

Section Manager
East Bay Section Newsletter
November, 2025

ARRL East Bay Family,

Pacificon 2025 is behind us and it was definitely a success, the best since COVID. The attendance was around 1,200 with almost 50 vendors and non-profits. Financially, it was about the same as last year since, although there were more attendees and vendors, there were also higher costs. Several vendors were with us for the first time, and I hope they'll return. Of course, as usual, there were some glitches; from the hotel and community, among a few other things. The Committee will be working to prevent them next year.

Mark your calendar now for Pacificon 2026, which will return to its usual 3rd weekend, October 16-18, 2026, at the San Ramon Marriott.

By the way, if you see reports from the big conventions back East reporting many thousands of attendees, keep in mind that those attendee reports are not comparable to Pacificon's, as Pacificon counts attendance differently.

Veteran's Day is next week, Tuesday, November 11. If you're a vet, Thank You! If you know a vet, thank them for keeping our nation safe.

Congratulations and Thank You to the Northern Alameda County ARES Club, which became affiliated with the ARRL on November 19, 1984.

And have a Happy Thanksgiving.

*** Question:**

What is meant by the term "baseband" in radio communications?

- A. The lowest frequency band that the transmitter or receiver covers
- B. The frequency range occupied by a message signal prior to modulation
- C. The unmodulated bandwidth of the transmitted signal
- D. The basic oscillator frequency in an FM transmitter that is multiplied to increase the deviation and carrier frequency

(See the last page for the answer.)

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Section & Division News:

*** BEACON Exercise Preparations Reminder**

Preparations for the annual BEACON exercise begins this week, with two kick-off meetings scheduled for Thursday, November 6, at 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM, respectively. Choose the one that best fits your schedule. They will have an overview of the exercise, participation opportunities, and coordination goals. The exercise itself will be April 30, 2026. It will bring together emergency management personnel, operational area partners, and volunteer groups and individuals from multiple counties, states, and jurisdictions to strengthen regional auxiliary communication and coordination capabilities. Unlike typical training events where agencies operate independently, BEACON provides a rare opportunity for all partners to train together under realistic, multi-jurisdictional auxiliary communication scenarios. For details and to register for the kickoff and subsequent meetings, go to (<https://www.beaconexercise.org/>).

[BEACON = Building Emergency Area Communications, Operations, and Networks]

*** Benicia Ham Class Results**

The Benicia club held its latest one-day ham classes on Saturday, October 4. They had 20 volunteers on hand to help a

total of 23 applicants. 18 of those took the Technician course and 5 took the General course. 14 Technician students passed the test, 1 of them with a perfect score; for a pass rate of 77.8%. 4 of the General students passed, 1 with a perfect score, for a pass rate of also 82.6%. The students came from 10 counties, some as far away as Santa Clara County, while 1 came from out of state. Great efforts, Benicia. Thankx!
[And thankx to Bob, W6RBF, for the info.]

* Maritime Radio Historical Society Looking for Volunteers

“The Maritime Radio Historical Society operates the Old RCA Marine Coast Station with operations in Bolinas and Point Reyes CA. ‘We are actively looking for Volunteers. There are many things we need help with, and a radio background is not necessary. We are looking for that person (or persons) that want to show up on a regular basis and are willing to get things accomplished. I myself drive from Fairfield and we have a person coming most weekends from Sacramento and another from Los Gatos. Visit our website at (www.radiomarine.org) and if you'd like more information, send an e-mail to our MRHS mailbox at (info@radiomarine.org). Thank you for your time’ ”.

[Email from Gary, KE6QR, quoting a note from Robert, K6AAQ.]

* Baker to Vegas Needs Volunteers

The Challenge Cup Relay Race, aka Baker to Vegas, is an annual relay footrace for public safety personnel, run from a point near Baker, CA to Las Vegas, NV; with runners participating from around the world. It's a major undertaking with some 120 miles of pavement; 20 stages; over 10,000 runners, guests, family members, and support staff working through hot days and cold nights. Such an event, of course, needs extensive communications over the entire route. And with that terrain, only amateur radio can do the job. So they need volunteers, lots of them. I worked it a number of years ago and it was a blast. The next one will be March 28-29, 2026. The race website is at (<https://bakervegas.net/>). The communications team is at (<https://radiobaker2vegas.com/>), where you can volunteer; or send an email to Blair Stephens at (kd6ifg@gmail.com).

[Thankx to Greg, KK6WOS, for the information.]

* Pacific Division Town Hall Meeting Reminder

Our Pacific Division Director, John Litz, NZ6Q, has scheduled a townhall meeting for all ARRL members in the Division on Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 7:00 PM. John scheduled it to discuss suggestions and actions for consideration at the January ARRL Board Meeting. If you're an ARRL member in this Division and did not get the email from “ARRL Members Only Web site”, let me know and I'll send you a copy. The email has the Zoom link for joining the meeting.

