

**Section Manager**  
**East Bay Section Newsletter**  
**June, 2024**

ARRL East Bay Family,

ARRL suffered a major outage of its computer and other IT systems a couple of weeks ago. Of course, it had to happen while many of the League's management and staff were at Hamvention. Some services have returned while others are still being worked on. See what I know so far in the first item of the "ARRL News" section below.

Field Day is almost here! Are you ready? See my final nag for the year on this one and the links in the "Section & Division News" section below.

Happy Birthday to the FCC, which was created on June 19, 1934, when the Communications Act of 1934 was signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, replacing the Federal Radio Commission with the Federal Communications Commission.

Happy Birthday to Wi-Fi, as on June 26, 1997, the IEEE released the first 802.11 wireless standard that later came to be popularly known as Wi-Fi. See the "Significant Events in Telecomm History" section below.

Congratulations and thank you to the University of California-Berkeley ARC; the Silverado Amateur Radio Society; and the Contra Costa Repeater Association; which became affiliated with the ARRL on June 4, 1921 (103 years!!!); June 4, 1977 and June 8, 2023 respectively.

\* Question:

What is the electrical difference between RG-58 and RG-213 coaxial cable?

- A. There is no significant difference between the two types
- B. RG-58 cable has two shields
- C. RG-213 cable has less loss at a given frequency
- D. RG-58 cable can handle higher power levels

(See the last page for the answer.)

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**Section & Division News:**  
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\* Field Day is Upon Us

Field Day is almost here. As before, I plan to make my visits to as many Field Day sites in the Section as I can on Saturday, June 22. Remember the Field Day Guide in the upcoming June edition of QST. It's packed with good information. And final reminder: be sure to register your event on the ARRL Field Day Locator page at ([http://www.arrl.org/field\\_days/add](http://www.arrl.org/field_days/add)). That's so other hams can find your site. I will use your registration on that page to plan my visit to your site. As I write this, only seven East Bay Section sites are registered on the Locator map, significantly fewer than in previous years. Full information and rules are at (<https://www.arrl.org/field-day>).

\* Management Changes in the Pacific Division and San Joaquin Valley Section

John Litz, NZ6Q has been the Section Manager for the San Joaquin Valley Section for the last few years. But in late April, he got kicked upstairs and is now our new Pacific Division Vice Director. He was replaced as the San Joaquin Valley Section Manager by Steven Hendricks, KK6JTB. Congratulations (or condolences, as applicable) to John and Steven! See the full announcement at (<https://www.arrl.org/news/changes-in-the-arrl-san-joaquin-valley-section>).

\* Benicia Club Ham Cram Results

The Benicia ARC held another one of its excellent one-day license classes on Saturday, May 4. 14 volunteers helped a total of 40 participants with the Technician and General courses, and testing for all three license levels. 24 of the 25 Technician Class students passed the test, for a 96% pass rate. Two of them got perfect scores. 6 of the 7 General Class students passed for an 87.5% pass rate. That makes the overall pass rate for both license levels 93.8%. In addition, 8 people came by only to test and all of them passed. The day drew participants from around the Bay Area, as far north as Napa County and south as San Mateo County; and from the ocean to Stanislaus County. Thankx again, Benicia, for bringing more new hams to our craft.

[And thankx to Bob. W6RBF, for the information.]

\* New Area Code Includes part of East Bay Section

The CPUC is in the process of introducing a new overlay area code to the current 530 region, which includes part of Solano County, as well as several other counties. Starting next January 31, area code 837 will be overlaid on top of the 530 region. Those currently with a 530 area code will see no change to their number, but new numbers issued in the region may have the 837 are code. Get the details at these two CPUC pages: (<https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/news-and-updates/all-news/cpuc-advises-of-new-837-area-code-coming-to-530-region>) and (<https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/530areacode>). [CPUC = California Public Utilities Commission]

\* Pacificon

If you haven't registered for Pacificon, let's get 'er done. (Yes, I'm going to nag you frequently about this.) It's 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, 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. Go to (<https://www.pacificon.org/>) for everything.

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.

