

Section Manager
East Bay Section Newsletter
August, 2026

ARRL East Bay Family,

The deadline for submitting Field Day log entries was last Tuesday, July 28, 2026 at 1:59 PM Pacific time. The ARRL has received 4,207 entries. Of those, 34 were from the East Bay Section. At this writing, two of them were still "Pending documents", with the rest "Complete". Of the 34 submissions, 17 were from clubs, with some turning in multiple submissions. The rest were from individuals or ad hoc groups that are not clubs. I hope everyone had a great time. You can check the status of any Field Day log entry at (<https://field-day.arrl.org/fdentriescvtd.php>).

Congratulations and thank you to the Hayward Radio Club for becoming affiliated with the ARRL on August 2, 1954. 72 years!

*** Question:**

Which of the following describes a Zepp antenna?

- A. A horizontal array capable of quickly changing the direction of maximum radiation by changing phasing lines
- B. An end-fed half-wavelength dipole
- C. An omni-directional antenna commonly used for satellite communications
- D. A vertical array capable of quickly changing the direction of maximum radiation by changing phasing lines

(See the last page for the answer.)

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Section & Division News:

*** Big News: Pacificon is Going National!**

At its meeting last month, the ARRL Board authorized Headquarters staff to work with the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club of California to host the ARRL National Convention in conjunction with Pacificon in October 2028. Pacificon annually hosts the ARRL Pacific Division Convention in San Ramon, California. This is a big honor for MDARC, and a big challenge. They will need a LOT of help. If you can help out in any way, even for just a few hours, I encourage you to volunteer this year so you'll have some experience for the National Convention. Also, see the ARRL News section below for more on the latest Board meeting.

*** New Santa Clara Valley Section Manager**

Tony Dowler, K6BV, of Pacifica, California, has been appointed as the ARRL Santa Clara Valley (SCV) Section Manager as of July 1, 2026. Dowler succeeds James Armstrong, NV6W, of San Jose, who concluded his third term as Section Manager on June 30 after serving since 2020. Dowler has been the SCV Affiliated Club Coordinator. He has been licensed since 1981 and holds an Amateur Extra class license. His amateur radio activities include HF operating and DXing. He is also past president of the Northern California DX Club and the San Francisco Radio Club and is currently a Director of the NCDXC. Dowler's term as Section Manager continues through June 30, 2027.

*** KARO ECHO Fall Simulated Emergency Test**

The KARO-ECHO club out of Kensington and El Cerrito is holding its biannual Simulated Emergency Test (SET) on September 26 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. This is one of two SETs run by KARO ECHO each year and is a great opportunity to practice message handling in a realistic disaster response scenario. There will be plenty of time to get up to speed if you haven't participated before and there are opportunities to pair with experienced operators during the SET to help get you oriented. To get involved, send an email to (info@karoecho.net).

* Stockton Ham Cram Reminder

The Stockton Delta ARC will hold a one-day ham cram on Saturday, August 15 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/>).

* Benicia Ham Class Reminder

The Benicia ARC will host another one-day ham class on Saturday, October 3, 2026. It will be from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm with a one-hour lunch break, at the Benicia Senior Center, 1205 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, see (<https://beniciarc.com/hamclass/>).

* BEACON Exercise AAR

For those of you that participated in the BEACON Exercise in April, the After-Action Report (AAR) is now available. The Building Emergency Area Communications, Operations, and Networks (BEACON) is a major annual wide-area emergency response exercise that brought 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. Per exercise director Greg Waters, KJ6OUI, "This report represents the collective efforts of hundreds of participants from across California and beyond who dedicated their time, expertise, observations, and documentation to help evaluate this year's exercise." A presentation on BEACON will be at Pacificon again this year. Ther AAR is available at (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UzPyKmhP0CKGMQKIeKK-F7Rqe6tGs2ey/view?usp=sharing>). The next BEACON exercise will be on Thursday, April 29, 2027. Registration will open in October.

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ARRL News:

* Board Meeting

The ARRL Board met on July 17-18 for its second meeting of the year. The full minutes have not yet been released, but we do have some highlights.

