

Section Manager

East Bay Section Newsletter - September, 2021

ARRL East Bay Family,

I expect some of you have been extremely busy helping with the response to the fires to our north and east. Thank you. For all of us, please keep those affected by the fires in your thoughts; hoping that the fires will soon be under control and that those who were evacuated, both human and otherwise, can soon head back home.

Pacificon:

Pacificon is only a little over a month away and things are speeding up. If you haven't registered to attend yet, now's the time. Go to (www.pacificon.org) and register right away. The deadline for on-line registration is midnight Sunday, Oct. 3, Pacific Time. Mail-in registrations must be postmarked by Tuesday, Sept. 28. After these dates, registration is at the door only.

Also, if your club or other ham group wants to host a non-profit exhibit table at Pacificon, go to the Registration section in the left-hand navigation bar and select "Non-Profit Registration", then fill out the form. There's a limited number of tables available so get your request in right away.

Pacificon is always in need of volunteers to help them put on the best ham radio convention in the western U.S., and even more in need than usual this year. They are especially in need of volunteers for the Wouff Hong ceremony and Security. If you can spare a few hours during the weekend, go to the Pacificon Volunteer web page at (<http://www.pacificon.org/registration/volunteers>) and sign up. If you have questions, send them to (info@pacificon.org).

Emergency Preparedness Training Course

Alameda County VOAD Coordinator Ron Halog and Eric Holm will host a course on "Preparing for Disasters & Emergencies". The course will run for 7 weeks starting Tuesday, September 7, repeating each subsequent Thursday, from 12:00 noon to 1:00 PM. They're doing it as a "Brown Bag - Hour of Preparedness Power", since many people are now back at work. From Ron's message: "There are no prerequisites and there is no cost for attending."

"This series is designed for nonprofit employees and volunteers, and other interested community members. People with Access and Functional Needs are encouraged to participate because preparedness is for everyone! Everyone is welcome to attend. While each course topic can work independently, we encourage participants to attend all the sessions or as many sessions as possible, as this series is designed to build connection between the various aspects of preparedness. The core concepts is "circles of preparedness", with the first, innermost circle being self-preparedness, then expanding outwards to include one's agency, neighborhoods, and the greater community."

Topics include: Personal & Agency Emergency Preparedness; Access and Function Needs Preparedness; Incident Command System (ICS); County Government / CBO Coordination; Volunteer Management; Technical Assistance; and Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP).

To register, go to (<https://bit.ly/3xcpsWH>). Unfortunately, this page doesn't have a lot of detail on course content, but I do have a flyer I'll be happy to forward to anyone that would like to see it. Just send me an email.

FCC News:

* The FCC is preparing to grant three petitions that will make changes to the agency's rules in Part 95, Personal Radio Service. Part 95 regulates the CB Radio Service, General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS), and Family Radio Service (FRS). Specifically, the Report and Order grants:

- 1.) "Cobra" Petition requesting that the Commission allow FM as an optional modulation scheme for all existing 40 CB Radio Service channels (with AM remaining mandatory);
- 2.) "Motorola" Petition requesting that the Commission allow automatic or periodic location and data transmissions in the GMRS and FRS.
- 3.) "Medtronic" Petition requesting the correction of typographical errors and rule changes in the Part 95 that inadvertently altered the substance of the Medical Device Radiocommunications Service (MedRadio) rules.

The complete Report and Order document is available at (<https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-374114A1.pdf>). Note that a footnote points out that this R&O is still in the final review and approval stages, and "does not constitute any official action by the Commission." However, it's expected that the FCC will take final action before long. (Thankx to the Mt. Diablo Radio Club's Carrier newsletter for this information.)

* Amateur Radio License Fees

The schedule of FCC amateur radio application fees likely will not go into effect before 2022. FCC staff confirmed during a recent virtual meeting with Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) that the agency is still working on the necessary changes to the Universal Licensing System (ULS) software and other processes and procedures that must be in place before it starts collecting fees from amateur applicants. See the ARRL's complete bulletin at (<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-bulletins-archive/ARLB021/2021>).

Section & Division News:

* Receiving this Newsletter

While reviewing some data on our Section, I found that a significant number of East Bay ARRL members are not receiving these Section Manager Newsletters. My research was prompted by a member who mentioned that he had never received one and didn't know they existed. It turned out that the option to receive them in his ARRL profile wasn't activated. So please tell your friends and club members about these newsletters and encourage them to activate that option in their profile if they haven't done so. Maybe even include a note in your club newsletter about it. Thank you.

Instructions:

Go to (www.arrl.org). Sign in with your callsign and password. At the top of the browser page, near the middle, click on "Edit Your Profile"; then select the "Edit Email Subscriptions" tab. There's a long list of email subscriptions you can choose. Be sure the "News and information from your Division Director and Section Manager" item is checked. Check any of the others that interest you, then scroll to the bottom and click "Save".

* Net Control Training

Our neighboring Sacramento Valley Section's ARES Emergency Coordinator, Jay Ballinger, N6SAC, has created a couple of very good short videos on Net Control Training. Net Control Training # 101 (<https://sacramentoares.org/net-control-training-101/>) is a little over 6 minutes long, while Net Control Training # 102 (<https://sacramentoares.org/net-control-training-102/>) is just over 11 minutes. They're both well worth a view. Even if you don't run a net yourself, they will help you understand how a well-run net is handled.

