

## Section Manager

### East Bay Section Newsletter January, 2022

ARRL East Bay Family,

I hope your holidays were happy and COVID-free, and that you're close to recovery from the New Year's festivities. If the new rig on your list wasn't under the Christmas tree, just tell your spouse there was glitch in Santa's database, resulting in a supply chain issue that you need to resolve at your favorite ham radio store.

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New Pacific Division Vice-Director

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Congratulations to our Division's new Vice-Director, Anthony Marcin, W7XM. Anthony is an expert in digital radio technologies, such as DMR. He's been very active in Nevada ham radio for a number of years, including serving on the Board and as President of the Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society (SNARS). Anthony has also been a valuable asset to Pacificon, organizing and presenting at the annual Digital Academy. Welcome, Anthony!

Division-Wide Meeting

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Our Pacific Division Director, Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, held her annual Division-wide Meeting on December 4th. It was well attended, with 106 hams joining the Zoom session. Kristen discussed a number of topics, then opened the floor to questions and comments from everyone. I took some notes on the meeting, but won't burden you with wading through them here. Instead, I've included them at the end of this newsletter, after my signature, for you to read through or not, as you wish. (That makes this newsletter especially long. Apologies.)

As a quick overview, Kristen touched on: Ham radio's value, as perceived by government officials; The difficult job the ARRL's new CEO has; The good news that headquarters is now open later in the day, just for us; In-person conventions are starting up again; Work by the Investment Management Committee, of which she's a member; Information Technology at ARRL; Spectrum topics; A Programs and Services Committee initiative; The new Emergency Communications and Field Services Committee; The Legislative Advocacy Committee; and the Suggestion that ARRL form a political action committee.

Among the numerous questions and comments by the attendees are: Whether we've lost our secondary allocation at 219-220 MHz; Paul Gilbert's replacement search [as Director of Emergency Management]; and much discussion about EmComm and improving service to our served agencies.

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Section & Division News:

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\* The Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club will be hosting the Loomis Hamfest 2022 on March 19, 2022 at the Historic Loomis Train Depot in Loomis, CA. Get details at (<http://w6ek.org/>).

\* One of the numerous EmComm nets that take place on a regular basis in the Bay Area is the Hospital Net. It meets on the 4th Wednesday of every month at noon Pacific Time on the W6CX repeater; 147.060 MHz; + offset, PL 100 Hz. The net's script advises that its purpose is "to provide a continuing demonstration of volunteer radio operators' emergency communications capabilities in support of hospitals and other response organizations for use in declared disaster events".

There's currently some 21 hospitals and 12 other agencies on the roster from all five Pacific Division sections in the Bay Area. If you support a hospital or other medical response organization that's not currently participating in the net; or if you have questions about it; contact David Otey, WB6NER, at (davidotey at comcast.net).

\* If you know someone who would like to receive these newsletters, but they're not in the Section, have them send me their name, email address and location (city & state). I'll add them to a list of extra recipients.

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ARRL News:

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\* The ARRL has started a new website for its Learning Center. You can find it at (<https://learn.arrl.org/>). It has several learning paths (Electronics & Technology, EmComm, etc.), a bunch of courses to take and a pot load of webinars. It also has links to help you find radio clubs; hamfests & conventions; license classes, and exam sessions. You can access the site from your computer, tablet or phone. See Dave Casler's "Intro to the ARRL's new 'learn.ARRL.org' Site" video at (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvgZvH7rIoE>) (YouTube; 11:58).

\* As if you didn't already know, the 2022 ARRL National Convention will be at the Orlando HamCation, in Orlando, Florida on February 10-13, 2022. Get details and register at (<http://www.arrl.org/arrl-expo>).

\* The minutes of the October, 2021 ARRL Executive Committee are available at (<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/AboutARRL/BoardMeetings/ExecutiveCommitteeMinutes-October2021.pdf>).

\* An item in the Executive Committee minutes advises that mailing of publications such as QST is being affected due to issues in the printing industry. Currently they're running about a week late.