A monthly recognition of new ARRL members will be included in ARRL media, highlighting the important contribution new members make to the spirit and future of amateur radio.

To encourage greater participation by Affiliated Clubs in the ARRL Club Commission Program, a new online membership form will be created to allow new and renewing members to select a participating club to receive credit for their ARRL membership. The Club Commission for ARRL membership renewals will also be increased from \$5 to \$10.

The Board and CEO are also considering moving the Alabama Section into the Delta Division from the Southeastern Division.

The Board approved revisions to the ARRL Amateur Radio Legal Defense & Assistance Committee (ARLDAC) guidelines, including increasing funding limits to better reflect current legal costs while continuing to support this important member benefit.

The Board approved the creation of an ARRL Open Source Amateur Radio Competition to encourage innovation in software, hardware, and open-source development while supporting technical exploration, STEM outreach, and the next generation of radio amateurs. The competition is expected to launch in 2027.

The next Annual Meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors is scheduled for January 15-16, 2027.

* Club Update Reminder

In an effort to maintain updated Affiliated Club Records, the League will be reviewing clubs that have not updated their Affiliated Club listing and will move these clubs to inactive status. This includes updated emails and club contact information. One of the requirements of an affiliated club is to do annual club updates. We also encourage clubs to verify that their listed email is accurate and working. This allows anyone who may be interested in your club or who may need to contact your club to have a simple email contact. Information on how to do your club update is found at (<https://www.arrl.org/club-update>).

* Upcoming: 2026 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET)

The annual ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) will be held October 3-4, 2026. The September 2026 issue of QST will include a one-page announcement for this year's test. As always, local and Section SET teams are encouraged to conduct their exercises on another date throughout the autumn season (or practically any date throughout the calendar

year) if those dates happen to be better for their group, groups, or Section and served agencies with which they are working. This nationwide exercise is the chance to test your personal emergency operating skills and the readiness of your communications equipment and accessories in a simulated emergency deployment. More information is available at (<https://www.arrl.org/simulated-emergency-test>).

* ARRL Estate Planning Workbook

The ARRL Estate Planning Workbook is a resource to guide you through developing a plan to handle your amateur radio estate, with topics on: How to handle your station and its many assets; Exploring your desire to leave behind a legacy by which fellow hams can remember you; and using part or all of your station assets to support amateur radio causes. Planning in advance will help your family or friends. Creating your plan can be a simple, fulfilling way to share your commitment to amateur radio with future generations. Download it and get started at (<https://www.arrl.org/estate-planning-workbook>).

* How a Tiny Piece of Quartz Runs the Modern World

Watch this short ARRL video on how a small piece of quartz became critical to modern electronics. And it started with hams. (<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/V7U-CVDxCnI>) [YouTube, 00:01:39].

Government News

* Make Sure Your Club License is Up to Date

While hams are generally diligent about updating and renewing their licenses, club licenses can sometimes be overlooked. It's important for clubs to periodically review their club license information to ensure everything is current. Take a few moments to verify that your club's mailing address and trustee information are accurate in the FCC license database. Also, confirm that the license is not approaching expiration. All club license transactions (except for new vanity call sign requests) must be handled through an FCC-approved Club Station Call Sign Administrator (CSCSA) by completing a 605-C Form (Club Station Application). This form cannot be submitted directly to the FCC, and club transactions cannot be completed through the FCC's website. The ARRL VEC is a CSCSA and can process these requests for your club. See the instructions and club application form at (<https://www.arrl.org/club-call-signs>) to help you update or renew your club license.

* Total Solar Eclipse in August, 2026

NASA has scheduled a total solar eclipse for August 12 this year. I'm joking, of course. The eclipse will happen regardless of NASA's planning. But NASA is paying close attention. We won't be able to see it here in California. In fact, only Alaska and the northeast U.S. will see even a small partial eclipse. The main path of totality will begin in the far north of Russia, cut across eastern Greenland, clip the edge of Iceland, then pass over northern Spain before it ends in the Mediterranean Sea. But we can all watch it happen on NASA's TV channel. For the schedule, a link to the channel and other details, see (<https://www.nasa.gov/news-release/nasa-sets-coverage-for-august-northern-hemisphere-total-solar-eclipse/>).

