

**Section Manager**  
**East Bay Section Newsletter**  
**February, 2023**

ARRL East Bay Family,

The first half of January brought us an abundance of riches. But it came at a high cost. We've seen the stories in the main media of the damage the storms did to our infrastructure; collapsed roads, power outages, flooding and so forth. Ham radio was not immune to the storms either. I expect there are a number of impacts I've not heard about, but here are the ones I have:

\* Walnut Creek CERT was called out to assist Public Works with inspecting and clearing over 6,000 storm drains. The effort was coordinated using CERT hams.

\* The Mt. Diablo club's (MDARC) main receive antenna was damaged during one of the storms. It's installed near the summit of Mt. Diablo's South Peak. The damage disabled several of their repeaters. They were able to restore service to their 2-meter repeater during a break in the weather the next day, by combining transmit and receive functions onto the transmit antenna. However, other repeaters remain out of service.

\* The Oakland club (OCRA) ran several stand-by nets in case a callout was needed. Unfortunately, their repeater subsequently suffered a failed power cable and was down for extended period. Work parties were organized to replace the cable. After roughly two weeks and a weekend of volunteers putting in a lot of hard labor, a new power cable was buried, connected and activated to get the repeater back on the air.

If last month's storms impacted your organization, by being called into service, by equipment damage or something else, let me know and I'll summarize them in next month's newsletter.

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**Section & Division News:**  
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\* Congratulations, Councilman!

Our own Section Emergency Coordinator, Dan Goldstein, KJ6KEU, has been named to fill a vacancy on the Hayward City Council. Dan ran for one of two available seats on the Council in last November's election, but came in a close third. His appointment in mid-January (by a vote of 5-0!) by the sitting Council fills a seat left vacant when Councilman Mark Salinas was elected Mayor. Dan has been on Hayward's Planning Commission for the last several years and is also on the board of the Hayward Education Foundation, providing resources to teachers. This is in addition to his Administrative Sergeant position with the Alameda County Sheriff's Communications Team, and his position as the Region 2 EmComm Mutual Aid Coordinator for the State OES. Oh, and he has a paying job as well. Too bad Dan has nothing to do...

\* More Congratulations

Our own Judi Clark, KK6ZCU, has been named to the Grants Advisory Committee for Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC). She joins another one of our East Bay hams, Don Prosnitz, N6PRZ. Judi currently serves as the President of the Oakland Amateur Radio Association, and was the forums Chair for last year's Pacificon. You may remember from previous newsletters that the ARDC is the organization that offers grants to ham radio organizations for projects that need funding. Congratulations, Judi!

\* Pacificon Videos

In my December newsletter, I mentioned that Dave Casler, KE0OG and the author of QST's "Ask Dave" column, posted on his YouTube channel a number of vendor interviews from Pacificon 2022. Well, I recently learned that Ham Radio

Outlet also has a number of videos from Pacificon. Very professionally done, with background music and all. See them at ([https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=ham+radio+outlet+Pacificon](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=ham+radio+outlet+Pacificon)). If you only have time for one, watch the overview "Sights and Sounds" video at (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VGPPB62IJGQ>) [YouTube; 00:05:58]. [Thankx to Barb, K6WHY for the tip.]

\* Congratulations to John Bigley, N7UR

John Bigley, N7UR and Nevada's Section manager, is the 2023 HamCation recipient of the Gordon West Ambassador of the Year Award. This is the first time the award has been presented. The award honors its namesake, Gordon West, WB6NOA, in honor of his contributions and inspirations to the amateur radio community. Bigley was also chosen as the 2014 ARRL Pacific Division Ham of the Year. He has been licensed since 2003 and holds an Amateur Extra-class license.

\* Section Manager Elections

Nominations for the Nevada and San Joaquin Section Managers are open. If you know someone in one of those sections that may be interested in being the Section Manager, have them consult the information at (<http://www.arrl.org/section-terms-nomination-information>). Included on that page is a link to the Section Manager Nomination Form, which will need to have at least five valid signatures from ARRL members in the section. Submission deadline is 4:00 PM Eastern Time, March 10, 2023. The elected managers for both sections will begin their terms on July 1, 2023. The current section managers are John Bigley, N7UR, in Nevada; and John Litz, NZ6Q, in San Joaquin.

