

## Section Manager

### East Bay Section Newsletter February, 2022

ARRL East Bay Family,

Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow this morning. So, the doldrums of mid-winter will continue, but while reviewing various information spots, I was surprised by the number of conventions, hamfests, contests, license classes, license testing sessions and other activities going on around the Section, Division and nation. If your group has any activities planned, be sure to register them on the ARRL website, so people can find them. For hamfests and conventions, schedule yours or search for others at (<https://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar>). For license test sessions, go to (<http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session>). For license classes, go to (<http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-class>).

And be sure to let me and our Section webmaster know about them as well, so we can get your activities posted on our website (<https://arrleb.org/>). The webmaster is Jan Kulisek, KM6NFC ([kulisek.us@gmail.com](mailto:kulisek.us@gmail.com)).

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Section & Division News:  
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\* The 2022 International DX Convention, originally scheduled for April 9-11, 2022 in Visalia, has been cancelled due to the current COVID virus threat. See their website at (<http://www.dxconvention.org/>).

\* The El Dorado County Amateur Radio Club is in the news with an article in the Georgetown Gazette by Alan Thompson, W6WN. Some of you may know Alan from his numerous excellent presentations at Pacificon and club meetings about the wildfires over the past few years. This article is about the club's neighborhood radio watch program and its response to, not only the wildfires, but to the December storms that cut off power and communications to large parts of the county. See the full article at (<https://www.gtgazette.com/2022/01/22/radio-club-aids-north-county-residents-when-all-else-fails/>)

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ARRL News:  
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\* New Director of Emergency Management

A big Welcome(!) to Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, recently hired by the ARRL to be our Director of Emergency Management. Among his numerous qualifications, he has 16 years of experience as Director of Johnson County (Arkansas) Department of Emergency Management, is an Extra class operator as well as being an ARES Emergency Coordinator, Volunteer Examiner, and ARRL-registered Instructor. See the full announcement at (<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-welcomes-new-director-of-emergency-management>).

\* Volunteer Monitor Program Report

The December, 2021 Volunteer Monitor Program Report in QST shows that Technician-class operators in Roseville and Rancho Cordova, California (among other locations) received notices for FT8 operation on unauthorized 20- and 40-meter frequencies. For information on the program, and to report a possible violation to the ARRL, see (<https://www.arrl.org/volunteer-monitor-program>).

\* ARRL Repeater Directory

The 2022 edition of the “ARRL Repeater Directory” has been released. The price is \$19.95. For details and to order, go to (<http://www.arrl.org/shop/ARRL-Repeater-Directory-2022-Edition>).

\* ARRL Foundation Club Grants Program

Thanks to a generous grant from the Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC), a new ARRL Foundation Club Grants program will provide up to \$25,000 for worthy club projects. A key criterion will be how the project will advance amateur radio in the grantee’s community. Clubs will be able to apply for these grants on the ARRL website beginning in April. Get more information at (<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-foundation-to-create-club-grants-program>). General information on all ARRL grants is at (<http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-grants>).

\* ARRL Foundation Grant Program

A reminder that the ARRL Foundation Grant Program is accepting proposals until February 28. Note that this is not the Club Grant Program described above. Interested organizations can find more information including eligibility criteria and guidelines on the grant program web page at (<http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-grants>).

\* Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the ARRL Executive Committee meeting held on December 13, 2021 are available at (<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/ODV/Executive%20Committee%20Minutes%20-%20Dec%202021%20Final.pdf>) (PDF, 4 pages).

\* Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

The annual meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors was held January 21-22, 2022. The agenda is available at (<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/ODV/Board%20Meeting%20Jan%202022/01%20Agenda%20January%202022.pdf>) (PDF, 3 pages). The minutes will be released in the near future.

\* ARRL Southwestern Division Convention

If you want to get out of town for a couple of days, the ARRL Southwestern Division Convention will be in Yuma, Arizona on February 18-19. Get details and register at (<https://www.yumahamfest.com/>).

\* ARRL Northwestern Division Convention

And a little further down the road (time-wise, at least), the ARRL Northwestern Division Convention will be at Sea-Pac in Seaside, Oregon on June 3-5. Get details and register at (<https://www.seapac.org/>).

