

Section Manager
East Bay Section Newsletter
May, 2025

ARRL East Bay Family,

Wow! A busy month for ARRL affiliations. Congratulations and thank you to the below organizations for becoming affiliated with the ARRL on the indicated dates:

05/11/1974 South Bay Amateur Radio Association
05/13/2023 Heritage High School Amateur Radio Club
05/14/1988 Vaca Valley Radio Club
05/14/2021 Kensington & El Cerrito Ham Operators
05/28/2003 Alameda County Sheriff's Communications Team

Field Day is next month, so I hope your club's plans are well underway. As of the end of April, only two clubs have registered their Field Day sites on the ARRL website. Be sure to do that soon, so visitors (including me) can find you. Get the link to do that in the Field Day Reminder item below.

And congratulations to Chapter 228-Mount Diablo, of the Quarter Century Wireless Association, which was chartered on May 19, 2016. If you've been licensed for at least 25 years, consider joining them.

* Question:

Amateur stations may not transmit in which of the following frequency segments if they are located in the contiguous 48 states and north of Line A?

- A. 440 MHz - 450 MHz
- B. 53 MHz - 54 MHz
- C. 222 MHz - 223 MHz
- D. 420 MHz - 430 MHz

(See the last page for the answer.)

=====

Section & Division News:

* Section Manager Election Reminder

Nominations for the Sacramento Valley and San Francisco Section Managers are open. If you know someone in those sections that's interested in being the Section Manager, they need to consult the information at (<http://www.arrl.org/section-terms-nomination-information>). Included on that page is a link to the Section Manager Nomination Form, which will need to have at least five valid signatures from ARRL members in the section. Other requirements apply. Submission deadline is 4:00 PM Eastern Time (1:00 PM Pacific), June 6, 2025. The elected managers will begin their terms on October 1, 2025.

* Field Day Planning Reminder

For us on the West Coast, Field Day will be from 1100 PDT on June 28 until 1059 PDT on June 29. If your club hasn't started planning, get going right away. Be sure to register your event on the ARRL Field Day Locator page at (http://www.arrl.org/field_days/add). That's so other hams can find your site. I will use your registration to plan my visit to your site. Full information and rules are at (<https://www.arrl.org/field-day>).

* Benicia Ham Class

The Benicia ARC will host another one of its one-day ham classes on Saturday, May 3, 2025. It will be from 8:30 am to

5:00 pm with a one-hour lunch break, at the Benicia Senior Center, 1201 East 2nd Street. The class offers training for both the Technician and General Class licenses. The fee is \$35.00, which includes the exam fee. For details and to register, see (<https://beniciaarc.com/hamclass/>).

*** Stockton Ham Cram Reminder**

The Stockton Delta ARC will hold a one-day ham cram on Saturday May 17 at 8:05 AM at the Stockton Fire Station #2, Bret Lawes classroom, 110 W Sonora St., Stockton, CA. Doors open at 7:45 AM. They're asking for a \$20 donation to cover the cost of the materials for the Study Session. Get details and register at (<https://w6sf.org/hamcramsignup.html>).

=====

ARRL News:

*** FCC Deregulation Initiative Comments Filed**

In last month's newsletter, I included an item about the FCC's deregulation initiative "In re: Delete, Delete, Delete," in which the agency is seeking comments on every rule, regulation, or guidance document that the FCC should eliminate or change. The ARRL has now filed comments on this matter. Among the subjects included in their filing are: deleting obsolete digital code limitations and baud rate limitations; implement changes to third party rules adopted internationally at WRC-03 (World Radio Conference, 2003); remove non-current personal information in amateur ULS records; and deleting the obsolete identification requirement for special call signs. Get a more complete summary of these and the other comments at (<https://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-files-comments-responding-to-fcc-request-for-input>). The comments themselves are at (https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Advocacy/ARRL%2025-133%20Comments%2004_11_2025.pdf) [PDF, 11 pages].

*** Field Day Planning**

One of the major aspects of Field Day is getting the word out to the public about ham radio and how important it is to society, especially during major disasters. To help with that, the League has prepared the 2025 ARRL Field Day Public Relations Kit, filed with ideas to get the public's attention, both in the traditional media and on social media. Download your copy from (<https://arrl.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zMzE3MzgwJnA9MSZ1PTUzODgzMTUyMiZsaT0zNzc5ODQ0NQ/index.html>) [PDF, 12 pages]. More help with all parts of Field Day planning, including the rules, is at (<https://www.arrl.org/field-day>). Finally, last week the League held a Field Day PR Workshop online. A recording of that is now on YouTube at (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hZkdU8XwlqQ>) [YouTube, 01:03:53].