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**ARRL News:**

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\* ARRL Board Special Session

The ARRL Board held a special meeting on November 21 and 30, 2022 to discuss an ethics and elections matter. The minutes of the meeting are at ([https://www.arrl.org/files/file/ARRL 2022 SPECIAL BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING - Final Draft.pdf](https://www.arrl.org/files/file/ARRL%2022%20SPECIAL%20BOARD%20of%20DIRECTORS%20MEETING%20-%20Final%20Draft.pdf)).

\* ARRL Board January Meeting

The ARRL Board held its regular biannual meeting on January 20-21, 2023. The minutes have not yet been released, but the agenda is at ([https://www.arrl.org/files/file/01 Pro Forma Agenda January 2023.pdf](https://www.arrl.org/files/file/01%20Pro%20Forma%20Agenda%20January%202023.pdf)).

\* ARRL Staff Organization Chart

The ARRL recently posted an updated management organization chart which identifies how the employees at HQ are organized and who reports to whom at ARRL Headquarters. The most recent org chart can be found at (<http://www.arrl.org/arrl-management-organizational-chart>).

\* Volunteers On the Air (VOTA)

In last month's newsletter, I told you that the ARRL is celebrating a major year-long operating event honoring ARRL volunteers. Participants earn points by making contacts with special week-long activations of W1AW portable from all 50 states and most U.S. Territories, as well as by contacting ARRL volunteers and members. The full announcement is in the January QST, page 77; and on the VOTA website: (<http://vota.arrl.org>). In addition, Northwestern Division Director Mike Ritz, W7VO, gave a presentation about VOTA in January. Watch it on Vimeo at (<https://vimeo.com/789463754>); or on YouTube at (<https://youtu.be/J2jq3yoLL8E>) [Vimeo or YouTube video; 00:56:12]. You can also download a copy of the slides and some other documents at (<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/zh70g44r4kc6p2n/AABvQ0c8X1-fHjtnN-Dpn-4Qa?dl=0>). [Note: Mike's presentation lasts 00:27:29. The rest of the video is Q&A.]

\* Need a Speaker for Your Club Meeting?

If you need a speaker for your club meeting, the ARRL has two possible sources; our Learning Network and our Speakers Bureau. The ARRL Learning Network offers dozens of prerecorded presentations across a variety of popular amateur radio topics. Each presentation is approximately 30 minutes long. The Speakers Bureau offers both in-person and virtual speakers with a wealth of knowledge and subject matter expertise for ARRL membership programs and services, and across a broad range of amateur radio topics. Please keep in mind that, due to the high demand for ARRL speakers and the high cost of travel, not all requests can be filled, especially if your need is an in-person speaker. For the Learning Network, see (<http://www.arrl.org/arrl-learning-network>). The Speakers Bureau is at (<http://www.arrl.org/speakers-bureau>).

\* HamCation App Available

If you're planning to go to the Orlando HamCation this month, the ARRL's free mobile app is available to help attendees navigate the large event. HamCation is Feb. 10-12; and the app is available for both Apple and Android devices. You can get it from the convention's website at (<http://www.arrl.org/arrl-expo>).

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**Government News**  
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\* WRC 2023 to be Held in Dubai

World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRC) are held every three to four years to review, and if necessary, revise, the Radio Regulations, the international treaty governing the use of the radio-frequency spectrum and the geostationary-satellite and non-geostationary-satellite orbits. This year it will be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates on November 20 to December 15. It appears the primary amateur radio related item on the agenda is Resolution 774, concerning a review of our 23 cm (1240-1300 MHz) allocation, "to study possible technical and operational measures to ensure the protection of RNSS (space-to-Earth) receivers from the amateur and amateur-satellite services ...without considering the removal of these amateur and amateur-satellite service allocations". RNSS is the radionavigation-satellite service. Information about WRC-23, including a downloadable booklet with the agenda and resolutions, is available at (<https://www.itu.int/wrc-23/>). More information about Resolution 774 is available on the website of the International Amateur Radio Union at (<https://www.iau.org/2022/itu-r-working-party-5a-is-making-progress-on-the-23cm-amateur-band-and-rnss-radio-navigation-satellite-service-coexistence/>).

