

Section Manager
East Bay Section Newsletter
June, 2026

ARRL East Bay Family,

Apologies for the (very) late newsletter this month. I was out of town for the last two weeks of May and the first several days of June and am still trying to catch up.

For us on the West Coast, Field Day will be from 1100 PDT on June 27 until 1059 PDT on June 28. As I write this, seven clubs are on the ARRL Field Day Locator map in the East Bay Section. Those are the ones I'll plan to visit on Field Day. If your club is planning a Field Day event but has not yet put it on the Locator map, please do so soon, so visitors (including me) can find you. The ARRL Field Day Locator page is at (<https://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator>). The page to add your club's site is (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 University of California-Berkeley ARC (W6BB), the Silverado Amateur Radio Society, and the Contra Costa Repeater Association for becoming affiliated with the ARRL on June 4, 1921; June 4, 1977; and June 8, 2023, respectively.

* Question:

How does RF radiation differ from ionizing radiation (radioactivity)?

- A. RF radiation does not have sufficient energy to cause chemical changes in cells and damage DNA
- B. RF radiation can only be detected with an RF dosimeter
- C. RF radiation is limited in range to a few feet
- D. RF radiation is perfectly safe

(See the last page for the answer.)

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Section & Division News:

* Stockton Ham Cram

The Stockton Delta ARC will hold a one-day ham cram on Saturday, August 15 in San Pablo. Doors open at 7:45 AM and the ham cram starts at 8:05 AM. If you want to test only, the VE session opens at 2:45 PM. Location is the San Pablo Police Dept Training Facility, 2300 El Portal, San Pablo. They're asking for a \$20 donation to cover the cost of the materials for the Study Session. Get details and register at (<https://w6sf.org/hamcram-sign-up/>).

* Benicia Ham Class

The Benicia ARC will host another one of its one-day ham classes on Saturday, October 3, 2026. It will be from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm with a one-hour lunch break, at the Benicia Senior Center, 1205 East 2nd Street. The class offers training for both the Technician and General Class licenses. The fee is \$35.00, which includes the exam fee. Registration opens in August, but get it on your calendar now. For details, see (<https://beniciaarc.com/hamclass/>).

* USS Hornet Ham Class

The USS Hornet club will offer a one-day ham class on July 11 from 8:00 AM until about 4:30 PM. Register for the class by sending an email to (rogerdeming@yahoo.com). The class is free, but the exam is \$15. Bring cash. Notes for the class can be downloaded from (<http://rdf-sf.org/>). Click on Library in the navigation bar, then select "KN6FW tech class". Be sure to print and read the notes before the class. Also, remember that, after you pass the test, the FCC needs \$35 for a 10-year license. Also make sure you have an FCC Registration Number (FRN) from the FCC before you take the exam. You can get it at (<http://apps.fcc.gov/cores>). You must register at (<https://hamstudy.org/>) prior to testing. The answers to the

question pool can be found at (<https://nevec.org/index.php/2026-2030-technician-question-pool>). An internet connectable device (phone, laptop or tablet) is required to take the exam. Power is limited in the class room.

* MDARC Technician License Class Reminder

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 Reminder

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.nevec.org/index.php/2026-2030-technician-question-pool>).

ARRL News:

* Executive Committee Meetings Minutes

Below is a link to the minutes of the ARRL Executive Committee, which met on April 22, 2026. The Executive Committee acts on behalf of the Board between board meetings. It was a busy meeting. See the minutes at (http://www.arrl.org/files/file/About%20ARRL/Board%20Meetings/EC%20Meeting%20Minutes%204_22_26%20.pdf) [PDF, 11 pages].

* New Product Comparison Tool for ARRL Members

ARRL has introduced a new member benefit: the QST Product Review Comparison Database. This online tool makes it easier to compare amateur radio transceivers, receivers, amplifiers, and transmitters by allowing users to sort and filter equipment based on their own selection criteria. Introduced by the ARRL Lab, it offers a familiar experience for anyone who has shopped online in recent years. The database makes it much easier to discover and evaluate equipment based on the characteristics that matter most to you, using the standardized measurements that the Lab has been collecting for many years. To access this new member benefit, log in to the ARRL website and visit (<https://compare.arrl.org/>). See (<https://www.arrl.org/news/find-the-right-rig-new-comparison-tool-for-arrl-members>) for details. There’s also an article with the details coming up in the July QST, page 44.

