

Section Manager
East Bay Section Newsletter
February, 2026

ARRL East Bay Family,

The ARRL Year of the Club got off to a chilly start, as the Midwest and eastern U.S. were slammed with frigid temperatures and heavy storms. I hope your family and friends that live in those areas are getting through it all. Florida, at least, is finally warming up. The League will announce the winner of the ARRL Sweepstakes Icom Dream Station at Orlando HamCation, February 13 – 15. The weather there is predicted to be warm, but with rain.

A new Amateur Radio Activity Report has been introduced to submit activity that is not related to ARES work. Examples of activity to submit include licensing classes, local race support, fair or festival activity, and school activity. I know filing reports is boring and they seem to disappear into a black hole, but like the ARES Forms 2 and 4, these reports will be a big help to the League when their lobbyists talk to members of Congress (“Senator, hams in your state contributed over 15,000 hours to community and charitable activities last year. That wouldn’t be possible without our allocation of frequencies and the ability to put up reasonable antennas.”)

Not only is this the Year of the Club, but we’re about to welcome the Year of the Horse, beginning February 17. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lunar_New_Year and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_New_Year) People born in the Year of the Horse are said to be independent, enthusiastic, and cheerful. They’re known for their energetic and dynamic nature, making them popular and sociable individuals. People born in a Year of the Horse include Thomas Edison, Neil Armstrong, Stephen Hawking, and Richard Feynman.

Happy Birthday to the Voice of America, which began broadcasting on February 1, 1942 and reaches over 200 million people worldwide. And Rest In Peace to the requirement for hams to know Morse Code to pass their license tests. The FCC’s orders for the Technician Class license took effect on February 14, 1991; and for all classes of licenses on February 23, 2007.

Congratulations and thank you to the Walnut Creek SHAMS Amateur Radio Club and the University of California Amateur Radio Club for becoming affiliated with the ARRL on February 20, 2020 and February 28, 1950, respectively.

*** Question:**

What are the two families of circles and arcs that make up a Smith chart?

- A. Inductance and capacitance
- B. Reactance and voltage
- C. Resistance and reactance
- D. Voltage and impedance

(See the last page for the answer.)

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Section & Division News:

*** Section Manager Election Reminder**

Nominations for the Santa Clara Valley Section Manager are open. If you know someone in that section that’s interested in being the Section Manager, they need to consult the information at (<http://www.arrl.org/section-terms-nominationinformation>). 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), March 6, 2026. The elected manager will begin their term on July 1, 2026.

* Benicia Ham Class Reminder

The Benicia ARC will host another one of its one-day ham classes on Saturday, February 7, 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

The Stockton Delta ARC will hold a one-day ham cram on Saturday March 14 in San Pablo. Doors open at 7:45 AM and the ham cram starts at 8:05 AM. If you want to test only, the VE session opens at 2:45 PM. Location is the San Pablo Police Dept Training Facility, 2300 El Portal, San Pablo. 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/hamcram-sign-up/>).

ARRL News:

* Board of Directors Meeting

The ARRL Board met in mid-January, along with several committees. Former Pacific Division Director Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, was reelected as the First Vice President and Rod Stafford, W6ROD, of San Jose was reelected the International Affairs Vice President. Arkansas resident Rick Roderick, K5UR, was reelected as President. These and other elected officers will serve a 2-year term. The Board also elected other officers, members to several committees and the Foundation Board; approved several ARRL awards; and heard reports from the Election Review Committee and ARRL Foundation President David Norris, K5UZ. The next meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for July 17 - 18, 2026. See the full Member Bulletin at (<https://www.arrl.org/member-bulletin?issue=2026-01-21>).

* Committee Action

Board committees met prior to the Board meeting. Some items of interest:

- The Programs & Services Committee decided to move forward with a new single-band DXCC (DX Century Club) Honor Roll Award for qualifying operators.
- The Administration & Finance Committee approved the 2026 plan, later approved unanimously by the Board, amending it to include additional funding for advocacy efforts in Washington, DC. These efforts include continuing work to advance the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act (bills H.R.1094 and S.459) through committee and toward final passage.
- The Emergency Communications and Field Services Committee removed the annual limit on the number of ARRL-sanctioned hamfests a group may sponsor. The previous limit was 2 per club per year. They agreed to evaluate a standardized reporting form to streamline the Section Traffic Manager's monthly reporting process. They also reviewed the monthly reporting process for ARES, including interest in advancing broader adoption of the new Form 4 and its impact on the accuracy of reported volunteer hours. And they unanimously approved setting a minimum eligible age of 21 for the position of ARRL Section Manager.

