

Section Manager

East Bay Section Newsletter - November, 2021

ARRL East Bay Family,

Pacificon is now behind us (see below), as is that multi-record breaking rain storm; an atmospheric river that came through Northern California over the weekend of October 23-24, hitting the Bay Area dead center with flooding roads, toppling trees, power outages and shattered rainfall records. News reports estimate some 380,000 people lost power. Mt. Tamalpais in Marin County had 16.55 inches of rain. But the rainfall totals seemed to vary widely around the various counties, and even within a city. Per a National Weather Service report, Alameda County ranged from 0.25 inches at one Livermore location to 9.04 inches in an Oakland spot. Contra Costa's official readings range from 0.32 inches to 10.15 in.; while Napa's are 1.06 to 9.78 inches. What little information I could find for Solano County was in the 3 to 5.5 inch range.

All this is a reminder that we may be needed for things other than earthquakes and wildfires. Stay ready.

Lots of news this time. My apologies for the length of this newsletter.

Pacificon

Although Pacificon was much smaller than in previous years, attendance was very good, considering the difficulties. And it still had a full slate of excellent forum speakers and activities, as well as a room and hallway full of vendors. The Special Event Station ran all weekend. The Wouff Hong ceremony had a nearly full house, as did the one-day Technician Class. The license testing room had robust business. The kit building area was busy and the outside display vehicles had good traffic. The Swap Meet had a near record number of vendors. The Banquet and Antenna Seminar both almost sold out. The keynote speaker was our own ARRL Pacificon Division Director, Kristen McIntyre, K6WX. Bob Heil was back, via Zoom. And Gordon West was here with his ever-popular Breakfast with Gordo and Instructor Academy.

The ARRL pulled out all the stops. 17 ARRL officials were there, including ARRL President Rick Rodrick, K5UR, and his wife Holly, two Vice Presidents, three Division Directors, seven Section Managers, two ARRL staff members and Dave Casler, KE0OG, QST's "Ask Dave" columnist. Thank you very much to ARRL HQ for your support of Pacificon.

ARRL Foundation Scholarships

The ARRL Foundation began accepting applications from college and graduating high school students for its 2022 scholarship program this past Monday, November 1. The application period goes until December 31, 2021. All applicants must be FCC-licensed radio amateurs, and many scholarships have specific requirements. Well over 100 scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$25,000 will be awarded in 2022, with a total eligible amount of \$900,000 to be awarded.

Descriptions of the scholarships are at (<http://www.arrl.org/scholarship-descriptions>). Get details, guidelines and a link to the application at (<http://www.arrl.org/scholarship-application>).

If you know of a student considering applying for a scholarship, I recommend having them watch the presentation at the following links, given by Mike Ritz, W7VO, ARRL Northwest Division Director and a Director of the ARRL Foundation. Video: (<https://vimeo.com/612966472>); Documents: (<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/3mwxbpkokywpm0e/AADBVCwQ5Lm1RUyOFvLNrliSa?dl=0>).

National Interoperability Field Operations Guide (NIFOG)

The federal Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) has announced the release of version 2.0 of the National Interoperability Field Operations Guide (NIFOG). The NIFOG is a pocket-sized guide that contains communication references and information recommended by public safety practitioners across the country. New content in version 2.0 includes references on information technology, emergency wireless carrier services, interference management, encryption, and cybersecurity. The NIFOG and other Field Operation Guides are available at (<https://www.cisa.gov/safecom/field-operations-guides>).

ARRL November Sweepstakes

The ARRL November Sweepstakes are about to begin! Stations in the United States and Canada (including territories and possessions) exchange information with as many other US and Canadian stations as possible on the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands. Many operators try to contact as many of the 84 ARRL and Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) Sections as possible. See (<https://contests.arrl.org/contestmultipliers.php>) for a list of those sections.

The CW weekend is November 6 - 8, while the phone weekend is November 20 - 22. Both events begin on Saturday at 2100 UTC and conclude on Monday at 0259 UTC. Note that Daylight Saving Time ends on Nov. 7 (see below), right in the middle of the CW weekend. So, if my time math is correct, the start & stop times in the Pacific Time Zone will be:
CW Weekend: Start-Saturday 1400 hours (2:00 PM) End-Sunday 1859 hours (6:59 PM)
Phone Weekend: Start-Saturday 1300 hours (1:00 PM) End-Sunday 1859 hours (6:59 PM)

A description, guidelines, full contest rules and other information are at (<http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>).

