

Section Manager
East Bay Section Newsletter
April, 2026

ARRL East Bay Family,

Field Day is less than 3 months away, so it's time to start your planning. For us on the West Coast, it will be from 1100 PDT on June 27 until 1059 PDT on June 28. As this is the ARRL Year of the Club, Field Day provides the perfect opportunity for radio clubs to set up stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill, and service to our communities and our nation. Make this event what you and your club want it to be. Some clubs treat it like a contest; some an emergency response exercise; some as a ham radio PR event; and for some it's a major BBQ feed. But for everyone, make sure it's all fun. As for planning, does your club need an insurance certificate to give the owner of the site you'll use? Do you need overnight access? What about media notices, social media announcements and other public relations steps? Get your planning started now. And once you've nailed down your location, be sure to register your event on the ARRL Field Day Locator page at (http://www.arrl.org/field_days/add). That's so other hams can find your site. I will use your registration to plan my visit to your site. Full information and rules are at (<https://www.arrl.org/field-day>).

Happy Birthday, ARRL! Founded by Hiram Percy Maxim and Clarence D. Tuska on April 6, 1914, we're 112 years young!

Congratulations and thank you to the Oakland Radio Communication Association (ORCA), the East Bay Amateur Radio Club (EBARC) and the USS Hornet Amateur Radio Club for becoming affiliated with the ARRL on April 08, 1999, April 29, 1948 and April 30, 2013, respectively.

*** Question:**

Why is it important to know the duty cycle of the mode you are using when transmitting?

- A. To aid in tuning your transmitter
- B. Some modes have high duty cycles that could exceed the transmitter's average power rating
- C. To allow time for the other station to break in during a transmission
- D. To prevent overmodulation

(See the last page for the answer.)

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Section & Division News:

*** Pacificon Registration Is Live!**

Planning for Pacificon 2026 began shortly after the conclusion of Pacificon 2025. Mark your calendar now for the weekend of Friday-Sunday, October 16-18, 2026. It will be at its usual location, the San Ramon Marriott. The 2026 website and registration are now live at (<https://www.pacificon.org/>); so make your attendee, banquet, antenna seminar and hotel reservations right away. You can also help ensure this year's convention is a success by being a forum speaker and/or volunteering. Web pages for both are also on the website. See you there.

*** W1AW/6 Portable Operations**

April 1st marked the beginning of the first week-long period for California clubs to get on air and operate as W1AW/6. Our second one won't be until October. If your club hasn't signed up yet, go to the Pacific Division's website at (<https://www.pacific.arrl.org/>) and click on both link at "Operate CA W1AW/6 April 1 - April 7, 2026! sign-up & instructions". The "sign-up" link opens a spreadsheet with a page of instructions, then click the tab for the signup sheet itself. Pick your date, time slot and operating band, then enter your club's call sign. Before getting on the air, please be sure to read the page at the "instructions" link, especially the part about logging. If you have questions, let our Division Director know at (NZ6Q@arrl.org). Also see the "Celebrating America 250" item in the ARRL News section below.

* BEACON Exercise Preparations Reminder

The annual BEACON exercise is almost here, scheduled for 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. If you'd like to get involved but haven't signed up yet, get details and register at (<https://www.beaconexercise.org/>). Also, check with your local CERT group or ham radio club. If you can't find a group to work with in your area, let me know.

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

* KARO ECHO Finishes First at Winter Field Day

Congratulations to KARO ECHO, who finished first in the East Bay out of 13 stations; and was third in the state. Not only that, they finished eleventh out of all the 355 stations nationally and internationally in the Outdoor section. Well Done!

[KARO ECHO = the Kensington Amateur Radio Operators and the El Cerrito Ham Operators mutual benefit association]

* Benicia Ham Class Reminder

The Benicia ARC will host another one of its one-day ham classes on Saturday, May 2, 2026. 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/>).

* Section Manager Election

No nominations petitions were received by the deadline for the Pacific Section Manager election, so they are being resolicited. 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-termsnominationinformation>). Included on that page is a link to the Section Manager Nomination Form, which will need to have at least five valid signatures from ARRL members in the section. Other requirements apply. Submission deadline is 4:00 PM Eastern Time (1:00 PM Pacific), June 5, 2026.

* San Mateo Club in the News

An article about the San Mateo Radio Club was in the February 26 edition of the Daily Journal. The story talks about the club's activities and the importance of ham radio. See it at (https://www.smdailyjournal.com/news/local/san-mateo-radio-club-signals-community-with-a-wide-range-ofham-radio-experience/article_b3b4f390-b2fc-49bc-883b-c0c138ee0834.html).