Other News:

* Pacific Division to Get "World's Most Sensitive" Radio Telescope

Construction is about to begin for a radio telescope known as the Deep Synoptic Array, considered the most sensitive of its kind to date. The project is being led by the California Institute of Technology, and is planned for the Nevada desert. According to the Caltech website, the telescope recently passed its final design review, allowing building to begin on what will ultimately be a collection of 1,650 radio dishes covering an area of 12 by 10 miles, or 20 by 16 kilometers. Scientists expect the Deep Synoptic Array to have the ability to collect and identify more radio sources in any given day than any radio telescopes currently in operation. The researchers said they expect its initial survey to note nearly 1 billion objects emitting radio waves. Its special functions will include the study of pulsars, black holes and fast radio bursts and it raises hopes that it will detect other transient events that have gone undetected until now.

[from the Amateur Radio Newline Report for Friday, July 24th, 2026]

* International Dog Day Special Event Station Reminder

Hanz van de pol, YL3JD, in Latvia, will have his special event station YL1DOG, on the air during all of August. In the USA, Caryn Eve Murray, KD2GUT, has the special call sign KØDOG. She will have a North American team on the air

the week of International Dog Day. International Dog Day or National Dog Day is an annual observance held to celebrate dogs of all breeds and backgrounds, promote dog adoption, and raise awareness about the welfare of dogs around the world. It also recognizes working dogs and the roles they play in human society, including service, police, military, and rescue dogs. It was founded in 2004 by Colleen Paige, an American animal welfare advocate and pet lifestyle expert. The date, August 26, was chosen to mark the day her family adopted their first dog from a local animal shelter when she was 10 years old. In case you wondering ...International Cat Day is August 8, 2026. More information can be found at (<https://hamlog.online/iddid2026/>).

* Meteor Scatter QSO Party Operators Needed

HamSCI is looking for radio operators to be calling CQ on 10 and 6 meters using the digital mode MSK144 or simply to serve as passive monitors during an upcoming meteor shower. The Perseids shower is between the 12th and the 14th of August. HamSCI is hoping to receive data collected on 28.145 MHz and 50.260 MHz, especially any WAV files of decodes and operator contact logs from WSJT-X. These are not the last of this year's parties, however. The final meteor scatter QSO party will be during the Geminids between the 13th and the 15th of December. For operating hours and other details about how to help generate propagation data during these events - which are also friendly competitions – (<https://www.hamsci.org/msqp>).

[from the Amateur Radio Newline Report for Friday, July 24th, 2026]

* Lighthouses on the Air

In the U.S., National Lighthouse Day is unofficially August 7th each year. The Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society (ARLHS) celebrates the day on the weekend closest to that date. This year, it's the weekend of August 8-9. According to the Wikipedia page (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_lighthouses_in_California), there are 51 lighthouses in California. Four of them in the East Bay Section, and several more are around the Bay Area. The East Bay ones are:

- Carquinez Strait Light in Vallejo
- East Brother Island Light in Richmond
- Mare Island Light in Vallejo
- Oakland Harbor Light in Oakland

For more information, see the ARLHS website at (<https://arlhs.com/events/national-lighthouse-lightship-week-nllw/>). The ARLHS also maintains a catalog of lighthouses called The World List of Lights (WLWL). It lists any lighthouse that is or was an Aid to Navigation (ATN) and can reasonably accommodate an amateur radio operation. Lights that are no longer in existence, but were once an ATN, also show up on the list. See it at (<https://wlwl.arlhs.com/>).

There will also be an International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend on the third weekend of August, Aug. 15-16. Learn more about it at (<https://illw.net/>) and at (<https://www.lighthouse-weekend.international/>). And in Britain, the Association of Lighthouse Keepers, ALK, conducts International Lighthouse Heritage Weekend on the same weekend as the ILLW. For details on that one, see (<https://alk.org.uk/events/international-lighthouse-heritage-weekend/>).

