

Section Manager
East Bay Section Newsletter
March, 2023

ARRL East Bay Family,

We have a lot of anniversaries this month. Happy Birthday to:

- * HamVention, which was first held on March 22, 1952 at the Biltmore Hotel in Dayton, Ohio.
- * AMSAT , the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation, which was formally chartered on March 3, 1969.
- * The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). On March 2, 1799, President John Adams signed into law the first U.S. weights and measures legislation, creating the original predecessor to the NIST; while on March 3, 1901, NIST's immediate predecessor, the National Bureau of Standards, was created by an act of Congress.
- * And to the telephone, which received its first patent on March 7, 1876, issued to Alexander Graham Bell, only 4 days after his birthday.

See these and several other Significant Events for March in that section of this newsletter, below.

Social media forums got their share of bemused comments from hams last month about the possibility that the U.S. Air Force "shot down a \$12 ham radio pico-balloon with two \$400,000 missiles". It seems they used two since the first one missed (excellent pico-balloon stealth design). Apparently, not enough of the remains of the three smaller devices that were shot down was found to confirm identification, but there were reports of losing contact with a particular pico-balloon about the same time. So, along with space weather, Earth weather, coronal mass ejections and other hazards, hams now have another concern to add to their list. Anyone skilled in pico-balloon dog fights?

* Question:

Which of the following frequency ranges are available for phone operation by Technician licensees?

- A. 28.050 MHz to 28.150 MHz
- B. 28.100 MHz to 28.300 MHz
- C. 28.300 MHz to 28.500 MHz
- D. 28.500 MHz to 28.600 MHz

(See the last page for the answer.)

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Section & Division News:

* Happy Birthday BARC!

In addition to the above anniversaries, a Special Happy Birthday to the Benicia Amateur Radio Club, which held its first open meeting on March 7, 1979, inducting 11 new members. BARC became an official ARRL affiliated Club two years later, on March 10, 1981. Ever since, they've been providing training classes; communications support for the City of Benicia and numerous served agencies; conducted Field Day events; and held joint exercises with the American Red Cross, Solano County Sheriff's Office, and Travis Air Force Base; among a multitude of other activities. Congratulations on your 44th!

* Send Me Your Club's Anniversary Date

As mentioned in each's month Significant Events section, send me the date and location your club was founded, and I will announce it here and add it to that list.

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ARRL News:

* ARRL Board January Meeting

The ARRL Board held its regular biannual meeting on January 20-21, 2023, and there's a lot to talk about. The next several items in this section will discuss Board actions. I urge you to read through the minutes of the meeting, as these notes do not cover everything. They're available at (<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/ODV/Board Meeting Jan 2023/ARRL 2023 Annual Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Final.pdf>) [PDF, 28 pages].

* Kristen on the Executive Committee

Our Pacific Division Director, Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, was again one of 5 Directors elected to the Executive Committee for 2023, with 11 of the 15 votes. The Executive Committee is responsible for handling the League's business between Board meetings, so Kristen will be well informed and up to date on all matters of substance.

* ARRL Financial Reports

Financial and investment reports for the year 2022 showed that the League had deficit spending of approximately \$760,000, caused mostly by relatively flat revenues with increases in most expenses, particularly in the production and mailing of the paper magazines. The investment portfolio also was on the negative side, down an overall 9.8% for the year. The good news is that the returns were up 5.7% in the fourth quarter and continued to improve into January. Note that the fourth quarter was the first full quarter where the new investment management firm CAPTRUST has managed all of the League's investments.

* Field Day Rule Changes

The Program and Services Committee is considering some rule changes for Field Day. These include maintaining aggregate scoring, reintroducing a high-power category for portable stations only at 500 watts, a new rule making Phone contacts the same number of points as other modes to even out the scoring, and a suggestion for a Field Day logo design contest for 2024. The rules have not yet been finalized, so stay tuned.

* Section Manager/Division Director Relationship

The Board passed a motion recommended by the Emergency Communications and Field Services Committee saying that "The Section Manager, although elected by membership, shall be considered accountable to Headquarters and the Board of Directors to discharge their duties as Section Manager." In addition, each Director is now required to establish a "cabinet" consisting of at least the Director, Vice-Director and all Section Managers in the Division. The Cabinet should meet at least twice a year. This motion is intended primarily to improve communications between the Board and the Section Managers. The motion states that "Direct oversight and management of the sections shall remain with the SM". There's more detail in the motion than there is space here, so read it through in the minutes, item 15, PDF page 5.

* LoTW Working Group Created

Another motion of the Board created the Radiosport Platform Committee, "charged to develop functional specifications, an application architecture, and an infrastructure design, preferably in a resilient Cloud environment that meets the needs of the current LoTW in terms of function and security, as well as extensibility, scalability and ease of change to meet needs for at least 10 calendar years after go-live." They will also hire an IT Project Manager with this as their primary responsibility. They're targeted to present a plan and budget for approval at the January, 2024 Board meeting.

