is doing better.

Denney N6HV

## **Minutes of the February 12th VCARC meeting.**

The on-the-air portion of the meeting started at 7:00 PM. We had 15 check-ins, my thanks to everyone that did check-in.

There was no old or new business brought before the club, although I urged all members to think about what we could do for the next Field Day.

Dan AC6NZ informed the club that Emmett Dunlop WA6COT has past away. He was instrumental in the rabbit radio group and known as a mentor to many hams.

Robert KM6RSS, our newsletter editor and at-large board member, has been hard at work installing a rotor on his two meter beam.

Clem KM6OKZ has been busy working FT-8 and reported that he was getting into Texas and South America.

The meeting closed at 7:36 PM.

### **Warp up of the after club meeting Zoom get together.**

We had a very good turnout for the zoom get together.

Here are some highlights;

James KN6MUI is thinking about making a bulk buy of LI ion P batteries. Contact him if you are interested in getting some batteries. (Cont. on page 6)

## **Minutes of the February 12th VCARC meeting (Cont. from page 5).**

Drones and the requirements to fly them were brought up. From what I have read, all drones (hobbyists or commercial) must be registered with the FAA and marked with a FAA number. A drone must weight under 55lbs, fly under 400 feet, and fly at less than 100 MPH.

There are a whole bunch of other rules and the rules vary from city to city.

There was some reminiscing about model airplanes. Models can be noisier, bigger and a lot harder to fly. John Gartman W6JPG showed an engine out of a model airplane that was about the size of a chain saw engine.

I talked about Luminar, a Photoshop alternate. Photoshop is hard to use and has a yearly subscription. With Luminar, you pay for it once.

There are whole months I do not use Luminar. If I used Photoshop I would have to pay for that month even if I did not use the program. Luminar users Artificial Intelligence to make manipulating photograph easier. The Zoom get-together closed sometime after 9:00 PM.



## Selected March 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](http://www.arrl.org)) for any details and QSL information.

Maty Weinberg, KB1EIB, [events@arrl.org](mailto:events@arrl.org); [www.arrl.org/special-event-stations](http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations)

## Special Event Stations

**Working special event stations is an enjoyable way to help commemorate history.  
Many provide a special QSL card or certificate!**

**Feb. 13, 1700Z – 2359Z, N6IW**, San Diego, CA. USS *Midway* (CV-41) Museum Ship. **Raising Mt. Suribachi Flag**. 14.320 7.250; 14.070 (PSK31); D-STAR via PapaSystem repeaters. QSL. USS *Midway* CV-41 COMEDTRA N6IW, 910 N. Harbor Dr., San Diego, CA 92101. [www.qrz.com/db/n6iw](http://www.qrz.com/db/n6iw)

**Feb. 13 – Feb. 14, 0800Z – 1400Z, K4US**, Alexandria, VA. Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club. **George Washington's Birthday at Mount Vernon**. 14.260 14.074 7.040. QSL. MVARC, P.O. Box 7234, Alexandria, VA 22307. *Members will be operating remote stations this year due to COVID, with many operating from the original grounds of the former plantation of George Washington and his wife, Martha Washington.* [k4us@mvarc.org](mailto:k4us@mvarc.org)

**Mar. 13, 1700Z – 2359Z, N6IW**, San Diego, CA. USS *Midway* (CV-41) Museum Ship. **Launching of USS *Midway***. 14.320 7.250; 14.070 (PSK31); D-STAR via PapaSystem repeaters. QSL. USS *Midway* CV-41 COMEDTRA N6IW, 910 N. Harbor Dr., San Diego, CA 92101. [www.qrz.com/db/n6iw](http://www.qrz.com/db/n6iw)

**Mar. 14, 0000Z – 2359Z, N2RE**, Princeton, NJ. David Sarnoff Radio Club. **Pi Day**. 14.250 14.050 7.200 7.050. QSL. Bob Uhrik, 104 Knoll Way, Rocky Hill, NJ 08553. *Famous Princetonian Albert Einstein was born on Pi Day.* [n2re.org](http://n2re.org)

**Mar. 20 – Mar. 21, 1800Z – 0300Z, K7SWI**, Middleton, ID. South West Idaho Amateur Radio Club. **Arrows from the Air**. 28.427 14.227 7.227 3.827. Certificate & QSL. South West Idaho Amateur Radio Club, 332 W. Dewey Ave., Nampa, ID 83686. [nq6s@att.net](mailto:nq6s@att.net) or [www.qrz.com/db/k7swi](http://www.qrz.com/db/k7swi)

**Mar. 23 – Mar. 25, 1400Z – 2100Z, W4LX**, Fort Myers, FL. Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club. **Honoring World War II Gunners at Buckingham Airfield**. 28.360 21.360 14.270 146.685. Certificate. W4LX Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 61183, Fort Myers, FL 33906. [www.fmarc.net](http://www.fmarc.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](http://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 June QST would have to be received by April 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](http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations).

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## International DX– Phone

### About

**Contest Objective:** To encourage W/VE stations to expand knowledge of DX propagation on the HF and MF bands, improve operating skills, and improve station capability by creating a competition in which DX stations may only contact W/VE stations. One contest period is CW-only and one is Phone-only. Use only the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter bands.

**W/VE amateurs:** Work as many DX stations in as many DXCC entities as possible.

**DX stations:** Work as many W/VE stations in as many of the 48 contiguous states and provinces as possible.

**Dates:**

**Phone:** First full weekend in March (**March 6-7, 2021**). (Cont. on page 6)

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[www.facebook.com/pg/K6MEP](https://www.facebook.com/pg/K6MEP) <https://mewe.com/group/5c3a7611268c652cbe76709a>

## **Selected March Contests & Special Events** (Cont. from page 5)

### **International DX— Phone**

**Contest Period:** Begins 0000 UTC Saturday and runs through 2359 UTC Sunday.

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#### **Exchange:**

W/VE stations send a signal report and their state or province. (See the [ARRL Contest Multipliers List](#) for a list of abbreviations.) DX stations send a signal report and power as a number or abbreviation.

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#### **2021 Multoperator Accommodations:**

ARRL has issued temporary accommodations for multoperator stations competing in the 2021 International ARRL DX Contest (CW and phone). Individual team members may operate from their home stations in conjunction with the multi-op station. The home stations must be within a radius of 100 kilometers (62 miles) of the multiop station, and must be within the same DXCC entity, US State, or Canadian province. For more information, visit the link below.

[www.arrl.org/news/guidelines-issued-for-arrl-dx-contest-multioperator-stations](http://www.arrl.org/news/guidelines-issued-for-arrl-dx-contest-multioperator-stations)

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Contest rules are now maintained as a single downloadable document (see "Full Contest Rules" below).

For contest information contact [contests@arrl.org](mailto:contests@arrl.org) or (860) 594-0232

#### **03/11/2021 | Battleship Texas Birthday**

Mar 11-Mar 14, 0000Z-0000Z, W5T, Cleburne, TX. Club KC5NX. 14.255 14.045 7.240 7.235 . QSL. Club KC5NX, 9200 Summit Ct W , Cleburne, TX 76033-8212. Club KC5NX back on the air for the celebration of the 107th birthday of the Battleship TEXAS. [jay.n.violet@gmail.com](mailto:jay.n.violet@gmail.com) or check here to find us: <https://www.dxwatch.com/dxsd1/dxsd1.php?f=0&c=w5t&t=dx> <https://www.qrz.com/db/kc5nx>

#### **03/13/2021 | USS Midway Museum Ship Special Event: Launching of USS Midway**

Mar 13, 1700Z-2359Z, NI6IW, San Diego, CA. USS Midway (CV-41) Museum Ship. 7.250 14.320 14.070 (PSK31) DSTAR vis PapaSystem repeaters. QSL. USS Midway CV-41 COMEDTRA NI6IW, 910 N Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92101. SASE please. [www.qrz.com/db/ni6iw](http://www.qrz.com/db/ni6iw)

#### **03/14/2021 | PI Day - David Sarnoff Radio Club, Princeton, NJ**

Mar 14, 0000Z-2359Z, N2RE, Princeton, NJ. David Sarnoff Radio Club. 14.250 14.050 7.200 7.050. QSL. Bob Uhrik, 104 Knoll Way, Rocky Hill, NJ 08553. Famous Princetonian Albert Einstein was born on PI Day. [n2re.org](http://n2re.org)

#### **03/20/2021 | Arrows from the Air**

Mar 20-Mar 21, 1800Z-0300Z, K7SWI, Middleton, ID. South West Idaho Amateur Radio Club. 28.427 14.227 7.227 3.827. Certificate & QSL. South West Idaho Amateur Radio Club, 332 West Dewey Ave, Nampa, ID 83686. What Are Those Giant Arrows Dotting the American Landscape? The arrows were part of a federal project to speed up communication across great distances. Transcontinental airmail service began in 1920, but even with this advancement over ground travel, service was slow. Pilots had no sophisticated instruments, so they couldn't fly at night or in poor weather. The government built a path of 70-foot-long concrete arrows every few miles from coast to coast, each painted (Cont. on page 7)

## **Selected March Contests & Special Events** (Cont. from page 6)

yellow and topped with a 51-foot steel tower that had a rotating beacon. Using the path, an airmail pilot (Cont. on page 7) needed only half the time to deliver a letter from New York to San Francisco, The SOUTH WEST IDAHO ARC will operate 14.327, 7.227, 3827 plus or minus traffic/qrm. K7SWI will issue a Certificate and QSL to all requested please include SASE for QSL only and SASE with one green stamp for QSL and Certificate. Reply to address of K7SWI. 332 West Dewey Ave Nampa, ID 83686. nq6s@att.net

### **03/20/2021 | Woronoko Heights Outdoor Adventure**

**Mar 20, 1300Z-1900Z, W1M**, Russell, MA. Western Mass. Council-BSA. 7.190 10.115 14.060 14.290. QSL. Tom Barker, 329 Faraway Road, Whitefield, NH 03598.

### **03/23/2021 | Honoring World War II Gunners at Buckingham Airfield**

**Mar 23-Mar 25, 1400Z-2100Z, W4LX**, Fort Myers, FL. Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club. 28.360 21.360 14.270 146.685. Certificate. W4LX Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 61183, Fort Myers, FL 33906. www.fmarc.net

## **Major Hamfests and Conventions Continue to Fall Victim to COVID-19**

For the second year, the largest US ham radio gathering, Dayton Hamvention®, has announced it will not be taking place. Hamvention was one of several major events citing coronavirus pandemic precautions. Sponsored by the Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA), Hamvention was set to take place May 21 – 23 in Xenia, Ohio.

"Hundreds of volunteers have been working to do everything necessary to bring this Hamvention to the many amateur radio enthusiasts and vendors who support the Dayton Hamvention," the Hamvention Committee said in January. "Vaccine distribution... is lagging behind what was planned. In addition, the emergence of a more communicable form of the COVID-19 virus increases the potential for further public health problems in the next few months. We make this difficult decision for the safety of our guests and vendors."

The Hamvention Committee said the show would return in 2022, and tickets deferred in 2020 would be deferred again. In November, Hamvention had announced that "The Gathering" was the theme for the 2021 show. Hamvention was the host of the ARRL National Convention for its last event held in 2019.

In Texas, Ham-Com President Bill Nelson, AB5QZ, cited difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the rising costs of putting on a show in announcing the event's demise.

"The decision was not made lightly, but the safety and wellness of our volunteers, vendors, clubs, presenters, and



attendees is our paramount concern," Nelson said on the Ham-Com website. Ham-Com has been held each June at the Plano Event Center in Plano, Texas.

"We sincerely thank each and every person for their support over the past years," Nelson said.

