

## Section Manager

### East Bay Section Newsletter August, 2022

ARRL East Bay Family,

We're well into the California fire season and, so far, the news reports indicate that we've been fairly lucky. We've had several fires in the East Bay, but fortunately, our expert fire crews have been able to keep them small. As I write this, there are a bunch of fires up near the Oregon border, the biggest one is the McKinney Fire, over 55,000 acres with 0% containment. The Oak Fire in Mariposa near Yosemite is over 19,000 acres, but is 72% contained.

All this to say that, even if we don't need to respond to an emergency in our own backyard, we may need to help out for a mutual aid response. So, stay ready.

=====  
Section & Division News:

-----  
\* ARRL 2022 Scholarship Awards

Congratulations to:

--- Jeanette Zhou, KN6DAD, of Saratoga, California for winning one of 20 nationwide Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC) Scholarships, for \$25,000.

--- Frances Celine Melendres, KN6LRN, of Sacramento, California for winning the Medical Amateur Radio Council (MARCO) Scholarship, \$1,000.

The above two Pacific Division hams are among the 139 deserving radio amateurs pursuing higher education. Individual scholarship awards range from \$500 to \$25,000. The total amount awarded for 2022 was \$ 921,250. Applications for 2023 ARRL Foundation Scholarships are expected to open on October 1, 2022. More information about the ARRL Foundation Scholarship Program is available at (<http://www.arrl.org/scholarship-program>).

-----  
\* Pacific Division Election

An election for Pacific Division Director and Vice-Director will be held later this year for a 3-year term beginning January 1, 2023. If you're interested in being a nominee for either of these positions, see page 67 of the August QST. Requests for nominating petition forms must be received at HQ no later than noon Eastern time (9:00 AM Pacific), August 12, 2022; and the completed forms must be received back by noon Eastern Time (9:00 AM Pacific) on August 19, 2022.

-----  
\* San Francisco Radio Club OTA Trifecta

In last November's newsletter, I talked about the SFRC running an annual On-the-Air Trifecta on Angel Island; a single event that combines simultaneous Parks on the Air (POTA), US Islands on the Air (US IOTA), and Summits on the Air (SOTA) activations. Well, Jerry Curry, KK6JJZ, wrote it up and the story is in this month's QST, page 62. Interesting reading. So, be sure to stop and give it a look as you're going through your latest QST.

-----  
\* Division Hamfest Reminders

-- Sacramento Valley Hamfest: Lincoln, CA on Sept. 17. See (<https://wparc.us/>).

-- Pacificon!! San Ramon, CA on Oct. 14-16. See (<https://www.pacificon.org>)

-----  
\* Special Events In or Near our Division

-- August 4:

US Coast Guard 232nd Birthday will be honored in Port Angeles, WA on 3.552 7.052 14.052 21.052 MHz. Sponsored by the Coast Guard CW Operators Association. See (<https://www.qrz.com/db/k1cg>).

-- August 10-14:

Navajo Code Talkers. 0000Z-0000Z (5:00- 5:00 AM PDT), Event call sign = N7C. In Chinle, AZ. N7HG. Frequencies: 14.265 21.265 7.265 18.133. For certificate & QSL, contact Navajo Code Talkers, P.O. Box 06, Chinle, AZ 86503. n7hgster[AT]gmail[DOT].com or at (<https://www.qrz.com/db/N7C>).

-- August 13:

Friends of Bodie Day will be held at the Bodie State Historic Park, about 10 crow-fly miles north of Mono Lake. 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM PDT. Frequencies: 7.225 14.275 21.295 28.400. For QSL, contact John F. Pinckney, 1551 Bennington Woods Ct., Reston, VA 20194. Also see (<https://www.monocounty.org/event/friends-of-bodie-day/7171/>).

-- October 27-31:

Nevada Wing Conference & Change of Command. 0000Z-2359Z, N7N, Las Vegas, NV. Friends of Nevada Wing. 7.200 14.250 146.52; General portion of the bands; SSB and FT8 on HF; VHF on FM.. QSL. Bill Aceves, N6YEL, 23612 Glenmoor Dr., Parker, CO 80138-3112. To receive a QSL card, send your card and a SASE to N6YEL by 31 December 2022.

