

Section Manager

East Bay Section Newsletter

March, 2026

ARRL East Bay Family,

President John Adams signed into law the first U.S. weights and measures legislation on March 2, 1799. In 1821, President Adams' son, John Quincy Adams, wrote that "Weights and Measures may be ranked among the necessities of life to every individual of human society" in his then-position as Secretary of State. Since then, the science of metrology has expanded enormously, covering practically every field imaginable; ham radio being especially impacted. In celebration of that first law, the NIST and the NCWM celebrate Weights and Measures Week during the first 7 days of March each year. See how these organizations help make sure we get what we pay for and keep us safe at (<https://www.nist.gov/pml/owm/weights-and-measures-week>).

[NIST = National Institute of Standards and Technology; NCWM = National Council on Weights and Measures]

Remember to set your clocks forward an hour this Saturday night before going to bed. The clocks officially jump forward at 3:00 AM Sunday morning. This will be the last jump the Province of British Columbia will make, as they are moving to permanent year-round day saving time. Something to keep in mind for all your contacts in BC.

Congratulations and thank you to the Benicia Amateur Radio Club and the Martinez Amateur Radio Club for becoming affiliated with the ARRL on March 10, 1981 and March 13, 2010, respectively.

*** Question:**

Which of the following protocols enables an amateur station to transmit through a repeater without using a radio to initiate the transmission?

- A. IRLP
- B. D-STAR
- C. DMR
- D. EchoLink

(See the last page for the answer.)

Section & Division News:

*** MDARC General Class License Course**

The Mt. Diablo club will hold its next General Class 9-session course on Tuesday evenings, March 24-May 19, 2026 at 7:00 PM, both in person in Clayton and on Zoom. There will be a test session the following Tuesday, May 26, and an optional (but highly recommended) Get-On-The-Air session on Field Day, June 27. For details and to register, go to (<https://www.mdarc.org/education-and-testing/class-details>). Scroll down to the section "Level 2: General License Course 2026 w/ GOTA" and click the course title to register. Be sure to read the rest of that web page to get needed information, such as the required manual. Send any questions to (info@mdarc.org).

*** Stockton Ham Cram Reminder**

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/>).

* Pacificon Phishing

From Pacificon's home page at (<https://www.pacificon.org/>):

"The 'attendee list' scammers have been unusually busy this year, sending emails to many people offering to sell them contact information for 'thousands' of Pacificon attendees. Please don't respond to these emails. Pacificon has a strong policy of not providing such data to any outside parties. You can see all our policies at (<https://www.pacificon.org/resources/policies>), where it says, in part, 'Your information, whether public or private, will not be sold, exchanged, transferred, or given to any other company for any reason whatsoever, without your consent or by court order, other than for the express purpose of delivering the purchased product or service requested.' Do not reply with "yes" or anything at all. Do not click any links. These actions may give bad people more data about you. If the From: address is strange, mark it as spam and delete it."

Another phishing attempt we've started seeing is offers for advantageous pricing on hotel rooms ("we are down to the last block of rooms at the headquarter hotels for Pacificon 2026"). Also a scam. Just mark those emails as spam and delete them. The only place to get the Pacificon discount is via the Pacificon website at (<https://www.pacificon.org/>). The 2026 website is targeted to publish in early April.

* Santa Maria DX & Contesters Convention

The Southern California Contest Club and the San Diego DX Club are jointly sponsoring the Santa Maria DX & Contesters Convention, coming up in Santa Maria on April 10-12, 2026. Per Vicki, N6KLS, "This convention was previously hosted by North and South DX Clubs alternating yearly in Visalia". Among the speakers at the event will be our own Vicki Zumwalt, N6KLS; a long-term East Bay ham who for some reason has defected to the sands of Arizona. But she still joins us several times a year, including at Pacificon. Also on the speakers list is Tom Shiller, N6BT, who some of you may know as the founder of Force 12 antennas, then Next Generation Antennas, author of the book "Array of Light" and frequent speaker at Pacificon. Registration for the Santa Maria convention only is \$10. Full registration is \$100, which includes registration, the Saturday night happy hour, the Saturday night banquet and the Sunday breakfast. Get details and register at (<https://www.socalcontestclub.org/SantaMaria2026/events.php>). [Thanks to Vicki, N6KLS for the tip.]