* “The ARRL Does Nothing For Me”

I was recently made aware of a web page that provides an excellent response to those that say “the ARRL does nothing for me”. It has a good description of many of the things the League does for hams the world over. Give it a read so you’ll be ready the next time someone says they’re not going to join the ARRL. See (<https://k8jk.wordpress.com/2025/03/27/the-arrl-does-nothing-for-me/>). [Thankx to Ralph AA8RK for the tip.]

* Radiogram Portal Challenge

Last year, a Radiogram Portal Challenge was conducted during July and amateur radio operators were challenged to submit at least one radiogram to the Portal each day during the month. This generated a lot of message traffic for NTS during a normally slow period. There were seven participants last year who met the challenge and each received a certificate as well as seeing their name and call sign in the August issue of The NTS Letter. Another challenge will be held this July. All traffic handlers and non-traffic handlers are invited to take the Radiogram Portal Challenge. Log into the Portal each day and leave a message destined for a ham or non-ham, friend or family member. Anyone who submits a message each day during the challenge period will qualify to receive a certificate and have their name and call sign published in the August issue of The NTS Letter. The challenge period will run from July 1 through July 26, allowing results to be tabulated and reported in the August newsletter. This is a great way to demonstrate how the public can be served by the National Traffic System and amateur radio! For more information about the Radiogram Portal and how to enter a message, see the Portal URL at (<https://nts2.arrl.org/radiogram/>).

Government News

* Canada Discontinuing its WWV-Equivalent Time Signal Broadcasts

Barely three months after silencing its national Weatheradio forecast service on VHF, Canada is shutting down shortwave station CHU, its official time service. Canadian shortwave station CHU is scheduled to go off the air on the 22nd of June. The station delivers the nation's official time from a transmitter site southwest of Ottawa, broadcasting on 3.33, 7.85 and 14.67 MHz, allowing listeners in Canada and around the world to synchronize their clocks on Coordinated Universal Time. The service is run by the National Research Council and transmits the time via digital voice in English and French. The time-signal radio station makes use of atomic clocks on the premises, which are checked against atomic clocks based at the council headquarters. Canada first began transmitting the time under the CHU callsign in 1938. The station began its transmissions earlier in the decade as VE9OB. Its announcements are in Coordinated Universal Time, a change made in 1990 after decades of transmitting in Eastern Standard Time. In making the announcement of the station's shutdown, the NRC said that official time-keeping will be delivered instead by three more modern methods - via its telephone talking clock and, using the Internet via its Network Time Protocol and its web clock.

[from the Amateur Radio Newline Report for Friday, May 29th, 2026]

Other News:

* Open-Source Software Modem Called a VARA Replacement

Developers have announced the release of Mercury, an open-source software modem that they are calling a replacement for Vara. Mercury is a digital radio OFDM protocol, which can be used for HF broadcast and peer-to-peer ARQ connections with compatible TCP interfaces. According to Peter Bloom, general coordinator of the developer Rhizomatica, Mercury is compatible with Windows, Linux and a number of non-Intel architectures. Peter told Newline that Mercury, the newest element of Rhizomatica's HERMES software suite, it is built for reliable store-and-forward email and file transfer over HF radio links. He said it is compatible with most HF transceivers and it complies with ham radio use. The project coordinator is Rafael Diniz, PU2UIT. He said that Mercury has a number of advantages over Vara, including improved performance over high-SNR links. There is no license fee. Find additional details at

(<https://www.rhizomatica.org>)

[from the Amateur Radio Newline Report for Friday, May 15th, 2026]

* International Dog Day Special Event Station

Hanz van de pol, YL3JD, in Latvia, will have his special event station YL1DOG, on the air during all of August. In the USA, Caryn Eve Murray, KD2GUT, has the special call sign KØDOG. She will have a North American team on the air the week of International Dog Day. International Dog Day or National Dog Day is an annual observance held to celebrate dogs of all breeds and backgrounds, promote dog adoption, and raise awareness about the welfare of dogs around the world. It also recognizes working dogs and the roles they play in human society, including service, police, military, and rescue dogs. It was founded in 2004 by Colleen Paige, an American animal welfare advocate and pet lifestyle expert. The date, August 26, was chosen to mark the day her family adopted their first dog from a local animal shelter when she was 10 years old. In case you wondering ...International Cat Day is August 8, 2026!! More information can be found at

(<https://hamlog.online/iddicd2026/>).