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**ARRL News:**

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\* IT Systems Outage

I expect by now that most of you are aware that the League suffered a major outage of their computer and other IT systems a couple of weeks ago. In fact, it happened while many ARRL staff and management people were at Hamvention. The outage included most of the services they provide, such as email services, the Logbook of the World, license application filing, and even their phone lines. Essentially, everything that's running on internal servers was taken down. They're still working hard to get it all fixed and back on line. Some services have returned (e.g., the phone system came back online yesterday), others have partial service, but some are still being worked on. Some email announcements have also returned. The Board is meeting weekly until the matter is fully resolved.

Keep in mind the following statement, released May 17: "Some members have asked whether their personal information has been compromised in some way. ARRL does not store credit card information anywhere on our systems, and we do not collect social security numbers. Our member database only contains publicly available information like name, address, and call sign along with ARRL specific data like email preferences and membership dates."

There are rumors that the League's systems have been hacked. I don't know if that's the case or not. At this time, the nature of the problem can't be discussed by officials. The possibility of legal and/or criminal implications is being discussed in non-ARRL-hosted forums by people in a position to know about such things, but not involved with this specific incident. So at this time, such discussions should be considered uninformed speculation. IF(!) this is the case, then recovery could take longer and the ability of the League to more fully discuss what happened could be temporarily hampered, so as to not impede any investigations. Please be patient.

Keep updated on the status by periodically checking the News item at (<https://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-systems-service-disruption>). There's also a News item on Volunteer Examiner Coordination services at (<https://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-vec-services-update-during-systems-disruption>).

### \* ARRL National Convention

The League's National Convention was held at Hamvention in Xenia, Ohio last month, and though I didn't make it, it sounds like it was a good one. Here's some highlights I've found.

#### -- Membership Fourm

President Rick Rodrick, K5UR opened the meeting with a few comments, then turned moderator duties over to the director of the host division, Scott Yonally, N8SY, Great Lakes Division Director. A video of the meeting is available at (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZMRr8bcqdU>). [YouTube, 00:55:44]

Some of the other presenters we here in the East Bay might be interested in include:

- Steve Goodgame, K5ATA & Manager of Education and Learning Department, spoke on the convention's Youth Rally, the League's Collegiate program and the Teacher's Institute. Starts at 00:14:23.

- Robert Famiglio, K3RF & Atlantic Division Director, gave the status of two bills in Congress to extend the protections we have from PRB-1 to include HOAs and similar restrictive areas. Starts at 00:32:33.

- Clean Signal Initiative. Mike Ritz, W7VO, discussed the status of the League's Clean Signal Initiative, an effort to reduce interference by improving the design & quality of both transmitters and receivers. Starts at 00:45:25.

- Our own Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, our (now-ex) Pacific Division Director and new First Vice-President made some short comments on expanding ham radio to youth. Starts at 00:50:01.

#### -- Ground is a Myth!

Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, gives one of her excellent presentations, this one about what ground really is – and isn't. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VvE570NPmmI>) [YouTube, 00:46:04]

#### -- Tips for Successful Radio Clubs

Mike Walters, W8ZY and ARRL Field Services Manager, offers some valuable ideas on how to increase membership and participation in your club in the presentation with the above title. See (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHEe-yNtsJQ>).

#### -- Other Videos

There are several other videos from the convention available on the League's YouTube channel at (<https://www.youtube.com/@ARRLHQ/videos>).

### \* Kids Day

Kids Day will be Saturday, June 15th. It's designed to give on-the-air experience to young people and hopefully foster interest in getting a license of their own. It is also intended to give older hams a chance to share their station and love for Amateur Radio with their children. Kids Day always runs from 1800 UTC through 2359 UTC. Operate as much or as little as you like. For a suggested on-air exchange, frequencies and other information, see (<https://www.arrl.org/kids-day>).

### \* New ARES EmComm Courses

In addition to the new, updated Basic EmComm course reported in the April & May newsletters, the League has now released the new Intermediate EmComm course. Also available are the courses "Intro to Radio for Emergencies & Disasters" and "PR-101-Public Relations 101 for Radio Amateurs". There's also a number of Emergency Communications Webinars and presentations on EmComm from the 2022 ARRL National Convention in Orlando. An Advanced EmComm course is planned for release in the coming weeks and an ARES Leadership course will be released in the near future. In addition, the ARES task books are also being updated. See (<https://learn.arrl.org/learning-paths/emergency-communications/>) for details.