* On the Air Live

One of the many ways you can learn more about ham radio is with the ARRL's "On the Air Live" video live stream. Maybe you want to learn a new data mode, how to enhance your portable operations, or learn a new method for building an antenna. Hosted by Wayne Greene, KB4DSF, ARRL's Education Specialist, his goal is to inspire ham radio operators to try something new or try different approaches to enhance their ham radio experience. The videos are also recorded and available to watch at (<https://learn.arrl.org/courses/96737>). You do need to be an ARRL member and logged into the Learning Center.

Government News

* Supreme Court to Hear Arguments on FCC's Authority to Issue Fines

The Supreme Court of the United States has agreed to consider fines imposed on Verizon and AT&T in two cases that could have a wide-ranging impact on the FCC's ability to impose fines without a jury trial. In 2024, the Court ruled that the Securities & Exchange Commission must bring fraud cases seeking civil penalties in federal court instead of relying on the regulator's internal tribunals. Based on that decision, both AT&T and Verizon appealed the fines on them issued by

the FCC. An article with more details is at (<https://thehill.com/regulation/court-battles/5682306-supreme-court-fcc-fines-att-verizon/>). The Dockets for the two cases are at (<https://www.supremecourt.gov/search.aspx?filename=/docket/docketfiles/html/public/25-406.html>) and (<https://www.supremecourt.gov/search.aspx?filename=/docket/docketfiles/html/public/25-567.html>).

*** Help a Local School Talk to an Astronaut**

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) Program is seeking formal and informal education institutions and organizations, individually or working together, to host an Amateur Radio contact with a crew member on board the ISS, likely between July 1 and December 31, 2026. To maximize these radio contact opportunities, ARISS is looking for organizations that will draw large numbers of participants and integrate the ARISS radio contact into a well-developed education plan. The deadline to submit a proposal is February 27, 2026. Proposal information and more details such as expectations, ARISS education proposal guidelines, and the ARISS education proposal form can be found at (<https://www.ariss.org/apply-to-host-an-ariss-contact.html>). An informational webinar session will be held on February 5, 2026 at 8 PM ET (5:00 PM Pacific). The Zoom link to sign up is: (<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/join?secret=ARISS2026>). The ARISS News Release is at (<https://ariss-usa.org/ariss-news-release-no-26-02-message-to-us-educators-ariss-contact-opportunity-call-for-proposals/>). Please direct any questions to (education@ariss-usa.org).

*** New 60 Meter Allocation Taking Effect**

Last month's newsletter advised that the FCC had approved a new allocation for hams on the 60-meter band, while maintaining four of the existing channels. Now that the Report and Order has been published in the Federal Register, the new allocation will take effect on February 13. As a review, FCC-licensed amateur operators holding General Class or higher licenses may operate on a secondary basis anywhere between 5351.5 and 5366.5 kHz, subject to a maximum bandwidth of 2.8 kHz and maximum transmit power of 9.15 watts ERP (effective radiated power); except - the existing 60-meter channels centered on 5332, 5348, 5373, and 5405 kHz remain as secondary amateur allocations with maximum power of 100 watts ERP. However, the old channel at 5358.5 kHz is eliminated as it is now part of the new 5351.5-5366.5 kHz sub-band and subject to the lower power limit. Confused yet? Remember, we are secondary on this band, so we must not cause harmful interference to, and must accept interference from, other licensed stations. See the ARRL's news release at (<https://www.arrl.org/news/new-60-meter-frequencies-available-as-of-february-13>). The FCC's Report and Order is at (<https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-adopts-final-rules-implementing-wrc-15>) [Docx, Txt, PDF; 74 pages].

*** FCC Exempts Amateurs from Foreign Adversary Reporting Requirements**

At its January 29 meeting, the FCC approved a Report and Order the exempts license holders in several services, including amateurs, from foreign adversary reporting requirements. Such requirements typically apply to citizens of "foreign adversary" countries, including those living in the United States, who hold or are applying for an FCC license. The FCC agreed with the ARRL that services where licenses are held by individuals pose a minimal risk to national security and requiring such a large amount of reporting would overburden the Commission staff. Get details in the ARRL news release at (<https://www.arrl.org/news/view/fcc-poised-to-exempt-amateurs-from-foreign-adversary-reporting-requirements>). The Report and Order itself is at (<https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/search/search-filings/filing/10108294009248>) [PDF, 82 pages].

