

Section Manager
East Bay Section Newsletter
May, 2024

ARRL East Bay Family,

I traveled down to Texas last month to visit family and see the solar eclipse. The eclipse was amazing and well worth the trip. I understand those of you that stayed in the Bay Area could see about a 30%-40% eclipse. And I hope many of you participated in some of the scientific studies by operating before, during and after the event.

May is a busy birthday month. Happy Birthday to:

- * The International Telecommunications Union (ITU), which was formed on May 17, 1865.
- * Chapter 228, Mount Diablo, of the Quarter Century Wireless Association, which was chartered on May 19, 2016.
- * The Metric System. The Treaty of the Metre was signed in Paris, creating the International Bureau of Weights and Measures, on May 20, 1875.

Congratulations and thank you to the South Bay Amateur Radio Association, the Heritage High School Amateur Radio Club, the Vaca Valley Radio Club, the Kensington & El Cerrito Ham Operators; and the Alameda County Sheriff's Communications Team; which became affiliated with the ARRL on May 11, 1974; May 13, 1923; May 14, 1988; May 14, 2021 and May 28, 2003, respectively.

* Question:

What is the definition of symbol rate in a digital transmission?

- A. The number of control characters in a message packet
- B. The duration of each bit in a message sent over the air
- C. The rate at which the waveform changes to convey information
- D. The number of characters carried per second by the station-to-station link

(See the last page for the answer.)

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Section & Division News:

* Pacificon Registration is Live!!

Pacificon is open for registration. Go to (<https://www.pacificon.org/>) to register for our annual Pacific Division Convention. It will be back at our usual location, the San Ramon Marriott Hotel, 2600 Bishop Drive in San Ramon, on the weekend of Friday-Sunday, October 18-20, 2024. If you're planning to stay in the hotel, I urge you to make your hotel reservation early, as the rooms available at our very attractive Pacificon rate typically get taken quickly. While making your attendee registration, remember to add the Banquet, Antenna Seminar and Wouff Hong ceremony.

Pacificon also needs speakers and volunteers. There's a sign-up page for each. If you have a topic you'd like to tell us about, go to the Speaker Proposals page. And remember that it takes a LOT of people to put on a convention like this. If you can help, even just for a few hours, go to the Volunteers page.

* Benicia Ham Class

Benicia will host another one of its highly successful one-day ham classes this Saturday, May 4, 2024. It will be from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm with a one-hour lunch break at the Benicia Senior Center. The class offers training for both the Technician and General Class licenses. The fee is \$35.00, which includes the exam fee. For details and to register, see (<https://beniciaarc.com/hamclass/>).

* Benicia GOTA

Shortly after the above class, Benicia will also offer a Get On The Air class for “those who are recently licensed and to any of those hams no matter how long ago were licensed but are struggling with getting activated in the hobby.” It will be held Tuesday evening, May 7 at 7:00 PM, at the Benicia Fire House, 160 First Street in Benicia. The entrance is on West 2nd Street, near the park. There’s is no fee or registration needed, so I hope you can make it. If you have questions, contact Justin Cowgill, KM6ZTH, at (Justincowgill@gmail.com).

* Field Day Planning

Field Day is next month, so I hope your planning is well underway. Be sure to check out the Field Day Guide in the upcoming June edition of QST. It’s packed with good information. And I’ll say it again: be sure to register your event on the ARRL Field Day Locator page at (http://www.arrl.org/field_days/add). That’s so other hams can find your site. I will use your registration to plan my visit to your site. Full information and rules are at (<https://www.arrl.org/field-day>).

* Sugar Pine Campout

A reminder that this annual campout will be at the Sugar Pine Dam Recreation Area in Placer County. Planned for the weekend of May 31-June 2, it’s an event that’s been going on for over 50 years. A number of activities are on the agenda. If you’re interested, see (<https://www.mdarc.org/activities/campout-party-2024>) for details, then RSVP with an email to Julie Mah, WJ8MAH (juliemah4@yahoo.com).

