

Section Manager
East Bay Section Newsletter
August, 2023

ARRL East Bay Family,

In last month's newsletter, I congratulated and thanked several clubs for their ARRL affiliation anniversary or founding. That included the Mt. Diablo ARC. Although I included the year each became affiliated, I didn't do the math to recognize that this was MDARC's 75th anniversary of ARRL affiliation. Thank you MDARC, for your long support of the ARRL!

Congratulations and thank you to the Hayward Radio Club on the 69th anniversary of its affiliation with the ARRL. It became affiliated on August 2, 1954.

* Question:

What is a Class D amplifier?

- A. A type of amplifier that uses switching technology to achieve high efficiency
- B. A low power amplifier that uses a differential amplifier for improved linearity
- C. An amplifier that uses drift-mode FETs for high efficiency
- D. A frequency doubling amplifier

(See the last page for the answer.)

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Section & Division News:

* Section Manager Election Results

Bill Hillendahl, KH6GJV, of Santa Rosa, California, decided not to run for another office term after serving as Section Manager of the San Francisco Section for 20 years. Dr. Antonis Papatsaras, AA6PP, of Larkspur, California, will become the Section Manager of the San Francisco Section on October 1 because he was the only nominee. He currently is an Assistant Section Manager and has been President and Director of the San Francisco Radio Club.

Carol Milazzo, KP4MD, Sacramento Valley Section Manager was declared re-elected to a new 2-year term starting on October 1, 2023, as there was no other candidate.

* Maker Faire on Mare Island

A Maker Faire is coming to Mare Island, and the Benicia ARC, in collaboration with the North Bay Amateur Radio Association, is planning to participate. It will be on two weekends, October 13-15 and Oct. 20-22. According to the website, there will be "robots, art, drones, tech, and hands-on activities". Single-day tickets are \$20-\$35. "Make" your plans to go, but you'll need to do it the weekend of Oct. 13-15; because you'll be at Pacificon on Oct. 20-22, right? See (<https://makerfaire.com/bay-area/>) for more information and tickets.

[Thankx to Gregg, K6XSS, for the tip.]

* Training Classes

Our Assistant Section Manager for Education, John Primus, AF6RJ, reports that the Benicia ARC is planning its next ham cram one-day class for Technician and General licenses on October 7, 2023. Get registration details and more information at (<https://beniciaarc.com/hamclass/>).

John also reports that the Mt. Diablo ARC is currently running its biannual 10-session Extra Class license course, and will be starting its 2024 training with a Technician course in January. Registration should be available later this year. Keep an eye out on their website at (<https://www.mdarc.org/education-and-testing/class-details>).

Finally, I mentioned in the June newsletter that our Pacific Division Director, Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, would be presenting an auxiliary class session for MDARC on June 13. Her topic was “Why Does Ham Radio Work ‘When all else fails’?” In addition, Alan Thompson, W6WN, presented a session on June 20 entitled “Phones, Fires, and Failures”. Alan is well known for his excellent presentations at Pacificon and club events about the communications failures and successes during and after the wildfires in Northern California over the last few years. Videos of both presentations are available on MDARC’s website at (<https://www.mdarc.org/education-and-testing/class-details>). You’ll need to scroll down a ways to the Auxiliary Classes section.

* Local Ordinances/Laws, HOA Rules

A reminder that if you become aware of any proposals to enact local ordinances, laws, HOA rules or similar actions that may negatively impact ham radio operators, contact our Section’s Local Government Liaison, Bart Lee, K6VK, at (bart[dot]lee[dot]k6vk[at]gmail[dot]com). Bart is a retired attorney, so cannot officially offer legal advice, but he has a lot of experience and may be able to offer suggestions on how to respond to these proposals in the most effective way, so as to hopefully minimize any negative impact. The earlier in the process you contact him, the more likely his suggestions will be helpful.

* Code Proficiency Recipient

The August QST has a list of hams that have achieved proficiency in Morse code at various speeds over the last few months. Included on the list is Pacific Division ham Victor Denisov, N6DVS (25 wpm). Congratulations, Victor!

