

Section Manager

East Bay Section Newsletter March, 2022

ARRL East Bay Family,

Spring is about to spring. The Spring equinox this year is on March 20 at 8:33 AM. That's the moment when the Sun crosses the equator, heading north. A good time to plan antenna work, a Parks on the Air excursion or maybe a hamfest. And remember to Spring Forward a week earlier; on Sunday, March 13. Daylight Saving time begins at 2:00 AM that morning, suddenly becoming 3:00 AM. And enjoy Pi Day the next day, March 14 (3/14/2022 or 3.14; the rounded off value of Pi). My favorite Pi is apple, I think, or maybe key lime.

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Section & Division News:

* Kristen on the EC

At the January 21-22 ARRL Board meeting, our Division Director, Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, was elected to the Board's Executive Committee. Unlike the Board, the EC meets several times a year; and acts for the Board on all necessary matters between Board meetings. Congratulations, Kristen (or condolences, whichever applies).

* Pacific Section Manager Declared Re-elected

In the latest Section Manager election cycle, Joe Speroni, AH0A, Pacific Section Manager, faced no opposition and was declared re-elected. He will begin his new term on April 1.

* Field Day Planning

It's not too early to start planning for Field Day, scheduled for June 25-26, 2022. If your organization is planning to participate in Field Day, be sure to register your event on the ARRL web site at (http://www.arrl.org/field_days/add). To see what events have registered, go to (<http://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator>). And full information about Field Day is at (<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>). I and other ARRL officials, along with other hams, will use that Field Day Locator to determine sites to visit. Also, be sure to see the item in the "ARRL News" section below on "New Field Day Rules".

Note: Please register only(!) group events that are at locations available to the general public. Do not register locations that are private residences, businesses, inside gated or guarded areas, etc.

* Pave Paws

The Sacramento Valley Section has a very good website, worth exploring. Since Beale Air Force Base is in that Section, it has a page on Pave Paws; at (<https://www.arrlsacvalley.org/pave-paws>). If you wonder what Pave Paws is, would like to know more about it, or just are curious about why hams should care, take a look at that page. Good information.

* Open Cockpit Days

The Oakland Aviation Museum will again be hosting some Open Cockpit Days this year, on March 6, June 19 (Father's Day) and September 11. The museum boasts a ham club station, KN6ABD, that will be operational; and Peter Krarup, KK6YGH, reports that you'll be able to monitor the Oakland International Airport tower's communications with commercial aircraft. See the museum's site for hours, address, directions and other information at (<https://www.oaklandaviationmuseum.org/>).

* Pacific Division Clubs Honored

At its meeting in January, the ARRL Board of Directors congratulated the Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association for celebrating the 101st anniversary of its founding; and the Stanford Amateur Radio Club for its 100th anniversary.

* Centurion Award

Dr. James Jolly, W6RWI of the Sacramento Valley Section was awarded the ARRL Centurion Award, having reached the age of 100 on November 2, 2021.

* Cascadia Rising 2022

Cascadia Rising is a major FEMA exercise held over 11 days, June 9-19, that envisions a shifting of the Earth's crust along the Cascadia Subduction Zone. This results in a major rupture of that fault along the full-length of the tectonic plate boundary, between Cape Mendocino (about 280 miles north of San Francisco) and Nootka Island (about 175 miles west of Vancouver, BC). In the scenario, it produces a magnitude 9.0+ earthquake with numerous aftershocks, some exceeding magnitude 7.0; along with one or more tsunamis. This year is a follow-up to a similar exercise in 2016, which had ample participation from amateur radio, with ARRL support. Significant ham support will be needed again this year, using VHF/UHF and HF, both voice and Winlink.

Should such a cataclysm come to pass, you can bet that we here in the East Bay would definitely be impacted in some way. In fact, the last web link below predicts that all of the East Bay Section would experience at least some shaking, with some areas having Moderate shaking. (I haven't yet determined just what "moderate" means in this context but assume it's significant.)

Although we can't put boots on the ground for this exercise, perhaps some of us could be a contact point for those HF and Winlink messages; and it might help us prepare for something a bit closer to home. For example, the USGS estimates a 51% probability of a 7.0 earthquake in the Bay Area within the next 30 years, and a 72% chance of a 6.7 quake. So, it would be good for us to keep an eye on the planning and execution.

