

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

ARRL East Bay Family,

For many of us, our thoughts are with those that have suffered enormously from the wildfires on Maui. Some of us have friends or family that have been impacted; with evacuations, loss of their homes and communities, and even loss of life. I also know at least one East Bay Section ham that has deployed to Maui to help with the recovery.

Our own state has also been hit by Tropical Storm Hilary in the south, and is still fighting multiple large wildfires in the north. The damage and loss of life has been less severe than on Maui, but there has been widespread flooding, flash floods and mudslides from Hilary and at least one life lost in the northern wildfires. Nature has been busy elsewhere as well. See the ARRL News section below.

The President of the Oakland Club (ORCA), Judi Clark, KK6ZCU, arranged several AUXCOM classes here in the Bay Area during this year, one of which I attended. Both of the instructors I and others had are professional emergency responders. One lives in Hawaii (on Oahu) and the other in Southern California, directly in the path of Hilary. Fortunately, neither suffered a major loss, but I'm sure both are very busy with the recovery in both events.

I'm sure you know the first rule of disaster response: do not self-deploy. Instead, monitor and participate in the disaster nets. If you're willing and able to help in person and are part of a response organization that may be able to help, stay in touch with them. Also, I've been told that there was a news report saying the Red Cross will pay the volunteers way to Hawaii if they are willing to help. So, you may contact them. However, remember that the Red Cross and other such organizations typically require that you be pre-vetted by their process before you can deploy with them. That can take a significant amount of time. Instead, you may join the disaster response nets, to help needed information get passed to its destination.

Otherwise, the best ways I know to help our fellow Pacific Division members is a financial contribution to your preferred disaster response organization. The media have advertised the Hawaii Community Foundation Maui Strong Fund, coordinated by the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce. It's available at (<https://www.hawaiicomunityfoundation.org/maui-strong>). In addition, donations of any amount can be mailed to the Hawaii Community Foundation at 827 Fort Street Mall, Honolulu, HI 96813. Write "Maui Strong Fund" on the memo line. You may also donate to a national organization, like the Salvation Army or Red Cross.

In a bit of irony, September is National Preparedness Month, established by FEMA "to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time." This year's theme is "Preparing for Older Adults", that is, preparing older adults for disaster, specifically older adults from communities that are disproportionately impacted by the all-hazard events which continue to threaten the nation. I won't say a lot about it right now, because none of us fit into that "older adult" category, right? But if you know someone that may qualify, you and they can get more information at (<https://www.ready.gov/september>).

Congratulations and thank you to the Amateur Radio Club of Alameda and the Lamorinda Area Radio Interest Group for becoming affiliated with the ARRL on September 15, 2004 and September 17, 2019, respectively.

\* Question:

Which of the following conductors is preferred for bonding at RF?

- A. Copper braid removed from coaxial cable
- B. Steel wire
- C. Twisted-pair cable
- D. Flat copper strap

(See the last page for the answer.)

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**Section & Division News:**  
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\* Winlink Hybrid RMS Nodes Coming to Alameda County

From our Section Emergency Coordinator, Dan Goldstein, KJ6KEU:

A Radio Message Server (RMS) node allows a Winlink operator to connect over VHF/UHF/HF for sending and retrieving email messages. The RMS node then connects to the Common Message Servers (CMS) to deliver outbound email messages and retrieve messages addressed to the operator. 'Hybrid' refers to the ability of the RMS node to connect to the CMS either over the Internet or by HF radio if the Internet is down. By designating reachable hybrid RMS nodes as Message Pickup Servers (MPS), operators in an outage area can more easily retrieve messages waiting for them. The technical details have been ironed out on the test bench. We are now working towards deploying the necessary equipment to four locations around Alameda County, designated as W6VOM-10 -11, -12, and -13 to be operated and maintained by the Alameda County Sheriff's Communications Team (<https://www.acsct.org/>). If you have questions or need more information, contact Dan at (dgold94544[at]gmail[dot]com).

\* Martinez Testing Resumes

The Martinez ARC will resume testing for all levels of licenses this month, on September 9th at 11:00 AM. The location is the LDS meeting house, 940 Palasade Dr., Martinez. If you have any questions, contact Jim Brunk, N6BHX, at brunk[at]ix[dot]netccom[dot]com.

[Thankx to Jim, N6BHX, for the information.]

\* Benicia Training Class

A reminder 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/>).

\* Maker Faire on Mare Island

A reminder that the Maker Faire is coming to Mare Island. The Benicia ARC & North Bay Amateur Radio Association will have a booth. Dates are October 13-15 and Oct. 20-22. 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.