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ARRL News:

* ARRL Dues to Increase

The ARRL Board of Directors met over the weekend of July 22-23 with what was no doubt one of the most difficult agendas they’ve had in many years. Following the close of business, President Rick Rodrick sent out an email to members announcing some hard decisions they made. Effective January 1, 2024, annual dues will increase by \$10 to \$59. In addition, printed versions of all magazines, including QST, will be separated from the regular membership, and incur their own fees. Life membership costs will also be affected, but have not yet been decided. As such, new applications for Life Membership are not being accepted until new revenue-neutral rates are established. For a complete rundown of the new dues structure, see (<http://www.arrl.org/2024-dues-rates>). See Rick’s complete message to members at (<http://www.arrl.org/member-bulletin?issue=2023-07-23>).

* ARRL CEO Interview

ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA, was interviewed on the “W1DED in Maine” YouTube channel. In the nearly hour-long chat with host Kevin Thomas, Minster shares quite a bit about things going on at ARRL. He talks about the culture within the organization, the impact social media has on amateur radio, and how he approaches listening to members. The pair also covers the results of the recent ARRL dues survey. Note this interview was before the Board meeting. Well worth the time. See the ARRL announcement at (<https://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-ceo-david-minster-na2aa-interviewed-on-w1ded-in-maine-youtube-channel>). The interview itself is at (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f-ltELsO9gE>). [YouTube, 00:53:57]

* ARRL Legislative Activities

At the July Section managers meeting, we received a discussion from ARRL Legislative Committee Chair, John Stratton, N5AUS, updating us on the League’s activities with Congress.

-- They’re working on bills coming up to sell more spectrum to ensure they include language to specifically keep our secondary status intact, unlike the law that took the 3 GHz spectrum from us.

-- A farm bill enacted several years ago requires the U.S. Forest Service to be compensated for its costs for communications sites in national forests. The Forest Service proposed \$1400 fee on every communications facility in a national forest. It was opposed by ARRL and several other groups, like small broadcasters. Forest Service hasn’t acted further on its proposal since 2021. We’re getting some help from Congress with letters to the Forest Service, but they have not responded, which is irritating the senators. Senator Risch is working to insert language into a new bill to prohibit fees on ham radio and is trying to get the committee of jurisdiction to support it.

-- HR 3241 is a bill to remove symbol rate restrictions and replace them with bandwidth limitations. Introduced May 11, 2023 as a result of the FCC’s inaction on one of several petitions the ARRL filed as long as 8 years ago.

(<https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/3241>) [PDF, 5 pages]

-- House Resolution 305 would designate April 18, 2024 to be National Amateur Radio Operators Day. Introduced April 18, 2023. (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-resolution/305>) [PDF, 3 pages]

-- HR 4006 bill is a to “prohibit the application of certain private land use restrictions to amateur station antennas”. This is the “PRB-1 for HOAs” bill we’ve been waiting for. (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/4006>) [PDF, 14 pages]

Please do not contact your Congressional members at this time. These activities are in the very early stages of the process and most members of Congress are not yet aware of them. Also do not contact members of the California State Legislature about any of these matters. We need to keep Congress focused and not let them think that they can get the states to handle it (or not). The first priority is to get the bills passed out of the Congressional “committee of jurisdiction”. When it’s time, ARRL will focus on certain districts (e.g., the districts of members of those committees). At this stage, contacting Congressional members that are not on the committee of jurisdiction will do no good, and may be counterproductive. Later, when the bills get to the floor of the House, the League will call for us to contact our Representatives.

* ARRL 100th Handbook in Softcover

The 100th edition of the ARRL Handbook was released last year, with its striking all-black cover and the most extensive revisions in recent years. At the time, it was available only as a hard cover or in the 6-volume set. It’s now available in the softcover version. If that’s what you’ve been waiting for, get it at (<https://home.arrl.org/action/Store/Product-Details/productId/2009938479>).

