

Section Manager
East Bay Section Newsletter
November, 2023

ARRL East Bay Family,

Pacificon is now behind us (until next year) and was definitely a success. It was not as big as the good 'ol pre-COVID days, but I didn't expect it would be. Pretty much everyone the Pacificon staff talked to are happy with the convention, including attendees, vendors and non-profits. Two fox hunts returned to us this year, after a long hiatus. Many of the forums were full or near-full. The vendor halls were busy most of the weekend. The Wouff Hong ceremony was full and all reports say it was the best ever. Over 100 Scouts and their leaders came to learn about ham radio and electronics.

As in previous recent years, the ARRL gave the convention wonderful support. Joining us for the weekend were ARRL President Rick Rodrick, K5UR, and his wife Holly; 2nd Vice President Bob Vallio, W6RGG, and his wife Gwen; CEO David Minster, NA2AA; Steve Goodgame, K5ATA (see below), and his wife Cyndi, K5CYN; Product Innovation & Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R; Dave Casler, KE0OG of Ask Dave fame; two Division Directors: our own Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, and Northwestern Director Mike Ritz, W7VO; Pacific Division Vice Director Tony Marcin, W7XM; five section managers (John Bigley, N7UR; Antonis Papatsaras, AA6PP; John Litz, NZ6Q; Carol Milazzo, KP4MD; and myself); and several other Section officials. Many thankx to the ARRL for their support of Pacificon.

ARRL Education and Learning Manager, and IARU Region 2 Youth Coordinator, Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, gave the keynote address at the Banquet Saturday evening; speaking on "A Vision of the Future of Amateur Radio". See the video at (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fTi8LDz4dS4>) [YouTube; 17:44].

A bunch of videos were created about Pacificon 2023 before, during and after the event. See the list at (<https://www.pacificon.org/finding-everything/media>) and check them out.

I personally blew my budget on some new toys and will be spending the winter setting it all up and getting to know what this thing called "HF" is...

Be sure to mark your calendar now for next year's Pacificon. Block out the whole weekend of October 18-20, 2024 to be at the San Ramon Marriott.

Most of the nation will "Fall back" to Standard Time this Sunday morning, November 5, leaving Daylight Saving Time until next March. If you're picky, the official time is 2:00 AM, which suddenly becomes 1:00 AM again. The good news is that you get an extra hour of sleep. The bad news is that many of us will be going to work and coming home in the dark. Anyway, remember to set your clocks & watches back an hour before you go to bed. Your phones and computers should adjust automatically, unless you told them not to.

Congratulations and thank you to the Northern Alameda County ARES club for becoming affiliated with the ARRL on November 19, 1984.

* Question:

What do the arcs on a Smith chart represent?

- A. Frequency
- B. SWR
- C. Points with constant resistance
- D. Points with constant reactance

(See the last page for the answer.)

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Section & Division News:

* Maker Faire Report

The Benicia ARC & North Bay Amateur Radio Association had a booth at the Maker Faire on Mare Island last month and they report great success. They talked to a lot of people, distributed a lot of flyers and generated interest in their upcoming ham cram. Many thanks for keeping ham radio in the public eye.

* Section Affiliated Clubs

A club affiliation with the ARRL brings a number of benefits, listed at (<http://www.arrl.org/affiliated-club-benefits>). The East Bay Section currently has 25 clubs listed in the ARRL's database, but some of them may be at risk of being changed to inactive status. The reason is that active status requires that each affiliated club update its record on the ARRL website every year. This is because club leadership often changes annually and we want to have accurate information so League members can find and contact your club. Some clubs haven't updated their information recently; for a few, in several years. Our Affiliated Club Coordinator, Matthew Vurek, N4DLA, is working to notify these clubs and assist them to get up to date. If you're an affiliated club leader, one of your responsibilities each year is to ensure that the League's information is accurate. If you're not a club leader, ask your leadership if they've undated their ARRL record. It's easy to forget. Look your club up and if it shows an Annual Report date prior to November, 2022 it's time to update. Contact Matthew at (n4dla_cs245@yahoo.com) with questions and any assistance you need.

* Getting Your Club Affiliated

Matthew also reports that there are 102 valid club licenses in the Section. So there's a lot of clubs here that haven't affiliated with the League. If you belong to one of them, talk to your leadership about getting affiliated. Matthew can help you through the process. Contact him at the above address.