* New Edition of the IARU's Ethics and Operating Procedures for the Radio Amateur Released

The IARU announced the official release of the Ethics and Operating Procedures for the Radio Amateur, Fourth Edition. This revision incorporates the latest developments and best practices in the field of amateur radio. In addition to just conduct, the Procedures include detailed discussions of numerous other topics, including how to deal with an interfering station; safety; band plans; Q-codes and abbreviations; the phonetic alphabet; conducting a QSO; contesting; DXpeditious and more. Get your copy at (<https://www.iau-r1.org/on-the-air/eop/edition-4-versions/>).

[IARU = International Amateur Radio Union]

* Google Earth Desktop Client to be Retired in 2027

Google will discontinue new downloads of the Google Earth desktop program on June 25, 2027. Those with it already installed can continue to use it, but there will be no updates. Google is encouraging users to transition to the smartphone or browser versions. More details are available on the "This Week in Amateur Radio" website at (<https://twiar.net/2026/07/26/via-hackaday-google-earth-desktop-client-to-be-retired-in-2027/>), which includes a link to a post made on Google Earth's official support community.

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Hamfests And Special Events:

* 10/03/2026

Third Annual Micro Expo, ARRL Santa Barbara Section Convention. Camarillo, CA. Sponsor: The Bored Net Group.
Website: (<https://www.theborednet.net/index.php/2026/06/22/2026-microexpo-is-on/>).

* 10/03/2026

51st Lumberjack Day. Oct 3, 1500Z-2300Z, W6WPT, West Point, CA. Northern Calaveras Emergency Radio Operators.
14.250 14.074 7.240 7.074. QSL. NCERO - C/O Sam Hernandez, PO Box 526, West Point, CA 95255. We will be operating during the 51th Lumberjack day from VFW Post 3322 in West Point, CA.

* 10/16-18/2026

Pacificon. Location: San Ramon, CA. Sponsor: Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club. Website: (<https://www.pacificon.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 – August

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

08/02/1922	Alexander Graham Bell died in Beinn Bhreagh, Nova Scotia, Canada at age 75.
08/02/1954	The Hayward Radio Club became affiliated with the ARRL.
08/05/1921	Radio station KDKA transmitted the first broadcast of professional baseball by announcing a game between the Pittsburgh Pirates and the Philadelphia Phillies. The Pirates won 8-5.
08/06/1991	The first website was launched to the public on the newly invented World Wide Web by British scientist Tim Berners-Lee while working at CERN. See it at http://info.cern.ch .
08/07/1981	The FCC established the General Radiotelephone Operator License, to supplement First and Second Class Operator licenses.
08/10/1993	President Bill Clinton signed the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act into law, including a provision for Vanity call signs.
08/12/1960	Echo 1 was launched, becoming NASA's first communications satellite. It was a passive spacecraft, made of Mylar in a balloon design, reflecting radio transmissions from one ground station back to another.
08/13/1889	A patent was granted to William Gray for a "coin-feed apparatus for hiring articles", which he put to use in the first pay phones.
08/13/1912	"An Act to Regulate Radio Communication" was signed into law by President William Howard Taft. It was the first U.S. legislation to require licenses for radio stations.
08/14/1777	Hans Christian Ørsted, discoverer of the relationship between electrical current and magnetism, was born in Rudkøbing, Denmark-Norway.
08/14/1982	President Ronald Reagan issued a presidential proclamation establishing Navajo Code Talkers Day. In 2014, Arizona passed legislation declaring every August 14 Navajo Code Talkers Day in Arizona.
08/15/1896	ARRL co-founder and original editor and owner of QST, Clarence Denton Tuska, 1WD, was born in New York City.
08/15/1946	The first recorded hamfest that eventually became the Orlando HamCation occurred in Rock Springs, Florida.
08/16/1944	Scottish inventor John Logie Baird gave a demonstration of the first practical fully electronic color television system.
08/18/1976	Shintaro Uda, co-inventor of the Yagi-Uda antenna, died.
08/21/1945	The FCC suspended the ban on amateur radio operations following the end of World War II; 3 years, 8 months and 13 days after it had been imposed. Operations were initially limited to the old 2-1/2-meter band (112-115 MHz).
08/25/1819	James Watt died in Handsworth, Birmingham, England at age 83.
08/25/1867	Michael Faraday died in Hampton Court, Middlesex, England at age 75. He is the namesake of the unit of capacitance.
08/25/2012	Voyager 1 crossed the heliopause and entered interstellar space, making it the first spacecraft to do so. At a distance of 121 AU, signals from Voyager 1 take over 17 hours to reach Earth.

