

Section Manager
East Bay Section Newsletter
July, 2025

ARRL East Bay Family,

The weather for Field Day 2025 last weekend was good, if a bit warm in most locations and downright hot in a few. It seems everyone had a good time, though many were frustrated by the band conditions. Our East Bay Section Emergency Coordinator, Dan Goldstein, KJ6KEU, joined me again this year to tour our Section's four counties, visiting as many locations as we could. The layout at each location was impressive, with clubs operating numerous stations. Some reported they were category was 8A, 9A, and even 13A. The food was great, as usual, providing some consolation for the band conditions.

There were 14 sites registered on the ARRL Field Day Locator map. One site had to cancel at the last minute, but I learned about another location that would be activating, but was not on the map. In addition, one registered site appeared to be by an individual rather than a club and was in a very distant location for us; and two of the sites were being run by the same club, using a separate call sign for each site. Time and distance prevented us from attempting the individual's site and one of the two by the multi-site club.

So we began the day planning to visit 12 groups. We made it to 11 sites. Unfortunately, two of those clubs shut down in the midafternoon due to the heat and loss of a power generator. We learned about one of them before driving there, but we tried to find the other one after they had left; so we successfully visited 10 clubs. I left home about 9:00 AM, arriving at the first location about 9:45, and we left our last one about 8:30 PM. I got home about 9:15 PM and I expect Dan likely got home around the same time. The total driving distance for the day was 292 miles.

I received 11 Radiograms and Winlink messages by various methods. Two were from outside our Section; one from a club in Connecticut and one from a ham in San Jose, both using Rule 7.3.6, a rule I'd overlooked in the past. Another one was from a ham operating on Vollmer Peak. The other 8 were from Section clubs. I replied via Winlink with a confirmation email to all the messages I received. If you sent me a Field Day Radiogram or Winlink message and did not receive a confirmation reply, please let me know. I don't want you to lose your bonus points.

As I write this on Wednesday, 2,397 log entries had been submitted to the ARRL. At that time, I found 20 submissions from the East Bay Section. The status of most of them was "Complete" with a few "Pending documents".

Remember that the deadline for submitting log entries is Tuesday, July 29, 2025. Upload your entry at (<https://field-day.arrl.org/fdentry.php>). You can check the status of any Field Day log entry at (<https://field-day.arrl.org/fdentriescvd.php>).

Congratulations to the Livermore Amateur Radio Klub (LARK), which was founded on July 30, 1959 (66 years ago!)

Congratulations and Thank You to the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club and the California Amateur Radio Linking Association, which became affiliated with the ARRL on July 13, 1948 and July 25, 2005, respectively.

*** Question:**

How can a geomagnetic storm affect HF propagation?

- A. Improve high-latitude HF propagation
- B. Degrade ground wave propagation
- C. Improve ground wave propagation
- D. Degrade high-latitude HF propagation

(See the last page for the answer.)

Section & Division News:

* Pacific Division Election

Nominations for the Pacific Division Director and Vice-Director are open. The elected persons will serve a 3-year term beginning January 1, 2026. If you are or know someone in this Division that's interested in either of these positions, see the announcement at (<http://www.arrl.org/news/view/call-for-nominations-for-arrrl-director-and-vice-director-2>). Requests for the nominating petition package must be received by the ARRL Secretary no later than noon Eastern Time (9:00 AM Pacific) on Friday, August 8, 2025; and the completed forms must be received back by noon Eastern Time (9:00 AM Pacific) on Friday, August 15, 2025. The above announcement provides details on qualifications, nomination procedure and other information.

* Section Manager Election

Nominations for the East Bay Section Manager are open. If you are or know someone in this Section that's interested in being the Section Manager, you/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), September 5, 2025. The elected manager will begin their term on January 1, 2026.

* Section Manager Election Results

Dr. Carol Milazzo, KP4MD and Sacramento Valley Section Manager; and Dr. Antonis Papatsaras, AA6OO and San Francisco Section Manager; were declared elected with no opposition. They will begin their next terms on October 1.

* California State Fair Amateur Radio Special Event Station

The Sacramento Valley Section is planning a Special Event Station and Exhibit at the California State Fair, July 11-27. They will operate on-the-air using the Special Event 1x1 callsign K6C in Cal Expo's air-conditioned Building B during the Fair. Cal Expo will supply gate and parking passes to our volunteer exhibitors. They welcome licensed radio amateurs and affiliated clubs who can assist at their Exhibit and Special Event Station in shifts like 10 am-1 pm, 1-4 pm, and 4-7 pm during the weekends of July 11-13, July 18-20, and/or July 25-27. You don't need to belong to a club or group to participate. Join their volunteer exhibitor team through the online form at (<https://sacramentoares.org/2025-california-state-fair-demonstration-station/>).