\* If you're a contester, you may have wondered what happens after you submit your log to the contest sponsor, and why the final results don't match the raw score you submitted. The November/December issue of the National Contest Journal (NCJ) has a good article giving us "A Tour of Contest Log Checking". Read all about it at (<http://www.arrl.org/ncj>) or on the ARRL app on your tablet or phone.

\* In my November newsletter, I mentioned a series of articles in QEX reviewing a number of electronic fundamentals, such as Ohm's Law and Impedance Matching. Well, speaking of impedance, the November/December issue of On the Air has two good articles describing impedance and how it works on the real world. They're worth a read at (<http://www.arrl.org/on-the-air-magazine>) or on the ARRL app on your tablet or phone.

\* Effective January 1, the power output limit for ARRL contest low-power categories has been lowered from 150 watts PEP to 100 W PEP, with the exception of ARRL Field Day. This change has been implemented to standardize the low-power categories in the contesting community.

\* The US Forest Service is proposing to implement a statutorily required annual fee for new and existing communications use authorizations to cover the costs of administering its authorization program. ARRL plans to oppose the imposition of the proposed fee on Amateur Radio, and encourages hams to file comments opposing the imposition of this fee. Comments must be received in writing by no later than February 22, 2022. See the full story and a link to file your comment at (<https://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-to-oppose-forest-service-administrative-fees-for-amateur-facilities>).

\* QST's first issue was published in December, 1915. The ARRL offered a Christmas Day free download of a commemorative reissue, but encountered a delivery issue. ARRL members can now access the document at (<http://www.arrl.org/qst-reissue>).

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FCC News

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\* Jessica Rosenworcel became the first woman to officially chair the FCC when Congress confirmed her nomination on December 7, 2021. She's been serving as the panel's acting chair since January.

\* Just in time for the New Years Eve festivities, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ruled that an April, 2020 Report & Order by the FCC to open up 1,200 MHz of spectrum in the 6 GHz band for unlicensed use may proceed. This means that anyone can use it (responsibly), and will likely include the next generation of Wi-Fi, usually called 6E.

The FCC's R&O requires that unlicensed devices be designed and operated to prevent harmful interference with existing licensees; but those licensees, argued that harmful interference could still occur. The Court decided that "petitioners have failed to provide a basis for questioning the Commission's conclusion . . . , just the kind of highly technical determination to which we owe considerable deference." The FCC's April, 2020 public announcement, including a link to the official R&O, is at (<https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-opens-6-ghz-band-wi-fi-and-other-unlicensed-uses>). The ruling from the Court of Appeals is at (<https://www.cadc.uscourts.gov/internet/opinions.nsf/7658F4CE919568A7852587B900589344/%24file/20-1190-1928330.pdf>) [PDF, 24 pages].

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Other News:

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\* World Radio TV Handbook

The World Radio TV Handbook (WRTH) will cease publication with the current 76th edition, due to the dwindling number of shortwave listeners and handbook readers. See the EI7GL blog for full information at (<https://ei7gl.blogspot.com/2021/12/end-of-road-for-world-radio-tv-handbook.html>).

\* SKYWARN Recognition Day

SKYWARN Recognition Day was December 4th. Over 970 registered SKYWARN amateur stations and 1,600 total registrants participated. In addition, a number of non-hams posted on various social media platforms. 32 National Weather Service offices were activated for the day. SKYWARN Recognition Day was begun in 1999 by the National Weather Service and the ARRL to recognize all SKYWARN spotters serving the United States. To learn more about SKYWARN, see (<https://www.weather.gov/skywarn/>).

\* QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo

The next QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo will be held March 12-13, 2022. They've put out a call for speakers and are looking for them worldwide. Information on becoming a presenter, or attending the expo, is at (<https://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com/>).

\* Ham Radio University

As noted in last month's newsletter, registration opened for Ham Radio University on December 20. The event will be held Saturday, January 8, 2022 -- 8:00 am to 3:00 pm EST (5:00 am to noon Pacific) as an on-line virtual video conference. Attendance is free, but registration is required. There will be a total of 19 presentations over a wide range of topics, including EmComm; HF Operating; Contesting & DXing; Satellites; Software Defined Radios; Digital Communications and more. For more information and to register, go to (<https://hamradiouniversity.org/>).