* Icom Dream Station Sweepstakes Winner

For the full year of 2025, the ARRL and Icom held a year-long Dream Station Sweepstakes to encourage new membership, and a fun way for current members to extend their support for ARRL. They announced the winner at HamCation in Orlando. The winner is Lee Warren, KI5YDR, of Honolulu, HI. Lee won an IC-7760 HF/50 MHz 200 W Transceiver –60th Anniversary Signature Edition; an IC-PW2 1 kW Linear Amplifier; an SM-50 Advanced Desktop Microphone; and a limited-edition Seiko watch celebrating Icom's 60th Anniversary. See the short video with the announcement at (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WkznGo0o2aA>) [YouTube, 00:01:47].

* Pacific Section Manager Election

Nominations for the Section Manager in the Pacific Section will be re-solicited in the April 2026 issue of QST since no nominating petitions were received by the receipt deadline in early December of 2025. In the meantime, ARRL has appointed Heather Flewelling, AH7RF, of Honolulu, to be the ARRL Pacific Section Manager starting April 1, 2026. She has been the Assistant Section Manager since 2023.

ARRL News:

* Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

The League's Board of Directors met January 16-17 and I outlined some of the actions they took in last month's newsletter. Some points of interest to us: Rick Roderick, K5UR was re-elected President. Our own Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, was re-elected First Vice-President. The Board unanimously approved motions that recognize and express its sincerest appreciation to the San Francisco Radio Club for their more than 95 years, and the Turlock Amateur Radio Club for their more than 75 years, of dedicated service in promoting the ARRL's mission of 'Advancing the art, science, and enjoyment of Amateur Radio'. An addendum containing revised Elections Procedures and Rules was also attached. The full minutes are available at (<https://arrl.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zNTUyNDQ4JnA9MSZ1PTUzODgzMTUyMiZsaT00MTU4OTEzMg/index.html>) [PDF, 32 pages].

* Committee Reports

Various committees meet in person the day before the Board meeting, as well as throughout the year online. Their reports to the Board are available at (<https://www.arrl.org/committee-reports>).

* Section Manager Election Cycle Changing

For many years, the League has conducted four Section Manager elections per year, on a quarterly basis. To simplify the process, reduce confusion about which Sections are having elections and significantly reduce the workload of the Field Service staff, the ARRL is changing to one Section Manager election cycle per year. Beginning now, all Section Manager terms will begin on July 1 and end on June 30 of the relevant years. Solicitation and announcements will begin in January, with petitions due by March 10. To get all the SMs aligned onto this plan, many of them will have their current term extended on a one-time basis. For the East Bay Section, my term has been starting on January 1 of even-numbered years. Under that old system, my current term began this past January 1 and would have ended December 31, 2027. Under the new system, my current term will be extended six months and end on June 30, 2028. The next term for your Section Manager will begin July 1, 2028, and all future terms will begin on July 1 of even-numbered years.

* Updated ARRL Frequency Allocation Chart

The League has updated its frequency allocation charts to show the new allocation in the 60-meter band, as described in last month's newsletter. Everyone should download and print the updated copy to have by your rig. The chart is available as a PDF in multiple formats at (<https://www.arrl.org/graphical-frequency-allocations>). Another image that shows just the new 60-meter allocation, and may be more clear, is at (<https://hflink.com/>).

[Thank to Bruce, KM6CWV, for the tip on the hflink image.]