=====

Government News

*** HDTV Antenna Causing Harmful Interference**

A person in Fresno, CA has been notified by the FCC that their HDTV antenna was transmitting a signal in the 788-798 MHz band that was causing harmful interference to the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) system operated by AT&T. The person was ordered to stop the interference and respond to the notice describing how they will no longer cause the interference. See the notification at (<https://www.fcc.gov/document/notification-harmful-interference-issued-eusebio-lazcano>) [PDF, Txt, 2 pages].

*** NASA Citizen Science**

NASA is inviting citizen volunteers to help with cutting-edge research in Earth science, planetary science, astrophysics, biological and physical sciences, and heliophysics. With just your phone or computer, you can help NASA expand our understanding of the universe — all while improving life on Earth. From spotting storms and chasing auroras to exploring distant galaxies, the agency's citizen science projects tap into the power of people. See what projects are available at (<https://science.nasa.gov/citizen-science/>).

*** Wildfire Evacuation and Sheltering Guidance**

In my September, 2023 newsletter, I reported that the NIST had released a pair of reports that provide guidance for strengthening wildfire preparedness, including specific actions that communities can take to save lives when there is not enough time to safely evacuate all residents. Last month, they released an update entitled "Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Evacuation and Sheltering Considerations: Assessment, Planning, and Execution (ESCAPE)" with improvements based on community feedback and research on recent wildfires. The report includes guidance for planning ahead for evacuation and shelter and addressing no-notice wildfire evacuations at the community level. This includes such things as

establishing ‘Temporary Fire Refuge Areas’ in advance which, though not as safe as evacuation, could save many lives when evacuation is no longer an option. Examples of TFRAs could be empty parking lots, cleared fields, and even the middle of wide roadways. The document is long, 169 pages, so the NIST has created an interactive online course that walks users through the core ideas of ESCAPE in a way that’s easier to learn from than reading the entire document. See the news release article at (<https://www.nist.gov/news-events/news/2025/04/nist-updates-critical-wildfire-evacuation-and-sheltering-guidance>). The report itself is at (https://tsapps.nist.gov/publication/get_pdf.cfm?pub_id=959690) and the online course is at (<https://escape.nist.gov/>).

* Armed Forces Day Crossband Test

The annual Armed Forces Day (AFD) Crossband Test, hosted by the Department of Defense, is scheduled for Saturday May 10, 2025. The event will test two-way communications between military stations and amateur radio operators as authorized by the Federal Communications Commission in Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations 47 CFR 97.111. The test provides opportunities — and challenges — for operators to test their individual technical skills in a controlled scenario that will not impact public or private communications. The annual DOD message will be transmitted via RTTY on 14.667 kHz at 1400 and 2000 UTC. Military stations will transmit on selected military frequencies and announce the specific amateur radio service frequencies that will be monitored. All scheduled times will be in UTC, and all scheduled transmissions will be upper sideband (USB), unless otherwise noted. Frequencies, times, and other technical information can be found at (<https://www.dodmars.org/mars-comex-information-website/armed-forces-day>). Those who wish to document their contacts with a QSL card should visit (<https://www.usarmymars.org/>) and complete the request form. For more than 50 years, military and amateur stations have taken part in this event.

* ISS SSTV Event

The International Space Station will hold a Slow Scan TV (SSTV) event from May 5th to 12th to honor VE Day. It will start at 12:00 UTC (5:00 AM Pacific) on frequency 145.800 MHz, mode PD-120. See (<https://www.ariss.org/upcoming-sstv-events.html>).

=====

Other News:

* International Amateur Radio Union Eyes Restructuring

The International Amateur Radio Union, which has just marked the 100th anniversary of its founding in Paris, is using the occasion to look within - and to consider a way it can be restructured. The IARU's administrative council has released a consultation containing an overview and a number of proposals. Region 2, which covers North, Central and South America, will be hosting two informational meetings on the Zoom platform where Region 2 societies can discuss the document, ask questions or recommend changes. For more information, see (<https://www.iaru-r2.org/en/consultation-on-the-restructuring-of-iaru/>). The Consultation document is at (https://www.iaru-r2.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/IARU-Consultation-on-Proposed-Restructuring_march_2025.pdf) [PDF, 24 pages.]

* Build Your Own Weather Satellite Receiver

An IEEE Spectrum magazine article describes building an affordable receiver system that allows you to receive weather data; including audio, images, charts, and written reports; directly from the satellites and with no connection to the internet or need to be close to a federal radio transmitter. With interchangeable feeds, you can also make radio astronomy observations; in particular, studying the hydrogen line; and even receive Inmarsat signals. It uses an inexpensive satellite dish, 70 cm in diameter with changeable feeds, an SDR receiver such as the RTL-SDR, software and some other bits. The article has full details, diagrams and links to sources. In addition, at the bottom of the page are links to related articles, including ‘Chasing Weather Balloons with Software-Defined Radio’. See it at (<https://spectrum.ieee.org/software-defined-radio>).