\* Winter Field Day

Santa barely has time to relax after a long winter's night, when he needs tune up his radio and join the action during Winter Field Day. It will be January 29-30 this year. Its purpose is "to help enhance your skills and ready you for all environmental conditions found in the US and Canada during the spring, summer, fall and winter." It will run from 1900 Saturday to 1900 Sunday UTC (11:00 am – 11:00 am Pacific Time) and all ham bands are allowed (HF, VHF & UHF), except 12, 17, 30 and 60 meters. Download the rules and get full details at (<https://www.winterfieldday.com/>).

\* HamSCI Workshop

HamSCI will hold its annual workshop on March 18-19, 2022 at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama; with a theme of "The Weather Connection". It will have a hybrid in-person and virtual format. The objectives of the workshop are to bring together the amateur radio community and professional scientists, and to serve as a team meeting for the HamSCI Personal Space Weather Station project. They've put out a call for speakers. Registration will open in mid-January. There are fees for in-person attendance but virtual participation is free.

HamSCI, the Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation, is a platform for the publicity and promotion of projects to

advance scientific research through amateur radio, encourage the development of new technologies and provide educational opportunities for the amateur community and the general public. Get all the details on HamSCI and the workshop at (<https://www.hamsci.org/>).

\* WaveTalkers

A group in Southern California called the WaveTalkers has a mission “to help you learn to become a more effective communicator in any medium.” On their website at (<http://wavetalkers.com/index.php>), they have a number of resources, including video courses for all three license classes and courses to help you get started in APRS and Winlink. They also have reference materials for some ham basics, such as Phonetics and Q-Codes. Their home page announces that their next presentation will be on January 20 with a topic of “Solar and Emergency Power”. Definitely worth a look as part of your efforts to improve your skills.

\* Chinese Satellite

China successfully launched Xiwang 3 (XW-3), a CubeSat built by the Chinese Amateur Satellite Group (CAMSAT), on December 26. Among its instruments is a small visible-light camera whose images will be openly accessible to amateur radio enthusiasts. The 100 mW linear transponder will have an uplink frequency of 145.870 MHz and a downlink frequency of 435.18 MHz. The satellite also has a CW beacon on 435.575 MHz. See the following source link for the full story and a link to the user manual. (<https://itshamradio.com/new-chinese-amateur-radio-satellite-in-orbit/>).

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Significant Events in Telecomm History – January  
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\*\* Note: Send me the date and location your club was founded, so I can add it to this monthly list. \*\*

- 1/1/1894 Heinrich Rudolf Hertz died in Bonn, German Empire at age 36.
- 1/1/1950 Federal radio station WWV added voice announcements of time to its frequency standard and telegraphic time announcements.
- 1/1/1963 The American Institute of Electrical Engineers (AIEE) and the Institute of Radio Engineers (IRE) merged to form the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).
- 1/3/1962 The world's first amateur radio satellite, OSCAR 1, fell back into the atmosphere after 22 days in orbit. It was also the first privately owned satellite and the first secondary payload.
- 1/4/1958 Sputnik 1, the first artificial Earth satellite, fell back into the Earth's atmosphere after three months in orbit.
- 1/7/1943 Nikola Tesla died in New York City, New York at age 86.
- 1/9/1947 The Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club was founded in Walnut Creek.
- 1/10/1946 The first radar signals were reflected off the Moon, marking the beginning of radar astronomy and space communications.
- 1/19/1736 James Watt was born in Greenock, Renfrewshire, Scotland.
- 1/19/2000 Hedy Lamarr, major movie star and co-inventor of the spread spectrum frequency hopping technology, died in Casselberry, Florida at age 85.
- 1/20/1775 André-Marie Ampère was born in Lyon, Kingdom of France.
- 1/26/1926 Members of the Royal Institution of Great Britain in London witnessed the world's first public demonstration of live television.
- 1/29/1907 Lee de Forest filed for a patent on what became known as the three-element "Audion" (triode) vacuum tube, the first practical amplification device.
- 1/29-30/2022 Winter Field Day
- 1/31/1958 The U.S. launched its first artificial Earth satellite, Explorer I.
- Jan., 1972 The first issue of "NCJ", the ARRL's National Contest Journal, was published.