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## **Government News**

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### \* FCC Proposes Pirate Radio Fines

The FCC has proposed \$857,775 in fines against seven alleged pirate radio operators in Massachusetts. This is a result of

a 2023 investigation by FCC agents from the Boston and New York field offices. The passage of the PIRATE Act in 2020 gave the Commission authority to levy fines of up to \$100,000 per violation and \$2.3 million in total. It also granted the Commission authority to take enforcement action against landlords and property owners that willfully and knowingly permit pirate radio broadcasting on their properties. The operators were given a 30-day period (from April 25, 2024) to respond to the allegations in the FCC's Notices of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture before a final decision is made. See the FCC's news release at (<https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-402087A1.pdf>) [PDF, 2 pages].

\* National Broadband Map is Updated

The FCC has released the newest iteration of the National Broadband Map. New information and refined data have been collected and updated to improve the map's accuracy. The map displays specific location-level information about broadband services available throughout the country. For example, you can enter an address on the map and it will show the service providers and general type of service available there, including the maximum download and upload speeds. Other information is available on the various tabs. See an FCC press release at (<https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-makes-updates-broadband-data-collection-efforts>). The map itself is at (<https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/home>).

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**Other News:**

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\* Antenna With the World Record for DX

The IEEE's Spectrum magazine has another interesting article, this one about NASA's Deep Space Station 43 antenna. This station is near Canberra, Australia and is the only remaining antenna that can still communicate with the Voyager 2 satellite. The station has been in service for over 50 years, has been upgraded multiple times, and now handles over 40% of all of NASA's deep space communications. See the full story at (<https://spectrum.ieee.org/apollo-era-antenna-voyager-2>).

[IEEE = Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers]

\* International Museums Weekends

International Museums Weekends (IMW) 2024 will take place June 15 - 16 and 22 - 23. The purpose of this event is to activate an amateur radio special event station in as many museums around the world as possible. Frequencies, bands, and modes are at the discretion of the operators, as is the museum selection. For this event, the definition of museum can be loosely interpreted. It could be a collection of old cars or one-of-a-kind paintings from a neighborhood artist. Through this event, organizers hope to present amateur radio to the public to garner support and understanding of the hobby. The first IMW was held in 2002 with over 80 museums, featuring small, local venues and large prestigious operations. The event was especially popular among amateur radio operators in the United Kingdom. For information about registration and event awards, see (<https://radio-amateur-events.org/IMW/index.htm>).

\* Sound Suppression

Does your family complain that your radio fun is too loud? Having trouble picking up that faint DX because of your kid's booming video game in the next room? Help may be on the way. Researchers at MIT have created a cloth made from silk that can substantially reduce sound transmission. According to the article, "The fabric, which is barely thicker than a human hair, contains a special fiber that vibrates when a voltage is applied to it. The researchers leveraged those vibrations to suppress sound in two different ways." One is to vibrate the fabric to cancel out the unwanted noise. The second, surprisingly, is to hold the fabric still. Get the full story from this MIT News article at (<https://news.mit.edu/2024/sound-suppressing-silk-can-create-quiet-spaces-0507>).

[MIT = Massachusetts Institute of Technology]

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**Hamfests And Special Events:**

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\* 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](http://www.qrz.com/db/ni6iw))