SEA-PAC, designated as the 2021 ARRL Northwestern Division Convention, also announced the cancellation of that event in June.

"The SEA-PAC Executive Committee has been closely monitoring the continuing COVID-19 pandemic situation and has determined that the safest course of action for all is to cancel the 2021 in-person event," SEA-PAC 2021 Chair John Bucsek, KE7WNB, announced in January. "This decision was based on the uncertainties of more COVID outbreaks, vaccine availability to all, and the probable social distancing requirements. But most important, it is based on our genuine concern for the health and safety of you, the attendees, vendors, and presenters. We firmly believe that providing our ham radio community with a safe and quality convention experience is paramount."

Last October, ARRL and the Orlando Amateur Radio Club (OARC) announced that the in-person ARRL National Convention and Orlando HamCation® — which was to host the convention — have been postponed until February 10 – 13, 2022. A virtual HamCation Special Edition took the place of this year's show.

(Cont. on page 8)

## **Selected March Contests & Special Events** (Cont. from page 7)



HAMFEST/CONVENTION  
**03/05/2021 - 03/06/2021**  
**CANCELED - Greater Houston HamFest**  
**Location:** Rosenberg, TX  
**Type:** ARRL Hamfest  
**Sponsor:** Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <http://houstonhamfest.org/>



HAMFEST/CONVENTION  
**03/06/2021 - CANCELED - Cave City Hamfest**  
**Location:** Cave City, KY  
**Type:** ARRL Hamfest  
**Sponsor:** Mammoth Cave ARC  
**Website:** <http://www.ky4x.org>



HAMFEST/CONVENTION  
**03/06/2021 - CANCELED - Mike & Key ARC Electronics SwapMeet**  
**Location:** Puyallup, WA  
**Type:** ARRL Hamfest  
**Sponsor:** Mike & Key Amateur Radio Club  
**Website:** <http://www.mikeandkey.org/flea.php>



HAMFEST/CONVENTION  
**03/07/2021 - CANCELED - WINTERHAMFEST**  
**Location:** Elyria, OH  
**Type:** ARRL Hamfest  
**Sponsor:** Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society



HAMFEST/CONVENTION  
**03/12/2021 - 03/13/2021**  
**CANCELED - Charlotte Hamfest**  
**Location:** Concord, NC  
**Type:** ARRL Hamfest  
**Sponsor:** Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society

**Website:** <http://charlottehamfest.org>



HAMFEST/CONVENTION  
**03/20/2021 - CANCELED - 46th Annual Martin County HamFest**  
**Location:** Stuart, FL  
**Type:** ARRL Hamfest  
**Sponsor:** Martin County Amateur Radio Association (MCARA)  
**Website:** [www.stuarthamfest.com](http://www.stuarthamfest.com)



HAMFEST/CONVENTION  
**03/20/2021 - CANCELED - ARRL WV Section Convention and Charleston Area Hamfest**  
**Location:** Charleston, WV  
**Type:** ARRL Convention  
**Sponsor:** Charleston Hamfest Committee

**Website:** <http://www.chaswvhamfest.com>.

(Cont. on page 9)

**Selected March Contests & Special Events** (Cont. from page 8)



HAMFEST/CONVENTION  
**04/09/2021 - 04/10/2021**  
**CANCELED - Green Country Hamfest, ARRL Oklahoma State Convention**

**Location:** Claremore, OK  
**Type:** ARRL Convention

**Sponsor:** Green Country Hamfest Association  
**Website:** <http://Greencountryhamfest.org>



HAMFEST/CONVENTION  
**04/10/2021 - Canceled - Cuyahoga Falls ARC Annual Hamfest**

**Location:** Cuyahoga Falls, OH  
**Type:** ARRL Hamfest  
**Sponsor:** The Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club, Inc.  
**Website:** <http://www.cfarc.org/hamfest.php>



HAMFEST/CONVENTION  
**04/17/2021 - CANCELED - ARARAT HAMBASH 2021**

**Location:** Kansas City, MO  
**Type:** ARRL Hamfest  
**Sponsor:** ARARAT RADIO CLUB  
**Website:** <http://www.hambash.com>



HAMFEST/CONVENTION  
**04/17/2021 - CANCELED - DELMARVA HAMFEST, ARRL DELAWARE STATE CONVENTION**

**LOCATION:** GEORGETOWN, DE  
**TYPE:** ARRL CONVENTION  
**SPONSOR:** SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION  
**WEBSITE:** [WWW.RADIOELECTRONICSEXPO.COM](http://WWW.RADIOELECTRONICSEXPO.COM)



HAMFEST/CONVENTION  
**04/25/2021 - CANCELED - Athens Hamfest**

**Location:** Athens, OH  
**Type:** ARRL Hamfest  
**Sponsor:** Athens County Amateur Radio Association  
**Website:** <http://ac-ara.org/>

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

# Contest Corral

# March 2021

Check for updates and a downloadable PDF version online at [www.arrl.org/contest-calendar](http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar).  
Refer to the contest websites for full rules, scoring information, operating periods or time limits, and log submission information.

Start - Finish	Date-Time	Date-Time	Bands	Contest Name	Mode	Exchange	Sponsor's Website
1	0000	1 0100	1.8-14	K1USN Slow Speed Test	CW	Max 20 WPM, name, SPC	<a href="http://www.k1usn.com/sst.html">www.k1usn.com/sst.html</a>
1	1630	1 1729	3.5, 7	OK1WC Memorial (MWC)	CW	RST, serial	<a href="http://memorial-ok1wc.cz">memorial-ok1wc.cz</a>
1	2000	1 2130	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, Data	Dig	RST, serial	<a href="http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf">www.rsgbcc.org/hf</a>
2	0100	2 0159	1.8-50	Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	Ph	RS, age group	<a href="http://wvsac.com/rules.html">wvsac.com/rules.html</a>
2	0200	2 0400	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, power	<a href="http://arsgrp.blogspot.com">arsgrp.blogspot.com</a>
2	1700	2 1900	3.5-14	RITTYOPS Weekspint	Dig	Other's call, your call, serial, name	<a href="http://rtyops.wordpress.com">rtyops.wordpress.com</a>
2	1900	2 2100	3.5	AGCW YL-CW Party	CW	RST, serial, name	<a href="http://all.agcw.de/index.php/en">all.agcw.de/index.php/en</a>
3	1300	3 1400	1.8-28	CWops Mini-CWT Test	CW	Name, mbr or SPC	<a href="http://cwops.org/cwops-tests">cwops.org/cwops-tests</a>
3	1700	3 2000	144	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	Dig	4-char grid square	<a href="http://ft8activity.eu/index.php/en">ft8activity.eu/index.php/en</a>
3	1900	3 2000	1.8-28	CWops Mini-CWT Test	CW	Name, mbr or SPC	<a href="http://cwops.org/cwops-tests">cwops.org/cwops-tests</a>
3	2000	3 2100	3.5	UKEICC 80-Meter Contest	Ph	6-char grid square	<a href="http://www.ukeicc.com/80m-rules.php">www.ukeicc.com/80m-rules.php</a>
4	0300	4 0400	1.8-28	CWops Mini-CWT Test	CW	Name, mbr or SPC	<a href="http://cwops.org/cwops-tests">cwops.org/cwops-tests</a>
4	1800	4 2200	28	NRAU 10-Meter Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid square	<a href="http://nrrfcontest.no/index.php">nrrfcontest.no/index.php</a>
4	2000	4 2200	1.8-50	SKCC Sprint Europe	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	<a href="http://www.skccgroup.com">www.skccgroup.com</a>
5	0145	5 0215	1.8-21	NCCC RTTY Sprint	Dig	Serial, name, QTH	<a href="http://www.ncccsprint.com">www.ncccsprint.com</a>
5	0230	5 0300	1.8-21	NCCC Sprint	CW	Serial, name, QTH	<a href="http://www.ncccsprint.com">www.ncccsprint.com</a>
6	0000	7 2359	1.8-28	ARRL International DX Contest, SSB	Ph	WVE, RS, SP, DX, RS, power	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx">www.arrl.org/arrl-dx</a>
6	0000	14 2359	3.5-144	Novice Rig Roundup	CW	Name, QTH, rig, mbr	<a href="http://www.novicerigroundup.org">www.novicerigroundup.org</a>
6	0600	6 0800	7, 14	Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	CW	RST, serial, suffix of previous QSO	<a href="http://qrp.ru/contest/wakeup">qrp.ru/contest/wakeup</a>
6	1800	7 1359	1.8-28	Open Ukraine RTTY Championship	Dig	State/province/canton/etc, serial	<a href="http://krs.ho.ua/openrtty">krs.ho.ua/openrtty</a>
7	0700	7 1100	3.5	UBA Spring Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial, UBA section (if ON)	<a href="http://uba.be/hf/contest-rules">uba.be/hf/contest-rules</a>
7	1200	7 2200	3.5	NSARA Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county (if Nova Scotia)	<a href="http://nsara.ve1cfy.net/?page_id=82">nsara.ve1cfy.net/?page_id=82</a>
7	1800	7 2200	3.5	WAB 3.5 MHz Phone	Ph	RS, serial, WAB square or country	<a href="http://wab.intermlp.net">wab.intermlp.net</a>
10	1700	10 2000	432	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	Dig	4-char grid square	<a href="http://ft8activity.eu/index.php/en">ft8activity.eu/index.php/en</a>
10	2000	10 2130	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, CW	CW	RST, serial	<a href="http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf">www.rsgbcc.org/hf</a>
10	2300	14 2300	3.5-14	AWA John Rollins Memorial DX Contest	CW	RST, eqpt type and year	<a href="http://antiquewireless.org">antiquewireless.org</a>
13	0000	13 2359	3.5-28	YB DX RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, serial	<a href="http://rty.ybdxcontest.com">rty.ybdxcontest.com</a>
13	0500	14 1100	50-1296	SARL VHF/UHF Analogue Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), 6-char grid	<a href="http://www.sarl.org.za">www.sarl.org.za</a>
13	1000	14 1000	3.5-28	RSGB Commonwealth Contest	CW	RST, serial	<a href="http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf">www.rsgbcc.org/hf</a>
13	1200	14 1200	3.5-144	FBAA Cup, SSB	Ph	RST, serial	<a href="http://www.site.irc.asso.fr">www.site.irc.asso.fr</a>
13	1200	14 1200	28	South America 10-Meter Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), CQ zone	<a href="http://sa10m.com.ar">sa10m.com.ar</a>
13	1200	14 2359	1.8-50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	<a href="http://www.skccgroup.com">www.skccgroup.com</a>
13	1400	13 2000	3.5-28	AGCW QRP Contest	CW	RST, serial, class, mbr or "NM"	<a href="http://all.agcw.de/index.php/en">all.agcw.de/index.php/en</a>
13	1400	14 2100	3.5-50	Oklahoma QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), county or SPC	<a href="http://k5cm.com/okqsp.htm">k5cm.com/okqsp.htm</a>
13	1500	14 1500	1.8	Stew Perry Topband Challenge	CW	4-char grid square	<a href="http://www.kkn.net/stew">www.kkn.net/stew</a>
13	1800	14 1800	3.5-28	EA PSK63 Contest	Dig	RSQ, province or serial	<a href="http://concursos.ure.es/en">concursos.ure.es/en</a>
13	1800	14 0559	3.5, 7	Tesla Memorial HF CW Contest	CW	RST, serial, 4-char grid	<a href="http://www.radiosport.org.rs">www.radiosport.org.rs</a>
13	1800	14 1800	1.8-50	QCWA QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	Year first licensed, name, SPC	<a href="http://www.qcwa.org">www.qcwa.org</a>
13	1900	14 1900	1.8-28	Idaho QSO Party	CW Ph	County or SPC	<a href="http://pocatelloarc.org/ldahoqsoparty">pocatelloarc.org/ldahoqsoparty</a>
13	2300	14 0300	3.5-14	North American Sprint, RTTY	Dig	Other's call, your call, serial, name, SPC	<a href="http://ncjweb.com">ncjweb.com</a>
14	1400	17 0800	1.8-144	Classic Exchange, Phone	Ph	Name, RS, SPC, rig	<a href="http://www.classicexchange.org">www.classicexchange.org</a>
14	1800	15 0100	All	Wisconsin QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	County or SPC	<a href="http://www.warac.org/wsp">www.warac.org/wsp</a>
15	0000	15 0200	1.8-28	4 States QRP Second Sunday Sprint	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, mbr or power	<a href="http://www.4sgrp.com">www.4sgrp.com</a>
15	1800	15 2059	3.5, 7	Bucharest Digital Contest	Dig	RST, serial	<a href="http://yo3test201x.blogspot.com">yo3test201x.blogspot.com</a>
15	2000	15 2130	3.5	RSGB FT4 Contest Series	Dig	4-char grid square	<a href="http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf">www.rsgbcc.org/hf</a>
16	1700	21 1700	3.5-28	CLARA Chatter Party	CW Ph	RS(T), name, SPC	<a href="http://claray.ca/chatter-party">claray.ca/chatter-party</a>
18	0030	18 0230	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	<a href="http://naqcc.info">naqcc.info</a>
18	1930	18 2059	3.5	BCC QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 1-shirt size	<a href="http://bavarian-contest-club.de">bavarian-contest-club.de</a>
20	0200	22 0159	3.5-28	BARTG HF RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, serial, 4-digit UTC time	<a href="http://www.bartg.org.uk">www.bartg.org.uk</a>
20	1200	21 1200	1.8-28	Russian DX Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), oblast or serial	<a href="http://rdxc.org/asp/pages/rulesg.asp">rdxc.org/asp/pages/rulesg.asp</a>
20	1400	20 1800	144, 432	AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	CW	RST, serial, power, 6-char grid	<a href="http://all.agcw.de/index.php/en">all.agcw.de/index.php/en</a>
20	1400	21 2359	All	Virginia QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	Serial, county or SPC	<a href="http://www.qsl.net/sterling">www.qsl.net/sterling</a>
20	2000	20 2159	1.8-28	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig	RST, mbr, SPC, grid	<a href="http://google.com/site/feldhellclub">google.com/site/feldhellclub</a>
21	0700	21 1100	3.5	UBA Spring Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, serial, UBA section or serial	<a href="http://uba.be/hf/contest-rules">uba.be/hf/contest-rules</a>
21	2300	22 0100	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	<a href="http://qrpcontest.com/pigrun">qrpcontest.com/pigrun</a>
24	0000	24 0200	1.8-50	SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	<a href="http://www.skccgroup.com">www.skccgroup.com</a>
25	2000	25 2130	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	<a href="http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf">www.rsgbcc.org/hf</a>
27	0000	27 2359	1.8-VHF	FOC QSO Party	CW	RST, name, mbr (if any)	<a href="http://g4foc.org/qsoparty">g4foc.org/qsoparty</a>
27	0000	28 2359	1.8-28	CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	<a href="http://www.cqwp.com">www.cqwp.com</a>
31	2000	31 2100	3.5	UKEICC 80-Meter Contest	CW	6-char grid	<a href="http://www.ukeicc.com/80m-rules.php">www.ukeicc.com/80m-rules.php</a>