\* Scholarship Recipient

The September QST has 4 pages of scholarship recipients from the ARRL Foundation, which awarded 113 scholarships totaling over \$600,000. Among them is Pacific Division member Justin Davis, KN6OJR, winner of a Dayton Amateur Radio Association Scholarship. Congratulations, Justin!

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**ARRL News:**  
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\* Multiple Weather Watches

Much of August was a busy time for ARRL HQ and our League's emergency responders. The wildfires on Maui devastated much of the telecommunications infrastructure on the western part of the island, in addition to the massive loss of life and property. Tropical storm Hiliary was the first to strike our neighbor Division to the south in over 80 years, not to mention a 5.1 earthquake in Ventura County at the same time. Multiple wildfires around the nation, including California, along with record-breaking infernos in Canada. Hurricane Idalia visited Florida, Georgia & the Carolinas, and a string of tropical storms moved across the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. Plus, a heat dome brought record-breaking temperatures to the Midwest and Great Lakes areas, moving slowly into the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic.

The League's Emergency Management staff kept a watchful eye on all of this, coordinating responses where needed. Hams activated hurricane nets for Hiliary, Idalia and the other eastern U.S. storms, ready to help with traffic. Some have been deployed for onsite support of these various events.

Josh Johnston, KE5MHV and ARRL Director of Emergency Management says, "we are continually monitoring all these systems as they affect us all. We also wanted to remind you that we have equipment available to you during an event and can be sent to you usually within 24 hrs. as needed."

Also, please let us know if you have any deployments or other activities in support of these events. As Josh says, "It helps us share the word regarding ham radio activity during an event. It also helps us share the story of the important role you all play during disaster response and gives credit for the work you are all doing around the country."

\* Board Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the Board's second 2023 meeting, held July 21-22, have been released. Among many other topics, the change in membership dues was discussed and decided at this meeting. They're available at ([https://www.arrl.org/files/file/ARRL 2023 Second Board of Directors Mtg Minutes.pdf](https://www.arrl.org/files/file/ARRL%2023%20Second%20Board%20of%20Directors%20Mtg%20Minutes.pdf)) [PDF, 31 pages].

\* ARRL Annual Report-2022

The League's Annual Report for 2022 has been published. This yearly summary details accomplishments of our member-volunteers. Included is ARRL's Report to America, which highlights the contributions made by radio amateurs to their local communities. It may be especially valuable to amateur radio clubs and emergency communications groups to help tell the story of good works done by hams. Communications responses for New England blizzards, Oklahoma tornadoes, Colorado wildfires, and Hurricane Ian are detailed in the report. Get it at (<https://www.arrl.org/annual-reports>) [PDF, 56 pages].

\* VHF Contest Rule Changes

Starting with the 2023 ARRL September VHF Contest, participants in the FM Only category can now count contacts on 902 MHz and 1.2 GHz toward their scores. Previously, only contacts on the 4 lowest VHF bands (50, 144, 222, and 432 MHz) counted toward the scores of participants in this category. These new rules will also become effective for the January and June VHF contests in 2024. See ([www.arrl.org/september-vhf](http://www.arrl.org/september-vhf)) for rules, entry forms and a complete list of entry categories.

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**Government News**

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\* ARRL Files Comments Against "Seriously Flawed" HF Rules Petition

I reported last month on a petition to the FCC filed by a group called the Shortwave Modernization Coalition, which represents certain high-frequency stock trading interests. They want the 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. In addition, the coalition wants "weaker protections against interference than required in other services", according to Ed Hare, W1RFI and the League's lead investigator. The ARRL filed comments in early August based on its laboratory's detailed technical analysis over several months, saying, in part, that "destructive interference would result if operations commenced using anything close to the proposed maximum levels." Get the full ARRL news item at (<https://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-files-comments-against-seriously-flawed-hf-rules-petition>). The ARRL comments document is at ([https://www.arrl.org/files/file/FCC%20Documents/ARRL%20Opposition%20FCC%20RM-11953%2008 2023.pdf](https://www.arrl.org/files/file/FCC%20Documents/ARRL%20Opposition%20FCC%20RM-11953%2008%202023.pdf)) [PDF, 20 pages].

\* Nationwide Emergency Alert Test

FEMA and the FCC have announced a nationwide test of the Wireless Emergency Alert and the Emergency Alert Systems on October 4. At approximately 11:20 a.m. Pacific time, each cell phone in the United States should receive an alert message while the EAS message will be broadcast over all radio and tv stations and cable systems. See the full announcement at (<https://www.fema.gov/press-release/20230803/fema-and-fcc-plan-nationwide-emergency-alert-test-oct-4-2023>).