* 13 Colonies Special Event

In celebration of our nation's Independence Day, the annual 13 Colonies Special Event will be held on July 1-7. There will be a special event station in each of the 13 colonies, along with bonus stations in Great Britain, France and Philadelphia. Very attractive certificates are available. Get details at (<http://www.13colonies.us/>).

* ARISS Announces Plans for Moon-Based Ham Radio

The Morse Code transmitted more than two years ago by JS1YMG, the lunar ham station of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, is apparently just the beginning. Attendees at a Hamvention forum hosted by ARISS in Xenia, Ohio recently learned about a moon-based project called CAVIAR. That's an acronym for "Communications, Audio, Video and imaging using Amateur Radio." The feasibility of CAVIAR is being studied by ARISS and AMSAT through a partnership known as AREx, for Amateur Radio Exploration. According to the early information being discussed publicly, the station could have support for voice, digital and video - with 10 GHz and 5 GHz links supported by a network of stations on Earth. More far-reaching goals can be found on the ARISS website, which describes AREx as an "international effort to develop and operate amateur radio systems for deep space, starting at the moon and later to Mars."

[from the Amateur Radio Newline Report for Friday, May 22nd, 2026]

Hamfests And Special Events:

* 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>).

* 06/06-21/2026

Lewis and Clark Trail on the Air. 0000Z-2359Z, W7AIA, Vancouver, WA. Clark County Amateur Radio Club. 14.240. Certificate & QSL. Clark County Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 1424, Vancouver, WA 98661.

* 06/19-20/2026

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

* 10/16-18/2026

Pacificon. Location: San Ramon, CA. Sponsor: Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club. Website: (<https://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>)

Significant Events in Telecomm History – June

** 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.
- 06/09/2016 The first meeting of the newly chartered QCWA Chapter 228 in Contra Costa County was held at the Legends restaurant in Concord.
- 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.
- 06/26/1824 William Thomson, also known as Lord Kelvin, was born in Belfast, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. Lord Kelvin calculated the coldest possible temperature (-273.15 Celsius, or 459.67 degrees

- Fahrenheit), developed what is now known as the Kelvin temperature scale, developed the second law of thermodynamics, and worked to install telegraph cables under the Atlantic, among other accomplishments.
- 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.

New Hams:

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KO6NCU	Beckett Atkisson	Alameda
KO6NEY	Thomas Meigs	Danville
KO6NDY	Spencer Reynolds	Benicia
KO6NEV	Sethu Ramu	Concord
KO6NDT	Jieun Lim	Fremont
KO6NIV	Gabriella Liu	Fremont
KO6NJG	David Qorashi	Castro Valley
KO6NKA	Grace Zhen	Fremont
KO6NEI	Samskrith Raghav	Union City
KO6NCC	Olivia Kang	Pleasanton (General)
KO6NGD	Fritz Mueller	Oakland
KO6NDR	Hei Wang Ralph	Wong Berkeley
KO6NFU	Qiaoyu Yang	Berkeley
KO6NDF	Fuad Atayev	Berkeley
KO6NCX	Malachi Hose	Vacaville (General)

Upgraded Hams:

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KD6ZMQ	Robert Lockett	Alamo (General)
W6ILO	Garrett Bissett-Mortensen	Livermore (General)
KJ6LNN	David Mayes	Livermore (Extra)
AK6TH	Gregory Aguilar	Pittsburg (Extra)
KO6MJO	Ravikanth Ganapavarapu	Pittsburg (Extra)
KO6IOT	Amina Kirby	Oakland (General)
KO6MSM	Nicolas Choconta	Kensington (General)

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Question & Answer:

How does RF radiation differ from ionizing radiation (radioactivity)?

A. RF radiation does not have sufficient energy to cause chemical changes in cells and damage DNA

[Technician Class question pool (2026-2030) no. T0C12 (<https://www.ncvec.org/index.php/2026-2030-technician-question-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>