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Other News:

*** YL-OM Contest**

The YLRL is hosting a contest with a twist this month. YLs count only OM's and OM's count only YL's. The dates/times are 00:00 UTC February 13 2026 – 24:00 UTC February 14, 2026. All hams worldwide are invited. All bands may be used except WARC bands. The object is to work as many YL's if you are an OM and vice versa if you are a YL. No need for racing to work them fast, just work as many as you can. Get details and rules on the YLRL website at (<https://ylrl.net/contests/>). [Thankx to Vicki, N6KLS, for the information.]
[YLRL = Young Ladies Radio League. OM = old man/men (Harumph!!). YL = young lady/ladies]

*** HamClocks to Stop Functioning**

The developer and creator of the open-source HamClock software, Elwood Downey, WBØOEW, died suddenly last month. A message on his website at (<https://clearskyinstitute.com/ham/HamClock/>) advises that the final release of HamClock is version 4.22 and all HamClocks will stop functioning this June.
[edited from the Amateur Radio Newslines Report for Friday, January 30th, 2026]

* The Fight That Made Phones Mobile

A news organization called 1440 researched the origin story of the mobile phone with Marty Cooper, the father of the cell phone, and Arlene Harris, the first lady of wireless. The story includes a battle with a telecom giant, a stunt call on a New York sidewalk and a forgotten memo that rewired the world. (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eOx_srvhAVE) [YouTube; 00:24:10].

* Communications Resilience in Taiwan Using Ham Radio

“Here's an interesting video clip on the Deutsche Welle Web site. Residents in Taipei, Taiwan are learning to use amateur radio to sustain communications among themselves in case the island's Internet communications cables are destroyed in wartime. Something like a CERT-communications endeavor.” See (<https://www.dw.com/en/could-ham-radio-help-taiwan-survive-wartime-internet-outage/video-75435263>) [Video; 00:04:19].
[Thankx to John KS6M for the information and the above intro.]

* HamSCI Workshop Reminder

This year, the ARRL will host the 9th Annual HamSCI Workshop, March 14–15, 2026, at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) in New Britain, Connecticut, with activities also occurring at ARRL Headquarters in nearby Newington. This year's theme, “Discovering Science Through Ham Radio,” highlights the vibrant intersection of amateur radio and scientific discovery. A variety of registration options are available, including full-weekend and single-day packages. See the full ARRL announcement with more information at (<https://www.arrl.org/news/view/arrl-to-host-2026-hamsci-workshop-at-central-connecticut-state-university>). For full details and to register, go to (<https://hamsci.org/hamsci2026>).
[HamSCI = Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation]

* Build a Ham Radio Pico Balloon

The IEEE Spectrum magazine has a good article about building a very strong, but very small, balloon that that can float high in the atmosphere almost indefinitely; possibly even circling the globe. Using the amateur radio WSPR network, it can report its location at regular intervals. Get the details at (<https://spectrum.ieee.org/explore-stratosphere-diy-pico-balloon>).
[IEEE = Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. WSPR = Weak Signal Propagation Reporter]

* California Tsunami Program

In the October and November newsletters, I talked about the BEACON exercise, scheduled for Thursday, April 30th, 2026. BEACON is a major annual wide-area emergency response exercise that will bring together emergency management personnel, operational area partners, and volunteer groups, including hams, and individuals from multiple counties, states, and jurisdictions to strengthen regional auxiliary communication and coordination capabilities. At a recent preparation meeting, members of the California Tsunami Program presented an interesting discussion of tsunamis; how they're created, the risks in Northern California and a lot more. The presentation has excellent graphics, was recorded as a PowerPoint with audio and is available from the BEACON website. The file is called “California Tsunami Program_for BEACON 2026.pptx” and is in a folder at (https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1eGOIt1I54LBDFH5Ein4zxWgzid_wroHs). The file is large, about 350 MB, so you should download it before trying to run it.

Hamfests And Special Events:

* 02/27-28/2026

ARRL Southwestern Division Convention. Location: Yuma , AZ. Sponsor: Yuma Amateur Radio Hamfest Organization. Website: (<https://www.yumahamfest.com/>).