* Pacific Division Election Balloting Reminder

Don't forget to vote for our Division Director. You should have received an email and postcard from Election Services Co. (ESC) with your unique Election Validation Number and instructions on how to use their online voting site to access candidate statements, photos, and the electronic ballot, and to vote online. The deadline for voting is noon Eastern time (9:00 AM Pacific), November 21, 2025.

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ARRL News:

* Keep Giving Exams Sessions During the Government Shutdown – Follow Up

In last month's newsletter I had an item about the ARRL's Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) response to the federal government's shutdown and consequent unavailability of FCC databases and services. It advised VE teams to “continue giving exams and sending the results to the ARRL.” It also said that CORES was not accepting new FRN applications and “there is active discussion within the testing community about temporarily allowing testing without an FRN”. The League sent out an update to VEC teams the day after I sent you that newsletter (of course...) detailing the temporary procedure to allow testing to continue without an FRN. For details, see (<https://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-radio-licensing-update-during-us-government-shutdown>).

* Year of the Club Website Contest

As part of ARRL's Year of the Club celebration in 2026, the League is hosting a club website contest to showcase the best websites in ham radio. The contest is open to all affiliated clubs with a website. If your club is affiliated with the ARRL, enter your website in the contest for the chance to have it honored in QST. Submission deadline is Friday, January 30, 2026, 4 p.m. Eastern time (1:00 PM Pacific). For a link to the submission form, rules and details, see (<https://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-year-of-the-club-website-contest-call-for-submissions>).

* Year of the Club Newsletter Contest

In addition to the above website contest, the ARRL is hosting a club newsletter contest to show off the best newsletters there are. The contest is open to ARRL Affiliated Clubs that have published a newsletter for at least one (1) year. Submission deadline is Friday, January 30, 2026, 4 p.m. Eastern time (1:00 PM Pacific). For a link to the submission form, rules and details, see (<https://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-year-of-the-club-newsletter-contest-call-for-submissions>).

* ARRL Foundation Accepting Scholarship Applications

The ARRL Foundation is now accepting scholarship applications for the year 2026. Applications will be accepted through December 30, 2025, at 12 PM EST (9:00 AM Pacific). Students are encouraged to apply for any of the than 170 scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$25,000. All applicants must be active, FCC-licensed amateur radio operators. The scholarships are managed by the ARRL Foundation, but funded by generous donors, such as clubs and individuals, to inspire youth to explore amateur radio and to pursue higher education and related career paths -- and especially in wireless communications. For details and to apply, see (<https://www.arrl.org/scholarship-program>).

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Government News

* Clubs Can Help Pass the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act

In addition to all hams helping to get the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act (aka HOA Bill) passed through Congress, clubs can also help. Every single one makes a difference. Your club can send letters to Washington to let them know your club supports this legislation. The following links give you access to the draft letter to be customized for your club, along with a set of step-by-step instructions on completing and sending the completed letters. Get the instructions to create a club letter at (<https://arrl.org/files/file/Clubs/Completing%20the%20Club%20Letters%20for%20Congress.pdf>). Get the draft Club Letter itself at (<https://arrl.org/files/file/Clubs/Universal%20Club%20Letter%20For%20ARRL%20Legislation.docx>). 2026 is the ARRL Year of the Club! Let's get started early in making a major impact by getting you and your club on board with passing this important legislation.

* GMRS Operators Can Now Also Help Pass the HOA Bill

The League has also developed a good way for GMRS operators to help pass the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act. Whether or not they also hold a ham license, they can go to (www.arrl.org/HOA) and select the "for GMRS users" button to create their letters. The letters will be automatically generated when they enter their FCC-issued GMRS call sign.

[GMRS = General Mobile Radio Service]

* Skywarn Recognition Day

The annual Skywarn Recognition Day is Saturday, December 6. The day was developed by the NWS and the ARRL to celebrate the contributions that Skywarn™ volunteers make to the NWS mission, the protection of life and property. If you're a Skywarn weather spotter, you can participate in SKYWARN Recognition Day by visiting a National Weather Service office or by contacting other radio operators. If you're not an NWS spotter, but are interested in becoming one, go to (<https://www.weather.gov/mtr/spotter>) and read the material there. Also, the section near the bottom of this page called "Training Brochures" includes a link to a page for online training to become a spotter.

[NWS = National Weather Service.]