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**Other News:**  
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\* Morse Code at the Smithsonian

Smithsonian Magazine has an article about Morse Code in its January/February 2023 edition. "Looking to Ditch Twitter? Morse Code Is Back" talks a bit about the code's history and how it has become more popular in the last decade or two. See the whole thing at (<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/innovation/morse-code-back-looking-ditch-twitter-180981309/>).

\* What's My LOS?

Have you ever wanted to get a path profile of your line of sight (LOS) to a particular location? Take a look at this online app, "heywhatsthat". Reports I've seen are that it's a fun way to figure out where to point that dish or Yagi antenna. See it at (<http://www.heywhatsthat.com/>).  
[Thankx to Jim, K6JM for the info.]

\* Spray Coating Developed to Block Electromagnetic Waves

A paper has been published in the journal Nature Nanotechnology describing how researchers in the Engineering Department of Drexel University in Philadelphia have developed a spray coating that can block electromagnetic radiation with the flip of a switch. Applying the coating, called MXene, "on a device or electrical components prevents them from both emitting electromagnetic waves, as well as being penetrated by those emitted by other electronics". In addition, applying a voltage smaller than a typical alkaline battery can alter the coating and allow signals to be sent or received. An abstract of the paper is at (<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41565-022-01308-9>). An article somewhat more understandable to us mortals is on Drexel's website at ([https://drexel.edu/news/archive/2023/January/MXene-dynamic-EMI-shielding-switch?utm\\_source=join1440&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_placement=newsletter](https://drexel.edu/news/archive/2023/January/MXene-dynamic-EMI-shielding-switch?utm_source=join1440&utm_medium=email&utm_placement=newsletter)).

\* Amazon Closing AmazonSmile

Many ham radio clubs and organizations, including the ARRL, have encouraged hams to financially support them by using AmazonSmile while shopping, to direct donations to the organization at no cost to the ham. Unfortunately, Amazon announced last month that AmazonSmile will be closed by February 20. Their blog post with the announcement is at (<https://www.aboutamazon.com/news/company-news/amazon-closing-amazon-smile-to-focus-its-philanthropic-giving-to-programs-with-greater-impact>). An article about it from TechCrunch is at (<https://techcrunch.com/2023/01/19/amazon-ends-charity-donation-program-amazon-smile/>).

\* What's Inside that Capacitor - Really?

Spectrum magazine, from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), has published on its website a review of a new book called "Open Circuits" by Eric Schlaepfer and Windell H. Oskay. The book is a multitude of carefully prepared photos of the inside of passive electrical components; resistors, capacitors, inductors, transformers, etc.; along with explanations for each. It makes clear that the construction of these devices is not as simple as we may imagine. The review has several example photos that are fascinating. A link to purchase the complete book is also in the review. See it at (<https://spectrum.ieee.org/open-circuits>).

\* Virtual Lightning Rods

Another article in the IEEE Spectrum is about a new study demonstrating that a pulsed laser beam shot into the sky can guide a lightning strike to the ground. Physical lightning rods are the go-to device for lightning protection, but their horizontal effectiveness is limited to roughly equal the rod's height. So, it's not practical for protecting large, often open, areas; such as airports, rocket launchpads and nuclear power plants. A minor complicating detail is that the study used a one-trillion-watt laser... So, you probably shouldn't start mounting laser pointers on your tower just yet. See the article at (<https://spectrum.ieee.org/lasers-lead-lightning>).

\* Ham Radio in the News

The TV news program CBS Sunday Morning, broadcast a segment on ham radio last month called "Ham radio operators keep classic communication style alive". The subtitle is "Michael Schlesinger joined the members of the Fond du Lac Amateur Radio Club whose members keep the classic hobby of ham radio alive in Wisconsin." See it at (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ineRc-XCG4Q>) [YouTube; 00:04:24].  
[Thankx to Greg, K6XSS, for the tip.]

\* NASA Spinoffs

Not strictly radio-related, but too good not to mention. NASA has released the 2023 edition of its annual Spinoff publication. It's 102 pages of photos and descriptions of how NASA research and development has resulted in spinoff applications bringing benefits to all humankind. Just one example is how a NASA-invented method to study the atmospheres of other planets using radio signals has been repurposed to help weather forecasters here on Earth. Download your copy at (<https://spinoff.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/2023-01/NASA-Spinoff-2023.pdf>) [PDF, 102 pages].