ARRL Publications

Many of you may know that the ARRL offers all full members access to all four of the magazines/journals they publish. These include the venerable (106-year-old) *QST*, the new *On the Air* magazine; the *National Contest Journal* (NCJ); and *QEX*. Each member may choose to receive the printed version of either *QST* or *On the Air* and all of them are available in digital format. If a member wants either *NCJ* or *QEX* in print form, they can be subscribed to separately. We all know about *QST*, and the *NCJ* seems self-explanatory.

On the Air is a relatively new magazine designed for the new ham, or those of us that want to review some of the basics. Though I've been a ham for a few decades, I find something interesting in pretty much every issue. *QEX* is much more technical and is intended for those that are more advanced in radio technology, or want to become so.

All four magazines are available via the *ARRL Magazines* app for Android or iPhone, or on the ARRL website at (<http://www.arrl.org/arrl-magazines>). The reason I wanted to remind you of these publications was so I could tell you about the next item

Essays on some Fundamental Topics in Electronics

While browsing through some of the ARRL magazines, I belatedly came across a series of articles in *QEX*, which would be of interest to those of us wishing to refresh ourselves on some of the fundamentals of electronics. They're called *Self-Paced Essays* by Eric P. Nichols, KL7AJ. The first essay, in the July/August, 2020 edition, is an introduction to the series, and includes an outline of the topics planned, some 17 of them. They're only about 2 pages long and explain, not just the concept itself, but a bit of its history and how it was derived. This leads to a better understanding of it. They include discussions of Ohm's and Kirchhoff's Laws; Energy Storage and Recovery; Filters; Impedance Matching; Digital Signal Processing and others. The latest is Essay #8 in the November/December issue, on *Maximum Power Transfer Theorem*. I've found them so far to be fascinating. All are definitely worth a read.

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Section & Division News:

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* Congratulations to Art Mayoff, AA6AM. The Benicia Amateur Radio Club awarded him the second annual "Richard A. Chan Award for Outstanding Service to the Ham Radio Community" in recognition of his passion for Amateur Radio, exemplary leadership to the club and the local community. See this 2-minute YouTube video of the award: <https://youtu.be/tKc-K9kzIZ0>. On a personal note, for many years, Art owned and operated a radio shop in Concord, where I bought my first several radios. He was always helpful and generous with his advice for this then-new ham.

* The California High School in San Ramon received a grant from the Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC), to become makers by using Raspberry Pi computers and Arduino microcontrollers. Computer science AP teacher Sean Raser said he believes that a hands-on approach is the most effective way for students to learn and retain knowledge. The class would aim to accomplish this through encouraging students to invent their own systems using the Raspberry Pis and Arduinos. By combining these devices with sensors, motors, other electronics, and computer code, students would have the opportunity to learn complex technical concepts first hand. See the full article at (<http://www.arrl.org/news/ardc-grant-to-benefit-high-school-computer-science-students>).

* DMR (Digital Mobile Radio) is getting a refresh in the East Bay, with a new repeater installed on Mt. Diablo, an updated website, a new Facebook group, a Groups.io email forum and a weekly net. Get the details at the NorCal DMR website (www.norcal-dmr.org). Many thanks to Tim Barrett, K6BIV for all this.

* The San Francisco Radio Club will be running its second club OTA Trifecta event this year on Angel Island on November 6. Special event station W6P will be on the air. The OTA-Trifecta is a single event that combines simultaneous Parks on the Air (POTA), US Islands on the Air (US Islands OTA), and Summits of the Air (SOTA) activations. Separate stations will be on the air 1830 - 2130 UTC to represent the three activities. All stations will be battery operated. Get details at (<https://www.sfarcl.org/>).

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ARRL News:

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* As part of its effort to increase support of clubs and all of Field Services, the ARRL will soon be starting a Clubs Newsletter. As part of that, we're asking all clubs to add the email address (clubs@arrl.org) to your newsletter distribution list. (And if you haven't done so yet, please add my email address to the list, too!) We'll be looking for good stories that can be used in the Clubs Newsletter, and in this one.

* The ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) has developed an additional seven test question booklets for each of the three license class exams, for a total of twelve booklets that VEs can choose from for each license class. However, they'll mainly be using only these new booklets for the rest of the year, in order to gather some statistics on them. The booklets 1-5 will be reintroduced again in January.

* Speaking of license exams, a reminder that email addresses and Federal Registration Numbers (FRNs) are now mandatory on all 605 application forms and for any FCC license transaction. This is an FCC requirement.