* Pacificon Photographer Makes the Cover of QST

The photo on the cover of the July edition of QST was taken by our own Pete Harris, KE6ZIW, who is one of the two Pacificon photographers that take such excellent photos of the convention each year. Every July, QST is dedicated to Emergency Communications. This cover shows Dick Liniger, K6RHL, of Martinez and State Park Ranger S. Schwartz. They were standing in front of the Diablo Ranch on Mount Diablo's North Gate Road, training for future EnComm needs by participating in the 2012 Amgen Tour of California Bicycle Race. Congratulations, Pete! Are you giving autographs?

* Hams Help Stop a California Wildfire

Robert "Bobby" Debevec, W6IWN, and Jacob T. "Jake" Graham, KC7WXD, from the Reno, Nevada area, were hiking on a windy day on the Grouse Ridge Trail in California, a section of the Tahoe National Forest, when they spotted a small lightning-caused fire just getting started. Their phones didn't have a signal, so they called in their coordinates on a local amateur repeater. "...it only took about 10 minutes for them to dispatch a helicopter to the area," said Graham. Get the full report at (<https://www.arrl.org/news/view/ham-radio-reports-fire-helicopter-crew-extinguishes-just-in-time>). Also, Debevec recorded a video of the incident, available at (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b-_ydtQfgOw) [YouTube, 00:05:02].

* Alcatraz Special Event Station

"The Vaca Valley Radio Club, W6VVR, will activate a Special Event Station - W6P - from Alcatraz Island on August 2nd 2025. The plan is to take the employee ferry early in the morning to the island and operate from 0900 to 1600 Pacific (1600 to 2300 UTC). There will three operating stations with a team of 6 operators. More information to come. If you have any questions or would like to be considered to be part of the operating team please contact Art, WD6BQX." Also see the Hamfests and Special Event section below for more details.

[From the VVRC website.]

* Tehachapi Community Award

The Tehachapi Amateur Radio Association (TARA), in Kern County, was recently recognized as Tehachapi's Finest Non-Profit Organization for 2025. In addition to a beautiful trophy, they received certificates of recognition from City Mayor Joan Pogon-Cord, California State Senator Shannon Grove - 12th District, and U.S. House Representative Vince Fong - 20th District of California." The TARA website is at (<https://ac6ee.org/>).

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ARRL News:

* Board Meeting Agenda

The ARRL Board will meet on July 18-19 for it's usual second meeting of the year. The agenda for the meeting is available at

([https://www.arrl.org/files/file/About%20ARRL/Board%20Meetings/2025/Second%20BOD%2025'%20Short%20Agenda%20\(f\).pdf](https://www.arrl.org/files/file/About%20ARRL/Board%20Meetings/2025/Second%20BOD%2025'%20Short%20Agenda%20(f).pdf)). If you have any thoughts on the items to be discussed at the meeting, please contact our Division Director, John Litz, NZ6Q, at nz6q@arrl.org.

* Logbook of the World Upgrade

LoTW has received some major upgrades over this past (long) weekend, including the operating system it's running on, the relational database system it uses to store and access logbook and awards data, and server hosting, where it was fully migrated to the cloud. These changes will, among other improvements, ensure LoTW performance needs can be better met based on user demand. LoTW became unavailable on June 27 and was back online on July 2. Logbook of The World can be found at (<https://lotw.arrl.org/>). More information about the popular service is available at (<http://www.arrl.org/logbook-of-the-world>). See the announcement about the upgrade at (<http://www.arrl.org/news/view/arrl-logbook-of-the-world-return-to-service>). If you're a user of LoTW and not an ARRL member, please become a supporter of LoTW by making a \$20 (or more) donation to the ARRL LoTW Fund at (<https://home.arrl.org/action/Donate/Donate-Now/CashProductId/115203>), or visit (<http://www.arrl.org/donate>).

* Marconi Program

The MARCONI Program was developed by the Meriden Amateur Radio Club (MARC) in Connecticut as part of a grant awarded through the ARRL Club Grants Program beginning in September 2022. The Project is designed to assist clubs to become more active and engaged with their members and their local community. The name MARCONI references both an early innovator in radio communications, and is an acronym for "Motivating Radio Amateur Clubs to Open New Initiatives." Developed as part of the suite of offerings in the MARCONI Program are seven Activity Programs available to clubs. They are as follows: POTA – Parks on the Air; Fox Hunting; CW Training; Satellite Communications; VE Sessions; Served Agencies; and Balloon Science. See (<https://www.arrl.org/marconi-program>) for links to these documents.