* FCC Announces Intent to Delete Minor Part 97 Provisions

The FCC has announced its intent to delete four small provisions of Part 97, along with numerous other wireless Parts. The rules are obsolete and will have no impact on today's modern Amateur Radio Service. The are (1.) Section 97.27, relating to the FCC's right to modify station licenses. The Commission rationale for deletion is that it duplicates Section 316 and so is not needed. (2.) Section 97.29, which specifies the procedure to replace paper licenses. The FCC stopped producing paper licenses at the end of 2020. (3.) Section 97.315(b)(2), which grandfathered HF amplifiers manufactured or purchased before April 28, 1978. The applicability of this rule has long passed. (4.) Section 97.521(b) and Appendix 2, which requires the proposed VEC to serve at least a specified region. The FCC no longer limits VECs to regions. The FCC Fact Sheet with the details is at (<https://www.fcc.gov/document/deleting-obsolete-and-duplicative-wireless-rules>) [PDF or Txt, 46 pages]. The ARRL announcement is at (<https://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-announces-intent-to-delete-minor-part-97-provisions>).

Other News:

* Understanding MUF

MUF is a term that most of us have probably heard but few understand. Here's an article that explains it, in a magazine that is new to me, SWR, and is based in Puerto Rico. The article begins, "One of the most important concepts in HF propagation is the Maximum Usable Frequency (MUF). Every amateur radio operator has, at some point, tuned the bands wondering why signals on 20 meters are strong at midday while 40 meters go quiet at night, or why a distant DX suddenly disappears on 15 meters. The answer lies in understanding the MUF—a concept that links the ionosphere, solar activity, and our choice of frequency." To see it, go to page 16 in the October edition at (<https://online.fliphtml5.com/kqkyd/epue/#p=16>). You can subscribe to the magazine for free at (<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeNvFE0Q26iq-ZwzQ6ccsmhFvDJJiZ4ognUNw6FL75W-8K1ig/viewform>). [Thankx to John, AA6ZT, for the info.]

* The Origin of the Ham World's Phonetic Alphabet

The NATO phonetic alphabet that most hams know and love is also known as the ITU phonetic alphabet, the ICAO phonetic alphabet, and probably others. But where did it come from? Here's a video that explains the full history of the NATO phonetic alphabet, including that it was not invented by NATO, and isn't a phonetic alphabet. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UAT-eOzeY4M>) [YouTube, 00:23:27].

[NATO = North Atlantic Treaty Organization; ITU = International Telecommunications Union; ICAO = International Civil Aviation Organization.]

[Thankx to Larry, KK6QPE for the information.]

* The Bizarre Bases of Antenna Towers

One of the YouTube channels I subscribe to, called Practical Engineering, posted a video with the above title about the reasoning behind the design of the base of large broadcast antennas, mainly the AM kind, where they come to a single point at their base, rather than standing on three or four legs like most ham towers. It's an excellent video and gives an answer completely different from what I expected. See it at (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3nDdLiXS5wk>) [YouTube, 00:18:07].

* Update Your Starlink Dish Before It's Permanently Disabled

If you or your organization has a Starlink dish, especially if it's sitting in storage much of the time, you should read the linked article from PC magazine. It says, in part, "if a Starlink dish is running software older than version 2024.05.0, then the hardware could become 'permanently inoperable' on Nov. 17". See the full story at (<https://www.pcmag.com/news/dont-let-your-starlink-dish-get-bricked-do-this-before-nov-17>).

Hamfests And Special Events:

* 11/15-17/2025

W6SFM Bug Roundup. 0000Z-0000Z, W6SFM, Fair Oaks, CA. Samuel F. Morse Amateur Radio Club. 3.533 7.033 14.033 28.033. QSL. W6SFM, 4901 Minnesota Ave, Fair Oaks, CA 95628. The Samuel F. Morse Amateur Radio Club (W6SFM), a Sacramento, California based CW enthusiast club sponsors a special time to bring bug operators together on the air. In the same spirit as ARRL's Straight Key Night, participants are encouraged to make simple, conversational, "rag chew" QSO's using their bug type key. This is an opportunity to share and exhibit your personalized fist. Call "CQ BR" so folks know you are a Bug Roundup Participant. (<https://w6sfm.org/bug-roundup>).

* 01/18-24/2026

Quartzfest. Quartzsite, AZ. Sponsor: N/A. Website: (<http://Quartzfest.org>).

* 01/25-27/2026

Discovery of Gold in California 177th Anniversary Special Event Station. 1700Z-0100Z, AG6AU, Placerville, CA. El Dorado County ARC. 7.248 14.248 21.348 28.348. QSL. El Dorado County ARC, PO Box 451, Placerville, CA 95667. (<https://edcarc.net/>).