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

## Want and For Sale Ads

**Jeff, KH6O@ARRL.net:** Would like to purchase a heavy duty antenna spring and ball mount (to be used for an HF mobile antenna). Jeff has been contacted with details on one that N6HV has.

**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 AI6VX. Kenwood TL-922A Linear Amplifier AS IS: All items as shown below: Contact Denney for price.



### Equipment Tech and Operator Manuals

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

Stewart  
KG6BOV@arrl.net

From the WTUS Donation  
Yaesu VX-8R HT Dual Band 2m/70cm antenna  
w/2 chargers manual  
3 HT Dual Band Rubber Duck antennas  
4" external speaker/mag mount  
Mag mount system for large mobile HF antenna  
Arrow Handheld Yag Dual Band Antenna  
Please contact Stewart KG6BOV  
kg6bov@arrl.net



(Cont. on page 12)

**Want and For Sale Ads** (Cont. from page 11)

Denney N6HV



(Cont. on page 13)

**Want and For Sale Ads** (Cont. from page 14)



(Cont. on page 15)

**Want and For Sale Ads** (Cont. from page 15)

For sale by Orv – W6BI – [orv.beach@gmail.com](mailto:orv.beach@gmail.com)

2 brand-new, never used 12V 8Ah batteries - \$30 for both



TenTec Omni VI Plus HF Transceiver 160 through 10 with 1.8 kHz, 500 and 250 Hz filters – works fine, receiver recently aligned. With power cable - \$450  
(Cont. on page 17)

**Want and For Sale Ads** (Cont. from page 16)

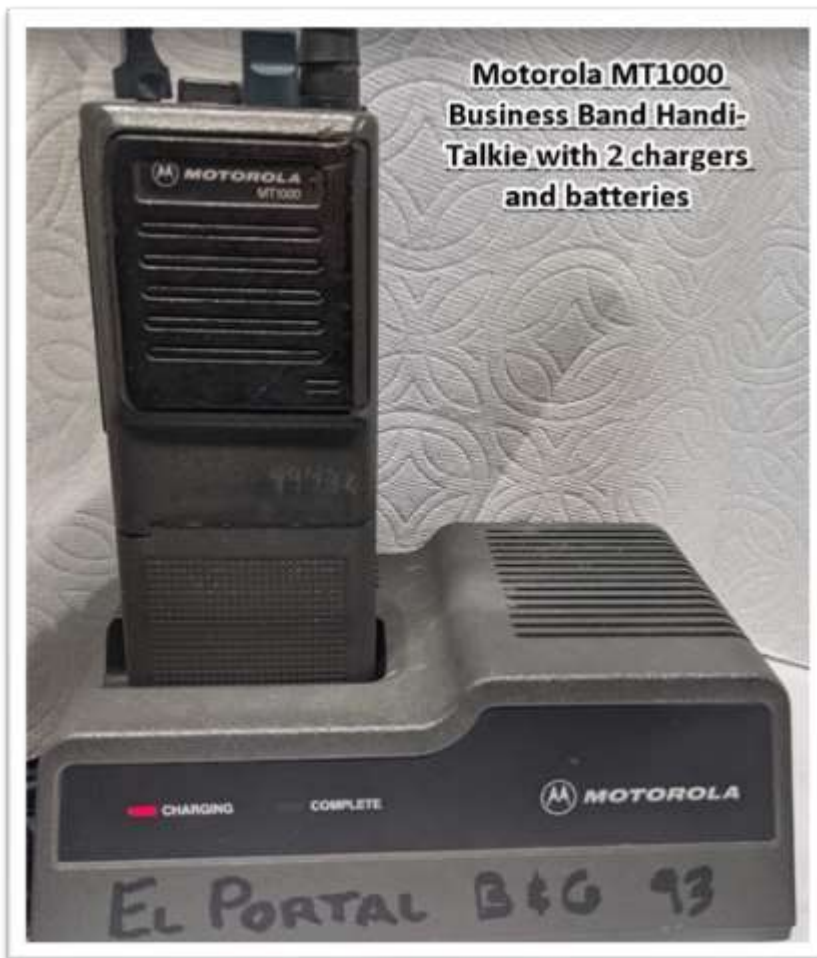


Heathkit HM-102 SWR Bridge - \$25



(Cont. on page 18)

**Want and For Sale Ads** (Cont. from page 17) By N6WIX Wayne Woodhams w.wixman@yahoo.com



(Cont. on page 19)

**Want and For Sale Ads** (Cont. from page 18)



**Upcoming FCC Exam Session Preparation Sites (Virtual; it seems that due to COVID-19 rules, physical classes are unavailable)**

**Manhattan Beach CA 90266**

03/20/2021

**Start/End Dates:** 03/20/2021 - 03/27/2021

**Times:** 8:00-5PM

**# of Sessions:** 2

**Class level:** Technician

**Morse code offered:** No

**Pre register required:** Yes

**Fee:** 0

**Pre Study required:** Yes

**Class Type:** Online or Hybrid

**Exam offered:** No

**Sponsoring Club/Organization:** Hughes Amateur Radio Club

**Instructor:** N6MDV

**Contact:** Michael Vahey N6MDV

**Phone:** (424) 262-3262

**Email:** [w6haclass@w6ha.com](mailto:w6haclass@w6ha.com)

**Location:** Zoom On Line Class

1601 N Valley Dr

Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

**Additional Information:** Free 2 day class for technician license via Zoom. Half of the material is covered the first Saturday, the rest the following Saturday. We'll cover what you need to earn your license. Register for the class by sending email to [w6haclass@w6ha.com](mailto:w6haclass@w6ha.com). Please mention the March class in your email. For more information go to the training page at <http://w6ha.com>



**ON EXAM DAY BRING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

1. A legal photo ID (driver's license, passport).
2. When no photo ID is available, two forms of identification must be presented: a. non-photo ID/driver's license (some states still have them) b. birth certificate (must have the appropriate seal) c. social security card d. library card e. utility bill, bank statement or other business correspondence that specifically names the person; or a postmarked envelope addressed to the person at his or her current mailing address as it appears on the Form 605.
3. Students may bring any of the above items and/or a school ID, minor's work permit, report card, or a legal guardian may present a photo ID.
4. Bring your Social Security Number (SSN) or your FCC issued Federal Registration Number (FRN). VEC's are required by FCC to submit either your SSN or your FRN number with your license application form. If you prefer not to give your SSN, then you may use
5. Your FCC issued FRN, if you have one. For instructions on how to register your SSN with the FCC and receive a FRN, visit the FCC's FAQ page and the FCC's registration instructions page.
6. If applicable, bring the original and a photocopy of your current Amateur Radio license and any Certificates of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) you may hold from previous exam sessions. The photocopy(s) will not be returned.
7. Two number two pencils with erasers and a pen.
8. 7. A calculator with the memory erased and formulas cleared is allowed. You may not bring any written notes or calculations into the exam session. Slide rules and logarithmic tables are acceptable, as long as they're free of notes and formulas. Cell phone must be silenced or turned off during the exam session. The phones' calculator function may not be used.
9. Bring a check, a money order or cash to cover the exam session fee(s). Check the ARRL VEC's current exam fee. The fee is normally \$15.00 for ARRL-sponsored tests.



**Upcoming FCC Exam Test** (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)**

**Pine Mountain Club CA 93222**

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03/06/2021

**Sponsor:** Pine Mountain ARC

**Date:** Mar 06 2021

**Time:** 12:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)

**Contact:** Donald Quick

(818) 383-2624

**Email:** [clearskies001@gmail.com](mailto:clearskies001@gmail.com)

**VEC:** [ARRL/VEC](#)

**Location:** Pine Mountain Club

2524 Beechwood Way

Pre-Register

Pine Mountain Club CA 93222

**Goleta CA 93117-3271**

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03/13/2021

**Sponsor:** Santa Barbara ARC

**Date:** Mar 13 2021

**Time:** 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

**Contact:** Tom Saunders

(805) 452-0840

**Email:** [veteam@sbarc.org](mailto:veteam@sbarc.org)

**VEC:** [ARRL/VEC](#)

**Location:** Impulse Communications

6144 Calle Real

Goleta CA 93117-3271

**Valencia CA 91355-2008**

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03/20/2021

**Sponsor:** Santa Clarita Amt Radio Club

**Date:** Mar 20 2021

**Time:** 8:00 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)

**Contact:**

(661) 259-0948

**VEC:** [Greater LA VEC](#)

**Location:** United Methodist Church of Valencia

25718 McBean Pkwy

Rm B

Valencia CA 91355-2008

## Trivia for March 2021

### Did you know???

1. The average American will eat over 6,000 slices of pizza over their lifetime?
2. George Washington added the words "so help me God" to the end of the oath of office?
3. All former U.S. presidents are required to set up a fund for their own presidential library?