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ARRL News:

* NTS Newsletter

The League published the inaugural edition of a monthly NTS newsletter early last month. Its goal is to keep us all up to date on the efforts to update the National Traffic System for the current era. They will also include news from NTS-involved hams and clubs from around the nation. For that, they're wanting contributions from you. The updating efforts have their own website at (<https://nts2.arrl.org/>). If you have comments or potential contributions to the newsletter, contact the editor, Marcia Forde, KW1U, at (ntsletter@arrl.org). And be sure to log into your profile on the ARRL website and go to the "Opt In/Out" section, click the "Edit" button on the upper right and check the box next to "NTS Letter (National Traffic System monthly news)" to receive the newsletter each month. Don't forget to scroll to the bottom and click "Save".

* New POTA Book Published

If you're a POTA person, or want to become one, look into getting the ARRL's new "The Parks on the Air Book". The book "gives you a look at the setups and processes of 14 operators from a variety of skill levels and backgrounds and offers advice and motivation for taking your radio out to a park". An article about the book is at (<http://www.arrl.org/news/a-pota-book-for-park-activators-and-hunters>). You can purchase the book at (<https://home.arrl.org/action/Store/Product-Details/productId/2013464221>). Cost is \$19.95 for League members.

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Government News

* Elimination of the Baud Rate Restriction

The FCC will hold its regular Open Commission Meeting on Wednesday, November 15, beginning at 10:30 AM Eastern (7:30 AM Pacific). In a very rare victory (hopefully) for ham radio in Washington, DC, one of the agenda items they plan to vote on concerns "Amending Amateur Radio Rules for Greater Flexibility in Data Communications". In plainer talk, that means replacing the long-outdated baud rate restrictions on HF with bandwidth limitations.

Note that the proposed Report and Order (R&O) does not include making this change on the 2200 meter and 630 meter bands, because they were allocated to us after the FCC released the original proposal back in ancient history (2016). Nor does it remove them from the multiple VHF/UHF bands that have them. So, the Docket also includes a “Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking” that, if approved at this meeting, seeks comments on an additional proposal to remove the baud rate limitation from those bands.

A News Release for the meeting and an FCC Fact Sheet on the proposal are at (<https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-announces-tentative-agenda-november-open-meeting-9>). The Fact Sheet includes a full copy of the proposed Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. The meeting will be streamed live at (www.fcc.gov/live).

An ARRL news release on this topic is at (<http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-to-vote-on-removing-symbol-rate-restrictions>). The RATPAC had a presentation explaining the FCC’s process and this proposal on October 26. A video of it is available at (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oDTaVS4VVaE>) [YouTube; 1:21:27] and the slide deck is at (<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/ck0c8o3hhl4dwkt25jqvt/h?rlkey=2b95sqsdns7pihwcb8fr3a477&dl=0>). Note the actual presentation in the video is only slightly over 20 minutes long. The rest is Q&A.

* FCC’s 60-Meter Band Proposal

There’s been a lot of discussion on ham social media this past month about the FCC’s proposal to change the ham allocation on 60 meters; that band that currently gives us 5 distinct channels. In short, they propose to align the rules with an international agreement made several years ago that would remove those 5 distinct channels and instead give us a small, 15 kilohertz chunk of continuous spectrum. They would also lower our power limit from 100 watts to 9.15 watts PEP ERP.

The League has been asking hams to submit comments to the FCC opposing this change and proposing to let us have it all; the channels, the chunk of continuous spectrum and the 100-watt power limit. I’ve been told that’s how Canada did it, but can’t verify that. The deadline for submitting comments was last Monday, October 30; but at the last minute, the FCC extended the deadline another month, until Tuesday, November 28. So if you haven’t filed your comment yet, you have some more time.

The Order and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is available at (<https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-23-26A1.pdf>) [PDF, 154 pages]. An ARRL article about the matter and the ARRL’s position is at (<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-urges-comments-to-fcc-on-60-meter-band>); while one about the deadline extension is at (<http://www.arrl.org/news/deadline-extended-to-november-28-2023-for-60-meter-comments0>). Instructions on how to file a comment are at (<https://www.arrl.org/60-meter-band>).

* Laser Communications in Space

I mentioned in the September newsletter that NASA was working on a project to substantially increase the bandwidth capabilities of deep space communications. As part of that, they’re planning to send a batch of experiments to the International Space Station on a mission scheduled to launch this Sunday, November 5. The experiments cover a range of topics, from high-speed laser communications to rolling atmospheric waves on Earth. An article on this is available at (<https://www.space.com/spacex-cargo-mission-crs-29-science-experiments>).