[IEEE = Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers]

* Geomagnetic Ground Currents in North America

On April 16, a severe geomagnetic storm caused electricity to flow through the rocks and soil of North America. Red zones in an animated map from NOAA show where voltages were the greatest. Geoelectric voltages were more than 70 times normal in the Appalachian Mountain range, Northern Minnesota, and Northwestern Canada. Texas and other western US states were relatively unscathed. You can view the animated map and read more on the Spaceweather.com Website, at (<https://spaceweather.com/archive.php?view=1&day=18&month=04&year=2025>).

[NOAA = National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration]

[Thanks to Ev, W2EV, via the Rochester VHF Group email reflector]

* AT&T Ending Email-to-Text

There's been a little-known but very valuable feature available for cell phone users and those wishing to communicate with them. It's the ability to send a message from your text message app on your phone to an email address (rather than another phone number); and also to do that in reverse – send an email to the text message app on a phone. Well, AT&T has announced that they are ending that capability next month. See the full AT&T announcement at (<https://www.att.com/support/article/wireless/KM1061254/>). There's also a YouTube discussion of this at the below link, which includes a possible workaround, at least for us hams. (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TtkY1CiC_4o) [YouTube, 00:05:44]. [Thankx to Scott, WO6K, for the tip.]

* A Slinky Antenna

Since an antenna could be made of most any conductive material, here's an article about making one from a Slinky. In case you're one of those youngsters that don't know what a Slinky is, it's a toy created in the 1940s, very popular into the 1960s and made of flat steel wire compressed into a helix. It can walk itself down stairs, be turned into many shapes and can do several tricks. Below is a link to an article about making an antenna from two Slinkys that will work all bands 7 MHz and above. (https://nonstopsystems.com/radio/frank_radio_antenna.htm) [Thankx to Gregg, K6XSS, for the link.]

=====

Hamfests And Special Events:

* 05/10/2025

Reno Ham Swap. Location: Reno, NV. Sponsor: Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society. Website: <http://renohamswap.com>.

* 05/30/2025- 06/01/2025

SEA-PAC, ARRL Northwestern Division Convention. Location: Seaside, OR. Sponsor: Oregon Tualatin Valley ARC and Clark County ARC. Website: (<http://www.seapac.org>)

* 09/06-14/2025

Route 66 On The Air. 0001Z-2359Z, W6JBT, San Bernardino, CA. Citrus Belt Amateur Radio Club. 3.866 7.266 14.266 28.466. Certificate & QSL. Citrus Belt Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 3788, San Bernardino, CA 92413. The Citrus Belt Amateur Radio Club of San Bernardino, California will host the 26th annual Route 66 On The Air special event, September 6-14, 2025. The event offers radio amateurs a chance to perhaps relive their own Route 66 memories and to celebrate the famed highway's rich history. Opened in 1926, US Route 66 was the first major improved highway to link the West Coast with the nation's heartland; it once served as the backdrop for a popular TV show and has been the subject of songs and stories. There will be multiple stations — some will be “rovers” — operating in or around the major cities along Route 66 from Santa Monica, California to Chicago, Illinois. They will use 1 × 1 W6-prefix special event call signs (www.w6jbt.org).

* 10/10-12/2025

Pacificon 2025 Location: San Ramon, CA. Sponsor: Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club. Website: (<http://www.pacificon.org>)

Search for all hamfests at (<https://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar>)

Search for all Special Event Stations at (<https://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations>)

=====

Significant Events in Telecomm History – May

** Note: Send me the date and location your club was founded, so I can add it to this list. **

05/01/1827 Georg Simon Ohm published his book "The Galvanic Circuit Investigated Mathematically", in which Ohm's law first appeared.

05/01/1844 A demonstration of the first commercial telegraph line in the U.S. occurred, when news of the Whig Party's nomination of Henry Clay for U.S. president was telegraphed from the party's convention in Baltimore to the Capitol Building in Washington, DC.

05/02/2000 Intentional degradation, or "selective availability", of public GPS signals was discontinued, leading to much more accurate positioning.

05/03/1978 The first unsolicited bulk commercial email (commonly known today as "spam") was sent by Gary Thuerk, a Digital Equipment Corp marketing representative to every ARPANET address on the west coast of the United States.

05/04/1974 Vint Cerf and Robert Kahn published "A Protocol for Packet Network Intercommunication," in IEEE Transactions on Communications. The TCP/IP eclipsed the Open Systems Interconnection standards to become the global protocol standard for computer networking, establishing the foundation for of Internet.