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ARRL News:

* Life Membership Rates

The League has published the new Life Membership rates for 2024. They’ve been working on this for a significant amount of time to find a balanced rate set that is revenue neutral. To do this, they’ve broken the rates into age brackets, as follows: Age 70+ - \$960; Age 50-69 - \$1,635; Age 30-49 - \$2,625; Under age 30 - \$3,333. For details and to upgrade to Life membership, log in to your account on the website, then go to (<https://home.arrl.org/action/Membership/Join-ARRL>).

* Field Day Poster Released

A poster promoting 2024 ARRL Field Day has been released on the Field Day web page at (www.arrl.org/field-day). The two-sided informational poster features this year's theme "Be Radio Active". It includes a space for clubs to fill in information about their planned activation so that members of their community can come visit the site. More resources for promoting 2024 ARRL Field Day are being developed and will be available soon. ARRL Field Day always occurs on the fourth full weekend in June. This year, it happens on June 22 - 23.

* ARRL Club Grant Program

The League will again offer a Club Grant Program this year. The program centers around club projects that are transformational in nature (i.e., projects that have the greatest impact on the local community). Previously successful grants concentrated on the recruitment and training of new hams, STEM programs, emergency preparedness, and amateur radio technology development. More information will be announced on all ARRL news outlets in the near future. But now is the time for your club to consider if you have a project that could qualify for a grant. Start thinking just how your club can impact amateur radio, today and in the future. Grants will be available for up to \$25,000 and will include reporting and media requirements.

* New ARES EmComm Courses

As reported last month, the new, updated Basic EmComm is now live and accepting registrations. The new Intermediate EmComm is being finalized will be released next. An Advanced EmComm course is planned for release by the end of June and an ARES Leadership course will be released in the near future. In addition, the ARES task books are also being updated. See (<https://www.arrl.org/online-course-catalog>) for details.

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Government News

* New FEMA Course Released

A new independent study training course now available from FEMA; the “IS-802.A: Emergency Support Function (ESF) #2—Communications”. This function “coordinates government and industry efforts for the reestablishment and provision

of critical communications infrastructure and services, facilitates the stabilization of systems and applications from malicious activity, and coordinates communications support to response efforts”. Details and registration are available at (<https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-802.a&lang=en>).

[Thankx to Dennis, K2DCD, for the information.]

* Armed Forces Day Amateur Radio Crossband Test

The Department of Defense will host this year’s Armed Forces Day (AFD) Crossband Test, scheduled for May 11, 2024. This annual event is open to all licensed amateur radio operators and will not impact any public or private communications. For more than 50 years, Armed Forces and amateur stations have taken part in this event, which is an interoperability exercise between amateur and government radio stations. Military stations will transmit on selected military frequencies and will announce the specific ARS frequencies monitored. Numerous military stations will activate for the test, including Tavis Air Force Base, the USS Hornet, and the US Coast Guard base in Alameda. For all the details, see (<https://www.dodmars.org/mars-comex-information-website/armed-forces-day>).

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Other News:

* Ham Bootcamp

Ham Bootcamp is a one-day “series of demonstrations and tutorials designed to help newly licensed Technician, General, and Extra class license holders get on the air and use their amateur radio license. Bootcamp is also a great opportunity for prospective Hams who are interested in seeing what the hobby has to offer.” The next bootcamp will be on Zoom Saturday, May 11 from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM Eastern Time (7:00 AM-3:00 PM Pacific). For details and to register, go to (<https://www.n1fd.org/ham-bootcamp/>).

[Thankx to Grant, K6CBK, for the tip.]

* Young Ladies Radio League

From Vicki Zumwalt, N6KLS, President of the Young Ladies Radio League:

The ARRL Hamvention in Ohio will be May 17-19 this year, and has been designated as the ARRL National Convention for 2024. And the Hamvention convention has voted the Young Ladies Radio League as Club of the Year! In addition: “The YLRL will be holding their 85th anniversary celebration in connection with the HAMCON ZION: ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention. Dates are July 11 - 14 in St. George Utah. We expect OM’s and YL’s to converge on this beautiful destination and enjoy the seminars and vendors that the Rocky Mountain group is putting together. Registration closes May 21, 2024 so go to (<https://ylrl.net/ylrl-convention/>) for registration information.”