* More Local Hams in the News

The local Patch news service has a story about the Winter Field Day event with students and other hams at Heritage High School in Brentwood. The Brentwood exercise was sponsored by the Sutter Delta Medical Center's Emergency Department. On hand were Dr. William Francis, KF6HDD, an Emergency Medicine physician at Sutter Delta Medical Center; and Spencer Holmes, KM6SJO and Heritage High School teacher, the school ham club's advisor and a POTA enthusiast. The students and adults made contacts around the Bay Area and across the country, learning a lot about setting up stations, antennas and radio. See the full story at (<https://patch.com/california/brentwood/building-community-resilience-through-emergency-preparedness-nodx>).

[Thankx to Oli, KF6HDD, for the tip.]

* Santa Maria DX & Contesters Convention Reminder

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.]

ARRL News:

* Celebrating America 250

In previous newsletters, I've talked about some of the ways the League is celebrating America's 250th birthday year. One of them is with a year-long WAS-250 award period. Get details at (<https://www.arrl.org/america250-was>).

Some cautions have been sent out by Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, Radiosport and Regulatory Information Manager: "When using WSJT (FT8/FT4 etc) Digital Modes, EXCLUDE the "250" in your CQ reference. 'CQ 250 W1AW/#' does not decode. The '250' is seen by the receiver as the call sign. So instead on Digital Modes just use the standard "CQ W1AW/#" where # is your call area."

Also, LoTW does not yet have the America250-WAS Award Rule Profile established. Please be patient and our apologies for the delay.

[LoTW = Logbook of the World. WAS = Worked All States.]

* World Amateur Radio Day

World Amateur Radio Day, held on April 18 each year, is celebrated worldwide by radio amateurs and their national associations which are organized as member-societies of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU). It was on this day in 1925 that the IARU was formed in Paris. American Radio Relay League (ARRL) Co-Founder Hiram Percy Maxim was its first president. There are a number of ways you can participate in World Radio Day. See the ARRL news item at (<https://www.arrl.org/world-amateur-radio-day>).

* Careers at ARRL

If you've ever thought you might like to turn your hobby into a profession, this may be a good opportunity. The ARRL has several open positions, including the W1AW Station Manager (yes, Joe Carcia, NJ1Q is retiring after many, many years). Full details are at (<https://www.arrl.org/employment-opportunities>).

Government News

* FCC Prohibits New Foreign-Made Routers

The FCC revised its "Covered List" to include all consumer-grade routers produced in foreign countries. This means that they cannot be imported, marketed or sold in the U.S. The revision is because our national security organizations have determined that they "pose unacceptable risks to the national security of the United States or the safety and security of United States persons." The FCC's Covered List is a list of communications equipment and services that are deemed to pose such a risk. Existing equipment that was already FCC-approved is not included. So, the router currently in your home or business is unaffected, as is identical units of the same model still on the market. However, when the time comes to replace your router, any new models will have to be recertified. For that, they will need to receive "Conditional Approval" from the Department of Defense or Department of Homeland Security. A Fact Sheet news release and two separate Public Notices are available on the FCC's website at (<https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-updates-covered-list-include-foreign-made-consumer-routers>).

* NOAA Weather Radio Modernization

A bill working its way through Congress would, if enacted, authorize \$100 million in funding for the U.S. VHF weather radio network, with an additional \$20 million each fiscal year from 2026–2031 to keep the radio network operational. Late last month, the U.S. House Committee on Science, Space and Technology made a few amendments, then passed the NOAA Weather Radio Modernization Act and sent it to the full House for a floor vote. There's over 1,000 such stations in the U.S., operating in the 162 MHz band. This includes 35 in California, one of which is right here on Mt. Diablo; call sign WNG655, running on 162.425 MHz. Many ham radios have the VHF weather frequencies preprogrammed into them. A list of the stations in California is at (<https://www.weather.gov/nwr/stations?State=CA>). The bill itself is on the Congressional website at (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/7813/text>).

[NOAA = National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration]

Other News:

* Classified Military Video Now Available to You!

OK. It was classified when it was made in 1944. Then it was released to the public five years later. This one has a very

good explanation of how FM radio works. Often, I find that these old videos explain the concepts better than more modern ones. I did notice an apparent error during the AM explanation early in the video, though. Did you spot it? See the video at (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AzvxfRDT84>) [YouTube, 00:29:54].
[Thankx to Howard, SWL, for the tip.]