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Government News

* FCC Proposes \$25,000 Fine Against CB Operator

An Illinois man faces a \$25,000 penalty from the FCC for unauthorized operation of a Citizens Band radio. The agency announced its decision on May 30th, 2025, two years to the day after it issued a Notice of Apparent Liability against Jayme John Leon. The agency's Enforcement Bureau said that he repeatedly voided his operating authority by sending "nonverbal, indecipherable sound effects over long periods", causing malicious interference and engaging in one-way transmissions. According to the FCC document, Leon did not file a response to the 2023 Notice of Liability. Citizens Band radio is not a licensed service in the United States. Operators retain the privilege of using CB by agreeing to comply with relevant regulations stipulated in the Communications Act of 1934.

[From the Amateur Radio Newslines Report for Friday, June 6th, 2025]

* NASA's 'Spot the Station' Website Being Discontinued

NASA discontinued its Spot the Station website, starting the 12th of June. Subscribed users who have been receiving text and email notifications linking them to the website will no longer have this option either. The announcement on the website now directs ISS watchers to instead download NASA's official "Spot the Station" mobile app onto their Apple or Android smartphones. The "Spot the Station" app expands notification of viewing opportunities in the United States and across the globe, as well as providing additional capabilities to improve user experiences.

[From the Amateur Radio Newslines Report for Friday, June 6th, 2025]

* NASA Studying Sporadic-E Layers

Last month, NASA began launching rockets into the ionosphere from a remote island called Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands. The purpose is to study Sporadic-E layers, which create numerous problems for radio, radar and similar systems. As the name implies, Sporadic-E layers are constantly forming, moving, and dissipating, so these disruptions can be difficult to anticipate. NASA chose the Kwajalein Atoll because it is the closest place to the magnetic equator that was available to them. To see how Sporadic-E layers form and dissipate, why being close to the magnetic equator was important and what the study hopes to accomplish, see (<https://science.nasa.gov/science-research/heliophysics/nasa-launching-rockets-into-radio-disrupting-clouds/>).

* Olivia Trusty Confirmed as New FCC Commissioner

On June 17, the Senate voted to confirm Republican Olivia Trusty to the Federal Communications Commission. Following the departures of Republican Nathan Simington and Democrat Geoffrey Starks earlier in June, there were only two remaining commissioners; Chair Brendan Carr, a Republican, and Commissioner Anna Gomez, a Democrat. That left the FCC without a quorum, which is no longer the case. More details are available at (<https://www.tvtechnology.com/news/senate-votes-to-confirm-trusty-as-fcc-commissioner>).

Other News:

* SteppIR Ending Production of Consumer Antennas

In a pop-up notice on SteppIR's website, they announced that they will be ending "production of consumer antennas and accessories on August 31, 2025. We will accept and fulfill all consumer antenna and spare parts orders placed by August 31. After August 31, we will sell spare parts as long as supplies last." They also say they will continue to provide warranty service and tech support. See the announcement at (<https://consumer.steppir.com/>).
[Thankx to Art, AA6AM, for the tip.]

* Solar Conditions & Ham Radio Propagation

A single page, easy to read daily report of band conditions and solar weather is available at the below link. It's so easy to read that even I can understand some of it. See it at (<https://solar.w5mmw.net/>).
[Thankx to John, AA6ZT, for the information.]

* Icom America Service Manuals

Icom has posted many of its service manuals online for download as no charge. If you're an Icom owner and looking for repair details on your radio, check here to see if a manual is available. (<https://icomamericasupport.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/38411837710228-Amateur-Radios-Service-Manual-Download-Portal>).
[Thankx to Bruce, KM6CWV, for the tip.]

* Ham Radio All-in-one-Cable

While we were visiting the various sites on Field Day, John AA6ZT showed us a little device that looks a bit like a dual-pin adapter for a speaker-mic cord. But in fact, it's a tiny sound card, what the maker calls a Ham Radio All-in-one-Cable. The gadget plugs into the dual-pin speaker-mic jacks on your radio, but has a USB connector on the other end, so you can connect the radio to your PC. It "works as a COM/Serial port for programming many radios and as a sound card for digital modes. Works with DireWolf, APRSDroid, CHIRP, VaraFM, AllStarLink (and probably many more, but not tested)". Note the VaraFM, meaning you can send Winlink from a portable radio. I suggest you contact the provider to ensure it will be compatible with your radio. See their website at (<https://na6d.com/products/aioc-ham-radio-all-in-one-cable>).
[Thankx to John, AA6ZT for the information.]