Information is available at the Clark County (WA) ARES Web Site, at (<https://www.ccareswa.org/content/june-2022-cascadia-rising-exercise>); and the Washington State Emergency Management Division at (<https://mil.wa.gov/cascadia-rising>). A very interesting interactive graphic, along with a description of the scenario, is at (<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/68f09cddf0e4dad940eb8deefbae1d9>). And those USGS numbers are from (<https://www.usgs.gov/faqs/what-probability-earthquake-will-occur-los-angeles-area-san-francisco-bay-area>).

Valley of the Moon Hamfest

The Valley of the Moon ARC is having a Hamfest on April 23, 8:00 AM to noon at the First Congregational Church of Sonoma, 252 W Spain St, Sonoma. It will feature a pancake breakfast, a swap meet, a fox-hunting demo, a VE session and a display of emergency vehicles. Details are at (<http://vomarc.org/events/hamfest.html>).

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ARRL News:

* New Field Day Rules

When COVID shut everything down way back when (has it really been only 2 years?), the ARRL waived some of the rules for Field Day to allow us all to participate while continuing to socially distance. Some of these changes are being made permanent. The maximum output for a transmitter will be 100 W PEP, regardless of entry category. Home stations will continue to be able to earn points for contacts with other Class D stations. The club aggregate scoring change has been made permanent. Also, Media Publicity Rule 7.3.2, has been modified to require actually getting publicity, not just attempting it. But things like posting the details of your upcoming or ongoing Field Day activity on your club web site, Facebook, Twitter or Instagram will qualify. See the full article from the Feb. 16 edition of the Contest Update at: (<http://www.arrl.org/contest-update-issues?issue=2022-02-16#toc02>). And carefully read all the Field Day rules at: (<http://www.arrl.org/field-day-rules>).

* ARRL International Digital Contest

The ARRL has announced its first International Digital Contest for June 4-5, 2022. You can use any digital mode, except RTTY, that supports the required four-digit grid square exchange. All HF bands from 160 through 10 meters (WARC bands excluded), plus 6 meters are allowed. Get details at (<http://www.arrl.org/arrl-digital-contest>).

* Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

The Board of Directors Meeting was held January 21-22. The minutes of the meeting are available at (<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/ODV/Board Meeting Jan 2022/ARRL 2022 Annual Board of Directors Meeting Minutes-Final.pdf>) [PDF, 51 pages].

Of note in the minutes: ex-Pacific Division Director Bob Vallio, W6RGG, was re-elected as Second Vice-President.

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Government News:
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* Comments Filed on U.S. Forest Service Proposed Fees

As discussed in the January and February newsletters, the U.S. Forest Service has proposed to implement a statutorily required annual fee for the use of communications sites on Forest Service land. The ARRL has filed a comment seeking an exemption for amateur radio facilities to this proposed new 1400-dollar annual administrative fee. The comments are available at (<https://www.regulations.gov/comment/FS-2022-0001-0749>). The Forest Service has reopened its comment-filing window and will accept new comments or additions to earlier comments until March 31st.

* FCC Chair Announces 2.5 GHz Spectrum Auction

FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel announced at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona on March 1 that the U.S. will hold an auction for 2.5 GHz mid-band spectrum this July. This is in addition to the 3 GHz spectrum that was recently auctioned and more 3 GHz that will be auctioned in the future. Fortunately, the spectrum being auctioned is above the amateur allocation in that band, according to ARRL communications counsel David Siddall, K3ZJ. You can read her full comments at (<https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-380838A1.pdf>) [PDF, 4 pages]. The “big reveal”, as she calls it, is a little more than halfway down page 2.

* Additional FCC Chair Comments

In addition to Chairwoman Rosenworcel’s announcement above, on page 4 she says, “I believe for 6G we need to start planning now to identify spectrum in the 7-15 GHz range that can support faster speeds and wider coverage.” U.S. hams currently have an allocation at 10.0-10.5 GHz. It’s good we have someone like David Siddall on the watch.