73s, Dana KG6WXE

## Calendar March 2021

**1: K6MEP Monday Night Net and Zoom Meeting; ACS/ARES District Meeting**

**2: ACS/ARES Tuesday Night Net**

**6: CVARC Radio School**

**9: K6MEP Monday Night Net and Zoom Meeting**

**10: ACS/ARES Tuesday Night Net**

**12: K6MEP Monthly Meeting at 1900 (held on the Sulphur Mountain repeater, on 145.200 MHz with a minus offset and a PL of 127.3 Hz). Zoom video meeting at 19:30.**

**13: CVARC Radio School**

**14: Daylight Saving Time Starts**

**15: K6MEP Monday Night Net and Zoom Meeting**

**16: ACS/ARES Tuesday Night Net**

**17: St. Patrick's Day**

**20: CVARC Radio School**

**22: K6MEP Monday Night Net and Zoom Meeting**

**23: ACS/ARES Tuesday Night Net**

**27: CVARC Radio School**

**29: K6MEP Monday Night Net and Zoom Meeting**

**30: ACS/ARES Tuesday Night Net**

(Repeated 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/>



## K6MEP Monday Night Net Script

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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. However, due to government health restrictions, we meet "virtually" on 145.200 MHz with a minus offset and a PL of 127.3 Hz followed by a Zoom meeting afterwards. The next virtual meeting date is Friday \_\_\_\_\_ (insert date). We urge any non-members interested in the VCARC to contact us 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@arrl.org](mailto:ecasey@arrl.org); [www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar](http://www.arrl.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  
TI = Talk-in frequency  
Adm = Admission

**Tennessee (Sevierville) — Mar. 27 D F H R S T V**  
8 AM – 4 PM. Spr: Sevier County ARS. Sevier County Fairgrounds, 754 Old Knoxville Hwy. TI: 146.94. Adm: \$5.  
[www.seviercountyar.com](http://www.seviercountyar.com)

### ARRL VERMONT VIRTUAL STATE CONVENTION

February 27, South Burlington, VT

D F H S T

8 AM – 5 PM. Spr: Radio Amateurs of Northern Vermont. On-line event. TI: 145.15 (100 Hz) Adm: Free. [www.ham-con.org](http://www.ham-con.org)

### QSO TODAY VIRTUAL HAM EXPO

March 13 – 14, Online

D H S T

Sat. and Sun. 3 – 11 PM. Spr: KEG Media, Inc. dba QSO Today. Icom Virtual Exposition Center. Adm: Free.  
[www.qsotodayhamexpo.com](http://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com)

### Florida (Fort Walton Beach) — Mar. 19 – 20 D F H R V

Fri. noon – 5 PM; Sat. 7 AM – 2 PM. Spr: Playground ARC. NWF Fairgrounds, 1958 Lewis Turner Blvd. TI: 146.79 (100 Hz). Adm: \$7. [www.w4zbb.org](http://www.w4zbb.org)

### Levitown (New York) — Feb. 28 D S

9 AM – 1 PM. Spr: Long Island Mobile ARC. Virtual event. TI: 146.85 (136.5 Hz). Adm: Voluntary donation.  
[www.limarc.org](http://www.limarc.org)

### ARRL OKLAHOMA STATE CONVENTION

April 9 – 10, Claremore, OK

D F H Q R S V

Fri. 4 – 9 PM, Sat. 8 AM – 3 PM. Spr: Green Country Hamfest Association. Claremore Expo Center, 400 Veterans Pkwy. TI: 147.09 +600, 88.5 FM and C4FM. Adm: Advance \$8, door \$10. [www.greencountryhamfest.org](http://www.greencountryhamfest.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.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar](http://www.arrl.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.arrl.org/hamfest-convention-application](http://www.arrl.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 **April 1** to be listed in the **June** 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@arrl.org](mailto:ads@arrl.org).



## Emergency and Volunteer Training

Some excellent emergency and volunteer training is available through the American Red Cross of Ventura County, FEMA and the American Radio Relay League.

### Red Cross Courses

The following is a list of locally available Red Cross courses and a current schedule of classes over the next two months. Enroll by calling the Red Cross Chapter House at 805-987-1514 Ext 320 leaving your name, course code and telephone number. If you are interested in a class not currently scheduled call to be placed on a waiting list for the next scheduled date.

Note: The classes **Fulfilling Our Mission** and **Introduction to Disaster Services** are required for all Red Cross classes if you are not currently registered as a Red Cross Volunteer.

For training class registration, call: 805-987-1514 Ext 320.

Course schedule and descriptions:

<http://www.arcventura.org/DSCourseDescriptions.html>

[http://www.arcventura.org/contact\\_us.html](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](http://www.ARRL.org) for details and enrollment.

## ARES-ACS Frequency Updates

The Tuesday night Ventura County ARES/ACS Net is held on the WD6EBY Sulphur Mt. Repeater. Local nets are 7:00 to 7:30 PM; County Net starts at 7:30 on WD6EBY Sulphur Mt. Repeater 145.200 (-) PL 127.3 / 445.560 Mhz(-) PL 141.3

Good Frequencies to have pre-programmed into your radios...

**Area 1 Simi Valley** – K6ERN 146.805 Mhz (-) PL 100.0

**Area 2 Conejo Valley, T. Oaks, Newbury Park** – N6JMI 147.885 Mhz (-) PL127.3 BOZO

**Area 3 Camarillo, Somis**– K6ERN 147.915 Mhz (-) PL 127.3

**Area 4 Oxnard, Port Hueneme, NBVC** – WB6YQN 146.970 Mhz (-) PL 127.3

**Area 5 Ojai Valley** – N6FL 145.400 Mhz (-) PL 114.8

**Area 6 Ventura City** – WA6ZSN 146.385 Mhz (+) PL 127.3

**Area 7 Santa Paula, Fillmore, Piru** – WA6ZSN 146.385 Mhz (+) PL 127.3

**Area 8 Moorpark, Santa Rosa Valley** – K6ERN 145.460 Mhz (-) PL 127.3

**County-Wide** – WD6EBY 145.200 (-) PL 127.3

**ACS Portable** – VCACS/p 144.930/147.585 Mhz PL 127.3

**WD6EBY SP 145.420 Mhz (-) PL 127.3**

**WD6EBY 447.480 (-) PL 156.7 Hz South Mtn.**

**K1NGL 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**

### Other Good Area Frequencies ...

AA6DP 147.090 Mhz (+) No PL Catalina

K0AKS 147.150 Mhz(-) PL 127.3 TOaks

K6CPT DCS 145.300 Mhz (-) PL100.0 LA DCS

K6CPT DCS 147.270 Mhz (-) PL100.0 LA DCS

K6DCS DCS22 147.225 Mhz (+) PL 94.8 LA DCS

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

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

K6TZ 146.790 Mhz (-) PL131.8 SBARC

KB6C 147.735 Mhz (-) PL 100.0 Oat Mt / MMRA

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](mailto:w6rh@arrl.net)

**Assist ACS RO/Deputy DEC:** Rick Tate, KQ6NO Email: [kq6no@arrl.net](mailto:kq6no@arrl.net)

**Area 1 Simi Valley EC:** Steve King, KE6WEZ Email: [ke6wez@gmail.com](mailto:ke6wez@gmail.com)

**Area 2 TO, Conejo Valley EC:** Zack Cohen, N6PK, Email: [n6pk@arrl.net](mailto:n6pk@arrl.net)

**Area 3 Camarillo, Somis EC:** Avi Carmi, K6AVI Email: [avi@carmi.us](mailto:avi@carmi.us)

**Area 4 Oxnard, Hueneme, Mugu EC:** Hovan Salbian, K6BQL Email: [k6bql@arrl.net](mailto:k6bql@arrl.net)

**Area 5 Ojai EC:** Wayne Francis, W6OEU Email: [w6oEU@arrl.net](mailto:w6oEU@arrl.net)

**Area 6 City of Ventura EC (acting):** James (Jim) Aguirre KM6GUE Email: [KM6GUE@gmail.com](mailto:KM6GUE@gmail.com)

**Area 7 Santa Paula, Fillmore, Piru EC:** James (Jim) Aguirre KM6GUE Email: [KM6GUE@gmail.com](mailto:KM6GUE@gmail.com)

**Area 8 Moorpark, Santa Rosa Valley EC:** Marc Hanley KM6B, Email: [km6b@arrl.net](mailto:km6b@arrl.net)

## **ACS/ARES Training and News**

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

I realized that I never sent a picture of the new ACS-ARES go kit. It should be a very useful addition to our inventory.

It was purchased with funds from the VCSO OES. Their support is greatly appreciated.

It will operate from 3.5MHz to 440 MHz. The Kenwood radio has a built in GPS and TNC for packet. The Yaesu has a built in soundcard for VARA and other digital modes.

Primary use will be Winlink, but can be deployed as needed.

It has, in addition to what you see, a built in 50 Amp-Hour Bioenno Power Lithium Iron Phosphate battery and a West Mountain Radio PowerGate.

If we ever have meetings in person again, I will bring it along.

73

Rob



Cont. on page 30)

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K6MEP Keyer March 2021 / K6MEP.org / [www.gsl.net/k6mep/](http://www.gsl.net/k6mep/) K6MEP@groups.io  
[www.facebook.com/pg/K6MEP](https://www.facebook.com/pg/K6MEP) <https://mewe.com/group/5c3a7611268c652cbe76709a>

## **ACS/ARES Training and News** (Cont. from page 29)

Vital role of amateur radio in disaster communications

IBM's Weather Channel reports about how heroic Ham Radio operators use radio waves to carry out post-disaster rescue operations

The article by Kunal Kambli says:

Imagine this: you have just encountered an intense cyclone—a storm so strong that it has damaged buildings, uprooted trees, brought down electric poles and power lines, and destroyed everything in its path. The electricity is already down, and all your usual modes of communication—cell phones, landlines, the internet—have stopped functioning. What do you do in such a situation? How do you make those emergency calls for medical assistance? How do you seek immediate help after being completely cut-off from the rest of the world?

Be it natural disasters like cyclones and earthquakes, or human-made ones like bomb-blasts or terror attacks, the loss of communication in such times can often push a delicate situation from bad to worse; it can often be the difference between life and death.

But even in such blacked-out circumstances, a glimmer of sunshine can be found, and contact with the outside world can be established through a mode of communication that many wrongly believe to be obsolete: radio. On the occasion of the 2021 World Radio Day—an international United Nations observance held on February 13 every year—let us explore the underappreciated yet ever-so-crucial role played by amateur radio and the super people that operate it, in saving lives during calamities.

Read the full article at

<https://weather.com/en-IN/india/science/news/2021-02-13-world-radio-day-ham-operators-in-disaster-rescue-operations>



(Cont. on page 31)

## **ACS/ARES Training and News** (Cont. from page 30)

Radio amateurs want to be of service when communications fail.

Nashville Scene reports thousands of Nashvillians were affected by the cell and internet service outage that came after the Christmas Day bombing downtown — but it was exactly the type of situation amateur radio operators prepare for

The news report says:

[Amateurs] pride themselves on not needing internet or cell service to relay electronic messages.