* 13 Colonies Special Event Reminder

In celebration of our nation's Independence Day, the annual 13 Colonies Special Event will be held on July 1-7. There will be a special event station in each of the 13 colonies, along with bonus stations in Great Britain, France and Philadelphia. Very attractive certificates are available. Get details at (<http://www.13colonies.us/>).

Hamfests And Special Events:

* 07/11-27/2025

California State Fair Special Event Station. 0000Z-2359Z, K6C, Sacramento, CA. ARRL Sacramento Valley Section. 7.290 14.290 21.390 28.390. Certificate. Carol Milazzo, PO Box 665, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-0665.
<https://www.arrlsacvalley.org>.

* 08/02/2025

Alcatraz Special Event Station. 0130Z-0830Z, W6P, Vacaville, CA. Vacaville Amateur Radio Club (W6VVR). 7.200 MHz 14.250 MHz 28.500 MHz. QSL. Art Aronsen, 7319 June Bug Lane, Vacaville, CA 95688. There will be 3 stations on Alcatraz Island during times stated. All stations will be on SSB on battery.

* 08/09/2025

ARRL Idaho State Convention. Post Falls, ID. Sponsor: Kootenai Amateur Radio Society. Website: <http://www.k7id.org>.

* 08/15-17/2025

Pacific Northwest DX Convention. Clackamas, OR. Sponsor: Willamette Valley DX Club. Website: <http://pnwdxconvention.com>.

* 09/01-10/2025

175th Anniversary of California Statehood 1850-2025 Special Event Station. 0000Z-2359Z, K6S, Monterey, CA. Monterey DX Group. 14.275 21.275 28.375 7.275. QSL. G. Costello WC6DX, PO Box 1332, Monterey, CA 93942-1332. In 1849, the California Constitutional Convention convened in the capital Monterey in order to draft a constitution for statehood the following year. On 09 September 1850, California joined the Union as the 31st state. A commemorative paper QSL card is available for a SASE to QSL Manager WC6DX; no Log Book of the World or e-QSL.

* 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.

* 09/13/2025

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

* 10/10-12/2025

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

* 01/18-24/2026

Quartzfest. Quartzsite, AZ. Sponsor: N/A. Website: <http://Quartzfest.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 – July

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

07/01/1881 The world's first international telephone call was made between St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Canada, and Calais, Maine, United States

07/01/1911 The Wireless Ship Act of 1910 became effective, the first federal legislation regulating radio communication in the U.S.

07/01/1941 The first national standards for the broadcast of television went into effect.

07/01/1951 The Novice and Technician Class licenses were created by the FCC. The Novice was good for 1-year, non-renewable, low power CW only.

07/01/1971 Federal frequency & time signal radio station WWVH began broadcasting from its current location near Kekaha on the Island of Kauai, Hawaii.

07/02/1928 W3XX went on the air in Wheaton, Maryland, becoming the first commercially licensed television station in the US.

07/02/1939 The Hewlett-Packard Company was founded in a garage in Palo Alto, California by Bill Hewlett and David Packard, producing a line of electronic test and measurement equipment. The "HP Garage" at 367 Addison Avenue is now designated an official California Historical Landmark, and is marked with a plaque calling it the "Birthplace of 'Silicon Valley'".

07/04/1838 Edward Davy received a patent for a telegraph system using his mercury dipping electrical relay.

07/05/1687 Isaac Newton published the first edition of his Principia Mathematica, widely regarded as one of the most important works in both physics and applied mathematics. The work underlies much of the technological and scientific advances from the Industrial Revolution.

07/05/1912 Forty-five Q-codes were formally adopted into international law by the Second International Radiotelegraph Convention in London. The concept of callsign prefixes was also established, giving the U.S. the prefixes KDA-KZZ, N (all), and W (all).

07/05/1963 Federal frequency & time signal radio station WWVB was launched near Fort Collins, Colorado, replacing the experimental callsign KK2XEI.

07/06/1854 Georg Simon Ohm died in Munich, Kingdom of Bavaria in the German Confederation (present-day Germany) at age 65.

07/09/1962 A major manmade geomagnetic storm struck Earth, following the detonation of a thermonuclear warhead 250 miles above the Pacific Ocean—a test called “Starfish Prime.” The event caused an artificial solar storm complete with auroras, geomagnetic activity, and blackouts, including radio and satellite failures.

07/10/1856 Nikola Tesla was born in Smiljan, Austrian Empire (modern-day Croatia).