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Government News

* FCC Petition Filed for High Power on HF

A group called the Shortwave Modernization Coalition petitioned the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to allow data communications on multiple bands within the HF 2 - 25 MHz range with up to 20 kW(!), including on bands immediately adjacent to ham spectrum. This group appears to represent high-speed stock trading interests. Comments were due by July 31, 2023, and comment replies are due by August 15, 2023. However, a petition to extend the deadline was filed just before the deadline, and was subsequently denied by the FCC. Even so, FCC rules are that “commenters may file comments until a date set by FCC when it rules on the extension request, or no earlier than two business days after the FCC decision.” As such, comments may now continue to be filed through Wednesday, August 2. See the original ARRL notice at (<https://www.arrl.org/news/commercial-interests-petition-fcc-for-high-power-allocation-on-shortwave-spectrum>); and the one on the extension request at (<https://www.arrl.org/news/filers-seek-extension-on-shortwave-petition-arrl-to-file-comments>).

While the petitioners exclude the amateur bands, high-power operations on immediately adjacent bands are proposed. The FCC has assigned the petition RM-11953 and the ARRL is watching it closely, as are several other concerned organizations. An article about this is at (<https://www.radioworld.com/tech-and-gear/market-makers-want-to-expand-their-use-of-shortwave>). The original location of the petition on the FCC website is no longer available, but I found a copy at: (<https://www.radioworld.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/5b410673-0cbd-467b-8ea9-06d7808c7924.pdf>). [PDF, 103 pages]

* FEMA Webinar

Sorry for the short notice. The Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) is hosting the webinar “You Are the Help Until Help Arrives” this Thursday, August 3, 1:00-3:30 PM Pacific time. According to the web page, “The Until Help Arrives program teaches basic skills to help keep people alive and safe until professional help arrives. Learn five simple steps that may save a life.” Register at (https://femacqpub1.connectsolutions.com/content/connect/c1/7/en/events/event/shared/148225860/event_registration.htm?connect-session=breezbreezx4h6ptgeutagen64&sco-id=258111389& charset =utf-8).

* FEMA App

FEMA has had an app available on the Google and Apple stores for some time now. It has sections to help you Plan for emergencies, such as preparing an emergency kit; Protect yourself and your family, including finding a shelter if you need it; and Recover from a disaster by finding resources to help you. It also will send Alerts for various emergencies and potential emergencies. For example, during this past month, I received several excessive heat alerts. They’ve recently

added a “Digital Backpack” to the app, to help you create digital backups of your important physical documents. Look for the app on your phone’s app store. You can also get it and more information at (<https://www.fema.gov/about/news-multimedia/mobile-products>).

* What is a Tesla?

No, it’s not a car, at least for this topic. The “tesla” is the unit for magnetic flux density. Of course, it’s named after Nikola Tesla, a pioneer of many electrical & electronic theories. Think of magnetic flux density as a measure of magnetic strength. It’s related to another unit which measures magnetic flux, the total magnetic field as opposed to just its density. That unit is called the “weber”, and it’s not named after the BBQ grill. Its namesake is Wilhelm Eduard Weber, another pioneer in magnetism research. All this is from an article in a series of “Stories Behind the Names of Units of Measurement” from the National Institute of Science and Technology (NIST). See the full article at (<https://www.nist.gov/blogs/taking-measure/whats-name-tesla>).

* Trusting Internet Devices

The federal government has launched a program for certifying and labeling devices connected to the internet that can be considered “secure”. Called the “U.S. Cyber Trust Mark”, it will include a shield-type label and a QR code that will link to a national registry of certified devices that will provide up-to-date security information. The program will cover a wide range of devices, starting with “higher-risk” consumer-grade routers, which tend to be targets for hackers, but extending to such things as fitness trackers, baby monitors and “smart” home appliances, among other techy toys. Several manufacturers and retailers have already signed on to the program. The standards are being developed by the National Institute of Science and Technology (NIST). An article about this is on the TechCrunch website at (<https://techcrunch.com/2023/07/18/us-government-launches-the-cyber-trust-mark-its-long-awaited-iot-security-labeling-program/>). The NIST’s Recommended Criteria document is at (<https://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/CSWP/NIST.CSWP.02042022-2.pdf>). [PDF, 27 pages]