* ARISS Accepting Applications to Talk with an Astronaut in Space

ARISS is seeking formal and informal educational institutions and organizations, individually or working together, to host an amateur radio contact with a crew member on board the ISS. These radio contacts are approximately 10 minutes in length and allow students to interact with the astronauts through a question-and-answer session. ARISS anticipates that the contact would be held between January 1 and June 30, 2027. Crew scheduling and ISS orbits will determine the exact contact dates. To maximize these radio contact opportunities, ARISS is looking for organizations that will draw large numbers of participants and integrate the contact into a well-developed education plan. The deadline to submit a proposal is May 22, 2026, 11:59 PM Pacific Time. Proposal information and necessary details are at (<http://ariss-usa.org/proposal-overview/>). An ARISS Introductory Webinar session will be held April 30 at 8 PM ET. The Zoom link to sign up is: (<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/3yid9dxzRkmYfVroIP0nWA>). See the full ARRL news item at (<https://www.arrl.org/news/view/ariss-outlines-opportunities-for-space-station-contacts-in-2027>).
[ARISS = Amateur Radio on the International Space Station].

* Honoring the Titanic Reminder

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.

* SSTV From ISS Marking Major Moments In Space

The 65th anniversary of the first human space flight by cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, the 45th anniversary of the first Space Shuttle flight and the 100th anniversary of the world's first liquid-propelled rocket launch by Robert Goddard. These are three of several space achievements being commemorated by Amateur Radio on the International Space Station through its selection of images to be transmitted as part of SSTV Series 31. The SSTV Mode will be Robot 36 and there will be two minutes between transmissions. Transmissions will begin on the 10th of April and continue through to the 14th of April. The frequency will be 437.55, plus or minus Doppler shift.
[from the Amateur Radio Newline for Friday, April 3rd, 2026]

* More Hams in the News

RadioWorld, an online journal for the broadcasting industry, has an article about the Digital Library of Amateur Radio and Communications (DLARC) and its approximately 225,000 items, spanning magazines, newsletters and call books. I've talked about the DLARC before, but this article has a good description, if you need a review. The DLARC is a section of the Internet Archive and is available at (<https://archive.org/details/dlarc>). The RadioWorld article is at (<https://www.radioworld.com/news-and-business/news-makers/dlarc-the-radio-geeks-doomscrolling-antidote>).

Hamfests And Special Events:

* 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/>)

* 04/18/2026

Valley of the Moon ARC Hamfest. Location: Sonoma, CA. Sponsor: Valley of the Moon ARC. Website: <http://vomarc.org>

* 05/09/2026

Reno Ham Swap. Location: Reno, NV. Sponsor: Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society. Website: <https://renohamswap.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 – April

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

- 04/02/1872 Samuel Finley Breese Morse, co-inventor of the original Morse Code, died in New York City, New York at age 80.
- 04/03/1912 Congress ratified the treaty from the 1906 International Radiotelegraph Convention in Berlin; leading to the Radio Act of 1912.
- 04/03/1973 Dr. Martin Cooper of Motorola made the first handheld cellular phone call in public by calling his chief competitor, Dr. Joel S. Engel at AT&T.
- 04/05/2063 First Contact Day. In Star Trek lore, Earth's first warp-drive capable starship, the Phoenix, had its first test flight; leading to the pivotal first interaction between humans and a non-Earth species, the Vulcans.
- 04/06/1914 The ARRL was founded by Hiram Percy Maxim and Clarence D. Tuska.
- 04/06/1917 Congress declared war on Germany, bringing the U.S. into World War I. All civilian radio equipment, both transmitters and receivers, was prohibited.
- 04/07/1928 The Detroit Police Department commenced regular one-way radio communication with its patrol cars.
- 04/08/1856 The Western Union Telegraph Company was formed by the merger of the New York and Mississippi Valley Printing Telegraph Company and the Erie and Michigan Telegraph Company.
- 04/08/1911 Professor Heike Kamerlingh Onnes and his collaborators discovered superconductivity in Leiden, The Netherlands, observing that the resistance of mercury approached "practically zero" as its temperature was lowered to 3 kelvin.
- 04/08/1999 The Oakland Radio Communication Association (ORCA) became affiliated with the ARRL.
- 04/12/1961 The age of humans in space began as Yuri Alekseyevich Gagarin, a Soviet pilot and cosmonaut, was launched into outer space, orbiting the Earth for 108 minutes before his safe return.
- 04/12/1981 NASA launched the Columbia space craft on STS-1, the first space shuttle mission, returning 2 days later.
- 04/15/1912 The RMS Titanic sank. SOS signals via radio saved many lives, raising public awareness of the value of radio.
- 04/15/2000 FCC regulations to simplify the ham radio operator license structure, streamline the number of examination elements, and reduce the emphasis on telegraphy became effective. Changes included deprecation of the Novice and Advanced license classes; reduction of the number of telegraphy examination elements from three to one; elimination of station licenses for the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES); and creation of the CORES registration system, along with FCC Registration Numbers (FRN).
- 04/17/1790 Benjamin Franklin died in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania at age 84. He was the first to discover the principle of conservation of charge, among innumerable other accomplishments.
- 04/17/1922 Radio station KPO went on the air in San Francisco, later becoming KNBC and finally KNBR.
- 04/18/1925 The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) was formed in Paris.
- 04/18/1955 Albert Einstein died in Princeton, New Jersey at age 76.
- 04/18/xxxx World Amateur Radio Day
- 04/20/1939 Franklin D. Roosevelt became the first president to appear on television when the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) broadcast the opening ceremony of the New York World's Fair.
- 04/20/1961 The FCC authorized a standard FM stereo broadcasting method.