\* Pacificon-1

Since we’re discussing conventions, need I mention that the Pacific Division Convention will be at Pacificon again this year in San Ramon on October 14-16, 2022? You already have that on your calendar, right? Registration is targeted to open in the April-May time frame.

\* Pacificon-2

By the way, the Pacificon Committee needs volunteers. They never have as many people as they would like, but this year is especially tight. Some of the Committee members have retired from their positions due to relocation, medical issues or other reasons. So, if you care about the best ham radio convention in the Western U.S., please consider stepping up and helping out. Send an email to ([info@pacificon.org](mailto:info@pacificon.org)) with any questions or to raise your hand.

\* Youth on the Air Camp

The popular Youth on the Air Camp will be held this year on June 12-17 at the National Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting in West Chester Township, Ohio. It’s open to a maximum of 30 campers between the ages of 15 and 25, with priority given to first-time attendees. The application period will open online on February 11. See the full story at (<http://www.arrl.org/news/youth-on-the-air-camp-to-return-in-june>).

\* Club Support

The ARRL recognizes that clubs are the heart of our hobby and is working hard to improve support for them. One step is the recent introduction of the new monthly Club Newsletter, with information submitted by you about things our clubs are doing. (See my November, 2021 newsletter.) Another is the grant program described above. Yet another is an effort to

recognize clubs that do so much for the hobby; and in particular, clubs that have been doing it for a substantial period of time. If your club has been actively supporting our hobby for several decades, let me know and I'll submit your information to HQ.

\* Club Affiliation

There's a lot of benefits to having your club affiliated with the ARRL. Just a few of them are club liability and equipment insurance policies at very affordable rates; mailing lists for various uses; referrals of prospective radio amateurs; an email forwarding service and much more. See the benefits at (<http://www.arrl.org/affiliated-club-benefits>). Please understand that to prevent "paper-only" clubs, the section manager and division director will review the application prior to HQ staff approving it. If you'd like to consider getting your club affiliated, or just have questions about it, contact our Section Affiliated Club Coordinator, Matthew Vurek, N4DLA, at ([n4dla\\_cs245@yahoo.com](mailto:n4dla_cs245@yahoo.com)).

\* College Clubs Zoom Meeting

The ARRL hosts a monthly Zoom meeting with student representatives and advisors from college radio clubs around the nation. The meetings often include a guest speaker or spotlight the activities of a particular college club. For information on how the ARRL supports college clubs, see (<http://www.arrl.org/collegiate-amateur-radio>). If you're involved with a college club and would like to join the monthly Zoom meeting, contact our Section Affiliated Club Coordinator, Matthew Vurek, N4DLA, at ([n4dla\\_cs245@yahoo.com](mailto:n4dla_cs245@yahoo.com)).

\* Online and Remote License Testing

The ARRL has begun working with the Exam Tools Online Examination system (<https://exam.tools/>) for remote video and in-person license testing sessions. The program manages and handles almost everything needed to conduct a test session; including registering and tracking candidates throughout the session, on screen exams and grading, online signing of C SCE and 605 forms by the candidate and examiners, logging and compiling session stats and the VE participation list (test report summary), and output files for upload to the coordinating VEC. Interested ARRL VE teams must contact the VEC department (<mailto:vec@arrl.org>) to receive the online exam instructions and remote video session procedures. You may also contact the VEC department for information and instructions on electronically filing exam session documents through the ARRL upload page.

\* On The Air Magazine

The ARRL's newest magazine, "On the Air", continues to impress me. Although its target audience is newer hams, every issue has articles of interest to old goats like me. The January/February edition has several articles on CW, including a description of the components of code keys and paddles, why CW works so well and reasons to try Morse Code. There are articles on the "Anatomy of a Rubber Duck" antenna; the "Basics of HF Propagation"; finding a mentor on YouTube; and protecting your outdoor cable connections; among others. Don't pass this magazine up just because you've been a ham for a while. Get it on the website or through the Apple/Android ARRL Mags app.