[Thankx to Marv, WA4NC, for the tip.]

\* FCC Batch Filing System Failed – Again

The FCC Electronic Batch Filing (EBF) system failed again on August 14, returning to service a week later, on August 21. It's used by all Volunteer Examination Coordinator (VEC) organizations for filing exam sessions, individual applications, and club license applications. This means that submitting and processing all of these applications was delayed. These delays continued after the EBF came back online, while the FCC worked through the backlog. So, if you took a test or filed another application in the last half of August, you may have had to wait awhile. You may recall from our July newsletter that the EBF and other FCC systems failed for a week in June.

\* Emergency Response During Wildfires Guidance

Learning some lessons from the 2018 Camp Fire, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has released a pair of reports that provide guidance for strengthening wildfire preparedness across the United States, including specific actions that communities can take to save lives when there is not enough time to safely evacuate all residents. NIST has also created a new website with guidance for making built structures and entire communities more fire resistant. One of the reports recognizes that "evacuation is not a universal solution. Under conditions where there is not time for everyone to flee, it may be better for residents to shelter in their community at a designated safety zone". Get the full NIST article, which includes links to both reports and the website, at (<https://www.nist.gov/news-events/news/2023/08/nist-issues-new-guidance-emergency-response-during-wildfires>).

\* From the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator

Some applicants are reporting that they are not receiving the FCC payment email. As a reminder, applicants do not have to wait for the FCC email to pay the fee. As soon as the application is in the FCC system, the applicant can log into the FCC's CORES system (<https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do>) and pay the fee. CORES payment system information can be found at (<https://www.fcc.gov/licensing-databases/fees/cores-payment-system>). Additional information and instructions are located on the ARRL VEC's FCC Application Fee web page at (<http://www.arrl.org/fcc-application-fee>).

Other applicants are reporting that they are not receiving the automated email with the link to their new, upgraded, renewed, or modified license. The FCC instructions for obtaining the official authorization (official license) is located at (<https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/support/knowledge-base/universal-licensing-system-uls-resources/how-obtain-official>).

\* The Great Shakeout – 2023

This is the world's largest earthquake preparedness drill, hosted in part by FEMA. This year, the drill will be Oct. 19 at 10:19 a.m. local time everywhere. That's just in time for Pacificon. You can register to receive useful information and guidance. You can also text "ShakeOut" to 43362 to be added to the Great ShakeOut distribution list. So, when the time comes, wherever you are, remember to Drop, Cover, and Hold On! Get details at (<https://www.shakeout.org/>).

\* Live Video from Mars?

NASA is testing technologies that involve using near-infrared lasers to transmit substantially more data than can be done with the currently used radio spectrum; including possibly sending live video from Mars someday. The Deep Space Optical Communication project is scheduled to launch this fall, on the same spacecraft as the Psyche mission to the same-named metal-rich asteroid. The system is designed to provide 10 to 100 times the current data transfer capability. See the full story on NASA's website at (<https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/news/nasas-deep-space-communications-to-get-a-laser-boost>).

\* Asteroid Watch

The dinosaurs may have wished they had this web page. NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory has a list of the "Next Five Asteroid Approaches" in real time; giving their size, closest approach and date of fly-by. The descriptions include a link to another page for each object with more information, including a diagram of its orbit. See the list at (<https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/asteroid-watch/next-five-approaches>).

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**Other News:**  
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\* Satellite ORM

An article on the Astrobites website on "Broad Spectrum Problems" has the sub-head, "Light pollution isn't just in the visible – commercial interests threaten scientific, amateur radio operations". It discusses the visible light pollution created by mega-constellations of satellites for astronomers; and mentions the recent Shortwave Modernization Coalition petition to the FCC for high power access to large amounts of HF spectrum (see the item in the Government News section above).

But the statement that really caught my eye is, “Recent work from researchers at the Square Kilometer Array Observatory have shown that SpaceX’s Starlink satellites leak radio signals outside their intended communications bands”. The article only specifically mentions this causing interference to radio astronomy facilities. But it’s not a far stretch to see that it could easily spill over in the ham bands and other spectrum. Yet another reason we need the ARRL to keep its eagle-eye on all potential QRM sources. See the full article at (<https://astrobites.org/2023/08/11/broad-spectrum-problems/>). [Thankx to Howard, SWL, for the tip.]