* FCC Delays the Cutoff of Free Over-The-Air TV (OTA) Signals

Back in 2017, the FCC authorized TV broadcasters to begin using a new advanced transmission standard called “ATSC 3.0” or “Next Gen TV”. Per Wikipedia, “It is the first ‘all IP’ broadcast standard and operates close to the Shannon limit”. Designed to support newer technologies, capabilities include such things as 4K resolution at 120 frames/second; mobile television support, high quality audio; public alerting and targeted advertising. It will also allow broadcast and cable companies to encrypt their signals, controlling what programs can be viewed and which can be recorded. It may also allow them to delete previously recorded content from your DVR; and even require you to reveal your current physical location before granting you permission to watch a program. This is a major threat to general viewers, cord-cutters and time-shifters (like me). (ATSC = Advanced Television Systems Committee)

However, the FCC also required that broadcasters who choose to begin using ATSC 3.0 also continue broadcasting their programs in the older ATSC 1.0 format, allowing viewers to continue receiving free OTA TV – for now. On June 20, the FCC adopted a Report and Order that extends the sunset of ATSC 1.0 until at least July 17, 2027. There’s an article on this on the Cord Cutters News website that explains this better than I can, at (<https://cordcuttersnews.com/the-fcc-says-tv-stations-must-continue-to-offer-free-atsc-1-0-ota-tv-as-they-roll-out-3-0-extending-its-1-0-deadline-in-a-huge-win-for-cord-cutters/>). The FCC Report and Order itself is at (<https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-adopts-atsc-30-multicast-licensing-and-extends-sunset-dates>).

[Thankx to Lon, KC1RGS, for the tip.]

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Other News:

* Maps & Charts for Amateur Radio

I recently attended a presentation on “Maps & Charts for Amateur Radio” by Anthony Luscre, K8ZT. It was just that; a veritable flood of links to maps, charts, software and other operating aids for hams. The Slide deck runs some 48 pages of the stuff; nearly all of it is free. The slide deck is on the web at (<http://tiny.cc/mcfar>). A link to a PDF version you can download is on slide page 3. If you want to watch a video of the presentation, where Anthony describes it all, that’s at (<https://youtu.be/wFVPgEF2NuI>) [YouTube, 01:07:30].

* Geo Clock/Gray Line Map

You may be aware of electronic geo clocks, such as the Geochron. They display a colorful map of the world with a gray

line scrolling across in real time, showing what part of the world is in daylight and what part is in night. I've been wanting one, but am certainly not willing to pay the mid-three-digit cost for the device and software, plus the cost of a large TV or monitor to display the image. Well, now I found one, thanks (again) to the ARRL. An article in the current edition of the National Contest Journal (NCJ) mentions one called Simon's World Map. Not only does it have a lot more features than a Geochron, it's completely free. I put it up on one of my monitors and it looks great. The best wallpaper I've seen. Check it out at (<https://www.sdr-radio.com/simon-s-world-map-v1-1>).

* August is the Month for Lighthouses-Lightships

Every August hosts two events honoring the history of lighthouses and lightships, where hams operate from many of these locations. National Lighthouse-Lightship Weekend is this weekend, August 05-06 and International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend is August 19-20. The International event, for example, typically has over 500 lighthouses activated in over 40 countries. See (<https://arlhs.com/events/national-lighthouse-lightship-week-nllw/>) for details on the National event, and (<https://illw.net/>) for details on the International event.

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Hamfests And Special Events:

* 08/05-06/2023

National Lighthouse-Lightship Weekend. See (<https://arlhs.com/events/national-lighthouse-lightship-week-nllw/>) for details.

* 08/19-20/2023

International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend. See (<https://illw.net/>) for details.

* 09/09-10/2023

QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo. Sponsored by KEG Media, Inc. dba QSO Today. (<https://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com/>)

* 09/09/2023

Commemorating USS Midway Commissioning. 10 SEP 45. 1600Z-2300Z, NI6IW, San Diego, CA. USS Midway Museum Ship. 14.320 7.250 14.070 PSK31 DSTAR on Papa system repeaters. www.qrz.com/db/ni6iw

* 09/09-17/2023

Route 66 On the Air. 0000Z-2359Z, W6JBT, San Bernardino, CA. Citrus Belt Amateur Radio Club. 3.866 7.266 14.266 28.466. Come celebrate the history of this great highway that help build America and join the clubs across the nation participating in this event using their 1X1 W6- prefix call signs. See the host website of www.w6jbt.org for more on the rules, frequencies, certificate and QSL routes for each club participating. Hope to hear you on the air!!