08/26/1873 Lee de Forest, inventor of the three-element "Audion" (triode) vacuum tube, the first practical amplification device, was born in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

08/26/1939 The first Major League Baseball game was televised on station W2XBS, which later became WNBC-TV. The Cincinnati Reds and Brooklyn Dodgers played a doubleheader at Ebbets Field, with the Reds winning the first game 5-2, and the Dodgers taking the second 6-1. The broadcast was mainly to demonstrate one of the New York World's Fair prize exhibits, the television.

08/31/1920 The first radio news program was broadcast by station 8MK (now WWJ) in Detroit, Michigan.

New Hams:

July, 2026 Report

KO6OBM	Kirk Lawrence	Discovery Bay (General)
KO6NYG	Jamison Gleisner	Alamo
KO6NYN	Joel Gale	Brentwood
KO6OFV	Saila Martinez	Hayward
KO6OFF	Susan Pham	Hayward
KO6OFU	Daisy Yim	Castro Valley
KO6NXF	Orleashia Amey	Castro Valley
KO6OFR	Aimee Salazar	Livermore
KO6NYK	Zachary Sullivan	Livermore (General)
KO6OEP	Hector Medina	Martinez
KO6OED	Jacinta Arteaga	Newark
KO6ODY	Todd Stewart	Newark
KO6ODO	Ralph Lloyd	Orinda
KO6OFK	Brent Burzycki	San Ramon
KO6NXZ	Kadon Liang	San Ramon
AK6UH	John McCreary	Vallejo (Extra)
KO6NXX	Pantakorn Sornpim	Walnut Creek
KO6NXE	Chawan Surangsee	Walnut Creek
KO6NXY	Thanapat Suwanrat	Walnut Creek
KO6NXI	Sai HanHtoo Aung	Walnut Creek
KO6NZL	Puwit Hyokdaeng	Walnut Creek
KO6NXL	Phumjai Sodsee	Walnut Creek
KO6OEF	Madeline Symonds	Walnut Creek
KO6OGR	Koushik Roy	Oakland
KO6OGP	Matthew Tennery	Oakland
KO6ODF	Phuong Nguyen	Oakland

Upgraded Hams:

July, 2026 Report

KO6OBM	Kirk Lawrence	Discovery Bay (General)
K6SRL	Scott Luttringer	Concord (General)
KO6MKH	Howard Morrow	Concord (General)
WB6MSU	Marc Jones	Concord (General)
KG6NDY	John Parrott	Fremont (General)
KO6NYK	Zachary Sullivan	Livermore (General)
KN6USU	Marco Mancilla	Oakley (General)
KJ6LYX	Tsunetaka Oguro	San Leandro (Extra)
KO6KNJ	Kathi Byrd	San Ramon (General)

Question & Answer:

Which of the following describes a Zepp antenna?

B. An end-fed half-wavelength dipole

[Extra Class question pool (2024-2028) no. E9C10 <https://www.ncvec.org/index.php/2024-2028-extra-class-question-pool-release>)]

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If you'd like a better-looking PDF version of this newsletter, or want to refer to previous editions, they're all available on the East Bay Section website at (https://arrleb.org/index.php/files/get_dir/Newsletter).

Until next time, remember that the East Bay Section team is here to serve you, the hams of the East Bay. If you have a question or a problem concerning ham radio, don't hesitate to contact us.

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ARRL East Bay Section Manager

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

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