* 04/30 to 05/01 2026

BEACON Exercise Special Event Station. 1600Z-0000Z, KA6OES, Eureka, CA. Humboldt County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services. 7.1920 3.9920 14.2205. Certificate. Greg Waters, 826 4th street, ATT: OES, Eureka, CA 95501. (<http://beaconexercise.org/>)

* 06/05-07/2026

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

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Significant Events in Telecomm History – November

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

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| 11/02/1920 | Radio station KDKA in Pittsburgh, PA broadcast the Harding-Cox presidential election results, becoming the first commercially-licensed radio broadcast station. But college station 2ADD (now WRUC) beat it on the air by almost 3 weeks. |
| 11/03/1906 | The first international standards for ship-to-shore communication, including the distress call which came to be called "SOS", was signed into international law at the first International Radiotelegraph Convention in Berlin. |
| 11/5/1879 | James Clerk Maxwell died in Cambridge, England, United Kingdom at age 48. |
| 11/07/1967 | President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Public Broadcasting Act, creating the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. |
| 11/08/1895 | Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen, a German mechanical engineer and physicist, produced and detected electromagnetic radiation in a wavelength range known as X-rays or Röntgen rays. |
| 11/08/1988 | The first amateur radio contact aboard the Russian space station Mir occurred, between Leonid Labutin, UA3CR and Musa Manarov, U2MIR. |
| 11/09/1914 | Hedy Lamarr, major movie star and co-inventor of the spread spectrum frequency hopping technology, was born in Vienna, Austria-Hungary. |
| 11/14/2023 | In a test of long-distance, high-bandwidth communications, a laser beam was transmitted to Earth from NASA's Deep Space Optical Communications satellite, some 10 million miles away. That's 40 times farther than our Moon and is like using a laser pointer to track a moving dime from a mile away. |
| 11/16/1974 | The first message sent intentionally to interstellar space was transmitted from the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico. It was sent to the globular cluster Messier 13 and carried basic information about humanity and Earth. It was meant as a demonstration of human technological achievement, rather than a real attempt to enter into a conversation with extraterrestrials. |
| 11/18/1963 | AT&T commenced the first subscriber Touch-Tone service in the towns of Carnegie and Greensburg, Pennsylvania, using push-button telephones that replaced rotary dial instruments. |
| 11/18/1997 | The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) standard "IEEE 802.11-1997; IEEE Standard for Wireless LAN Medium Access Control (MAC) and Physical Layer (PHY) specifications" was published. The 802.11 series of standards came to be popularly known as Wi-Fi. |
| 11/19/1984 | The Northern Alameda County ARES club became affiliated with the ARRL. |
| 11/20/1919 | The Radio Corporation of America (RCA) was formed as a radio communications subsidiary of General Electric, reorganized from the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company of America. |
| 11/20/1985 | Windows 1.0, the first major release of Microsoft Windows, was released in the United States by Microsoft. |
| 11/22/1948 | Federal frequency & time signal radio station WWVH was launched in Kihei on the island of Maui, then the territory of Hawaii. |
| 11/23/1993 | The FCC specified a stereo standard for AM radio. |
| 11/24/1890 | Edouard Branly discovered radioconduction, observing that an electromagnetic wave changes the ability of metal filings to conduct electricity, leading to the first practical wireless signal receivers. |
| 11/28/1660 | The first meeting of the "Invisible College" followed a lecture at Gresham College by Christopher Wren. Upon receiving royal approval, from 1663 the group became known as "The Royal Society of London for Improving Natural Knowledge"; the world's oldest academy of science. |

11/28/1983

The first amateur radio to go into space, a handheld, was carried aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia by astronaut Owen Garriott, W5LFL.

New Hams:

October, 2025 Report

KO6KXT	Patrice Chamberlain	El Cerrito
KO6KXB	Nicholas Pantino	Fremont
KO6KXU	Mary Oleary Perkins	Moraga
KO6KZM	Stone Thompson	Oakley
KO6KXC	Brian Tang	Pleasanton
KO6LAP	Joshua Long	Dublin
KO6KWW	Marwan Suliman	Dublin
KO6KZW	Craig Iwata	Pleasanton
KO6KZO	Alice Miller	Berkeley
KO6KZC	Ali Fuat Yuvali	Berkeley
KO6KYN	Corlette Balestier	El Sobrante
KO6KXH	Wendy Franklin	Richmond
KO6KYU	Elinor Blake	Richmond
KO6KXE	Delbert Geraty	Dixon

Question & Answer:

What is meant by the term “baseband” in radio communications?

B. The frequency range occupied by a message signal prior to modulation

[Extra Class question pool (2024-2028) no. E7E07 (<https://www.nevec.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: n6jga@arrl.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>