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

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Other News:

* General Class Licensing Course on Zoom

If you’re looking to upgrade to General Class, one way to help you get there is to sign up for this free, live General Class Licensing course on Zoom, sponsored by the National Electronics Museum. But sign up right away. It begins on Thursday, Nov 2, and will run through Thursday, January 11. The three-hour sessions will start at 6:30 PM Eastern Time (3:30 Pacific). Prerequisite is to have or be studying for the Technician Class License. To sign up, send an email to Roland Anders, K3RA, at (roland.anders@comcast.net).

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Hamfests And Special Events:

* 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 – November

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

- 11/02/1920 Radio station KDKA in Pittsburgh, PA broadcast the Harding-Cox presidential election results, becoming the first commercially-licensed radio broadcast station. But college station 2ADD (now WRUC) beat it on the air by almost 3 weeks.
- 11/03/1906 The first international standards for ship-to-shore communication, including the distress call which came to be called "SOS", was signed into international law at the first International Radiotelegraph Convention in Berlin.
- 11/05/1879 James Clerk Maxwell died in Cambridge, England, United Kingdom at age 48.
- 11/07/1967 President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Public Broadcasting Act, creating the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.
- 11/08/1988 The first amateur radio contact aboard the Russian space station Mir occurred, between Leonid Labutin, UA3CR and Musa Manarov, U2MIR.
- 11/09/1914 Hedy Lamarr, major movie star and co-inventor of the spread spectrum frequency hopping technology, was born in Vienna, Austria-Hungary.
- 11/18/1963 AT&T commenced the first subscriber Touch-Tone service in the towns of Carnegie and Greensburg, Pennsylvania, using push-button telephones that replaced rotary dial instruments.
- 11/18/1997 The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) standard "IEEE 802.11-1997; IEEE Standard for Wireless LAN Medium Access Control (MAC) and Physical Layer (PHY) specifications" was published. The 802.11 series of standards came to be popularly known as Wi-Fi.
- 11/19/1984 The Northern Alameda County ARES club became affiliated with the ARRL.
- 11/20/1919 The Radio Corporation of America (RCA) was formed as a radio communications subsidiary of General Electric, reorganized from the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company of America.
- 11/22/1948 Federal frequency & time signal radio station WWVH was launched in Kihei on the island of Maui, then the territory of Hawaii.
- 11/23/1993 The FCC specified a stereo standard for AM radio.
- 11/24/1890 Edouard Branly discovered radioconduction, observing that an electromagnetic wave changes the ability of metal filings to conduct electricity, leading to the first practical wireless signal receivers.
- 11/28/1660 The first meeting of the "Invisible College" followed a lecture at Gresham College by Christopher Wren. Upon receiving royal approval, from 1663 the group became known as "The Royal Society of London for Improving Natural Knowledge"; the world's oldest academy of science.
- 11/28/1983 The first amateur radio to go into space, a handheld, was carried aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia by astronaut Owen Garriott, W5LFL.

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New Hams:

KO6BGH Benjamin Sevilla Concord
KO6BGQ Zachary Leclair Danville
KO6BIO Lance Barnett Fairfield
KO6BEA Douglas Dupree Fairfield
KO6BDT Ali Ashraf Fremont
KO6BHK Brian Frazier Lafayette
KO6BHY Martynas Budvytis Castro Valley
KO6BHG Gintautas Budvytis Castro Valley
KO6BDY Janet Vigallon Pleasanton
KO6BKP Yulin Tan San Leandro
KO6BHL Mahesh Nawani San Ramon
KO6BGN Miguel Borzelli Arenas Pleasanton
KO6BGT Travis Bostick Walnut Creek
K6TDG Minhtam Dang-Gainer Walnut Creek
KO6BLK Ricardo Flores Oakland
KO6BCJ Jeffrey Cheng Berkeley

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New Upgrades:

KO6BBA Kirsten Bobrow Alameda (General)
KM6KXY Joel Baker Concord (Extra)
KO6AHJ Shane Lynch Livermore (Extra)
KA6LER Lowell Richards Martinez (Extra)
KN6RUQ Gregory Kiyoi Pleasanton (Extra)
KE0BMP Patrick Stueve Oakland (General)

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Question & Answer:

What do the arcs on a Smith chart represent?
D. Points with constant reactance

[Extra Class question pool (2020-2024) no. E9G10 (<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.

Mike Patterson, N6JGA
ARRL East Bay Section Manager

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Index of Contacts at ARRL HQ: <http://www.arrl.org/contact-arrl>

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