\* Two New Digitpeating Satellites

Continuing the satellite theme, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) has coordinated two European digipeating satellites, scheduled to launch in Fall 2023. One from Slovakia is scheduled for launch on a Falcon 9 launcher on the Transporter 9 mission in October 2023. The second, from Romania, is planned to launch in October or November 2023. Both have multiple mission objectives. Get the details at (<https://www.arrl.org/news/two-new-digitpeating-amateur-radio-satellites-approved>).

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Hamfests And Special Events:  
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\* 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](http://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](http://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>.

\* San Diego Hamfest. Lakeside, CA. Sponsored by Lakeside Amateur Radio Club. Website: <http://www.lakesidearc.org/sdhamfest/sdhamfest.php>

\* 10/20-22/2023

Pacificon in San Ramon, CA. The ARRL Pacific Division Convention. Website: <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. QSL Manager N2OWL [n6aj@arrl.net](mailto:n6aj@arrl.net).

\* 11/18-20/2023

November 2023 Bug Roundup. 0000Z-0000Z, W6SFM, Fair Oaks, CA. Samuel F. Morse Amateur Radio Club. 14.033 7.033 3.533. Website: <https://w6sfm.org/bug-roundup>

\* 01/21-27/2024

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

\* 04/12-14/2024

International DX Convention, 75th Annual. Visalia, CA. Sponsored by Southern California DX Club. Website: <http://www.dxconvention.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 – September**

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

- 09/01/1859 The most intense geomagnetic storm in recorded history, called the Carrington Event, began, lasting into the next day; disrupting telegraph lines worldwide, among numerous other effects.
- 09/02/1869 ARRL co-founder Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW, was born in Brooklyn, New York.
- 09/02/1938 The building housing ARRL station W1AW in Newington, Connecticut was inaugurated.
- 09/02/2020 A cross band FM amateur radio repeater was activated on the International Space Station with a downlink on 437.800 MHz.
- 09/03/1928 At his laboratory in San Francisco, Philo Farnsworth held what is widely regarded as the first electronic television demonstration.
- 09/07/2006 SuitSat-1 re-entered the atmosphere after about 7 months in orbit. A repurposed decommissioned Russian spacesuit fitted with ham radio equipment; it transmitted short messages in a number of languages after being released from the International Space Station during a spacewalk.
- 09/11/1958 The FCC reassigned a portion of the amateur 27 MHz 11-meter band to the Class D CB service, creating what is commonly known today as "Citizens Band".
- 09/12/1958 Jack S. Kilby demonstrated the first working integrated circuit to managers at Texas Instruments in Dallas, TX.
- 09/13/1982 Public law 97-259 was enacted, amending the Communications Act of 1934 to permit the FCC to accept the services of private individuals and organizations acting to prepare and administer examinations for applicants wishing to obtain (or upgrade) an Amateur Radio license.
- 09/15/2003 The ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW) QSO database system for confirming contacts was released.
- 09/15/2004 The Amateur Radio Club of Alameda became affiliated with the ARRL.
- 09/17/2019 The Lamorinda Area Radio Interest Group became affiliated with the ARRL.
- 09/21/1973 ARRL Foundation was formed to support the mission of the ARRL.
- 9/22/1791 Michael Faraday was born in Newington Butts, England. He is the namesake of the unit of capacitance.
- 9/25/1807 Alfred Vail, partner of Samuel Morse during the development of the Morse Code and telegraph system, was born in Morristown, New Jersey.
- 09/25/1928 The Galvin Manufacturing Corporation was founded. The company later changed its name to Motorola.
- 09/25/1956 The first transatlantic undersea telephone system, TAT-1, went into service between Canada and Scotland.
- 09/30/2015 The Navy Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) ceased operation.

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### **New Hams:**

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KO6AQR	Dean Markle	Brentwood
KO6AKU	Peter Denyer	Fremont
KO6ALB	Neal Picton	Hayward
AK6CG	Robert Seidel	Castro Valley (Extra)
KO6AOV	Agus Yulianto	Pleasanton (General)
KO6ARM	Julianne Moscovitz	Oakland
KO6AOU	Lucas Cheung	Oakland (General)

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### **New Upgrades:**

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WO1LFF	Dwayne Wells	Fairfield (General)
KN6ZKP	Michael Hall	Livermore (General)

KG6CSB  
K2XIA

Jason Burge  
Xia Horowitz

Orinda (Extra)  
Richmond (General)

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**Question & Answer:**

Which of the following conductors is preferred for bonding at RF?  
D. Flat copper strap

[Technician Class question pool (2022-2026) no. T4A08 (<http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=373>).]

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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.

Mike Patterson, N6JGA  
ARRL East Bay Section Manager

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