- 04/24/1962 The Massachusetts Institute of Technology bounced an image off the U.S. Air Force's Echo 1 communications satellite to send itself a message, becoming the first satellite relay of a television signal.
- 04/25/1874 Guglielmo Marconi was born in Bologna, Kingdom of Italy.
- 04/27/1791 Samuel Finley Breese Morse, co-inventor of the original Morse Code, was born in Charlestown, Massachusetts.
- 04/27/1933 Karl Guthe Jansky presented a paper to a small audience in Washington., DC on his research into radio signals of previously unknown origin entitled "Electrical Disturbances of Extraterrestrial Origin". The paper is viewed as the beginning of radioastronomy.
- 04/29/1948 The East Bay Amateur Radio Club (EBARC) became affiliated with the ARRL.
- 04/30/1897 Physicist J.J. Thomson, gave a lecture at the Royal Institution in London saying, "The atoms of the ordinary elements are made up of corpuscles and holes, the holes being predominant,". This lecture is considered by many to be an announcement of the discovery of the electron, what Thompson called "corpuscles".
- 04/30/1916 Claude Shannon, "the father of information theory", was born in Petoskey, Michigan.
- 04/30/1993 CERN made the source code of the World Wide Web available on a royalty-free basis, making it free software. By late 1993 there were over 500 known web servers. The Web was invented by Tim Berners-Lee, a British scientist, in 1989 while working at CERN.
- 04/30/2013 The USS Hornet Amateur Radio Club became affiliated with the ARRL.
- 2nd week National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

New Hams:

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KO6MJC	Igor Ryzhkov	Alameda
KO6MMH	David Payne	Clayton
KO6MKH	Howard Morrow	Concord
KO6MIE	Blaine Laney	Fairfield
KO6MQV	Daniel Pang	Fremont
KO6MJI	Aarav Garg	Fremont
KO6MQJ	Flora Kwan	Hayward
KO6MPX	Wesley Lightfoot	Castro Valley
KO6MIG	Nathanial Coffield	Castro Valley
KO6MQK	Creed Erickson	Livermore (General)
KO6MQE	Kweku Hayfron	Livermore
KO6MJT	Jennifer Palmer	Napa
KO6MIM	Tim Burgess	Oakle
KO6MKV	Heidi Petty	Oakley
KO6MJO	Ravikanth Ganapavarapu	Pittsburg (General)
KO6MJS	Adrian Padilla	San Lorenzo
KO6MMZ	Shaurya Chauhan	San Ramon
KO6MLY	Alex Melnik	Pleasanton
KO6MLI	Natalia Tsumakova	Pleasanton
KO6MJV	Cristino Molina	Vallejo
KO6MJG	Mose Williams	Oakland
KO6MOX	Qilo Matzen	Oakland
KO6MJQ	Santino Gonzales	Oakland
KO6MKK	Shantanu Shekhawat	Oakland
KO6MKW	Joseph Crunk	Oakland
KO6MJP	Benji Friedman	Berkeley
KO6MJR	Ellen Janda	Berkeley
KO6MKI	Kelsey Terry	Vacaville

Upgraded Hams:

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KO6MEF	William Kessler	Benicia (General)
KO6LBE	Rick Albers	Benicia (General)

W8MEJ	John Menerick	Castro Valley (Extra)
KM6CVS	Paul Chamberlain	Napa (General)
KN6ZNC	Richard Cordova	Newark (General)
KO6MJO	Ravikanth Ganapavarapu	Pittsburg (General)
KM6QEQ	Jai Singh	Berkeley (General)
KO6KZO	Alice Miller	Berkeley (General)
KO6ERD	Richard Thorsted	Vacaville (Extra)

Question & Answer:

Why is it important to know the duty cycle of the mode you are using when transmitting?

B. Some modes have high duty cycles that could exceed the transmitter's average power rating

[General Class question pool (2023-2027) no. G8B08 (<https://www.ncvec.org/index.php/2023-2027-general-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>