* Valley of the Moon ARC Hamfest

The Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club is hosting a hamfest on Saturday, Oct. 2; 8:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. Location is the First Congregational Church of Sonoma, 252 W Spain St, Sonoma. They'll have a pancake breakfast, a swap meet, fox hunt demonstration, VE session, and a display of emergency vehicles. Admission is free, but there is a charge for the breakfast. If you have stuff to sell, tables are only \$10.00. Their website is (<http://www.vomarc.org/>).

ARRL News:

* ARRL RF Exposure Calculator

The September edition of QST has a very good follow-up article on the FCC's recent rules about RF exposure. Along with that article is a new free RF Exposure Calculator on the ARRL website. Under the new FCC rules, some amateurs need to perform routine station evaluations to ensure that their stations comply with the RF exposure rules. This can be as simple as running an online calculator to determine the minimum safe distance between any part of your antenna and areas where people might be exposed to RF energy from your station. To make this easy for amateurs, ARRL now provides an RF exposure calculator on its RF Exposure page. Just go to (<http://arrl.org/rf-exposure-calculator>).

* The ARRL Board of Directors has adopted a new program to cover the initial licensing fee for young new hams. The program will also reduce the testing fee for young people from the usual \$15.00 to only \$5.00. There are some restrictions and conditions. See the announcement at the following link for details: (<http://www.arrl.org/news/view/arrl-board-establishes-program-to-cover-initial-fcc-license-fee-for-young-applicants>).

* ARRL Director of Emergency Management

Paul Gilbert has resigned as ARRL Director of Emergency Management, and the ARRL has posted that position on their Employment Opportunities page for anyone interested in applying. Go to (<http://www.arrl.org/employment-opportunities>).

* ARRL's Annual Online Auction

The ARRL will host its annual Auction on Oct. 8-14 this year. It will include unique vintage items, new gear, QST Product Review items, and more. Donations are also welcome. Preview begins October 5. See (<http://www.arrl.org/arrl-on-line-auction>) for details. But save most of your money for the vendors at Pacificon!

* New Member Service Hours

ARRL has just begun new member service hours. Beginning Monday, August 30, 2021, ARRL phone support service hours are 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM EDT, Monday through Thursday. That's 5:00 AM to 4:00 PM for those of us on the west coast. Call 1-860-594-0200 to process address changes, online account support, new memberships, renewals, and publication and product orders. Inquiries for Logbook of the World (LoTW) will continue to be serviced via email at (LoTW-help@arrl.org), and the ARRL VEC department can be reached directly from 8:00 AM-5:00 PM EDT at 1-800-927-7583.

* The minutes of the ARRL Executive Committee's July 7 meeting have been posted at (<http://www.arrl.org/board-meetings>).

Other News:

* A news item from Sacramento TV station CBS13 broadcast a story about a ham who evacuated his home due to the Caldor Fire, then helped members of other families locate their loved ones who were also evacuated. The minute-and-a-half video is available at:

(<https://sacramento.cbslocal.com/video/5948357-tuesday-afternoon-forecast-aug-31-2021/>)

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.

* Introduction to DMR and Digital Voice

Thursday, September 9, 2021

* Working the Pileup

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

New Hams:

Please congratulate the following new hams in the East Bay Section. If you hear them on the air, be sure to say hello and welcome them to our craft.

KN6PVX	Alfonso	Gordovez
KN6PND	Michael	Smith
KN6PTZ	Reno	Flores
KN6PVZ	Christopher	Pacis
KN6PWA	Chona	Pacis
KN6PMC	Alec	Dughi
KN6PVY	Leila	Dela Rosa
KN6PVS	Pedro	Flores
KN6PRR	Daniel	Plumley
KN6PLX	Burt	Polson
KN6PQM	Zameer	Zalmaiyyar
KN6PVL	Rofert	Chu
KN6PMQ	David	Hoover
KN6PTH	Cole	Blecha
KN6PVD	Christian	Cox
KN6PVO	Hari	Imamura
KN6PVN	Kei	Imamura
KN6PVU	Joseph	Agtane
KN6PNL	Daniel	Suthers
KN6PLT	Joel-patrick	Millsap
KN6PUX	Leon Ignacio	Zulueta
KN6PUF	Logan	Daniel
KN6PRK	John	Vinopal
KN6PUD	John	Daniel
KN6PRN	Carol	Franger
KN6PRM	David	Mccloy
KN6PLV	Timothy	Wilkinson
KN6PRQ	Joseph	Troiano
KN6PLS	Robert	King

New Upgrades:

Please congratulate the following upgraded hams in the East Bay Section.

KN6PKT	Benjamin	Haro (General)
KN6OMN	Donald	Stumbo (General)
KM6TMX	Jason	Matthews (General)
KN6NXM	Albert	Gonzalez (General)
KN6PFY	Ron	Rowe (General)
WA6CTY	William	Reining (Extra)
KG6YZF	Daniel	Adair (Extra)
KM6JDS	David	Frick (Extra)

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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<https://www.arrleeb.org>