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New Hams:

Please congratulate the following new hams in the East Bay Section. If you hear them on the air, be sure to say hello and welcome them to our craft.

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|--------|-----------------|-----------|
| KN6RVF | Kenneth Schultz | Benicia   |
| KN6RSQ | Brendon Chang   | Brentwood |
| KN6RRY | Antonio Bowen   | Brentwood |

|        |                   |                    |
|--------|-------------------|--------------------|
| KN6RUE | Sebastien Messier | Fremont            |
| KN6RXF | Sumi Alem         | Fremont            |
| KN6RWB | Zitao Fang        | Hayward            |
| KN6RYN | Philip Alvaro     | Livermore          |
| KN6RNC | Corbin Chadwick   | Livermore          |
| KN6RUC | Christopher Ruble | Castro Valley      |
| KN6ROT | Ian Atkinson      | Castro Valley      |
| KN6RWM | David Carrico     | Moraga             |
| KN6RVI | Brian Cutter      | Orinda             |
| KN6RVY | David Cox         | Pittsburg          |
| KN6RSR | Ryan Gilbert      | Pleasanton         |
| KN6RVG | Eric Parnell      | Dublin             |
| KN6RTV | Vatsal Modgil     | San Ramon          |
| KN6RXH | Philip Mathews    | San Ramon          |
| KN6RVH | Adam Krause       | San Ramon          |
| KN6RUQ | Gregory Kiyoi     | Pleasanton         |
| KN6RSV | Sean Kerrel       | Oakland            |
| KN6RMT | James Turner      | Oakland            |
| KN6RQP | Elizabeth Turner  | Oakland            |
| KN6RTO | Tyonna Little     | Berkeley           |
| KN6RRD | Ryan Marienthal   | Albany             |
| KN6RTR | Bruce D'ambrosio  | Berkeley (General) |
| KN6RSN | Andrew Sakdikul   | El Sobrante        |
| KN6RYR | Moises Estillore  | Tracy              |
| KN6RYS | Mark Renzo Dulay  | Tracy              |
| KN6RTZ | Austin Miller     | Tracy              |

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New Upgrades:

Please congratulate the following upgraded hams in the East Bay Section.

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|--------|------------------|---------------|-----------|
| KN6QOX | Benjamin Madsen  | Pleasant Hill | (Extra)   |
| KN6RTQ | Arezu Moshirian  | Pleasant Hill | (General) |
| KN6RQE | Michael Mcdowell | Fremont       | (Extra)   |
| KN6RMR | Stefan Hau-riege | Fremont       | (Extra)   |
| KN6QEK | Frank Hale       | Moraga        | (Extra)   |
| KN6QWY | Ken Long         | Orinda        | (Extra)   |
| KN6MEB | David Capponi    | Saint Helena  | (General) |
| KN6RCA | David Little     | Vacaville     | (General) |

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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  
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<https://www.arrl.org>

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Notes from the Pacific Division Annual Meeting

- \* A moment of silence for Silent Keys lost during the year.
- \* Introduction of our new Division Vice-Director; Anthony Marcin, W7XM.



- \* Introduction of ARRL officials and field staff.
- \* Introduction of Club presidents.
- \* Introduction of spectrum coordination body officers.