Nashville Amateur Radio Club has been around for 85 years, making it one of the oldest clubs in the country. The group's 70 members now look for ways to be of service in a world in which technology has evolved beyond amateur radio's original usefulness.

"When the news started coming out about the bombing, there were a lot of hams online, there to assist with the radio for people who worried about their relatives when they couldn't reach them on the phone," says Monvel Maskew K9FQ, president of Nashville Amateur Radio Club.

On Monday nights, area hams convene on a "net," a planned gathering on a specific frequency. This serves as practice for when an emergency would call for an impromptu net. Most members of the club are also part of the local chapter of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service. Lee Alder KK4SXX, president of Davidson County's ARES chapter, was inspired to join after Nashville's historic 2010 flood affected internet connections and cell service.

"Basically, we are radio people waiting for a place to be in the event that Metro needs us," Alder says. "We fill this little gap of communication when everything else quits. And radio usually works."

Read the full story at

<https://www.nashvillescene.com/arts-culture/features/article/21146042/amateur-radio-users-want-to-be-of-service-when-modern-technology-fails>

(Cont. on page 32)

## **ACS/ARES Training and News** (Cont. from page 31)

Recently the American Geophysical Union (AGU) published an article in Eos by USGS an ARES LAX Northeast on how amateur radio operators can help fill the information donut hole by providing DYFI reports via Winlink.

The full article is available here:

<https://eos.org/science-updates/amateur-radio-operators-help-fill-earthquake-donut-holes>

We would like to thank the USGS, the Winlink Development Team, ARES LAX and our partner ARES groups throughout the United States whose work and dedication is making this collaboration a success!

Please like and share the tweet below

-- and yes, that is Bob WB6YJJ's qth in that photo 😊



[https://twitter.com/AGU\\_Eos/status/1363862372155338757](https://twitter.com/AGU_Eos/status/1363862372155338757)

Eos: Earth and space science news and analysis from AGU. Coverage of earth, planets, geology, atmosphere, volcanoes, climate and natural disasters. <https://eos.org/>

--

73,

Oliver K6OLI

(Cont. on page 33)

## **ACS/ARES Training and News** (Cont. from page 32)

**From:** main@vc-acs.groups.io [mailto:main@vc-acs.groups.io] **On Behalf Of** Hanson, Robert - W6RH

**Sent:** Friday, February 26, 2021 1:11 PM

**To:** Main ACS

**Subject:** [vc-acs] DYFI?

A good time to file a DYFI Report

## **M3.2 Earthquake - Southern California**

### **Preliminary Report**

Magnitude	3.2
Date-Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 26 Feb 2021 20:51:50 UTC</li><li>• 26 Feb 2021 12:51:50 near epicenter</li><li>• 26 Feb 2021 12:51:50 standard time in your timezone</li></ul>
Location	34.272N 118.707W
Depth	10 km
Distances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 0.2 km (0.1 mi) E of Santa Susana, California</li><li>• 6.8 km (4.2 mi) E of Simi Valley, California</li><li>• 9.9 km (6.1 mi) W of Chatsworth, California</li><li>• 10.1 km (6.3 mi) NW of West Hills, California</li><li>• 353.1 km (218.9 mi) WNW of Mexicali, Mexico</li></ul>
Location Uncertainty	Horizontal: 0.2 km; Vertical 0.5 km
Parameters	Nph = 136; Dmin = 4.4 km; Rmss = 0.25 seconds; Gp = 31° Version = 4
Event ID	ci 39803176



**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](http://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](http://www.arrl.org/online-course-catalog).

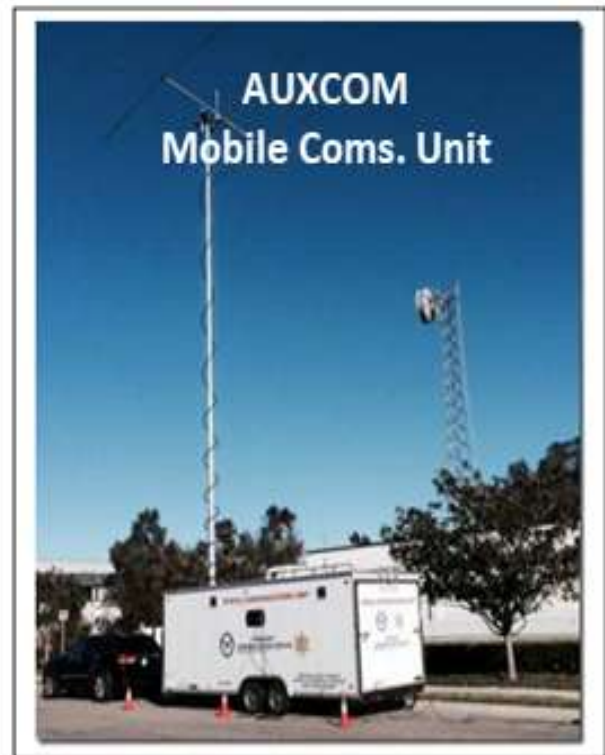
**PR-101: ARRL Public Relations (EC-015)**

This is a basic training course for PIOs and anyone interacting with the media and promoting Amateur Radio.

This course is designed to give hams a quick overview in public relations activities. It uses the skills of experts in various aspects of public relations to provide volunteer Public Information Officers with the basic skills and expectations that a PIO needs to know to be effective in their home region.

PR-101 covers everything from the basic news release to Web sites and video work.

This course is available--free! -- on-line, or can be purchased in CD format from the ARRL store.



## Local Area Radio Weekly Nets 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. 4<sup>th</sup> 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 (1<sup>st</sup> 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/](http://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

### PVARC Project Updates

Sulphur Mountain - Wednesday February 17

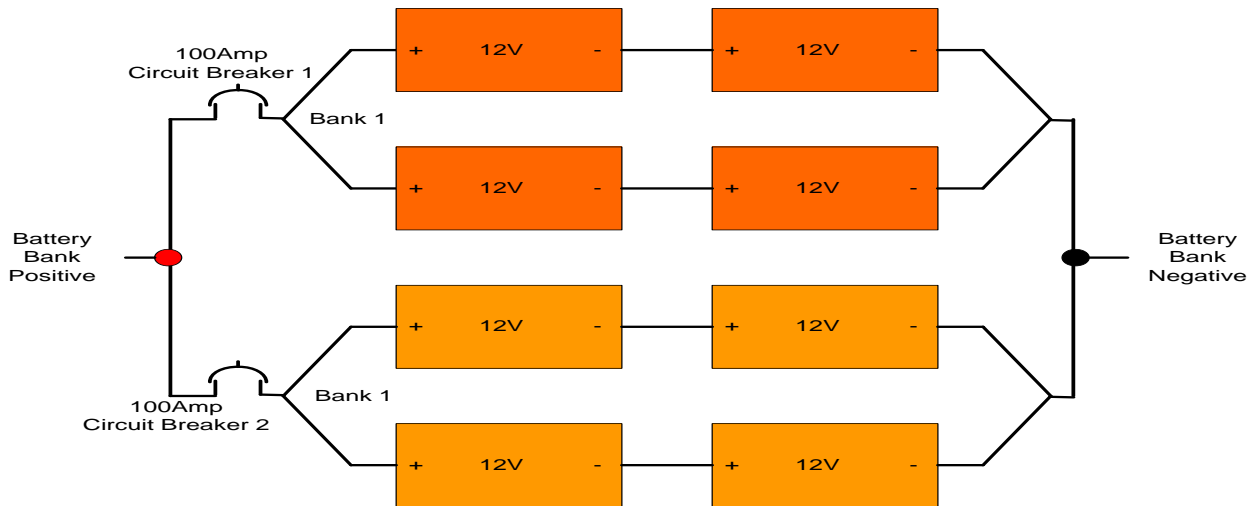
Sulphur Mountain is a 24 volt power system utilizing a Samlex 60amp 24v to 12 volt DC-DC converter.

Eight new AGM batteries were installed there for a total battery capacity of 1,040 amp-hours. This is twice the capacity of the now-expired 6 volt golf cart battery system.



Great care was taken in how the battery bank was interconnected. The goal was to have equal lengths of appropriate gauge wire to provide a balanced charge/discharge of the batteries. That being said it does sometimes come to a tradeoff of cost, physical space available and practicality. If you notice in the photo the group summing of the negative lead slightly favoring one bank. (Cont. on page 37)

## NEWS FROM PVARC (Cont. from Page 36)



The original 24 volt 25 amp power supply/charger was upgraded to a 45 amp unit. This new higher current power unit will allow discharged batteries to recovery more quickly. The new unit has provides a charging profile specifically tailored for AGM batteries. Teamed with the site 30 amp solar system, this provides a daytime charging potential of 75 amps.



(Cont. on page 38)

## NEWS FROM PVARC (Cont. from Page 37)

So why does the site need such a high amount of charging current? If there was no load on the batteries and the battery bank was discharged to 50%, with the power supply alone the batteries would take 11.5 hours to charge. The additional daytime 30 amp potential from the solar system the batteries would be fully charged in just 7 hours.

These battery recovery charge times are an important consideration during sustained power outages or Power Safety Power Shutoffs. If there were a major power outage and the sky was smoke-filled so the solar system could not charge, the Sulphur Mountain site should be able to stay operational for 3-4 days. That's enough time to get to the site with a generator or a fan to blow away the smoke or to clear ashes from the solar cells (a lesson learned from the Thomas fire).

I want to thank the Ojai Valley Amateur Radio Club for their generosity in donating the funds for these batteries. I would also like to thank John Cuthbert AC6BR and his son-in-law Damon Brink for their hard work in physically moving the new batteries, removing the old batteries and interconnecting the batteries.

### South Mountain - Saturday February 20<sup>th</sup>

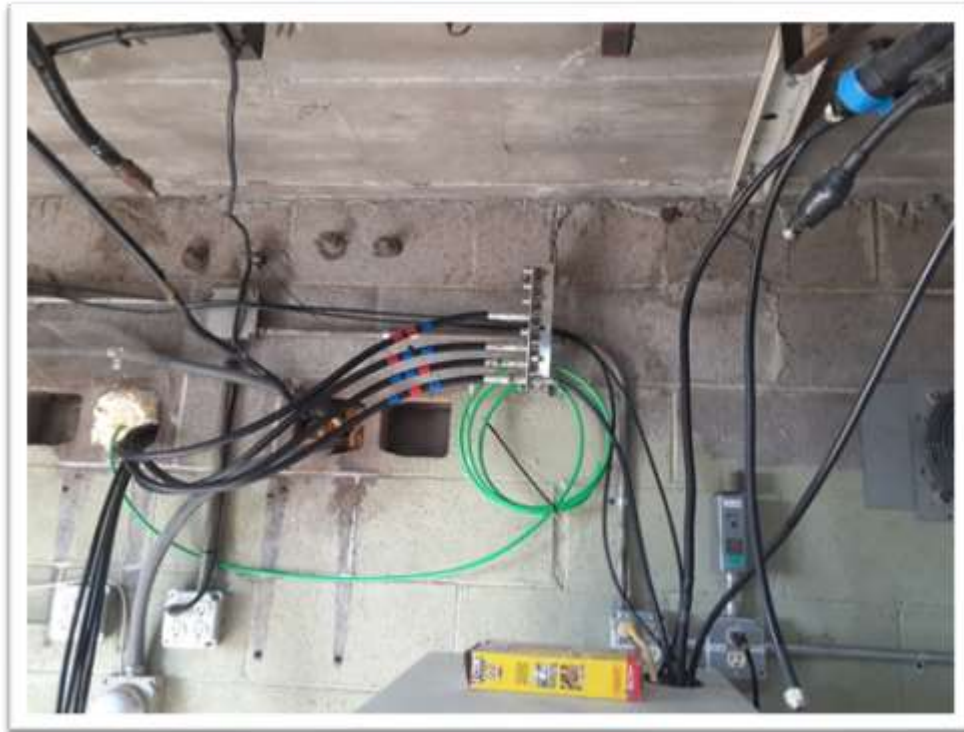
Eric KG6WXC and I traveled to the new South Mountain site to perform the remainder of the prep work for the upcoming repeater installation. The day started out a bit windy on the hilltop and was very cool in the shade. It wasn't until early afternoon that the day warmed up.