Search for all Special Event Stations nationwide at (<http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations>)

=====  
ARRL News:

-----  
\* New Amateur Reports

Those of you that actually make it all the way to the bottom of these newsletters may have noticed that there have been no lists of new or upgraded hams the last couple of months. I followed up with HQ and they advise that it's a known issue on their long list of issues that the IT folks are still fixing after that major overhaul from last April; combined with the changes made by the FCC to its database during its conversion to charging applications fees. Fortunately, HQ has recently hired a much-needed IT manager, who hopefully can help expedite the many things that need to be fixed. I'll do what I can to catch up when they're able to get this one fixed. See below. Thankx for your patience.

-----  
\* Executive Committee Meeting

The ARRL Executive Committee met on June 9, and the minutes of that meeting were released on July 6, just missing last month's newsletter. They're available at ([http://www.arrl.org/files/file/EC Meeting 06\\_09.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/EC%20Meeting%2006_09.pdf)) [PDF; 3 pages].

-----  
\* Emergency Communications and Field Services Committee Meeting

The ARRL Board met in Connecticut on June 15-16. Several committees met the day before, including the ECFSC. They spent over 8 hours discussing a variety of Emergency Communications and Field Services topics. They're working to upgrade the information and tools that Section Managers as well as SEC's have to work with. Like most things, it takes time and they want to make sure that the changes are improvements instead of change for change's sake. Once done, however, that will help us serve you better.

-----  
\* ARRL IT Director

Steven Berry, N1EZ has accepted the long-vacant position of IT Director at ARRL HQ. He will be moving to Newington and will tackle the serious and continuing problems with ARRL log-ins and email forwarding which continue to cause problems with a significant number of ARRL members. If you're still having problems with logging into ARRL, please

call HQ at 1-860-594-0200.

[Thankx to Marvin, WA4NC, for the information.]

-----  
\* QST Club Station Column

The first Club Station column in recent memory is in the August edition of QST, page 78. Written by ARRL Field Services Manager Mike Walters, W8ZY, it discusses what to expect from the column in the coming months and invites you to write for the column.

=====  
Government News:  
-----

\* FCC License Applications and Fees – IMPORTANT

The ARRL Volunteer Examination Coordinator has issued the following information. This is very important for anyone filing a license application, so please read through it completely.

1. ALL EXMAINEES MUST PAY WITHIN 10 DAYS.

Examinees do NOT have to wait for the email from the FCC to pay the fee. As soon as the application file number is issued by the FCC, they can pay by logging into the CORES Payer FRN System

(<https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/paymentFrnLogin.do>) (easier to use but only temporarily available) or the CORES FRN Registration system (CORES - Login) (<https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do>).

Application File Number search using an FRN: FCC Application File Number Search

(<https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/ApplicationSearch/searchAppl.jsp?fromRefine=Y>)

CORES payment system background information and instructions: Information. (<https://www.fcc.gov/licensing-databases/fees/cores-payment-system>)

CORES step-by-step payment instructions: FCC Application Fee Instructions

(<https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/support/knowledge-base/universal-licensing-system-uls-resources/payment-process-uls>)

2. The FCC help center stated there is a known issue with individuals paying the \$35 application fee via a smartphone or tablet. This is not a new issue and they haven't been able to help troubleshoot the issue at the support center. Candidates should login and pay the FCC application fee from a computer.

3. Examinees should NOT amend any applications that a VEC submits on their behalf, especially NEW license applications. Amending VEC filed applications will cause the application to be dismissed without action in the FCC system and potentially require the applicant to pay another \$35 fee. If there is a minor mistake on the application, either call us and we can correct and resubmit the application, or the individual can pay the fee, be issued the call sign, and then log back in and make corrections.

4. Individuals should review their application BEFORE paying the fee. If there is a major error on the application, such as the licensee's name or license class earned is incorrect, or the answer to the felony question is wrong, DO NOT PAY the fee. Call the VEC immediately.

5. When in doubt, call the VEC! Even if you think you shouldn't bother us with your question, call us anyway.

6. See the ARRL FCC application fee webpage for information and instructions (<https://www.arrl.org/fcc-application-fee>).

As always, the dedicated VEC staff are here to answer any questions you may have.

ARRL VE toll free number: 1-800-9ARRLVE (1-800-927-7583)

Address: ARRL VEC, 225 Main St, Newington CT 06111

Email: [VEC@arrl.org](mailto:VEC@arrl.org)

Web: [www.arrl.org/volunteer-examiners](http://www.arrl.org/volunteer-examiners)

ARRL VEC Fax: 860-594-0339

-----  
\* FCC Legacy CORES System has been Retired

A reminder from last month's newsletter that FCC Legacy CORES System was retired on July 15. See this ARRL article for more information: (<https://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-legacy-cores-system-to-be-retired>).