#### Kristen's Comments:

- \* Our value as emergency communicators, as perceived by government officials, is slowly waning; as governments develop more reliable communications systems. We need to be prepared for this.
- \* ARRL's new CEO, David Minster, NA2AA, is doing a good job in very difficult times. There are many issues to deal with, including staffing, membership, information technology upgrades, improving field services; and others.
- \* As mentioned above, staffing at HQ is a difficult issue. It's hard to fill positions that may require the candidate to move cross-country; especially with such a limited budget as the ARRL has. Some positions can be done remotely, but others require regular face-time in Newington. If you are or know someone who may be interested in working for the ARRL, see the employment opportunities web page at (<http://www.arrl.org/employment-opportunities>).
- \* The ARRL has begun new member service hours, staying open until 4:00 PM, Pacific Time; just for us in the western divisions.
- \* In-person conventions are starting up again. In addition to Pacificon, the Hunstville Hamfest (August 21-22, 2021), Orlando HamCation (February 11-13, 2022), and the Dayton Hamvention (May 20-22, 2022) were or will be in-person.
- \* The Investment Management Committee (IMC), of which Kristen is a member, is responsible for managing the ARRL's endowment funds. For the last many years, our volunteer Treasurer, Frederick "Rick" Niswander, K7GM, has been handling the day-to-day duties with the fund, along with his other responsibilities. As Rick is retiring at the end of the year, the IMC is exploring alternatives. The main option is hiring an outside firm that specializes in these matters. Over the last several months, the IMC has reviewed numerous proposals and narrowed the candidate field two or three. They plan to have a single candidate to recommend to the Board at its January meeting.
- \* The information technology issue at the ARRL is extensive, serious and very hard to solve. In part, this is due to the staffing problem mentioned above. For example, HQ has only 1/2 person to take care of Logbook of the World. A primary need is to find a strong, good quality info-tech manager. But getting one that meets our needs at a pay scale we can afford is really tough.
- \* Spectrum issues are another major concern.
  - We lost our 3 GHz allocation, despite major efforts to keep it.
  - The license fee is a done deal. Nothing we (or the FCC) can do about it. They're required to charge the fee because of a law passed by Congress and signed by the President. We should be thankful that the ARRL was able to get the fee reduced from \$50.00 to \$35.00.
  - As one response to the above, the Board voted to reimburse new young hams for the cost of their first license application and reduce the testing fee to \$5.00.
  - We have an excellent attorney in Dave Siddall, K3ZJ. He's doing all that can be done to support our positions with the federal government.
  - Still trying to get the FCC to move on the numerous petitions we have with them [N6JGA: See my July, 2021 newsletter for a bullet list.] The FCC has been delayed, in part, because COVID has required much of the staff to stay out of the buildings. They are just now starting to come back. The FCC is talking about bundling all the petitions into one big Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM).
- \* The Programs and Services Committee (of which Kristen is also a member) now has a Clean Signal Initiative. Over the past several years, radio receiver technology has improved substantially, but transmitter technology has not kept up. Some newer circuits and chips have actually degraded the out-of-channel performance of some radios. The Clean Signal Initiative is an effort to develop a specification that could be used to certify radios based on such performance. The idea is that the ARRL Lab could use the spec during its evaluations of equipment. If the idea works out, the ARRL may also try to get the IEEE to publish it as a formal standard.
- \* A new standing committee has been created, the Emergency Communications and Field Services Committee. One of its tasks is to work out the role of ARES and how to structure it.
- \* The Legislative Advocacy Committee has drafted a bill concerning the Parity Act. In order to get it passed, it will need to be added into another bill at some point.
- \* A proposal was made that the ARRL should form a Political Action Committee (PAC), with the intent of improving our success in Washington with legislative issues. The Board is looking into it.

#### Member Questions and Comments:

Much of the discussion was about EmComm and working with served agencies; much more than can even be summarized here. This is a short bullet list of a few of the other topics raised.

\* When did the small 219-220 MHz allocation go away? It was for data only and shared by the Coast Guard. Response: As far as we know, it still exists.

\* Status of Paul Gilbert's replacement? [N6JGA: Paul Gilbert resigned at ARRL Director of Emergency Management earlier in 2021.] Response: The job opening was posted and HQ is currently looking at three strong candidates.

\* To better serve our clients in emergency response, we need the ability to scan and transmit already-prepared documents, such as PDFs. Served agencies live, breathe and survive by their documentation. This led to an extensive discussion of various technologies, such as Winlink, Mesh and ARDEN.

\* Also included was a discussion of the need for ARRL Field Services to improve its own documentation, i.e., the filing of reports to HQ. This should include clubs reporting their own public service and net activities. These are used in a consolidated manner to support our arguments in Washington for protecting our spectrum.