* Some of you may not know that the ARRL has a YouTube channel with an extensive collection of videos on a variety of topics. Some of the recent ones are a series of videos to supplement the Technician Class license courses, featuring Dave Casler, KE0OG, QST's "Ask Dave" columnist. Others include other license class instruction videos, reviews of equipment, presentations and webinars on many topics, even some Hiram Percy Maxim home videos. Subscribe to the ARRL YouTube channel at (<https://www.youtube.com/user/ARRLHQ/videos>).

* The minutes of the ARRL Executive Committee's September 13 meeting have been posted at (<http://www.arrl.org/board-meetings>).

* Looking for a job? The ARRL is hiring. A couple of the positions they're looking to fill are Public Relations & Outreach Manager, and Social Media Strategist. Details on these and a bunch more are at (www.arrl.org/careers).

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Other News:

* Daylight Saving Time

Remember that Daylight Saving Time ends (very!) early this Sunday morning, November 7, so reset your clocks & watches to ñFall backò an hour. The offset between UTC and our time zone will change from 7 hours to 8. So 12:00 noon our time becomes 8:00 PM (2000 hours) UTC.

* Silent Keys

When a ham friend, relative or club member passes away, please report it to the ARRL so that an appropriate notice can be made in QST. Or you may let me know and I will report them on your behalf. Guidelines and a reporting form are available at (<http://www.arrl.org/silent-key-submission-guidelines>). Note that a copy of the death certificate or a link to a published obituary is required by ARRL to qualify for QST listing. Information on how to report a silent key to the FCC is also available at the above link.

* Space Weather

Many hams, especially those that are active on HF, are interested in space weather, and all of us should be. But what is it all about? Below are links to three YouTube videos that help answer that question.

-- ñIntroduction to Space Weather and Space Weather Predictionò is a 5-minute video from the National Weather Service: (<https://youtu.be/JncTCE2NWgc>)

-- ñSpace Weather: Understanding How the Sun Affects What We Doò is 33 minutes: (<https://youtu.be/MdOi6qjmkiA>)

-- ñHamSCI 2021: Overview of the Personal Space Weather Station and Project Updatedò is 3.5 a minute introductory presentation about HamSCI projects that can help interested people to create their own Space Weather stations: (<https://youtu.be/uKW9a0Cdm18>)

Many thanks to the East Bay Amateur Radio Club's newsletter, ñBlown Fuseò for this information.

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Upcoming ARRL Webinars:

Get details on and register for ARRL Learning Network webinars at (<http://www.arrl.org/arrl-learning-network>). The newest one is: ñUsing the Raspberry Pi in Ham Radioò, published last month.

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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.

KN6QMD	Benjie De Los Reyes	American Canyon
KN6QMH	Manuelito Soriano	American Canyon
KN6QOX	Benjamin Madsen	Pleasant Hill
KN6QWI	Tae Wang Park	Fairfield
KN6QNE	Scott Foster	Fremont
KN6QOS	Cass Costello	Castro Valley (General)
KN6QOW	Eric Christiansen	Pittsburg
KN6QJV	Tommy Guzman	Pittsburg
KN6QOU	Lester Gong	San Ramon (General)
KN6QMO	Elman Clyde Jumawan	Vallejo
KN6QMC	Andres Nicolas	Vallejo
KN6QMN	Archibal Cabotage	Vallejo
KN6QMG	Eloy Aguarin	Vallejo
KN6QMM	Reynald Banzon	Vallejo
KN6QJQ	Jeffrey Bowling	Oakland
KN6QOI	Kane Hsieh	Oakland
KN6QOZ	Thomas Matthew	Berkeley
KN6QLJ	Anthony Villegas	Berkeley
KN6QIB	Juno Woods	Berkeley
KN6QVF	Matthew Song	Berkeley

KN6QNZ Gabriel Classon Berkeley

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New Upgrades:

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

KN6GPM	Steve Loyd	Discovery Bay (General)
KN6QEJ	David Stitt	Danville (General)
KN6KFA	Efren Ongpauco	Fairfield (General)
KN6QDL	Khushi Shah	Fremont (General)
KG6ZDR	Joseph Prokes	Castro Valley (General)
KN6HSR	Richard Combs	Livermore (Extra)
KN6QEK	Frank Hale	Moraga (General)

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.

Happy Thanksgiving.

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ARRL East Bay Section Manager

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