\* On a Strictly Personal Note:

The ARRL is recognizing the ham radio club at my alma mater, the Missouri School of Science and Technology (S&T) Amateur Radio Club (W0EEE), on the 100th anniversary of its founding. Formerly the Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy, then the University of Missouri at Rolla; Missouri S&T is the primary engineering school in Missouri, and consistently ranks in the top 10 nationwide. Congrats, S&T hams!

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**Hamfests And Special Events:**  
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\* 02/10-12/2023

Orlando HamCation, hosting the ARRL Southeastern Division Convention, Orlando, Florida  
(<https://www.hamcation.com/>)

\* 02/11/2023

Commemorating first US Navy carrier air strike in WW2. 1700Z-2359Z, NI6IW, San Diego, CA. USS Midway Museum Ship. 14.320 7.250 14.070 PSK31 DSTAR on Papa system repeaters. QSL. USS Midway Museum Ship COMEDTRA, 910 N Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92101. ([www.qrz.com/db/ni6iw](http://www.qrz.com/db/ni6iw)).

\* 03/18/2023

Loomis Hamfest; Loomis, CA. Sponsored by: Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club.  
(<https://www.arrl.org/hamfests/loomis-hamfest-1>)

\* 04/22/2023

Valley of the Moon ARC Hamfest, Sonoma, CA. Sponsored by the Valley of the Moon ARC.  
(<http://vomarc.org/>)

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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. \*\*

- 02/01/1942 The Voice of America began broadcasting. It currently broadcasts an estimated 1800 hours of radio and TV programming each week in 47 languages to approximately 236.6 million people worldwide.
- 02/01/1954 Edwin Howard Armstrong, inventor of FM (frequency modulation) radio and the superheterodyne receiver system, died in Manhattan, New York at age 63.
- 02/03/2006 SuitSat-1 was released into orbit during a spacewalk from the International Space Station. A repurposed decommissioned Russian spacesuit fitted with ham radio equipment; it transmitted short messages in a number of languages before reentering the atmosphere about 7 months later.
- 02/04/1938 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.
- 02/08/1922 President Warren G. Harding had the first broadcast radio receiver installed in the White House.
- 02/08/1996 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.
- 2/14/1876 Alexander Graham Bell and Elisha Gray both filed applications at the U.S. Patent Office for an "improvement in telegraphy". Three weeks later, Bell received Patent No. 174,465.
- 02/14/1991 The FCC's Report and Order ending the requirement for Morse Code proficiency for the Technician Class license took effect.
- 02/17/1936 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.
- 02/22/1978 The first Global Positioning System (GPS) satellite was launched.
- 02/23/1927 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.
- 02/23/1978 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.
- 02/23/2007 The FCC's Report and Order ending the requirement for Morse Code proficiency from all amateur radio licenses took effect.
- 02/24/2001 Claude Shannon, "the father of information theory", died in Medford, Massachusetts at age 84.

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## New Hams:

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KN6WVI	Gabriel Haarberg	Benicia
KN6WXC	Robert Carmichael	Fairfield
AJ6ZF Arya	Virender Kumar	Fremont (Extra)
KN6YAR	Charles Mueller	Livermore
KN6WZZ	Andrew Tantzen	Livermore
KN6WWG	Scott Bobrosky	Martinez
KN6WZY	Fabian Mendieta	Martinez
KN6WTM	Sara Laxson	Napa
KN6WWQ	Leroy Hecker	Rio Vista
KN6WVN	Isabelle Bart Williams	Rodeo T
KN6YBD	Auric Horneman	Oakland (General)
KN6WUC	Travis Harris	Berkeley
KN6WZC	Samuel Shen	Berkeley
KN6YAF	Takato Umeda	Berkeley

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## New Upgrades:

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KI6PQO      Fearghal Odea      Napa (General)  
KN6TOL      James Tomcik      Pleasanton (General)  
KN6WME      Ali Moayedi      Dublin (General)  
K6QQX      Russell Haig      Rio Vista (Extra)  
KN6WQY      Daniel Denton      San Lorenzo (Extra)  
KI6ODS      Thomas Seabury      Walnut Creek (General)  
KN6QWU      Sekhar Musunuri      Berkeley (General)

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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](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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