

Section Manager
East Bay Section Newsletter
May, 2026

ARRL East Bay Family,

Field Day is next month, so I hope your club's plans are well underway. As of the end of April, only two clubs have registered their Field Day sites on the ARRL website. Be sure to do that soon, so visitors (including me) can find you. See the map of who has registered at (<http://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator>). Register your club for Field Day at (http://www.arrl.org/field_days/add). Full information and rules are at (<https://www.arrl.org/field-day>).

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 for becoming affiliated with the ARRL on May 11, 1974; May 13, 2023; May 14, 1988; May 14, 2021; and May 28, 2003, respectively.

* Question:

Which of the following is a common use for a Smith chart?

- A. Determine the length and position of an impedance matching stub
- B. Determine the impedance of a transmission line, given the physical dimensions
- C. Determine the gain of an antenna given the physical and electrical parameters
- D. Determine the loss/100 feet of a transmission line, given the velocity factor and conductor materials

(See the last page for the answer.)

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Section & Division News:

* MDARC Technician License Class

The Mt. Diablo club will hold its next Technician Class 8-session course each Tuesday evening, June 16-August 4, 2026 at 7:00 PM, both in person and on Zoom. There will be a test session the following Tuesday, August 11, and two optional (but highly recommended) Get-On-The-Air sessions on the two Tuesdays following the test session. For details and to register, go to (<https://www.mdarc.org/education-and-testing/class-details>). Scroll down to the section "June Course" and click the course title to register. Be sure to read the rest of the above web page to get needed information, such as the required manual. Send any questions to (info@mdarc.org).

* Technician Class Question Pool Expiring

A reminder that the current Technician Class question pool will expire this June 30, with the new one becoming effective July 1. So the above MDARC course and following test session will be using the new question pool. This means you'll need the updated ARRL manual for the course. It's not yet available on the ARRL Store or Amazon, but should be in the next week or two. You can download the question pool now at (<https://www.ncvec.org/index.php/2026-2030-technician-question-pool>).

* Pacificon Registration Reminder

Pacificon 2026 will be the weekend of Friday-Sunday, October 16-18, 2026 at its usual location, the San Ramon Marriott. The 2026 website and registration are now live at (<https://www.pacificon.org/>); so make your attendee, banquet, antenna seminar and hotel reservations right away. You can also help ensure this year's convention is a success by being a forum speaker and/or volunteering. Web pages for both are also on the website. See you there.

* Benicia Club Website Trouble

From Bob W6RBF: "The club's website and email server, beniciaarc.com, has been inaccessible since late Thursday due

to a brute force attack on the operating at the web hosting service. This attack was not targeted at BARC. The hosting company is working to restore service ASAP. The groups.io service (which distributed this message) is not affected, nor are the sites necessary to process licensing classes and exams. Any email correspondence with the club may be addressed to the alternate mailbox (beniciaarc@gmail.com).”

* East Bay Section in QST

Matthew Vurek, N4DLA and our own East Bay Section Affiliated Club Coordinator, had an item published in the Hints and Hacks column of the May, 2026 QST page 56. He told us how he and his father came up with a way to adjust his DATV receive antenna 20 feet up the mast while watching his video monitor down in his shack. Pretty clever. Also, The Volunteer Monitor Program Report, page 36, includes the item, “An Advisory Notice was issued to a resident in Bay Point, California concerning the unlicensed 2-meter transmissions from the property”. This will hopefully put an end to the jammer that has been interfering with some of our local repeaters over the last several months.

* Delta Club in the News

The Delta ARC had a practice session for Field Day late last month at Big Break Regional Shoreline, and the local newspaper wrote up a nice story about it and ham radio. The story includes an almost-6-minute video. See the story at (https://www.thepress.net/features/their-ability-to-communicate-when-no-one-else-can/article_aae15542-4284-42ed-bd95-93630b1cd98d.html).

[Thankx to Grant K6CBK for the tip.]