* ARRL Support for Conventions

The Board approved the following item, copied from their meeting minutes: "24. Director Norton moved, seconded by Director Jairam that the sum of \$150,000 is allocated to the 2023-24 plan for the purposes of supporting ARRL Division conventions via a process to be determined by staff. After a discussion, the Motion was APPROVED by unanimous vote." It remains to be seen how this will affect Pacificon.

* Ethics Matter Considered

In last month's newsletter, I mentioned that the Board met in special session in November to consider an ethics matter, but no details were available at the time. The Board further dealt with the matter at the January meeting, and the minutes of that meeting have more details. It seems a Board member may have violated their fiduciary and conflict of interest requirements by authoring a Technician License manual that could be in direct competition with the ARRL's manual. In partial response, the Board approved a motion "to develop a Statement of Board Member Responsibility, Authority and

Expectation.” The intent is to further clarify for all Board members what their responsibilities are.

* Video Discussion of the Board Meeting

Northwestern Division Director Mike Ritz, W7VO, gave a presentation at the Radio Club of Tacoma (WA) that discussed in detail many of the items mentioned above. It’s very much worth the time, as it includes details and background not in the minutes; along with some topics not in the minutes. Also, Southwestern Division Director Dick Norton, N6AA, gave his perspective of the meeting during the ARRL forum at the annual Quartzfest convention.

Mike’s presentation is at (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A8fDCx-dzcc>) [YouTube video; 00:52:41] [Note: Mike’s presentation begins at 00:01:40]

Dick’s presentation is at (<https://forums.qrz.com/index.php?threads/2023-quartzfest-arrl-south-west-division-forum-with-n6aa.849715/>) [YouTube, 01:10:15] [Dick’s presentation begins at 00:01:02]

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Government News

* America’s First Responders Give NIST Their Communications Tech Wish Lists

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) spent some five years developing and conducting a major survey of first responders to learn about their telecommunications needs. The over 7,000 responses they received covered a very wide range of topics. But some general areas stood out; the technology needs to “be trustworthy, be controllable and reduce user frustration”. The survey team prepared six general guidelines for future first responder telecom: improve current technology; reduce unintended consequences; recognize that “one size does not fit all”; minimize “technology for technology’s sake”; lower product and service costs; and require usable technology. Get details in the full article at (<https://www.nist.gov/news-events/news/2023/01/americas-first-responders-give-nist-their-communications-tech-wish-lists>).

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Other News:

* ARISS opens Window for ARISS Education Proposals

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) has announced a new window of opportunity to receive ARISS Educational Proposals for education institutions and organizations, individually or working together, to host an Amateur Radio contact with a crew member on board the ISS. They expect that the contact would be held between January 1, 2024 and June 30, 2024. The deadline to submit a proposal is March 31st, 2023. Proposal information and more details such as expectations, proposal guidelines and the proposal form can be found at (<https://www.ariss.org/apply-to-host-an-ariss-contact.html>). The Eventbrite link to sign up for the free webinar is: (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ariss-proposal-webinar-for-spring-2023-proposal-window-registration-515706320487>). Direct any questions to (ariss.us.education@gmail.com).

* ARDC 2022 Annual Report

The Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC) reported that they distributed over \$8.4 million in grants last year, in four categories: Amateur Radio, Education, Scholarships and Research & Development. The report called out a Pacific Division project in particular as a stand-out project. The Bay Area Mesh (BAM)'s goal is "to install a resilient, high-speed, wireless network throughout San Francisco and the greater Bay Area." The network would be used by responders, volunteers, and served agencies during disasters, emergencies, and large community events. Get full details at (<https://www.ardc.net/2022-ardc-annual-report-now-available/>).

* HamSCI Workshop

The 6th Annual Amateur Radio Science Citizen Investigation (HamSCI) Workshop will be held March 17 - 18, 2023, in person and virtually via Zoom. All hams are invited. The primary objective is to bring together the amateur radio community and professional scientists. This year, the workshop will feature a working special event amateur radio station using the call sign W3USR. HamSCI is an officially recognized NASA citizen science project. Registration for the in-person workshop is now open. and will close on Monday, March 6, 2023. Virtual participation is free of charge. For more registration information visit (<https://hamsci.org/hamsci2023>).

* Ham Radio in the (Technical) News

I'm seeing more stories in the media about ham radio over the past few months. Always a good thing. This one is from Ars Technia, a publication aimed at technologists and IT professionals. My favorite quote in the article is "Radio amateurs get a sweet deal, with effectively free access to many gigahertz of the same radio spectrum that companies pay billions for. They've earned it." It talks about the multiple advantages of being a ham. Among the examples it gives is the European HAMNET; "a four-thousand-node high speed data network covering a large part of continental Europe and providing full IP connectivity at megabit speeds". The story is a few years old, but still a good read. See it at (<https://arstechnica.com/gadgets/2016/06/when-everything-else-fails-amateur-radio-will-still-be-there-and-thriving/>). [Thankx to Lon, KC1RGS, for the tip.]