* ARRL Ham Radio Open House

ARRL Ham Radio Open House is a national event being hosted by local amateur radio clubs in April to coincide with World Amateur Radio Day on April 18. But the clubs can have their open house on any day that works for them. The League is encouraging radio clubs and schools to help promote amateur radio science and technology by opening their stations to the public with an open house during the month of April. In addition, groups are encouraged to set up in public places or conduct outdoor activities, such as a Parks on the Air (POTA) activation or satellite contact. See the ARRL news item at (<https://www.arrl.org/news/radio-clubs-encouraged-to-plan-now-for-april-ham-radio-open-house>). A site locator is now live on the ARRL Ham Radio Open House page at (<https://www.arrl.org/open-house>). Participating clubs may enter their information so that local hams and members of the public may find the event.

Government News

* Keep Your FRN Contact Information Up To Date

The FCC has adopted a change to its rules to require that every holder of an FCC Registration Number (FRN) update their contact information in the CORES system (email and postal addresses) within ten business days of a change. Until now, no specific deadline existed for updating FRN information. FRN contact information is handled separately and apart from contact information related to a license in the License Manager System. Both records must be kept up-to-date, and each requires a separate update. If your FRN information is current and has not changed, no immediate action is required, but you must adhere to the 10-day rule for future changes. See the League's full news item for details. It's at (<http://www.arrl.org/news/view/fcc-requires-that-frn-contact-information-be-updated-within-ten-days-of-a-change>). The FCC's Report and Order is at (<https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-24-135A1.pdf>) [PDF, 44 pages] [See especially item 13, page 6]. If you want some help with this, see the ARRL's FCC Tutorial on updating FRN information: (https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/html/Update_FRN_Information.htm) and information on how to update license information: (<https://www.arrl.org/call-sign-renewals-or-changes>).

Other News:

* NCVEC Removed Questions from Use

The NCVEC Question Pool Committee has removed two questions from the General Class question pool and one question from the Extra Class pool from use. Due to recently published FCC rule changes affecting the 60-meter band (see my item in last month's newsletter), General Class questions G1A04 and G1C09 are no longer valid and must be removed from use on examinations. Extra Class question E4D05 must also be removed because it contains more than one correct answer. All affected questions should be removed from examinations as soon as possible. An updated General

Class question pool file, including the errata and new information, has been posted to the NCVEC General Class question pool web page at (<https://www.ncvec.org/index.php/2023-2027-general-question-pool-release>). The updated Extra Class question pool is at (<https://www.ncvec.org/index.php/2024-2028-extra-class-question-pool-release>). The ARRL news item is at (<https://www.arrl.org/news/view/ncvec-question-pool-committee-removes-three-questions-from-use>).

[NCVEC = National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators]

* NCVEC Issues Revision to 2026-2030 Technician Pool

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) has released a revision to the new 2026-2030 Technician Class question pool that takes effect July 1, 2026. The revision includes minor wording clarifications to four questions in the pool. If you've already downloaded a copy of the new question pool, you'll need to download it again, at (<https://www.ncvec.org/index.php/2026-2030-technician-question-pool>).

* Honoring the Titanic

Amateur radio operators worldwide will have an opportunity to honor the passengers and radio crew of the RMS Titanic that sank in the early hours of April 15, 1912. A Spanish special event station, EG1912T, will be on the air from 0000 UTC on April 10, the date on which the Titanic set sail from Southampton, England, until 2359 on April 15, the date on which it sank after hitting an iceberg. The call sign is unique for this event. EG identifies Spain, 1912 signifies the year the ship sank, and T stands for Titanic. Bands used will be HF, VHF, UHF, and SHF (amateur radio satellite). All modes will be available with special emphasis on telegraphy. All stations that contact EG1912T using CW will receive a special QSL card. All other stations making contact on any frequency or mode can receive a confirmation via eQSL and LoTW.

* California American Legion Wants to Hear from Hams

If you're an American Legion member and a ham, the Legion's California Department wants to hear from you. They have "launched a statewide effort to better understand and strengthen our community of Legionnaire amateur radio operators". Go to the below link for details, their reasons and a link to a short form to let them know about you.