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Other News:
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* Amateur Radio Banned in the Ukraine

The president of the Ukraine declared a state of emergency on February 24, due to the military invasion from Russia. The declaration includes regulation of TV and radio activities and "a ban on the operation of amateur radio transmitters for personal and collective use." The decree will be in effect for at least 30 days. See the ARRL item at (<http://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-radio-in-ukraine-ordered-off-the-air-in-state-of-emergency>).

I expect this is standard practice during armed military conflicts. For example, amateur radio was banned in the U.S. and Europe for the duration of both World War I and World War II. In fact, during WWI, U.S. hams not only couldn’t operate, they had to completely disassemble their systems. The government reversed course a bit for WWII; saying hams couldn’t transmit but encouraging them to listen to the airwaves and report any suspected espionage transmissions.

* The Speed of Light

The speed of light is fundamental to amateur radio, and all forms of electromagnetic radiation. I recently came across this video animation demonstrating how fast a light wave will travel as it leaves the Earth on its way to the Moon and then to Mars. It helps us understand, not only the extreme speed light travels at, but also the immense distances in space. The wave reaches the Moon in only 1.25 seconds, an average distance of almost 239,000 miles (roughly 10 times the circumference of the Earth), but needs over 3 minutes to get to Mars at its closest to Earth, which doesn’t happen often. See it at (<https://www.visualcapitalist.com/cp/using-planets-to-visualize-the-speed-of-light/>) (video animation, 0:3:07)

* Bob Heil Retired

Anyone who’s been to Pacificon, or even seen its website, knows Bob Heil, K9EID. He’s well known throughout the ham radio community in the U.S. as an enthusiastic promoter of ham radio. A few may not know that he’s also the founder of

one of the first companies to create sound systems for concert bands, and which now makes high quality microphones and other sound equipment. He's also in the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame for his concert sound systems. Well, Bob recently announced that he and his wife Sarah have transferred ownership of Heil Sound to the current President and CEO, Ash Levitt, and Director of Operations, Steve Warford. Bob will continue to do outreach work and product design within the amateur radio space under the title Founder and CEO Emeritus. See the full announcement at (<https://heilhamradio.com/heil-sound-announces-new-owners/>).

* Satellites Lost Due to Geomagnetic Storm

SpaceX announced that as many as 40 of its Starlink satellites launched February 3 were lost because of a geomagnetic storm. SpaceX explains that they initially launch their satellites into a very low Earth orbit "so that in the very rare case any satellite does not pass initial system checkouts, it will quickly be deorbited by atmospheric drag." Once the satellites pass the checkouts, they're raised to their final orbit. However, in this case, the storm caused increased drag, which "prevented the satellites from leaving safe-mode to begin orbit raising maneuvers, and up to 40 of the satellites will reenter or already have reentered the Earth's atmosphere." See the full story at (<https://www.spacex.com/updates/>) and look for the February 8, 2022 entry.

* HamSci Workshop Registration Open

A reminder that my January newsletter discussed the HamSci Workshop coming up March 18-19. It will be both in-person and virtual. In-person registration is now open at (<https://scranton.advancementform.com/universal/hamsci-workshop-2022/enter>). Registration to attend virtually will open in early March. See their home page for details at (<https://hamsci.org/hamsci2022>).

* Youth on the Air Camp Applications Open

And another reminder that my February newsletter discussed the Youth on the Air Camp, scheduled for June 12-17. The application period is now open at (<https://youthontheair.org/>).

* Route 66 On The Air

I just learned a few days ago about the "Route 66 on the Air" event. The old Route 66 highway ran from Chicago to Los Angeles. It became famous through songs, stories and TV shows. Even though it was officially decommissioned in 1986, parts of it still exist and the mention of it still brings fond memories to those of us old enough to remember. In fact, I grew up in a town along Route 66 (which later became Interstate Highway I-44 in that area). The Citrus Belt Amateur Radio Club in San Bernardino hosts an annual special event to honor the highway's legacy which draws, I'm told, multitudes of pileups. This year, it's scheduled for September 10-18, 2022. So put it on your calendar and check out the details and guidelines at (https://w6jbt.org/?page_id=19).