Several tasks were completed. After careful consideration we relocated the antenna feed line termination bracket higher on the wall. After learning how to properly install a Hilti anchor into a concrete block the anchors were set and the termination block was set. The simplest things can sometimes be the most frustrating.

With the termination mounted we started trimming the LDF4-50 feed lines and attaching the Commscope Positive Stop "N" Male connectors. This too proved to be very frustrating. These connectors were proving difficult to install but we were finally successful and connected the four cables to the termination block.

We ran out of time to shorten and install new connectors for the 3/4" Superflex cables. This actually turned out for the best as talking to experts later in the day; they too have had poor success with these Superflex connectors. Until we can figure this out I will leave the factory built cables long and dress them to the desired lengths at a later date. I'm seriously considering replacing these cables with RG214 cables. Next trip I will connect the ground cable. (Cont. on page 39)

## NEWS FROM PVARC (Cont. from page 38)



In preparation of the permanent system being installed Eric and I removed the temporary UHF repeater system and all of the temporary network equipment.

I want to thank Eric KG6WXC for picking me up at my house and driving us and all of today's equipment and tools to the hilltop and back home again safely.

### South Mountain - Saturday March 6, 2021

The new repeater system is scheduled be installed on Saturday March 6. I'm looking forward to moving this system this out of my garage and starting another project!

As the path from the vehicle parking area to the building is sketchy, the safest approach will be to remove the majority of the equipment from the rack and reinstall it all once the rack is safely installed in the building. Moving the rack and its contents will take a team of at least six or seven people with strong backs. I expect this installation to take a good part of the day.

I've started recruiting personnel for this trip. I plan for most folks to be able to leave the site once all equipment is in the building. For me and a couple of other lucky individuals this will be an all-day project.

This new system will provide the following services:

- UHF Repeater 447.480 MHz, input and output PL 141.3 Hz.
- VHF Repeater 147.060 MHz. input and output PL 127.3 Hz. (Cont. on page 40)

## NEWS FROM PVARC (Cont. from page 39)

- 420 MHz Link to Camarillo Hills.
- 420 MHz Link to Chatsworth Peak.
- 420 MHz Link to Sulphur Mountain.
- 420 MHz Link to Santa Ynez Peak.
- ROIP (Radio over IP) on demand Link to the Bozo Repeater and backup connection to 145.16 Santa Ynez Peak.
- Winlink Server (Win10) with access available from the Mesh, 220 MHz packet and the Internet.
  - Keith W6KME has agreed to be the Winlink system manager.
- Mesh resource server (Debian Linux) – among other things, this will support the county Teamtalk server and a web server for the site.
  - Orv W6BI and Eric KG6WXC have agreed to be the system managers.

### Sulphur Mountain - Saturday March 19, 2021

This visit will complete the upgrade and reconfiguration project of the Sulphur Mountain repeater system. Although it has taken much longer than I anticipated, I am very pleased with the final results.

The plan for the day is:

- Install a compatible new model repeater controller and align the system audio.
- Tune and install new band pass cavities for the UHF repeater receiver and for the South Mountain 420 link receiver.
- Install the new 420 MHz link package to interconnect the new South Mountain repeater.
- Evaluate the removal and addition of antennas on the tower. This antenna work will be a summer project.
- Update the firmware for the Morning Star MPPT-60 Solar Charge Controller.

I want to thank all those who have supported the Pleasant Valley Amateur Radio Club.

If there are any questions or concerns please free to contact me. Thank you all for your time.

Paul Strauss

WD6EBY / K6PVR

pgstrauss at verizon dot net

**Ventura County Amateur Radio Club**

February 22, 2021

On behalf of the Directors of Pleasant Valley Telecommunications Advisory Council (PVTAC) I want to thank the General Membership and the Board of Directors of Ventura County Amateur Radio Club for their \$1,000.00 donation. As stated in the request these monies will directly support the PVARC organization towards the yearly site rentals.

Respectfully,

Paul Strauss

President, Pleasant Valley Telecommunications Advisory Council (PVTAC)

[pgstrauss@verizon.net](mailto:pgstrauss@verizon.net) 805-484-2985

## **ARRL Santa Barbara Section Mgr. John Kitchens NS6X** (will be repeated until John contacts me that the positions are filled)

Hello all,

I have been trying to fill Section volunteer positions for a while. I am giving another push. I am pleased to let you know that our Section Emergency Coordinator is Richard Tate, KQ6NO from Santa Paula. (Congratulations and thanks to Rick for taking on this position in addition to his ACS/ARES assignment as Assistant ACS Radio Officer/ARES Assistant DEC.

Richard will be contacting you to see how each county operates emergency communications, and to see how the ARES SEC role will be able to assist and coordinate between the 3 counties in the Section. I have been the SEC for about 3 years. I should not be both the Section Manager and SEC. We need to have more focus on each position.

I am looking forward to spending more time on being SM. One of the tasks that I have passed off to Rick, among others, is the EmComm and volunteer hours reporting to ARRL headquarters.

Additionally, Andy Ludlum, K6AGL, member of the Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club, has been appointed as the first Assistant Section Manager in the Santa Barbara Section. The SM position will be a club liaison for me, the Section Manager, to have a person in the know hopefully at each club. I really have little to no secret ARRL information, but when I am aware of issues, successes, opportunities, we can work together to accomplish our goals.

There are many volunteer positions to fill in the Section. The one that I am focusing on right now is the Section Traffic Manager. The STM will manage the Section's involvement in the National Traffic System. We need to work on and develop the NTS in the Section. There is quite a bit of work to do, but there are several dedicated volunteers in the Section, working within the NTS, who will make the system work.

Let me know if you would like to volunteer for the STM position, or any volunteer position. I'll be talking about specific positions in the coming months.

### **Santa Barbara Section Volunteers**

Right now, we have 2 Section email systems. That is partly why we need volunteers to help rectify (electrical term) this issue. To make sure that everyone is getting the information, I will be sending emails through both systems. This email is for hams registered at the ARRL website as being in the Santa Barbara Section.

So, what do you get for being a volunteer? A special name/callsign badge and a certificate. And the satisfaction of helping ham radio in many aspects. I am still looking for volunteers to fill the remaining Section Leadership positions. The jobs are: **(Cont. on page 42)**

## ARRL SB Section Mgr. John Kitchens NS6X (Cont. from page 41)

**Assistant Section Manager** (essentially a club liaison - one from each club, preferably)

**Local Government Liaison** (a person to be the contact for the local government, could be a city or county - to understand the local issues. Not to be a political operative or community organizer, but to be a positive contact for the local government, answer the government leader's questions, be aware of whom the players are)

**Traffic manager** - (the traffic system in the Section runs well, but needs a bit of coordination throughout the Section, and most importantly, finding new bodies to join the traffic system. Maybe the various Morse groups could provide people to be trained as traffic messengers).

**Public Information Coordinators** - (We have an excellent PIO, but each club should have someone who handles public information contacts, such as social media, print media, video (television, cable, YouTube etc.) media and more.)

**Section Youth Coordinator** (Doesn't need to be a teenager, but it could be. Someone who will focus ham radio toward the youth - schools, makers etc. Someone to help clubs do so, if they are so inclined.)

**Club Coordinator** (help get clubs active, motivated and working in the general support for ham radio. Some other type of groups will bring in a speaker to talk at all clubs for a reduced cost. We would like to have a Santa Barbara Section conference again. Need someone to help make it happen - just a small conference/Hamfest - look at the Yuma Arizona Hamfest.

**Technical Specialist** (working with the Technical Coordinator, maybe have experts "Elmers" for various aspects and specialties. How to get on FT8 (why won't my computer key my KX3; I can decode signals, just not key the radio), contesting, setting up a station, RFI solutions, use of chokes and why, homebrewing, how to solder - or crimping - how to install a coax connector, what is DMR/etc. and how to make my radio work - what is a hotspot, and more. We could use a dozen or more people.

**Webmaster** (I am not a web guy. Who is, or what groups of people are, who could help us? We need a Section website)

**Special Event** coordinator (We have a small Section budget that can cover some costs such as website hosting). The following clubs are ARRL affiliated:

Conejo Valley ARC (Andy Ludlum, K6AGL Assistant Section Manager)

Ventura County ARC (K6MEP)

Ventura County ARS

Simi Settlers ARC

Santa Barbara ARC

UC Santa Barbara ARC

Paso Robles ARC

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo ARC

Satellite ARC

And hopefully Pleasant Valley ARC soon.

(Cont. on page 43)



## 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)

Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, ww1me@arrl.org

## Happenings

### FCC Reduces Proposed Amateur Radio Application Fee to \$35

The FCC has agreed with ARRL and other commenters that its proposed \$50 fee for certain amateur radio applications was “too high to account for the minimal staff involvement in these applications.” In a late-December *Report and Order (R&O)*, the FCC scaled back to \$35 the per-application fee for a new license, license renewal, and vanity call sign, as well as special temporary authority (STA) and rule waiver requests. Administrative updates, such as a change of mailing or email address, are exempt.

As the FCC noted in its *R&O*, although some commenters supported the proposed \$50 fee as reasonable and fair, “ARRL and many individual commenters argued that there was no cost-based justification for application fees in the Amateur Radio Service.” The fee proposal was contained in a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)* adopted to implement portions of the “Repack Airwaves Yielding Better Access for Users of Modern Services Act” of 2018 — the so-called “Ray Baum’s Act.”

“After reviewing the record, including the extensive comments filed by amateur radio licensees and based on our revised analysis of the cost of processing mostly automated processes discussed in our methodology section, we adopt a \$35 application fee, a lower application fee than the Commission proposed in the *NPRM* for personal licenses, in recognition of the fact that the application process is mostly automated,” the FCC said in the *R&O*. “We adopt the proposal from the *NPRM* to assess no additional application fee for minor modifications or administrative updates, which also are highly automated.”

The FCC turned away the arguments of some commenters that the FCC should exempt amateur radio licensees. The FCC stated that it had no authority to create an exemption “where none presently exists.” The FCC also disagreed with those who argued that amateur radio licensees should be exempt from fees because of their public service contribution during emergencies and disasters.

“[W]e are very much aware of these laudable and important services amateur radio licensees provide to the American public,” the FCC said, but noted that specific exemptions provided under Section 8 of the “Ray Baum’s Act” requiring the FCC to assess the fees do not apply to amateur radio licenses. “Emergency communications, for example, are voluntary and are not required by our rules,” the FCC noted. “[T]he Amateur Service is not an emergency radio service.”

The Act requires that the FCC switch from a congressionally mandated fee structure to a cost-based system of assessment. The FCC had proposed application fees for a broad range of services that use the FCC’s Universal Licensing System (ULS) that had been excluded previously. The 2018 statute excludes the Amateur Service from annual regulatory fees, but not from application fees.

The effective date of the fee schedule had not been determined as *QST* went to press.