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ARRL News:

* QST Articles

There’s a couple of good articles in this month’s QST. With Field Day coming up, page 37 has “Station Setup Techniques to Prevent Field Day RFI”. Some good reminders on how to get the best out of your Field Day setup. There’s also a review of a new website on page 51, DXLook. It’s free and ad-free, combining the information from PSK Reporter, WSPRnet, Reverse Beacon Network, Parks on the Air, Summits on the Air, DX Clusters, and APRS. All in one place. Have a look. And it’s based right here in our Section, in Berkeley.

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Government News

* Annual Armed Forces Day Crossband Test

The Department of Defense will host this year’s Armed Forces Day (AFD) Crossband Test on May 9, 2026. This annual event is open to all licensed amateur radio operators and will not impact any public or private communications. The Crossband Test is a unique opportunity to test two-way communication between military communicators and radio amateurs. Military stations will transmit on selected military frequencies and will announce the specific amateur radio frequencies monitored. All times are in UTC and all frequencies are upper sideband (USB) unless otherwise noted. Get details on the MARS website at (<https://www.dodmars.org/mars-comex-information-website/armed-forces-day>).

[MARS = Military Auxiliary Radio System]

* FCC Grants Permanent Use of 430-440 MHz Band to AST Spacemobile

Our August and October, 2025 newsletters reported on the FCC’s grant to AST Spacemobile of limited and experimental use of multiple frequency bands that included some amateur allocations, including the 430-440 MHz band. Last month, the FCC granted permanent use of five specific frequencies in the 430-440 MHz band for its satellite system telemetry, tracking, and command (TT&C) operations. These operations are for emergency use only with a duration no more than 24 hours; apply only for communication with five specified earth stations, each located well outside of the United States and for which the foreign administration with jurisdiction also must separately authorize the communications. Per the FCC’s grant, “AST has shown that harmful interference from AST’s transmissions to other authorized operations, including to amateur operations, in the 430-440 MHz band is extremely unlikely, and, if such interference, should occur, AST is capable of ceasing such transmissions.” In addition, they say, “we have continued to not receive any complaints of harmful interference for AST’s already-authorized operations in the 430-440 MHz band. In addition, we will continue to limit AST operations in the band to emergency operations when no other bands are available for the 223 additional satellites authorized herein for a period not to exceed 24 hours.” The FCC’s grant and News Release are available at (<https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-clears-way-us-leadership-direct-device-connectivity>). See ARRL’s announcement at

<http://www.arrl.org/news/view/fcc-approves-limited-emergency-use-of-70-cm-band-by-ast-spacemobile-satellites-outside-the-us>).

* FCC Moves to Eliminate Copper Telephone Networks

In late March, the FCC issued a Report and Order “that will get communities off of old and slow copper lines and onto new, high-speed networks.” Among the numerous actions taken is one “granting blanket section 214(a) authority for carriers to grandfather legacy voice services, lower-speed data telecommunications services, and interconnected Voice over IP (VoIP) service provisioned over copper wire.” In addition, the news release states, “If state and local statutes and regulations force providers to devote resources to maintaining deteriorating legacy networks and provisioning near-obsolete services to fewer subscribers even after the FCC has approved the provider’s application to discontinue legacy services, those state requirements conflict with federal law and are subject to preemption.” The Report and Order, a News Release, a Fact Sheet and other documents are at (<https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-takes-action-speed-rollout-modern-high-speed-networks-0>).

* NIST’s Support of Disaster Preparedness

The NIST has two articles on its website on how it helps us prepare for disasters. The newest one is “5 Steps You Can Take Today to Prepare for Disasters” and is at (<https://www.nist.gov/blogs/taking-measure/5-steps-you-can-take-today-prepare-disasters>). Included is a section on “How NIST Supports Community Preparedness” and links to several planners and tools. Another article they have is “Disaster Preparedness: How Measurement Science Can Help Your Community” at (<https://www.nist.gov/blogs/taking-measure/disaster-preparedness-how-measurement-science-can-help-your-community>). It talks mostly about community resilience and has links to a few other articles at the bottom.

Other News:

* MFJ Sells Cushcraft and HyGain Brands

“Martin F. Jue, President and founder of MFJ Enterprises, Inc., is pleased to announce the sale of the renowned Hy-gain and Cushcraft antenna, rotator, and communication product lines to ITU Corporation, a 25 year old Indiana engineering and manufacturing company.” ITU has also purchased a National Guard facility in Linton, Indiana to become the manufacturing location. Get the full story at (<https://www.lintonnews.com/itu-corporation-re-purposes-linton-armory-facility-to-house-iconic-amateur-radio-manufacturing-free-article/>).