* 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 – February

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

- 02/01/1942 The Voice of America began broadcasting. It broadcasts an estimated 1800 hours of radio and TV programming each week in 47 languages to approximately 236.6 million people worldwide.
- 02/01/1954 Edwin Howard Armstrong, inventor of FM (frequency modulation) radio and the superheterodyne receiver system, died in Manhattan, New York at age 63.
- 02/03/2006 SuitSat-1 was released into orbit during a spacewalk from the International Space Station. A repurposed decommissioned Russian spacesuit fitted with ham radio equipment; it transmitted short messages in a number of languages before reentering the atmosphere about 7 months later.
- 02/04/1938 Scottish inventor John Logie Baird made the world's first color television broadcast, sending a mechanically scanned 120-line image between two buildings in London.
- 02/08/1922 President Warren G. Harding had the first broadcast radio receiver installed in the White House.
- 02/08/1996 The Telecommunications Act of 1996 was signed into law by President Bill Clinton; the first major amendment of the Communications Act of 1934.
- 02/11/1847 Thomas Alva Edison was born in Milan, Ohio.
- 02/13/2011 The first World Radio Day was proclaimed by UNESCO. February 13 was adopted by the United Nations in 2012 as an annual day of recognition of radio as the world's most widely consumed medium.
- 02/14/1876 Alexander Graham Bell and Elisha Gray both filed applications at the U.S. Patent Office for an "improvement in telegraphy". Three weeks later, Bell received Patent No. 174,465.
- 02/14/1990 The "Pale Blue Dot" image of Earth, made famous by Carl Sagan, was taken by Voyager 1 at a distance of 3.7 billion miles (6 billion kilometers) from the Sun. It was then sent back to Earth by radio, taking an (N6JGA-estimated) 5.5 hours to arrive from that distance.
- 02/14/1991 The FCC's Report and Order ending the requirement for Morse Code proficiency for the Technician Class license took effect.
- 02/16/1978 The first Computerized Bulletin Board System (CBBS) was released, having been developed over the previous few weeks by Ward Christensen and Randy Suess to allow them and other computer hobbyists to exchange information between each other.
- 02/17/1936 ARRL co-founder Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW, died in La Junta, Colorado at age 66.
- 02/18/1745 Alessandro Volta was born in Como, Duchy of Milan, Italy.
- 02/20/2020 The Walnut Creek SHAMS Amateur Radio Club became affiliated with the ARRL.
- 02/22/1857 Heinrich Rudolf Hertz was born in Hamburg, German Confederation.
- 02/22/1978 The first Global Positioning System (GPS) satellite was launched.
- 02/23/1927 The Radio Act of 1927 was signed into law by President Calvin Coolidge, creating the Federal Radio Commission. It included the formal establishment of amateur radio bands.
- 02/23/1947 The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) officially began operations.
- 02/23/1978 The basic call sign structure in place today was established: call sign blocks by class; calls assigned consecutively; no longer need to change call signs when moving; discontinued separate licenses for repeaters, secondary, control and auxiliary stations.
- 02/23/2007 The FCC's Report and Order ending the requirement for Morse Code proficiency from all amateur radio licenses took effect.
- 02/24/2001 Claude Shannon, "the father of information theory", died in Medford, Massachusetts at age 84.
- 02/27/1926 At its annual meeting in Hartford, CT, the ARRL Board of Directors revised the League's structure by creating Sections, each overseen by a "Section Communications Manager". The Pacific Division, then consisting of the states of Arizona, California and Nevada, and the Pacific Island Territories; was divided into three Sections: Southern, Northern and Pacific.
- 02/28/1950 The University Of California Amateur Radio Club became affiliated with the ARRL.

New Hams:

January, 2026 Report

KO6LOH	Paul Sirot	Concord
KO6LOI	Arthur Jones	Concord (General)
KO6LNJ	Daniel Konnoff	Fairfield
KO6LOP	Sofia Ivanov	Fremont
KO6LSH	Jade Cordrey	Fremont
KO6LPZ	Kirdan Sze	Fremont
KO6LOB	Xirui Guo	Fremont
KO6LTH	Richard Yao	Fremont
KO6LME	Jeremy Yeh	Fremont
KO6LQW	Jack Lantz	Pacheco
KO6LPV	Sean Myers	Pittsburg
KO6LOJ	Alexander Shen	San Ramon
KO6LRS	Arjun Dhamrait	San Ramon
KO6LMB	Gurtaj Gill	Union City
KO6LOV	Sean Brennan	Oakland
KO6LOO	Albert Tran	Oakland
KO6LLV	Lucy Anderson	Kensington
KO6LPI	Asher Singla	Berkeley
KO6LPK	Angelly Fernandez	Berkeley

Question & Answer:

What are the two families of circles and arcs that make up a Smith chart?

C. Resistance and reactance

[Extra Class question pool (2024-2028) no. E9G04 (<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: 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>