### FCC Considers Expanding the Number of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators

The FCC is evaluating comments solicited early this year regarding whether the current 14 Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) in the US were sufficient to facilitate the efforts of their accredited Volunteer Examiners (VEs) in administering amateur radio examinations, or whether it should authorize up to five additional

VECs. Comments were requested in a January 5 *Public Notice*. The FCC adopted rules in 1983 to allow volunteers to prepare and administer amateur radio examinations, and it established the system of VECs

and VEs. The ARRL VEC is the largest of the 14 VECs in the US.

“VECs introduced consistency into the Volunteer Examiner program by centralizing accreditation of Volunteer Examiners, coordinating the dates and times for scheduling examinations, and managing the various administrative tasks arising from examinations,” the FCC said. Authorized VECs may operate in any of the 13 VEC regions, but must service at least one region. The FCC pointed out that some VECs now offer remote examinations.

“The Commission has long maintained 14 VECs and now seeks to consider whether they continue to serve the evolving needs of the amateur community, or whether there are unmet needs that warrant considering expanding the number of VECs,” the FCC said.



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(Cont. on page 47)

## ARRL News (Cont. from page 46)

### ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA, to Keynote QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo

ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA, will keynote the QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo March 13 - 14 weekend. Minster's talk -- part of an 80+ speaker lineup -- will begin at 2000 UTC (3 PM EST) on March 13. His appearance will highlight ARRL's featured role at the expo, which will also include "Ask The ARRL Lab." ARRL is a QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo Partner.

Minster, who assumed the ARRL Headquarters leadership position last September, has launched major projects and assembled teams to foster innovation and individual skill development in radio technology and communications. In his keynote, Minster will share his enthusiasm for advancing amateur radio and highlight current ARRL initiatives to engage and inspire the current generation of hams. His presentation topics will include:



- ARRL's digital transformation, which promises to bring new value to ARRL members. An all-in digital approach will improve the way members access and engage with content, programs, and systems.
- The ARRL Learning Center, a hub for members to discover the many facets of amateur radio and develop practical knowledge and skills.
- Increasing video content, opening opportunities for amateur radio content creators and member-volunteers to learn, stay informed, and keep connected.
- Improving training and tools to engage radio clubs, emergency communication volunteers, and students.

The ARRL expo booth will feature "Ask The ARRL Lab," where Lab staffers will answer questions live. Attendees can come into the booth lounge and ask the Lab's technical wizards for tips about projects or suggestions to address various station installations and problems. Attendees can also learn about Product Review equipment testing, see a presentation on how the Lab can help hams with RFI problems, and tour W1AW virtually.

QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo Chairman Eric Guth, 4Z1UG, also announced four live group kit-building **(Cont. on page 48)**



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## ARRL News (Cont. from page 47)

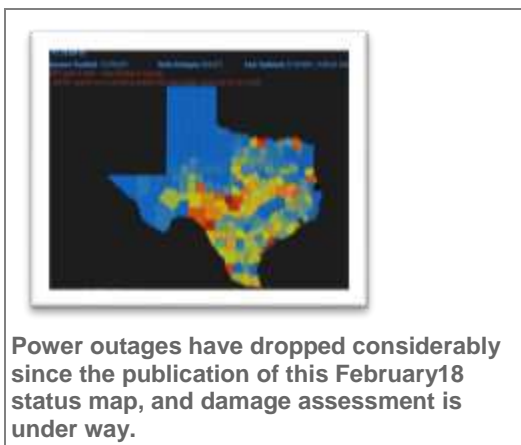
workshops. Workshop instructors will guide participants through building a variety of kits, which will be available for purchase and delivered prior to the expo so attendees can build them at home. Early-bird discount tickets and links to purchase kits can be found at the QSO Today Expo website.

## ARES and Red Cross Cooperate to Assist Storm-Affected Residents in Texas

ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) and American Red Cross volunteers joined forces in Texas under the ARRL/Red Cross memorandum of understanding in responding to the situation resulting from unseasonably frigid weather. Kevin McCoy, KF5FUZ, said the Red Cross formally requested an ARES activation in Texas to address the effects of the natural disaster, which included a lack of drinking water, power outages, fuel shortages, and frozen plumbing. Red Cross in Central Texas supported more than 60 warming shelters at the request of governmental agencies.

"We made a special effort to use Winlink email over radio to get reports of infrastructure problems and unmet needs [and to] communicate information about warming centers," McCoy said, adding that Winlink operators provided the most valuable contribution in the disaster response. Several teams deployed to support emergency operations centers (EOCs) in Bexar, Brazos, Kerr, Travis, and Williamson counties, he added.

"Our effort in the start of the activity was to focus on folks with medical needs who required power, and to get those folks to safety," McCoy said. "Reports from operators were passed to Disaster Program



Managers and Disaster Action Teams and to Red Cross Disaster Mental Health personnel for evaluation. Government partners and citizens provided transportation and Red Cross provided hotel rooms in areas with reliable power to keep these citizens safe while following COVID-19 protocols."

On February 20, the Red Cross made a formal stand-down request to Texas ARES sections from the Central and South Texas Red Cross Region.

"Transportation, communication, and internet had restored sufficiently to allow for that (Cont. on page 49)

## ARRL News (Cont. from page 48)

change of status," McCoy said. "We did let all Winlink operators know that we would still monitor the tactical addresses until the disaster recovery was over."

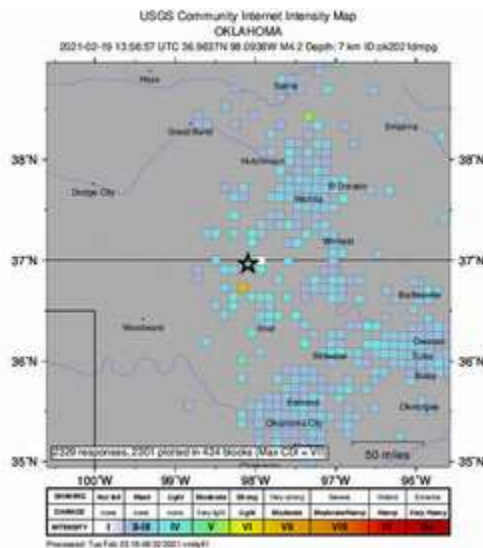
Key issues remaining include the prolonged power outage and the freezing weather that left Texas with damaged water infrastructure. "Things are improving rapidly," McCoy said on February 22

## Amateur Radio Helping to Fill Earthquake Report "Donut Holes"

An article describing how radio amateurs can help fill the information "donut hole" by providing post-earthquake "Did You Feel It" (DYFI) reports via Winlink HF radio email appeared on

February 22 in the American Geophysical Union (AGU) magazine *Eos*. As the article points out, "Ham radio networks gear up to provide real-time, on-the-ground information about earthquake shaking and damage when other communication pathways are knocked out of commission." Authors of the article were David J. Wald of the US Geological Survey (USGS), Vincent Quitoriano, and Oliver Dully, K6OLI.

As the article explains, DYFI uses a questionnaire to gather individuals' experiences and observations, and USGS uses the information to evaluate the shaking intensity at that person's location. DYFI has been in operation since 1999 in the US and 15 years around the world, during which the USGS has gathered more than 5 million individual DYFI intensity reports.



The article notes that a potential problem is that "public access to it may be compromised as a result of strong earthquake shaking," with affected individuals experiencing power and communication outages or may be distracted by more immediate priorities.



"USGS and other global seismic network operators have witnessed felt report 'donut holes' in areas of strong shaking due to loss of internet communication," the article said, "most recently during the magnitude-5.7 earthquake that hit near Salt Lake City in March 2020." The article

suggested that "alternative pathways" of communication are needed to "gather important ground-truth shaking data with minimal delay." And this is where amateur radio groups come into play. (Cont. on page 50)

## ARRL News (Cont. from page 49)

"We now expect to sample the donut hole with the help of amateur radio groups worldwide," the article's authors said. "These groups can mobilize a significant number of licensed radio operators after a strong earthquake, especially near large population centers, ensuring a baseline level of macroseismic intensity reporting even in heavily affected areas."

As the article explains, USGS has partnered with Winlink, a radio email platform with more than 28,000 users worldwide, and with ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) members. Winlink adapted the USGS DYFI questionnaire to its platform, and this version is now available to all radio amateurs, the article said.

### In Brief...

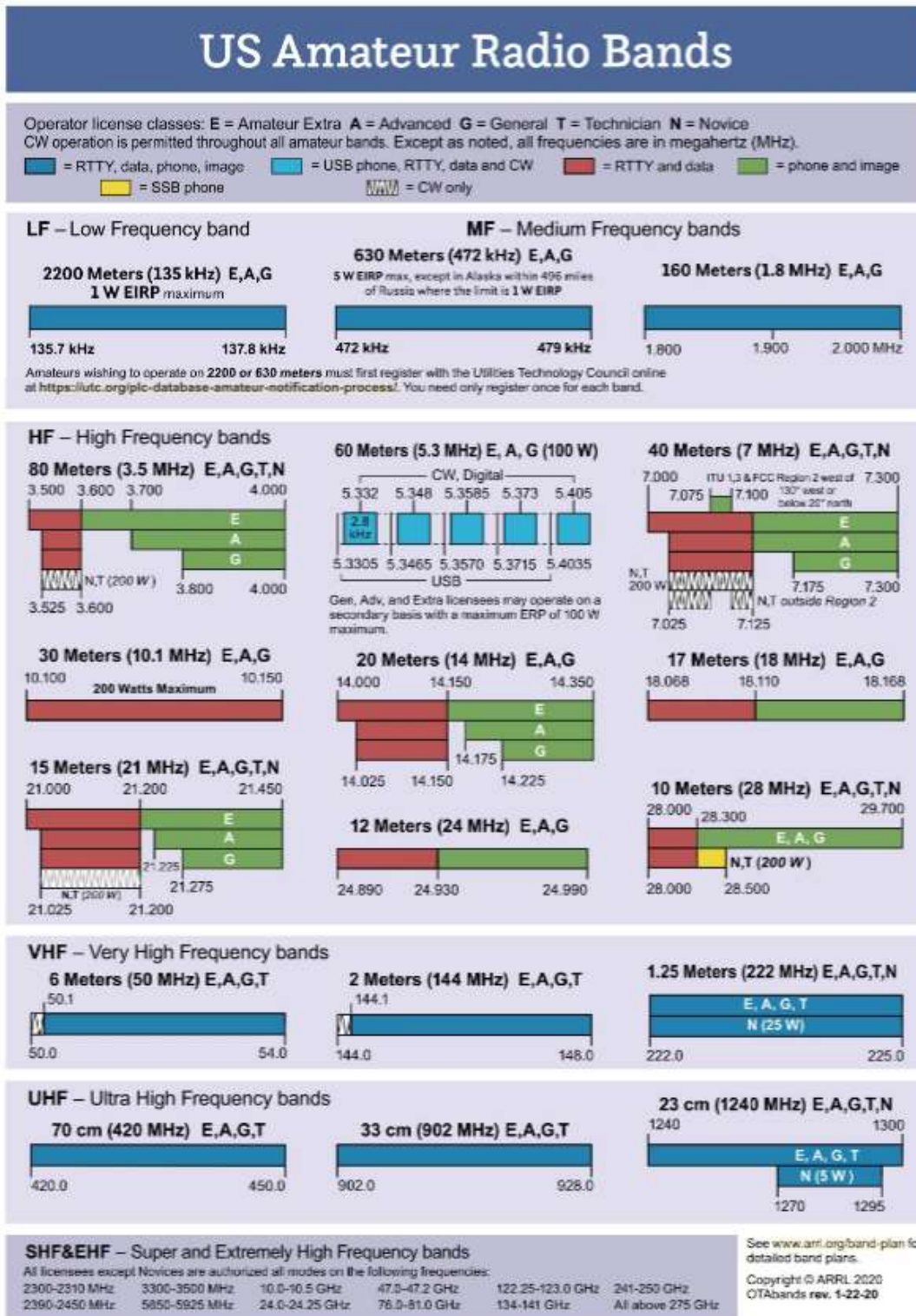


**Plans remain up in the air for the Youth on the Air (YOTA) in the Americas summer camp.** The camp, tentatively set for July 11 - 16, would take place in West Chester, Ohio. "We know that changes in the COVID-19 pandemic status between now and July will have an impact on our decision to host the camp," 2021 YOTA Americas Camp Director Neil Rapp, WB9VPG, said. "At this time, we are still hopeful that hosting the camp safely July 11 - 16, 2021 will be

possible. Should we not be able to host the camp, we will let everyone know with as much notice as possible and postpone it to 2022. Our plan is to make the final decision in the month of April." Registration will continue until February 28 for campers accepted to the camp for the 2020 session to attend in 2021. At that point, Rapp said, he will evaluate how many positions remain for additional campers from across the Americas in order to fill out the roster of 30 campers and take applications in March for the remaining slots.