(<https://calegion.org/california-legion-amateur-radio-operators-we-need-to-hear-from-you/>)

* New HamClock Backend

In last month's newsletter, I reported that the open source HamClock software would stop functioning in June of this year, due to the death of its author Elwood Downey, WBØEW. Since then, some HamClock fans have developed a new backend server and website that will allow it to keep functioning indefinitely. All that's needed is two simple text changes in either the hosts file or the command line that starts HamClock. HamClock functions include, among other things, weather pressure maps, aurora map generation, ham news headlines, real-time PSK Reporter spot data, VOACAP propagation reports and Kp index from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. For details see these two websites: (<https://www.hamclock.com/>) and (<https://github.com/BrianWilkinsFL/open-hamclock-backend>).

* AMSAT Coloring Book & Courses

Among its activities, AMSAT's Youth Initiative to encourage youngsters to learn more about satellites and their impact on our lives, has introduced a free downloadable coloring book for younger students. The coloring book focuses on ways that satellites have an impact on almost everyone's daily activities. It contains illustrations on 12 two-page spreads and is available in English and Spanish with accompanying discussion guides.

In addition, AMSAT now has three installments of their free online satellite course. They are "An Introduction to Satellite Meteorology"; "Satellites and Climate Change"; and "Satellites and Pollution Control". Additional topics will be coming later this year.

The coloring book is at (<https://buzzsat.com/buzzsat-satellites-in-space-free-coloring-book>). The satellite course installments are at (<https://buzzsat.com/free-online-courses>).

Hamfests And Special Events:

* 03/28/2026

Sierra Foothills / Loomis Hamfest. Location: Loomis, CA. Sponsor: Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club. (<https://hamfest.w6ek.org/>).

* 04/04/2026

Las Vegas Radio Amateur Club 65th Birthday. 700Z-2300Z, N7L, Las Vegas, NV. Las Vegas Radio Amateur Club. 14.250. QSL. Paul Talbot, 2201 Barbers Point Place, Las Vegas, NV 89134. (<https://www.lvrac.org/>).

* 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. **

- 03/01/1893 Nikola Tesla gave the first public demonstration of radio to the National Electric Light Association in St. Louis, although he had presented his work prior to this behind closed doors.
- 03/01/1938 Claude Shannon submitted his MIT Master's thesis for publication in the Transactions of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, forming the basis of modern digital circuit design.
- 03/02/1799 President John Adams signed into law the first U.S. weights and measures legislation.
- 03/03/1847 Alexander Graham Bell was born in Edinburgh, Scotland.
- 03/03/1885 The American Telephone & Telegraph Company (AT&T) was incorporated as the long-distance division of American Bell Telephone Company. It became the head of the Bell System on the last day of 1899.
- 03/03/1901 The National Bureau of Standards (now the National Institute of Standards and Technology, or NIST) was created via a law passed by Congress and signed by President William McKinley.
- 03/03/1969 AMSAT, the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation, was formally chartered as a 501(c)(3) educational corporation.
- 03/05/1827 Alessandro Volta died in Como, Lombardy-Venetia, Austrian Empire at age 82.
- 03/07/1876 Alexander Graham Bell received U.S. Patent, No. 174,465 for the telephone.
- 03/07/1926 The first transatlantic telephone call of any kind occurred, from London to New York, using radio-telephone technology. This preceded by almost a year the first "official" call, made on 01/07/1927.
- 03/07/1979 The first open meeting of the Benicia Amateur Radio Club was held at the Youth Activity Center, inducting 11 new members.
- 03/09/1851 Hans Christian Ørsted, discoverer of the relationship between electrical current and magnetism, died in Copenhagen, Denmark at age 73.
- 03/10/1876 Alexander Graham Bell called out to his assistant Thomas Watson, "Mr. Watson, come here! I want to see you", becoming the first transmission of intelligible speech over electrical wires.
- 03/10/1891 Almon Strowger received a patent for the Strowger switch, the first automatic telephone exchange.
- 03/10/1981 The Benicia Amateur Radio Club became affiliated with the ARRL.
- 03/11/1922 Radio station KRE began broadcasting, from the Claremont Hotel in Berkeley.
- 03/12/1933 President Franklin Roosevelt made his first of many "Fireside Chats", over radio, 8 days after his inauguration.
- 03/13/2010 The Martinez Amateur Radio Club became affiliated with the ARRL.
- 03/14/1879 Albert Einstein was born in Ulm, Kingdom of Württemberg, German Empire.
- 03/16/1789 Georg Simon Ohm was born in Erlangen, Brandenburg-Bayreuth in the Holy Roman Empire (present-day Germany).
- 03/20/1800 Alessandro Volta wrote to the London Royal Society to describe the technique for producing electric current using what became known as the "voltaic pile", the first electrical battery.
- 03/22/1952 The first Hamvention took place, at the Biltmore Hotel in Dayton, Ohio.
- 03/28/1903 Jean-Maurice-Émile Baudot, died in Sceaux, Hauts-de-Seine, France. Baudot was a French telegraph engineer and pioneer of telecommunications. He invented the Baudot code, the first means of digital