* MFJ Ending Domestic Manufacturing

This has been pretty widely distributed over the last week or so among the various club forums, so you’ve likely heard about it. But just in case, the owner of MFJ Enterprises sent out the following message. The MFJ website is at (<https://mfjenterprises.com/>).

“Dear Fellow Hams and Friends,

It is with a sad heart as I write this letter.

As many of you have heard by now, MFJ is ceasing its on-site production in Starkville, Mississippi on May 17, 2024. This is also the same for our sister companies’ Ameritron, Hygain, Cushcraft, Mirage and Vectronics.

Times have changed since I started this business 52 years ago. Our product line grew and grew and prospered. Covid changed everything in businesses including ours. It was the hardest hit that we have ever had and we never fully recovered.

I turned 80 this year. I had never really considered retirement but life is so short and my time with my family is so precious.

I want to thank all of our employees who have helped build this company with me over the years. We have many employees who have made MFJ their career for 10, 20, 30, 40 and more years.

We are going to continue to sell MFJ products past May 17, 2024. We have a lot of stock on hand. We will continue to offer repair service work for out-of-warranty and in-warranty units for the foreseeable future.

Finally, a special thanks to all of our customers and our dealers who have made MFJ a worldwide name and a profitable business for so many years. You all are so much appreciated.

Sincerely Yours, 73s

Martin F. Jue, K5FLU”

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Hamfests And Special Events:

*05/11/2024

Reno Ham Swap. Reno, NV. Sponsor: Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society. Website: (<http://renohamswap.com>)

* 05/11/2024

Commemorating Armed Forces Day. 1600Z-2300Z, NI6IW, San Diego, CA. USS Midway Museum Ship. 7.250 14.320 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)

* 05/18-20/2024

W6SFM Bug Roundup. 0000Z-0000Z, W6SFM, Fair Oaks, CA. Samuel F. Morse Amateur Radio Club. 3.533 7.033 14.033 28.033. QSL. Samuel F. Morse Amateur Radio Club, 4901 Minnesota Avenue, Fair Oaks, CA 95628. (<https://w6sfm.org/bug-roundup>)

* 05/31 - 06/02/2024

SEA-PAC, ARRL Northwestern Division Convention. Seaside, OR Sponsor: Oregon-Tualatin Valley ARC and Clark County ARC. Website: (<http://www.seapac.org>)

* 06/01/2024

N7RCA Northern Nevada HamFest. Minden, NV. Sponsor: N7RCA. Website: (<http://n7rca.com>)

* 06/01/2024

Museum Ships Weekend Event. 0001Z-2359Z, NI6IW, San Diego, CA. USS Midway Museum Ship. 7.250 14.320 14.070 PSK31 DSTAR. QSL. USS Midway Museum Ship COMEDTRA, 910 N Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92101. (www.qrz.com/db/ni6iw)

* 10/18-20/2024

Pacificon. Location: San Ramon, CA. Sponsor: Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club. Website: (<http://www.pacificon.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 – May

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

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| 5/1/1827 | Georg Simon Ohm published his book "The Galvanic Circuit Investigated Mathematically", in which Ohm's Law first appeared. |
| 5/1/1844 | A demonstration of the first commercial telegraph line in the U.S. occurred, when news of the Whig Party's nomination of Henry Clay for U.S. president was telegraphed from the party's convention in Baltimore to the Capitol Building in Washington, DC. |
| 05/02/2000 | Intentional degradation, or "selective availability", of public GPS signals was discontinued, leading to much more accurate positioning. |
| 05/03/1978 | The first unsolicited bulk commercial email (commonly known today as "spam") was sent by Gary Thuerk, a Digital Equipment Corp marketing representative to every ARPANET address on the west coast of the United States. |
| 05/09/1913 | The first official United States Policy for Radio Call Letters was published, including the creation of 9 call sign districts. District 6 consisted of California, Nevada, Utah and Arizona. |
| 05/11/1974 | The South Bay Amateur Radio Association became affiliated with the ARRL. |
| 5/13/1878 | Joseph Henry died in Washington, DC at age 80. He was the first Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, inventor of the first practical electrical relay & namesake of the unit of Inductance. |
| 05/13/2023 | The Heritage High School Amateur Radio Club became affiliated with the ARRL. |
| 05/14/1988 | The Vaca Valley Radio Club became affiliated with the ARRL. |