* 09/16/2023

Sacramento Valley 17th Annual Hamfest. Lincoln, CA. Sponsored by Western Placer Amateur Radio Club. Website: <http://wparc.us>.

* 10/20-22/2023

Pacificon in San Ramon, CA. The ARRL Pacific Division Convention. (<https://www.pacificon.org/>)

* 10/21/2023

Jamboree on The Air. 1600Z-2359Z, K2BSA/6, Bakersfield, CA. Boy Scouts Of America. 14.340. Scouts of all ages around the world will be on the air.

* 01/21-27/2024

Quartzfest. Quartzsite, AZ. Website: <http://quartzfest.org>.

Search for all hamfests at (<https://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar>)

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

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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.
- 08/02/1954 The Hayward Radio Club became affiliated with the ARRL.
- 08/05/1921 Radio station KDKA transmitted the first broadcast of professional baseball by announcing a game between the Pittsburgh Pirates and the Philadelphia Phillies. The Pirates won 8-5.
- 08/06/1991 The first website was launched to the public on the newly invented World Wide Web by British scientist Tim Berners-Lee while working at CERN. See it at (<http://info.cern.ch>).
- 08/07/1981 The FCC established the General Radiotelephone Operator License, to supplement First and Second Class Operator licenses.
- 8/10/1993 President Bill Clinton signed the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act into law, including a provision for Vanity call signs.
- 08/12/1960 Echo 1 was launched, becoming NASA's first communications satellite. It was a passive spacecraft, made of Mylar in a balloon design, reflecting radio transmissions from one ground station back to another.
- 8/13/1889 A patent was granted to William Gray for a "coin-fed 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.
- 08/26/1939 The first Major League Baseball game was televised on station W2XBS, which later became WNBC-TV. The Cincinnati Reds and Brooklyn Dodgers played a doubleheader at Ebbets Field, with the Reds winning the first game 5-2, and the Dodgers taking the second 6-1. The broadcast was mainly to demonstrate one of the New York World's Fair prize exhibits, the television.
- 08/31/1920 The first radio news program was broadcast by station 8MK (now WWJ) in Detroit, Michigan.

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New Hams:

KO6AFY	Jose Navarro	Alameda
KO6AJG	James Troxell	Antioch
KO6AJK	David Haygood	Benicia
KO6AES	Colton Barty	Fairfield (General)
KO6AGM	Joseph Juan	Fremont
KO6AGZ	Abby Ho	Hayward

KO6AGQ	Ryu Yamashita	Castro Valley
KO6AHK	Alan Dampog	Lafayette
KO6AHD	Daniel Kelly	Livermore
KO6AHJ	Shane Lynch	Livermore
KO6AET	Tony Callaway	Suisun City
KO6AEW	Patrick Cudney	Vallejo
KO6AJU	Raaghav Thirumaligai	Walnut Creek
KO6AJL	David McClary	Walnut Creek
KO6AHT	Matthias Tooman	Oakland
KO6ACU	Anya Zoraster	Berkeley
KO6AEU	Rey Bautista	Richmond
KO6AGT	John Carpenter	Vacaville (General)

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New Upgrades:

KM6DEO	Henry Yoon	Alameda (General)
KM6DEQ	Charles Yoon	Alameda (General)
KI6HCA	William Goldsby	Antioch (General)
KM6KXY	Joel Baker	Concord (General)
KN6CRT	Lorraine Schnurr	El Cerrito (General)
KN6YUE	Vigneshwar Murali	Fremont (Extra)
K6BAY	Darryl Thomas	Martinez (Extra)
KN6OKJ	Carlton Loggins	Pleasanton (General)
KN6NPC	Jose Salazar	San Leandro (General)
KN6RVH	Adam Krause	San Ramon (General)
KK6JNI	Robert Johnson	El Sobrante (General)
KN6BVF	David Naisuler	Richmond (General)
KK6ZPM	Karen Fenton	Richmond (General)

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Question & Answer:

What is a Class D amplifier?

A. A type of amplifier that uses switching technology to achieve high efficiency

[Amateur Extra Class question pool (2020-2024) no. E7B02 (<http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=356>).]

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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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