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Government News

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\* FCC 3 GHz Auction

The FCC held an auction for the 3.45 GHz spectrum on January 14, generating an estimated \$22.5 billion in revenue. Leading the charge was AT&T, with \$9 billion in winning bids. The ARRL had vigorously opposed the forced "sunsetting" of the 3.3 – 3.5-GHz amateur radio secondary spectrum allocation, but was mostly unsuccessful. The FCC also announced that all amateur radio transmission in that segment must end by April 14, 2022. Secondary operations are permitted to continue indefinitely in the remainder of the band, 3.3 – 3.45 GHz, pending future FCC proceedings.

Details of the auction are available on the FCC website at (<https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-announces-winning-bidders-345-ghz-auction>). A chronology of ARRL efforts related to this topic is at (<http://www.arrl.org/3-ghz-band>). The ARRL announcement of the transmission deadline is at (<http://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-operation-in-3-45-3-5-ghz-segment-must-cease-by-april-14-2022>).

\* Forest Service Proposed Annual Fee

The US Forest Service is proposing to implement a statutorily required annual fee for the use of communications sites on Forest Service land. The fees are required by a law passed by Congress in 2018, "Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018

(aka “the Farm Bill”). They are proposing a fee of \$1,400 per year, in addition to the rental fees now being assessed. The ARRL will oppose the imposition of this fee on amateur radio sites and strongly encourages amateurs to file comments on it. Comments must be received no later than February 22, 2022. See this ARRL article, which includes a link to where comments may be filed (<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-to-oppose-forest-service-administrative-fees-for-amateur-facilities>).

An excellent description of this situation and how to submit comments was published by Jim Shepherd, W6US, a member of the Board of Directors of the Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society (SNARS) in Reno. It includes very good recommendations on how to frame your comment and what information to include in it. A copy is available at (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1W3pUbKObp-Am4IUjMgv81PtGusr-1oah/view>). I also suggest that we all write to our senators and Congressional representatives, asking that they specifically exempt amateurs from these existing and all future similar laws.

\* NASA Recognition for ARISS

NASA has recognized Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) as a science education and research program. Two images of ARISS activity are among those singled out by the space agency as some of the Best Space Station Science Pictures of 2021. See the full article on the ARRL website, with links to a short NASA video and some photos, at (<https://www.arrl.org/news/ariss-highlighted-among-nasa-s-best-space-station-science-pictures-of-2021>).

\* Ham Radio/AUXCOM Support for the DOD

The US Army Network Enterprise Technology Command will host a Zoom call to discuss amateur radio and AUXCOM support to the US Department of Defense on Thursday, February 17 at 5:00 PM Pacific Time. Get the objectives and a link to the Zoom meeting, plus other information at (<https://www.arrl.org/news/webinar-set-to-discuss-amateur-radio-and-auxcom-support-to-department-of-defense>).

\* COVID Test Kits

If you would like to order some free COVID test kits from the U.S. government, you can now do so through the U.S. Post Office web site at (<https://special.usps.com/testkits>).

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Other News:

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\* EZ-NEC is Now Free

Roy Lewallen, W7EL and creator of the antenna modeling software EZ-NEC, has retired and has released the program into the public domain. It can be freely copied and distributed. You can download the software at (<https://www.ez nec.com/>). You may also want to take a look at the article “How to Start Modeling Antennas using EZNEC” from the ARRL website, at:

(<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Antenna%20Modeling%20for%20Beginners%20Supplemental%20Files/EZNEC%20Modeling%20Tutorial%20by%20W8WWV.pdf>) (PDF, 106 pages). It’s a bit dated (2011), but should still have some valuable information.

\* Digital Radio Manual

An updated copy of the “Digital Radio Manual” by Steve Wright, EI5DD, is available from the Galway Radio Club website at (<https://www.galwayradio.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Digital-Radio-Operating-Manual-v2.pdf>) (PDF, 62 pages). The club is based in Galway, Ireland, on the west coast. Although much of the manual’s content is UK-centric, there’s good information on DMR, D-Star and C4FM (Fusion).

\* New Technician Question Pool

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) has released the 2022-2026 Technician Class Question Pool. It will become effective for all license tests beginning July 1, 2022 and is available as a Word document or PDF. See the ARRL announcement, which includes a link to the questions pool, at: (<http://www.arrl.org/news/new-technician-question-pool-released-effective-july-1-2022>).