-----  
\* FEMA Mobile App

FEMA has a mobile app designed to help people plan for and recover from disasters. Updated just last month, it includes sections on planning for a disaster; applying for and receiving assistance, news about FEMA planning; receiving alerts; and weather reports, among many other topics. Many of these areas are customized to your location. The app is available at (<https://www.fema.gov/about/news-multimedia/mobile-products>) or on your phone's or tablet's app store.

-----  
\* Radio Spectrum Turf Wars

I read an interesting article in Spectrum magazine, published by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), about "How the FCC Settles Radio-Spectrum Turf Wars". It used as an example the recent controversy about the deployment of 5G cell phone technology near airports. In short, the Federal Aviation Administration and major airlines say that 5G might interfere with the radar altimeters, while the FCC and cell-phone carriers say their studies show that there's no problem. Another example raised, that had much less publicity in the general media, concerns the use of 6 GHz for Wi-Fi devices, a band segment long used by point-to-point microwave systems to carry safety-critical data. The author, an attorney experienced the telecommunications matters, doesn't take a position on these issues. Instead, he explains that the continuing disagreements exist because the two sides use different assumptions while conducting their studies. That appears to be common in such things. You can see the full article at (<https://spectrum.ieee.org/spectrum-management>).

=====

Other News:

-----  
\* ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference

If you're hankering for a trip back East next month, think about going to the ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference. It will be September 16-18 in Charlotte, NC, and includes technical and introductory forums, demonstrations, a Saturday evening banquet and an in-depth Sunday seminar. The DCC is for everyone with an interest in digital communications – beginner to expert. For details, see (<https://tapr.org/conferences-2/dcc/>).

-----  
\* ARRL Headquarters Tour Video

In the May and June editions of this newsletter, I talked about Lon Seidman, a YouTube channel host that recently got his license and put out a number of videos about his ham journey. He's put out a few more since then, including ones on an ISS contact, his new base station equipment and, his latest, part one of a 2-part tour of ARRL HQ in Newington. He has a playlist of all his ham radio videos at (<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLCZHp4d1HnItwWP5D8XtInVH1mym6g1SU>)

-----  
\* Ham Radio Horror

In 2006, the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) team repurposed a decommissioned Russian spacesuit to function as a free-floating transmit-only amateur radio satellite, calling it "SuitSat-1". Released from the International Space Station (ISS), it orbited the Earth for about 7 months, transmitting short messages in a number of languages before reentering the atmosphere. Find out more about it at this Wikipedia page (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SuitSat>).

Last year, a short fiction film featuring SuitSat returning to the ISS in an ominous way won a finalist position at a filmmaking competition. So put your tongue firmly in your cheek and go to the following URL to see "Decommissioned" (<https://qrznow.com/ham-radios-suitsat-returns-in-short-horror-film/>). [Venmo; 00:06:26]  
[Thankx to Barb, W6WHY for the information.]

=====  
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.  
8//10/1993 President Bill Clinton signed the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act into law, including a provision for Vanity call signs.  
8/13/1889 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.  
8/14/1777 Hans Christian Ørsted, discoverer of the relationship between electrical current and magnetism, was born in Rudkøbing, Denmark-Norway.  
8/15/1896 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).  
8/25/1819 James Watt died in Handsworth, Birmingham, England at age 83.  
8/25/1867 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.  
8/26/1873 Lee de Forest, inventor of the three-element "Audion" (triode) vacuum tube, the first practical amplification device, was born in Council Bluffs, Iowa.  
08/31/1920 The first radio news program was broadcast by station 8MK (now WWJ) in Detroit, Michigan.

=====  
New Hams:  
-----

No report this month, related to the recent IT overhauls at ARRL and FCC headquarters.

=====  
New Upgrades:  
-----

No report this month, related to the recent IT overhauls at ARRL and FCC headquarters

=====  
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

[N6JGA@ARRL.org](mailto:N6JGA@ARRL.org)  
<https://www.arrleb.org>

ARRL HQ Help Desk: 888-277-5289 or [hq@arrl.org](mailto:hq@arrl.org)  
-----  
=====