05/14/2021 The Kensington & El Cerrito Ham Operators became affiliated with the ARRL.
 5/17/1865 The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) was formed.
 05/17/1904 Christian Hülsmeyer demonstrated his Telemobiloskop in Cologne, Germany; a spark gap transmitter, parabolic antennas, detector, and an indicator, becoming the predecessor of radar.
 05/17/1939 The first-ever televised baseball game was aired on station W2XBS, which later became WNBC-TV. The college teams Princeton and Columbia competed at Columbia's Baker Field, with Princeton beating Columbia 2-1.
 05/19/2016 Chapter 228, Mount Diablo, of the Quarter Century Wireless Association was chartered.
 5/20/1875 World Metrology Day. The Treaty of the Metre was signed in Paris, creating the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM).
 5/22/1783 William Sturgeon, inventor of the electromagnet, was born in Whittington, Lancashire, England.
 5/24/1844 Samuel Morse officially opened the first commercial telegraph line in the U.S., sending "What hath God wrought," from Washington, DC to Baltimore.
 05/24/1932 Hidetsugu Yagi was granted a U.S. patent for the Yagi-Uda antenna.
 05/25/1911 Representatives of the Department of Commerce and Labor at the Brooklyn Navy Yard issued License No. 1, a Certificate of Skill; the first official U.S. document ever issued for the operation of a commercial wireless station, to James M. Baskerville.
 05/28/2003 The Alameda County Sheriff's Communications Team became affiliated with the ARRL.
 05/31/1996 The first Vanity call sign was issued.

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New Hams:

KO6EAF	Jennifer Davis	Danville
KO6DSF	Robert Teal	Concord
KO6DRQ	Raquel Sevilla	Concord
KO6DYS	Alex Cho	Danville
KO6DZR	Laura Kiser	Danville
KO6DZH	Jacob Zweiback	Diablo
KO6DVG	Bruce Davis	Fremont (General)
KO6DXA	Li Ziqi	Fremont
KO6DUW	Paul Rimple	Hayward
KO6DXZ	Scott Chenue	Castro Valley
KO6EAD	Xueen Yang	Moraga
KO6DWM	Robin Lanoue	Newark
KO6DZA	Ken Peterson	Orinda
KO6DZS	Mark Min	Orinda
KO6DZW	Theodore Wang	Orinda
KO6DPK	Louis Rodriguez	Pleasanton
AK6FR	Adrian Wilson	Dublin (Extra)
KO6DUA	Cary Collins	Saint Helena
KO6DZD	Robert Runyon	San Leandro
KO6DSG	Cindy Deming	Pleasanton
K6RWD	Thomas Stephens	Walnut Creek
KO6DZB	Richard Davis	Oakland
KO6DPN	Jiyun Kang	Berkeley
KO6DZM	Ross Harmes	Berkeley
KO6DXQ	Ashley Hutson	Vacaville

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New Upgrades:

N7MLB	Michael Bernico	Benicia (General)
KO6DVG	Bruce Davis	Fremont (General)
KA6ZED	Brian Zoraster	Livermore (Extra)
AK6FT	Rafal Kruczkowski	Union City (Extra)
KC1DYF	Christopher Prevolos	Vallejo (Extra)

K6RWD Thomas Stephens Walnut Creek (Technician)
KO6DMM Jeffrey Dean Berkeley (Extra)

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Question & Answer:

What is the definition of symbol rate in a digital transmission?
C. The rate at which the waveform changes to convey information

[Extra Class question pool (2020-2024) no. E8C02 (<https://www.ncvec.org/index.php/2020-2024-extra-class-pool>)]

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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

Email: N6JGA@ARRL.org
Website: <https://www.arrleb.org>
East Bay Section Discord: <https://discord.gg/DNAAfC7hax>
ARRL HQ Help Desk: 888-277-5289 or hq@arrl.org
Index of Contacts at ARRL HQ: <http://www.arrl.org/contact-arrl>
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