

Section Manager

East Bay Section Newsletter - June, 2021

ARRL East Bay Family,

Hello, and thank you for joining me in my first newsletter for the ARRL East Bay Section. I'm Mike Patterson, N6JGA. As you may have seen through earlier announcements from the ARRL, Jim Siemons, W6LK, has stepped down as your Section Manager because he's moving to Wyoming. I've been appointed to fill out the remainder of his term.

I must give my heartfelt thanks to Jim for his service to the Section and to ham radio in general over many years. His time as Section Manager was much too brief, but in that short time, he served us well and built an excellent team to serve you. His energy is boundless and he's an outstanding elmer for many people, myself among them. The Wyoming Section is gaining an outstanding friend and ham.

For those of you that don't yet know me, I received my first ham license in 1994, and am now an Extra Class operator. I soon got involved in public service events and emergency communications. Over the years since, I've held other positions with various duties; including within my local CERT group; assisting with training courses and being a Volunteer Examiner; serving on the Pacificon Committee and on the board of directors for NARCC. I'm a past president of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club (as is Jim) and have held other positions in that club. I'm also a member of other clubs within and outside the Section.

Field Day:

Remember that Field Day is June 26-27. Now that the state is opening up after COVID, I expect a number of clubs will be setting up at a traditional site again. For details on Field Day, see the ARRL web section at "<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>".

If your club will be setting up in an accessible location, be sure to add your location to the ARRL Field Day Locator map. Go to http://www.arrl.org/field_days/add. In a case of unfortunate timing, I will have an extremely busy day on that Saturday, due to these festivities and a family commitment. But I will visit as many of your locations as I can, and I'll use the ARRL Locator Map as a guide. Sites I can't get to on Saturday during the day, I'll try to visit either Saturday evening or Sunday morning. If your site will NOT be active during those periods, please let me know.

Pacificon:

Pacificon is ON; and will be held in person, barring a change in the state's and county's COVID rules. Be sure to mark your calendar for October 15-17, 2021 at the San Ramon Marriott hotel. Pacificon registration for attendees is planned to open on Wednesday, June 16. That's the day after the governor's COVID restrictions will be lifted, for the most part. So head over to <https://www.pacificon.org> to register on or after that day.

Unfortunately, you'll see that that many of the web pages have little information just yet, as the committee is only beginning to receive applications for speakers and vendors. But those pages will fill in as they confirm the information. So keep checking back. If you're a speaker with a good topic, go to the Speaker Registration page and let the committee know.

FCC Regulation Changes:

The FCC has been busy this year with rule changes that involve hams. In addition to Jim's May 3 message to you concerning the RF exposure rules now in effect and earlier notices, the FCC has made two additional announcements.

* All amateur examination applicants are now required to provide an FCC Registration Number (FRN) to the Volunteer Examiners (VEs) before taking an amateur exam. Anyone with an FCC license of any type, ham or not, already has an FRN and should use that one. New applicants must now obtain an FRN before taking the test. Go to <https://www.fcc.gov/rofrn> to watch a short video on how to do it.

* Beginning June 29, all applications will be required to contain an email address for FCC correspondence. As with your physical mail address, your email address must be one that you can legitimately receive messages from them in a timely manner and must be kept current. The FCC has confirmed that it will not make this email address publicly available.

News:

The San Francisco Amateur Radio Club (SFARC) will activate a sailboat on San Francisco Bay as the inaugural event in Boats on the Air (BOTA). The event will be this Saturday, June 5, 1 - 4 PM PDT. See the ARRL article at <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter?issue=2021-05-27#toc12> for details and give them a call.

The HamSci group (Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation) (<https://www.hamsci.org/>) is asking hams to monitor and record HF time-standard stations during the June 2021 annular solar eclipse across the Arctic Circle as part of a citizen science experiment, running June 7-12. All participants will receive certificates as well as updates as the data is processed. See the ARRL article at <http://www.arrl.org/news/june-2021-eclipse-festival-seeks-ham-participants> for details.

Upcoming ARRL Webinars:

Get details on and register for the following ARRL webinars at <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-learning-network>. You can also watch previously recorded webinars from the same link.

* Ask the Lab: How ARRL's Technical Information Service Can Help You
Tuesday, June 8, at 1 PM EDT (1700 UTC)

* Improving Your Club's 2021 Field Day Score
Thursday, June 10, 8 PM EDT (0000 UTC on Friday, June 11)

* Introduction to Remote HF Operation
Tuesday, June 22, 1 PM EDT (1700 UTC)

Until next time, remember that the East Bay Section team is here to serve you, the hams of the East Bay. If you have a question or a problem concerning ham radio, don't hesitate to contact us.

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