[Thankx to Art, AA6AM, for the tip.]

* SteppIR Getting Back into the Ham Antenna Business

“As our amateur radio customers know, we exited the consumer market in June of 2025. At that time, we did not know what our exact future was - our plan was to pursue commercial projects in search of more stable long-term income sources, but we never lost hope on the idea of returning to the amateur radio market in some form. Thanks to some recent (and continuing) exciting developments on the commercial side of things, SteppIR will now be able to guarantee future sales of our consumer product line via online web sales!” See the full announcement on StepIR’s website at (<https://consumer.steppir.com/>).

* ARDC Looking to Fill Two Positions

From the Amateur Radio Newsliner Report for Friday, April 24th, 2026:

“ARDC has remote positions open for a software developer and a technical writer who are experienced professionals familiar with Free and Open Source projects. Both jobs are open to active amateur radio operators. The software developer is expected to be involved in bug fixes, code review and deployment and be capable of writing documentation that is developer focused. JavaScript, CSS, HTML, MySQL, PHP and Linux fluency is required. Candidates must have had prior experience with either ARDC or 44Net. The technical writer must be capable of writing for a public audience on topics relating to digital communications and amateur radio. A record of previously published articles is considered a plus. Both positions report to ARDC's Technical Director. For more details about requirements for these jobs, which carry a two-month renewable contract, see“ (<https://www.ardc.net/ardc-is-hiring-software-developer/>) and (<https://www.ardc.net/ardc-is-hiring-technical-writer/>).

[ARDC = Amateur Radio Digital Communications, a section of the Internet Archive.]

* WKRP in Cincinnati – Really

For those of you too young to remember, “WKRP in Cincinnati” was a fictional radio broadcast station and the title of a hit TV sitcom from 1978 to 1982. Crewed by a dysfunctional staff, with the single exception of the intelligent (and very

attractive) receptionist, the station managed to survive one hilarious mishap after another. Since the show ended, the call letters WKRP have been assigned to stations in multiple cities in Georgia, Tennessee and North Carolina for FM Low Power stations. Low power FM stations are limited to 100 watts, so can only cover a relatively small area. The last owner of the call sign is retiring and announced that "the Cincinnati deal is in the bag", but details can't be discussed yet. See the full Associated Press story at (<https://apnews.com/article/wkrp-cincinnati-radio-station-902d9b9b59481b18fb1aad4da47bb1ff>).

Hamfests And Special Events:

* 05/09/2026

Reno Ham Swap. Location: Reno, NV. Sponsor: Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society. Website: <https://renohamswap.org>.

* 05/31/2026

Carmichael Elks Ham Radio & Electronics Swap Meet. Location: Carmichael Elks Lodge #2103, 5631 Cypress Ave., Sacramento, CA. Sponsor: Carmichael Elks, River City ARC, ARRL Sacramento Valley. Contact: Ben Parrish, K6GEO, 3717 West Way Sacramento, CA 95821, Phone: 775-557-5151.

* 06/05-07/2026

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

* 06/19-20/2026

Flagstaff HamFest, ARRL Arizona Section Convention. Location: Flagstaff, AZ. Sponsor: Amateur Radio Council of Arizona. Website: (<https://flagstaffhamfest.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>)

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. **

- 05/01/1827 Georg Simon Ohm published his book "The Galvanic Circuit Investigated Mathematically", in which Ohm's law first appeared.
- 05/01/1844 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.
- 05/04/1974 Vint Cerf and Robert Kahn published "A Protocol for Packet Network Intercommunication," in IEEE Transactions on Communications. The TCP/IP eclipsed the Open Systems Interconnection standards to become the global protocol standard for computer networking, establishing the foundation for of Internet.
- 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.
- 05/10/1950 The U.S. National Science Foundation was established as a federal agency when President Harry S. Truman signed Public Law 81-507, the "National Science Foundation Act of 1950."
- 05/11/1974 The South Bay Amateur Radio Association became affiliated with the ARRL.
- 05/13/1878 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.
- 05/13/1897 The world's first radio message: "Can you hear me", was sent by Guglielmo Marconi across open water from Cardiff to Flat Holm, an island halfway across the Bristol Channel in England.