\* Ham Radio University Videos

Videos of the presentations at the January 8th Ham Radio University 2022 conference are available on their YouTube Channel at (<https://www.youtube.com/c/HamRadioUniversityNLI/videos>). Information about Ham Radio University is at (<https://hamradiouniversity.org/>).

\* Reverse Beacon Network

The first Reverse Beacon Network node in Central America is up and running. The node TI7W is in Costa Rica. Get details at (<http://beta.reversebeacon.net/main.php>).

\* Ham Radio on the Wayback Machine

Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC) has given a sizable grant to the Internet Archive (aka the "Wayback Machine") to build the Digital Library of Amateur Radio and Communications (DLARC), "an online, open-access resource that preserves the vital resources — past, present, and future — that document the history of amateur radio and communications," Internet Archive is a nonprofit library of millions of free books, movies, pieces of software, pieces of music, websites, and more. See the full article, along with links to both organizations, at (<http://www.arl.org/news/amateur-radio-digital-communications-grants-continue>).

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Significant Events in Telecomm History – February

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

- 2/4/1938 Scottish inventor John Logie Baird made the world's first color television broadcast, sending a mechanically scanned 120-line image between two buildings in London.
- 2/8/1922 President Warren G. Harding had the first broadcast radio receiver installed in the White House.
- 2/8/1996 The Telecommunications Act of 1996 was signed into law by President Bill Clinton; the first major amendment of the Communications Act of 1934.
- 2/11/1847 Thomas Alva Edison was born in Milan, Ohio.
- 2/14/1991 The FCC's Report and Order ending the requirement for Morse Code proficiency for the Technician Class license took effect.
- 2/17/1936 ARRL co-founder Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW, died in La Junta, Colorado at age 66.
- 2/18/1745 Alessandro Volta was born in Como, Duchy of Milan, Italy.
- 2/22/1857 Heinrich Rudolf Hertz was born in Hamburg, German Confederation.
- 2/22/1978 The first Global Positioning System (GPS) satellite was launched.
- 2/23/1927 The Radio Act of 1927 was signed into law by President Calvin Coolidge, creating the Federal Radio Commission. It included the formal establishment of amateur radio bands.
- 2/23/1978 The basic call sign structure in place today was established: call sign blocks by class; calls assigned consecutively; no longer need to change call signs when moving; discontinued separate licenses for repeaters, secondary, control and auxiliary stations.
- 2/23/2007 The FCC's Report and Order ending the requirement for Morse Code proficiency from all amateur radio licenses took effect.
- 2/24/2001 Claude Shannon, "the father of information theory", died in Medford, Massachusetts at age 84.

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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.

KN6SGE	Steven Zavanelli	Concord
KN6SBO	Aram Garabedian	Fremont
KN6SFH	Francisco Aguilera	Castro Valley
KN6SGG	Harvey Thommes	Lafayette
KN6SGJ	Michael Stepp	Martinez
KN6SCU	Lynette Collins	Napa
KN6SEW	Cuixia Jiang	Newark
KN6SEY	Jianxin Jiang	Newark (General)

AJ6UU	William Hoover	Pleasanton (Extra)
KN6SGH	Cody Beratlis	San Leandro
KN6SGK	Julie Hawthorne	Oakland
KN6SGC	Claire Robbins	Oakland
KN6SDN	Dhirendra Kholia	Oakland (General)
KN6SEA	Julia Isaac	Berkeley

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New Upgrades:

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

K6XSS	Gregg Horton	Benicia (Extra)
KK6DWJ	Brian Wickett	Benicia (Extra) (now AA6XM)
KI6IIP	Douglas Jackson	El Cerrito (Extra)
KD6SYG	Laurence Stahl	Fairfield (Extra)
KD6BPO	Robert Liening	Fairfield (General)
KN6RWM	David Carrico	Moraga (General)
KN6PTH	Cole Blecha	Pleasanton (Extra)
KN6AUA	Tom Guidice	Pleasanton (General)
KN6RLD	Jason Leffingwell	Walnut Creek (General)
KN6SEO	Yiying Zhang	Walnut Creek (Extra)

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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  
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<https://www.arrleb.org>

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