**Former ARRL Teachers Institute instructor Miguel Enriquez, KD7RPP, of Tucson, Arizona, died on February 7 as a result of COVID-19.** His death came just 3 weeks after that of his wife, Wendy, also a COVID-19 victim. Miguel was 72 years old. His wife was 68. Between 2001 and 2008, Miguel Enriquez taught sessions of the introductory TI-1 course in Arizona. A February 14 *Arizona Daily Star* feature, "How Tucson Schools are Helping Kids, Staff Cope with COVID-19 Deaths," includes a photo of Miguel Enriquez when he was conducting an amateur radio demonstration in 2006 at Pueblo High School, where he taught mathematics. "He is a fitting example of our teachers who have braved the pandemic to continue to teach our youth," said Frank Karnauskas, N1UW, AMSAT Vice President-Development.



(Cont. on page 52)

# W1AW Schedule

PAC	MTN	CENT	EAST	UTC	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
6 AM	7 AM	8 AM	9 AM	1400		FAST CODE	SLOW CODE	FAST CODE	SLOW CODE
7 AM- 1 PM	8 AM- 2 PM	9 AM- 3 PM	10 AM- 4 PM	1500-1700 1800-2045	VISITING OPERATOR TIME (12 PM-1 PM CLOSED FOR LUNCH)				
1 PM	2 PM	3 PM	4 PM	2100	FAST CODE	SLOW CODE	FAST CODE	SLOW CODE	FAST CODE
2 PM	3 PM	4 PM	5 PM	2200	CODE BULLETIN				
3 PM	4 PM	5 PM	6 PM	2300	DIGITAL BULLETIN				
4 PM	5 PM	6 PM	7 PM	0000	SLOW CODE	FAST CODE	SLOW CODE	FAST CODE	SLOW CODE
5 PM	6 PM	7 PM	8 PM	0100	CODE BULLETIN				
6 PM	7 PM	8 PM	9 PM	0200	DIGITAL BULLETIN				
6 <sup>45</sup> PM	7 <sup>45</sup> PM	8 <sup>45</sup> PM	9 <sup>45</sup> PM	0245	VOICE BULLETIN				
7 PM	8 PM	9 PM	10 PM	0300	FAST CODE	SLOW CODE	FAST CODE	SLOW CODE	FAST CODE
8 PM	9 PM	10 PM	11 PM	0400	CODE BULLETIN				

W1AW's schedule is at the same local time throughout the year. From the second Sunday in March to the first Sunday in November, UTC = Eastern US time + 4 hours. For the rest of the year, UTC = Eastern US time + 5 hours.

♦ Morse code transmissions: Frequencies are 1.8025, 3.5815, 7.0475, 14.0475, 18.0975, 21.0675, 28.0675, 50.350, and 147.555 MHz.

Slow Code = practice sent at 5, 7½, 10, 13, and 15 WPM.

Fast Code = practice sent at 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13, and 10 WPM.

Code bulletins are sent at 18 WPM.

For more information, visit us at

[www.arri.org/w1aw](http://www.arri.org/w1aw)

♦ W1AW Qualifying Runs are sent on the same frequencies as the Morse code transmissions. West Coast qualifying runs are transmitted by various West Coast stations on CW frequencies that are normally used by W1AW, in addition to 3590 kHz, at various times. Underline 1 minute of the highest speed you copied, certify that your copy was made without aid, and send it to ARRL for grading. Please include your name, call sign (if any), and complete mailing address. Fees: \$10 for a certificate, \$7.50 for endorsements.

♦ Digital transmissions: Frequencies are 3.5975, 7.095, 14.095, 18.1025, 21.095, 28.095, 50.350, and 147.555 MHz.

Bulletins are sent using 45.45-baud Baudot, PSK31 in BPSK mode, and MFSK16 on a daily revolving schedule.

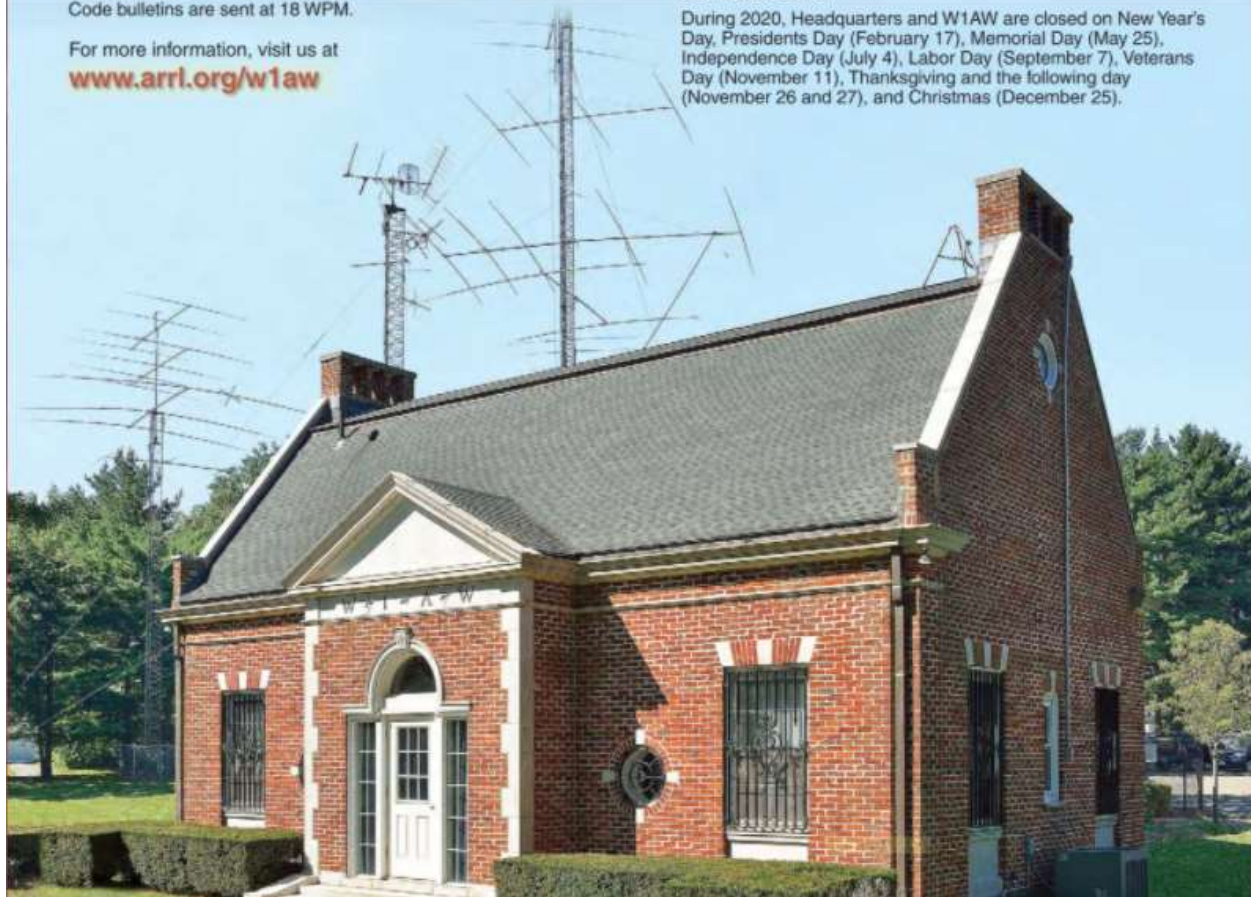
Keplerian elements for many amateur satellites will be sent on the regular digital frequencies on Tuesdays and Fridays at 6:30 PM Eastern time using Baudot and PSK31.

♦ Voice transmissions: Frequencies are 1.855, 3.99, 7.29, 14.29, 18.16, 21.39, 28.59, 50.350, and 147.555 MHz. Voice transmissions on 7.290 MHz are in AM double sideband, full carrier.

♦ Notes: On Fridays, UTC, a DX bulletin replaces the regular bulletins. W1AW is open to visitors 10 AM to noon and 1 PM to 3:45 PM Monday through Friday. FCC-licensed amateurs may operate the station during that time. Be sure to bring your current FCC amateur license or a photocopy. In a communication emergency, monitor W1AW for special bulletins as follows: voice on the hour, teleprinter at 15 minutes past the hour, and CW on the half hour.

W1AW code practice and CW/digital/phone bulletin transmission audio is also available real-time via the *EchoLink Conference Server* W1AWBDCT. The conference server runs concurrently with the regularly scheduled station transmissions. The W1AW Qualifying Run texts can also be copied via the *EchoLink Conference Server*.

During 2020, Headquarters and W1AW are closed on New Year's Day, Presidents Day (February 17), Memorial Day (May 25), Independence Day (July 4), Labor Day (September 7), Veterans Day (November 11), Thanksgiving and the following day (November 26 and 27), and Christmas (December 25).



## Antennas by Reese West KQ6TT

(Editor's note) Reese has been asked to share a "stream of thought" article on any topic that catches his interest. He has graciously agreed to allow the publication of various topics that he wants to explore.

When I was a working engineer, I never really worked in antenna design. I did design one antenna which was for receiving both polarizations of TV signals from satellites, and got a couple patents on the design. Thousands of them were built. When I started ham radio in the 1990s, I was appalled by the misunderstandings, false advertising, and blatant lies about antenna products. The most important item in a ham radio station is the antenna. It is also the most problematic because of the space requirements to set up as HF ham station.

When radio frequency waves propagate, the electric and magnetic fields move in phase together. 'Blank' and 'Blank, a big electronics company, just published a paper where they said that the propagation was out of phase and that the electric wave caused the magnetic wave, and then visa-verse. So even big leaders in the field can be wrong! Our space has a real impedance of a real 377 ohms. The fields move together in space and time which means resistive impedance. But, resistive impedance means an energy loss. Yes, but! Let us start there.

Take a circuit driving a coaxial transmission line. If the T-line is loss-less, its impedance is pure resistance. But pure resistance implies one hundred percent energy loss. And in T-line with loss, the impedance has an inductive or capacitive component which implies no loss. These two parts of the impedance are correct. The loss-less T-line accepts the energy and carries it away. It is lost to the originating circuit. The driving circuit sees the loss as a resistance. We know that the energy is not lost, but is happily propagating down the T-line. Now I can accept the real impedance of a loss-less T-line. I have a problem accepting the loss-less component of the lossy T-line. I know it is true, and that does not help.

Now, let us go back to the radio waves propagating with real, resistive, impedance just like the T-line. All that means is that the two fields, electric and inductive, are in phase with each other.

The antenna problem is that with radiation from a standing wave from monopole or dipole; the fields do not match the needed radiated shapes. The near fields of the antennas are

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