07/10/1962 Telstar 1 was launched, the first satellite to relay through space television pictures, telephone calls, and telegraph images, and providing the first live transatlantic television feed.

07/12/1999 The final commercial Morse code transmission in the U.S. was sent, using Samuel Morse's original 1844 message, "what hath god wrought", and the prosign sk ("end of contact").

07/13/1866 The Great Eastern steamed westward toward Heart's Content, Newfoundland, Canada from Valentia, Ireland, laying the first transatlantic cable.

07/13/1948 The Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club became affiliated with the ARRL.

07/19/1977 The first satellite navigation positioning signal was received from NTS-2 (Navigation Technology Satellite), by Rockwell Collins engineer David Van Dusseldorp in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. This marked the beginning of the Global Positioning System (GPS) era.

07/20/1937 Guglielmo Marconi died in Rome, Kingdom of Italy at age 63.

07/21/1984 The ARRL and the FCC signed a Memorandum of Agreement authorizing the ARRL to accredit Volunteer Examiners and coordinate examinations; creating the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator office.

07/25/2005 The California Amateur Radio Linking Association became affiliated with the ARRL.

07/27/1866 The first transatlantic cable was completed, with its landing in Heart's Content, Newfoundland, Canada from Valentia, Ireland.

07/29/1958 President Dwight Eisenhower signed the National Aeronautics and Space Act, establishing NASA.

07/29/1985 The Space Shuttle Challenger launched, carrying the first official Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX) payload.

07/30/1959 The Livermore Amateur Radio Klub (LARK) was founded.

07/31/1940 The first meeting of the National Television Standards Committee (NTSC) was held, with a mission to develop standards for the broadcast of television nationwide. The new standards were accepted by the FCC in May, 1941 and went into effect on July 1, 1941.

July, 1908 Modern Electrics magazine, published by Hugo Gernsback, printed the first “Wireless Registry” list of amateur stations, including self-designated call signs.

July, 1948 The first of two parts of Claude Shannon's "A Mathematical Theory of Communication" was published in the Bell System Technical Journal, essentially inventing the field of information theory.

New Hams:

June, 2025 Report

KO6JDI	David Hanawalt	Angwin
KO6JDJ	Bradley Thompson	Benicia
KO6JDK	Christian Witt	Benicia
KO6JFJ	Ian Flores	Benicia
KO6JEB	David Wiegler	Pleasant Hill
KO6JHP	Paul Young	El Cerrito
KO6JEX	Dimitrios Camacho	El Cerrito
KO6JDF	Djuna Hoffman	Fairfield
KO6JJP	Greg Thomas	Fremont
KO6JCU	Kenneth Jones	Fremont
KO6JCO	Twesha Ghosh	Fremont
KO6JHT	Thomas Kintner	Lafayette
KO6JJN	Jere Fellmann	Livermore (General)
KO6JDN	Matthew Michaelson	Martinez
KO6JGO	Mary Stump	Napa
KO6JFQ	Holiday Rider	Napa
KO6JDD	James Bledsoe	Napa
KO6JDE	Jane Bledsoe	Napa
KO6JGQ	Linda Saito	Orinda
KO6JNX	Eric Bamsch	San Lorenzo
KO6JLL	Garret Bamsch	San Lorenzo (General)
KO6JEM	Marc Pandone	Vallejo
KO6JDZ	Samuel Tomlin	Vallejo
KO6JFB	Barbara Holmes	Walnut Creek
KO6JFA	Kenneth Holmes	Walnut Creek
KO6JJC	Colvin Chapman	Oakland
KO6JLC	Kennedy MacInnis	Oakland
KO6JJW	Allen Ajello	Oakland
KO6JGI	Petro Papahadjopoulos	Piedmont
KO6JFF	Randall Schai	Oakland
KO6JKG	Vincent La	Berkeley
KO6JCP	Jonathan Ji	Berkeley
KO6JDC	Evelyn Chuang	Berkeley
KO6JJE	Martin West	Richmond
KO6JJS	Raymond Nip	Richmond
KO6JDG	Raymond Huckaby	Dixon
KO6JDU	Derrick Fok	Dixon

New Upgrades:

The Ham Upgrade reports are currently not available, due to the 2024 IT systems disruption.

Question & Answer:

How can a geomagnetic storm affect HF propagation?

D. Degrade high-latitude HF propagation

[General Class question pool (2023-2027) no. G3A08 (<https://www.ncvec.org/index.php/2023-2027-general-question-pool-release>)]

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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.

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ARRL East Bay Section Manager

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

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