\* 09/14/2024

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

\* 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 – June

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

- 06/01/1894 Oliver Lodge, a British physicist, gave the first of several lectures and demonstrations on the transmission and detection of electromagnetic radiation, at London's Royal Institution.
- 06/01/1896 Shintaro Uda, co-inventor of the Yagi-Uda antenna, was born.
- 06/03/1900 Brazilian priest and inventor Roberto Landell de Moura claims to have made the first transmission of human speech over radio. But Reginald Aubrey Fessenden also claims to have done so on December 23, 1900.
- 06/04/1921 The University of California-Berkeley ARC (W6BB) became affiliated with the ARRL.
- 06/04/1977 The Silverado Amateur Radio Society became affiliated with the ARRL.
- 06/08/2023 The Contra Costa Repeater Association became affiliated with the ARRL.
- 06/13/1831 James Clerk Maxwell was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom.
- 06/10/1836 André-Marie Ampère died in Marseille, Kingdom of France at age 61.
- 06/17/1914 The first transcontinental telephone line was completed between New York and San Francisco as workers raised the final pole at Wendover, Utah. Though a telephone call, which for marketing purposes is claimed to be the first transcontinental telephone call, occurred on January 25, 1915, the line was successfully voice tested in July, 1914.
- 06/17/1946 The Bell System began operation of the Mobile Telephone Service (MTS), predecessor to cellular telephones, in St. Louis, MO. The original mobile equipment weighed 80 pounds (36 kg).
- 06/19/1934 The Communications Act of 1934 was signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, replacing the Federal Radio Commission with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).
- 06/23/1930 The Galvin Manufacturing Corporation sold its first Motorola branded radio to H.C. Wall of Fort Wayne, Indiana, for \$30 (about \$500 today). It was the first "low cost" radio receiver for mobile installation. The company later changed its name to Motorola.
- 06/23/1977 The NTS-2 (Navigation Technology Satellite) was launched, becoming the first NAVSTAR GPS Phase I satellite.
- 06/26/1997 The Board of Directors of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) approved the release of "IEEE 802.11-1997; IEEE Standard for Wireless LAN Medium Access Control (MAC) and Physical Layer (PHY) specifications". The 802.11 series of standards came to be popularly known as Wi-Fi.
- 06/30/1961 Lee de Forest, inventor of the three-element "Audion" (triode) vacuum tube, the first practical amplification device, died in Hollywood, California at age 87.
- 06/30/1985 ARRL co-founder and original editor and owner of QST Clarence Denton Tuska, 1WD, died in Cranbury, New Jersey at age 88.
- June, 1919 The first image of the dreaded Wouff Hong appeared in QST, accompanying an article from "The Old Man" entitled "Rotten Starting", about the difficulties getting equipment set up and operational after the World War I restrictions were lifted.

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### New Hams:

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KO6EIG	Elizabeth Oropeza Hennessey	Brentwood
KO6EDN	Basil Adad	Danville
KO6EAU	Scott Tipping	El Cerrito

KO6EEE	Mark Deboer	Fairfield
KO6EEU	Bradley Plummer	Fremont
KO6EHE	Bryan Gielen	Hayward
KO6EJU	Gregory Galvan	Castro Valley
KO6EAV	Thomas Eberhardt	Moraga
KO6ECU	Bonifacio Lomeli	Napa
KO6EBG	Abdulrahman Alomari	Pleasanton (General)
KO6ECK	Charles Brake	Rio Vista
KO6EJP	Nandini Tiwari	San Ramon
KO6EIC	Donald Downey	San Ramon
KO6EBH	Jonathan McKaskey	Sunol
KO6EAW	Navika Singhal	Union City
KO6EHS	Matthew Thompson	Walnut Creek
KO6EJE	Lawrence Wolf	Oakland
KO6EBI	Taeyoung Kang	Berkeley

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**New Upgrades:**

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K5FTX	Aaron Negherbon	McKinney (General)
AK6TP	Thomas Porcella	Concord (Extra)
KO6BUE	Robert Baffico	Fairfield (Extra)
K6FQO	Li Ziqi	Fremont (General)
N6MKY	Donald Rush	Hayward (General)
AD6RM	Rogelito Masana	Hayward (Extra)
KO6CGS	Michael Woodmansee	Livermore (Extra)
KG6JDR	Clark Henry	Oakley (Extra)
K6WEQ	Ryan Jacobs	San Ramon (Extra)
KM6HIE	Arthur Wolf	Vallejo (Extra)
KO6CZI	Paul Giuliano	Oakland (General)

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**Question & Answer:**

What is the electrical difference between RG-58 and RG-213 coaxial cable?  
 C. RG-213 cable has less loss at a given frequency

[Technician Class question pool (2022-2026) no. T9B10 (<https://www.ncvec.org/index.php/2022-2026-technician-question-pool-release>)]

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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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 ARRL HQ Help Desk: 888-277-5289 or [hq@arrl.org](mailto:hq@arrl.org)  
 Index of Contacts at ARRL HQ: <http://www.arrl.org/contact-arrl>

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