- 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.
- 05/16/1969 Radio station KVHS began broadcasting on FM 90.5 MHz from the campus of Clayton Valley High School in Concord, CA; entirely staffed by high school students.
- 05/17/1865 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.
- 05/20/1875 World Metrology Day. The Treaty of the Metre was signed in Paris, creating the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM).
- 05/20/2019 The redefinitions of the kilogram and three additional basic SI units: electric current (ampere), temperature (kelvin) and amount of substance (mole) took effect. This implemented the most significant change to the International System of Units (the Metric System) in more than 130 years, as all measurement units are now defined by natural phenomena rather than by physical artifacts.
- 05/22/1783 William Sturgeon, inventor of the electromagnet, was born in Whittington, Lancashire, England.
- 05/24/1844 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.

New Hams:

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KO6MZN	Benjamin Henry	Alameda
KO6MVQ	Ali Khan	Brentwood
KO6MTC	Andrew Matthew	Concord
KO6MSZ	Raymond Szeto	Concord
KO6MSE	Andrey Romanenko	Concord
KO6MTB	James Jewell	Concord
KO6MXE	Kenneth Berniker	El Cerrito
KO6MWY	Ling Qin	Fremont (General)
KO6MWC	Tom Zhang	Fremont
KO6MXU	Adelene Guo	Fremont
KO6MZI	Tanvi Nasika	Fremont
KO6MTA	Aron VanAntwerp	Martinez
KO6MXY	Chloe Zhang	Fremont
KO6MXW	Rahim Malik	Fremont
KO6MYJ	Victoria Gyulassy	Moraga
KO6MVA	Gregory Sweval	Napa
KO6MTF	David Ittner	Newark
KO6MYK	Ericson Reduta	Oakley
KO6MXX	Zuri Ye	Orinda
KO6MUU	Gregory Aguilar	Pittsburg (General)
KO6MYM	Wallace Moxley	Pleasanton
KO6NAT	Rachelle Wang	San Ramon
KO6MXS	Ray Cillo	Union City
KO6MYU	Emma Li	Oakland
KO6MZV	Ryan Lin	Berkeley

KO6MSM	Nicolas Choconta	Kensington
KO6MXC	Clayton Price-Brown	El Sobrante
KO6MXB	Catalin Kaser	Richmond
KO6MYB	Scott Frankel	Richmond
KO6MXH	Mary McDonald	Richmond
KO6MXG	Charles Gribble	Richmond
KO6MWN	John Wilson	Richmond
KO6MWP	Wendy Hallett	Richmond
KO6MXQ	Adele Ho	Richmond
KO6MXD	Roger Poehlmann	Richmond
KO6MYA	Andrea Dumas	San Pablo
KO6MZM	Zachary Diehl	Vacaville
KO6MUV	Michael Elm	Vacaville
KO6MWX	Lina Tatham	Vacaville

Upgraded Hams:

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KO6LJP	Frank Salzman	Danville (General)
AK6SL	Joshua Dunne	Fremont (Extra)
KM6ZHQ	Hunter Brown	Livermore (General)
KN6PLX	Burt Polson	Napa (General)
KO6MUU	Gregory Aguilar	Pittsburg (General)
KK6QFQ	Ariane Olarig	Pleasanton (General)
KO6KLD	Luca Vallino	San Leandro (General)
KN6HGC	Jamie Trahan	Oakland (General)
KN6IBO	James Home	Piedmont (General)
KO6MAH	Sebastian Jones	Oakland (General)
KO6MQZ	Elyah Ilovitz	Berkeley (General)
AK6SU	Kirill Vasilev	Berkeley (Extra)
KO6KXH	Wendy Franklin	Richmond (General)

Question & Answer:

Which of the following is a common use for a Smith chart?

A. Determine the length and position of an impedance matching stub

[Extra Class question pool (2024-2028) no. E9G05 (<https://www.ncvec.org/index.php/2024-2028-extra-class-question-pool-release>)]

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>