05/09/1913 The first official United States Policy for Radio Call Letters was published, including the creation of 9 call sign districts. District 6 consisted of California, Nevada, Utah and Arizona.

05/10/1950 The U.S. National Science Foundation was established as a federal agency when President Harry S. Truman signed Public Law 81-507, the "National Science Foundation Act of 1950."

05/11/1974 The South Bay Amateur Radio Association became affiliated with the ARRL.

05/13/1878 Joseph Henry died in Washington, DC at age 80. He was the first Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, inventor of the first practical electrical relay & namesake of the unit of Inductance.

05/13/2023 The Heritage High School Amateur Radio Club became affiliated with the ARRL.

05/14/1988 The Vaca Valley Radio Club became affiliated with the ARRL.

05/14/2021 The Kensington & El Cerrito Ham Operators became affiliated with the ARRL.

05/17/1865 The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) was formed.

05/17/1904 Christian Hülsmeyer demonstrated his Telemobiloskop in Cologne, Germany; a spark gap transmitter, parabolic antennas, detector, and an indicator, becoming the predecessor of radar.

05/17/1939 The first-ever televised baseball game was aired on station W2XBS, which later became WNBC-TV. The college teams Princeton and Columbia competed at Columbia's Baker Field, with Princeton beating Columbia 2-1.

05/19/2016 Chapter 228, Mount Diablo, of the Quarter Century Wireless Association was chartered.

05/20/1875 World Metrology Day. The Treaty of the Metre was signed in Paris, creating the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM).

05/22/1783 William Sturgeon, inventor of the electromagnet, was born in Whittington, Lancashire, England.

05/24/1844 Samuel Morse officially opened the first commercial telegraph line in the U.S., sending "What hath God wrought," from Washington, DC to Baltimore.

05/24/1932 Hidetsugu Yagi was granted a U.S. patent for the Yagi-Uda antenna.

05/25/1911 Representatives of the Department of Commerce and Labor at the Brooklyn Navy Yard issued License No. 1, a Certificate of Skill; the first official U.S. document ever issued for the operation of a commercial wireless station, to James M. Baskerville.

05/28/2003 The Alameda County Sheriff's Communications Team became affiliated with the ARRL.

05/31/1996 The first Vanity call sign was issued.

=====

New Hams:

April, 2025 Report

KO6IIU	Paul Brown	Brentwood
KO6IIW	Karen McMullen	Brentwood
KO6INO	Ronald Poulin	Concord
KO6INA	Michael Matison	Fairfield
KO6IKS	Michael Greer	Fairfield (General)
KO6IMJ	Su Park	Fremont
KO6IJZ	Elijah Breus	Castro Valley
KO6ILD	Marjorie Singler	Lafayette
KO6IJV	David Mease	Martinez
KO6IJN	Lawrence Martinelli	Napa
KO6IOI	David Skvortsov	Orinda
KO6IKW	Thomas Brown	Saint Helena
KO6ING	Aneesh Ganti	San Ramon

KO6IKX	Megan Le	Union City
KO6IHY	Elias Scott	Vallejo
KO6IKE	Julia Crites	Walnut Creek
KO6IIV	William Hintlian	Oakland
KO6IOO	Giak Diang Tan	Emeryville
KO6ILL	Ansel Leeds	Oakland
KO6IHP	Kelley Abraham	Emeryville
KO6IND	Madison McLaughlin	Berkeley
KO6ILG	Daniel Szeghy	Berkeley
KO6ILI	Sofia Roozbeh Faghihy	Nej Berkeley
KO6IMY	Justin Cotter	Dixon

=====

New Upgrades:

The Ham Upgrade reports are currently not available, due to the IT systems disruption.

=====

Question & Answer:

Amateur stations may not transmit in which of the following frequency segments if they are located in the contiguous 48 states and north of Line A?

D. 420 MHz - 430 MHz

[Extra Class question pool (2024-2028) no. E1F05 (<https://www.ncvec.org/index.php/2024-2028-extra-class-question-pool-release>)]

=====

If you'd like a better-looking PDF version of this newsletter, or want to refer to previous editions, they're all available on the East Bay Section website at (https://arrleb.org/index.php/files/get_dir/Newsletter).

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.

Mike Patterson, N6JGA
ARRL East Bay Section Manager

Email: mapa@ieee.org

Website: <https://www.arrleb.org>

East Bay Section Discord: <https://discord.gg/DNAAfC7hax>

ARRL HQ Help Desk: 888-277-5289 or hq@arrl.org

Index of Contacts at ARRL HQ: <http://www.arrl.org/contact-arrl>

=====