communication; and a multiplexed printing telegraph system. The "baud", a unit of digital transmission, was named after him.

- 03/29/1941 Joseph Hooton Taylor Jr., K1JT, Nobel Laureate and creator of the weak signal programs WSPR and WSJT, was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- 03/30/1909 ARRL co-founder Hiram Percy Maxim received a patent for the first commercially successful firearm silencer; one of five patents he received.
- 03/30/1978 The most comprehensive overhaul of the amateur radio callsign structure since World War II went into effect, creating the fundamental structure in place today.
- 03/31/1727 Isaac Newton died in Kensington, Middlesex, Great Britain at age 84.
- 03/31/1970 The U.S.'s first artificial Earth satellite, Explorer I, fell back into the Earth's atmosphere after 105 days of operation and over 12 years in orbit.
- 03/31/2006 Amateur radio operators from AMSAT in Germany tracked and received radio waves from Voyager 1 using the 20-meter (66 ft) dish at Bochum. Retrieved data was checked and verified against data from the Deep Space Network station at Madrid, Spain. This seems to be the first such amateur tracking of Voyager 1.
- Mar. 1-7 NIST Weights and Measures Week (<https://www.nist.gov/pml/owm/weights-and-measures-week>)

New Hams:

February, 2026 Report

KO6MEF	William Kessler	Benicia
KO6LVR	Addison Staley	Brentwood
KO6LWX	Joshua Dunne	Fremont
KO6LXI	Vincent Huang	Fremont
KO6LXM	Ravishankar Balaji	Fremont (General)
KO6MCG	Isabelle Samosa	Fremont
KO6MBS	Julian Roque	Hayward
KO6LXS	Jerry Li	Castro Valley
KO6MCP	Aashay Vartak	Livermore
KO6LXD	Damian Wilson	Dublin
KO6LYS	Andrew Mathers	Walnut Creek
KO6LWK	Nikita Smith	Walnut Creek
KO6MEQ	Ahmed Alhakem	Walnut Creek
KO6MAV	Gabriel Barbosa-Topete	Piedmont
KO6MAH	Sebastian Jones	Oakland
KO6MBD	Jenny Tang	Oakland
KO6MEJ	David Rowland	Berkeley
KO6MAK	Zachary Perkins	Albany
KO6MEA	David Perry	Kensington
KO6LZA	James Thornton	Vacaville

Question & Answer:

Which of the following protocols enables an amateur station to transmit through a repeater without using a radio to initiate the transmission?

D. EchoLink

[Technician Class question pool (2026-2030) no. T8C09 (<https://www.ncvec.org/index.php/2026-2030-technician-question-pool>)]

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.arrl.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>