* The Innards of Those Passive Components

Last month, I mentioned a book review in Spectrum magazine, from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). The book is called "Open Circuits" by Eric Schlaepfer and Windell H. Oskay, and has closeup photos of the inside of passive electrical components, with explanations. Well, the February edition of the magazine has an expanded article which includes some excerpts from the book with photos not included in the book review. See it at (<https://spectrum.ieee.org/open-circuits>).

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Hamfests And Special Events:

* 03/17-18/2023

HamSCI Workshop. Bringing together the amateur radio community and professional scientists. (<https://www.hamsci.org/hamsci2023>)

* 03/18/2023

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

* 03/25-26/2023

QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo. A fully interactive virtual ham radio convention offering new content, networking opportunities, and more than 50 amateur radio presentations on a wide variety of subjects. (<https://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com>)

* April 21-23, 2023

International DX Convention. Visalia, CA. Sponsored by the Northern California DX Club. (<http://www.dxconvention.com/>)

* 04/22/2023

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

* 06/02-04/2023

SEA-PAC in Seaside, OR. Registration opens March 1, 2023. (<https://seapac.org/>)

* 10/20-22/2023

Pacificon in San Ramon, CA. The ARRL Pacific Division Convention. Registration and website targeted to launch near April 1, 2023. (<https://www.pacificon.org/>)

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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. **

03/01/1893 Nikola Tesla gave the first public demonstration of radio to the National Electric Light Association in St. Louis, although he had presented his work prior to this behind closed doors.

- 03/01/1938 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.
- 3/2/1799 President John Adams signed into law the first U.S. weights and measures legislation.
- 3/3/1847 Alexander Graham Bell was born in Edinburgh, Scotland.
- 03/03/1885 The American Telephone & Telegraph Company (AT&T) was incorporated as the long-distance division of American Bell Telephone Company. It became the head of the Bell System on the last day of 1899.
- 03/03/1901 The National Bureau of Standards (now the National Institute of Standards and Technology, or NIST) was created via a law passed by Congress.
- 03/03/1969 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.
- 3/7/1876 Alexander Graham Bell received U.S. Patent, No. 174,465 for the telephone.
- 03/07/1979 The first open meeting of the Benicia Amateur Radio Club was held at the Youth Activity Center, inducting 11 new members.
- 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.
- 03/10/1891 Almon Strowger received a patent for the Strowger switch, the first automatic telephone exchange.
- 03/10/1981 The Benicia Amateur Radio Club became affiliated with the ARRL.
- 03/12/1933 President Franklin Roosevelt made his first of many "Fireside Chats", over radio, 8 days after his inauguration.
- 03/13/2010 The Martinez Amateur Radio Club became affiliated with the ARRL.
- 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).
- 3/20/1800 Alessandro Volta wrote to the London Royal Society to describe the technique for producing electric current using what became known as the "voltaic pile", the first electrical battery.
- 03/22/1952 The first Hamvention took place, at the Biltmore Hotel in Dayton, Ohio.
- 03/30/1978 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.
- 03/31/1970 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.
- 03/31/2006 Amateur radio operators from AMSAT in Germany tracked and received radio waves from Voyager 1 using the 20-meter (66 ft) dish at Bochum. Retrieved data was checked and verified against data from the Deep Space Network station at Madrid, Spain. This seems to be the first such amateur tracking of Voyager 1.
- Mar. 1-7 NIST Weights and Measures Week (<https://www.nist.gov/pml/owm/weights-and-measures-week>)

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New Hams:

KN6YIB	Andrew Wong	Alameda
KN6YDY	Richard Lyon	Concord
KN6YIF	Brant Yin	Danville
KN6YFM	Evan McKenzie	Castro Valley
KN6YJA	Pan Zhong	Castro Valley (General)
KN6YGO	Don Reynolds	Livermore
KN6YJC	Brandon Harlan	Livermore
KN6YJV	Nicholas Fischer	Moraga
KN6YEG	Debbie Peacock	Napa
KN6YIN	Hyunwoo Choi	Pleasanton
KN6YIH	Laurence Duong	San Leandro
KN6YEU	Timothy Aumiller	Oakland
KN6YFU	Justin Oliphant	Oakland
KN6YHZ	Daniel Hardy	Berkeley

KN6YJW Justin Chambers Vacaville

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New Upgrades:

WO0OLF	Albert Tsui	Danville	(Extra)
K7JGV	John Vlahos	Castro Valley	(Extra)
KN6TKG	Steven Hansen	Livermore	(General)
KN6WME	Ali Moayedi	Dublin	(Extra)
KN6OJT	Dmitry Melnik	Pleasanton	(General)

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Question & Answer:

Which of the following frequency ranges are available for phone operation by Technician licensees?
C. 28.300 MHz to 28.500 MHz

[Technician question pool no. T1B01 (<http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=373>). 47CFR97.301(e).]

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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).

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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