* Pony Express Rides Again

The original Pony Express functioned for 18 months in 1860-1861, carrying mail from St. Joseph, MO to Sacramento, CA in only 10 days. Currently, the National Pony Express Association recreates the ride each year, carrying letters along the same route as the original riders. This year, the ride will be from June 6 to June 16. For details, see (<http://nationalponyexpress.org/re-ride/>). You can order a commemorative letter that will be carried by the riders for \$5.00, or write a personal letter for \$10.00. When they arrive in Sacramento the letters are transferred to USPS to be delivered worldwide. To send a letter, see (<http://nationalponyexpress.org/re-ride/send-a-letter/>).

Ham radio operators support the ride over the entire 1,966 mile, eight-state event, providing rider location updates and emergency communications, as well as serving as relays where the terrain requires it. California-based hams interested in participating should contact Dennis Klaman at ([dennis\[dot\]klaman\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:dennis[dot]klaman[at]gmail.com)).

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Significant Events in Telecomm History – March

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

- 3/1/1938 Claude Shannon submitted his MIT Master's thesis for publication in the Transactions of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, forming the basis of modern digital circuit design.
- 3/3/1847 Alexander Graham Bell was born in Edinburgh, Scotland.

- 3/3/1969 AMSAT, the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation, was formally chartered as a 501(c)(3) educational corporation.
- 3/5/1827 Alessandro Volta died in Como, Lombardy-Venetia, Austrian Empire at age 82.
- 3/9/1851 Hans Christian Ørsted, discoverer of the relationship between electrical current and magnetism, died in Copenhagen, Denmark at age 73.
- 3/10/1876 Alexander Graham Bell called out to his assistant Thomas Watson, "Mr. Watson, come here! I want to see you", becoming the first transmission of intelligible speech over electrical wires.
- 3/12/1933 President Franklin Roosevelt made his first of many "Fireside Chats", over radio, 8 days after his inauguration.
- 3/12-13/2022 QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo.
- 3/14/1879 Albert Einstein was born in Ulm, Kingdom of Württemberg, German Empire.
- 3/16/1789 Georg Simon Ohm was born in Erlangen, Brandenburg-Bayreuth in the Holy Roman Empire (present-day Germany).
- 3/18-19/2022 HamSCI workshop.
- 3/22/1952 The first Hamvention took place, at the Biltmore Hotel in Dayton, Ohio.
- 3/30/1978 The most comprehensive overhaul of the amateur radio callsign structure since World War II went into effect, creating the fundamental structure in place today.
- 3/31/1727 Isaac Newton died in Kensington, Middlesex, Great Britain at age 84.
- 3/31/1970 The U.S.'s first artificial Earth satellite, Explorer I, fell back into the Earth's atmosphere after 105 days of operation and over 12 years in orbit.

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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.

KN6SKD	Andrey Shmakov	Alameda
KN6SMA	Jonathan March	Alameda
KN6SMJ	Zara Landl	Alameda
KN6SMR	Fletcher Dube	Danville
KN6SKG	Michael Mcclintic	Livermore (General)
KN6SNX	Christopher Apallas	Napa
KN6SOM	Brian Riccomini	Napa
KN6SNQ	David Zapol	Napa
KN6SMQ	Matteo Telli	Pleasanton
KN6SKU	Damian Reynolds	Pleasanton
KN6SOW	Chanwoo Lee	Dublin
KN6SMU	Rick Camacho	Dublin
KN6SKA	William Cronin	Emeryville
KN6SMT	William Hess	Oakland
KN6SMW	Giovanni De Bernardis Bassi	Berkeley
KN6SMS	Aaron Kurth	Richmond

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New Upgrades:

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

KN6RCU	Gerald Landl	Alameda (Extra)
KN6RCQ	Zacharias Landl	Alameda (General)
KN6SBO	Aram Garabedian	Fremont (General)
KN6SGG	Harvey Thommes	Lafayette (General)
KN6SNG	Austin Rojanasathira	Livermore (General)
KN6RSV	Sean Kerrel	Oakland (General)
KN6RFT	Sean Treichler	Piedmont (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.arrleb.org>

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