

Section Manager
East Bay Section Newsletter
July, 2026

ARRL East Bay Family,

The weather for Field Day 2026 last weekend was good for many, but a bit blustery, making it a challenge to hold down such things as pop-ups, tents, paperwork, antennas and similar items. The band conditions seemed OK but not great, at least for 20 and 40 meters, with 6 and 10 opening up a bit occasionally. Our East Bay Section Youth Coordinator, Allen Huang, KN6UZU, joined me this year to tour our Section's four counties, visiting as many locations as we could. We were impressed with the layout at each location, especially with some of the antennas.

There were 11 sites registered on the ARRL Field Day Locator map this year. I was invited to an additional site but I did not have enough location information to find them. We made it to 10 of the sites. The eleventh one was shutting down late in the afternoon, just as we were getting ready to head their way. I left home about 9:30 AM, got back a little before 9:00 PM. The total driving distance for the day was 259 miles.

I received 9 Radiograms and Winlink messages by various methods. I replied via Winlink with a confirmation email to all of them. If you sent me a Field Day Radiogram or Winlink message and did not receive a confirmation reply, please let me know. I don't want you to lose your bonus points.

As I write this on Wednesday, 07/01/2026, 2,380 log entries had been submitted to the ARRL. At that time, I found 20 submissions from the East Bay Section. The status of 19 was "Complete" with the other one "Pending documents". 8 of the submissions appear to be from clubs.

Remember that the deadline for submitting log entries is Tuesday, July 28, 2026 at 1:59 PM Pacific time. Upload your entry at (<https://field-day.arrl.org/fdentry.php>). You can check the status of any Field Day log entry at (<https://field-day.arrl.org/fdentriescvcd.php>).

Congratulations to the Livermore Amateur Radio Klub (LARK), which was founded on July 30, 1959 (67 years young!)

Congratulations and thank you to the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club, the California Amateur Radio Linking Association, and the Livermore Amateur Radio Klub (LARK) for becoming affiliated with the ARRL on July 13, 1948; July 25, 2005; and July 30, 1959, respectively.

* Question:

Which type of code is used for sending characters in a PSK31 signal?

- A. Varicode
- B. Viterbi
- C. Volumetric
- D. Binary

(See the last page for the answer.)

=====
Section & Division News:

* Pacific Section Manager Election

Heather Flewelling, AH7RF, did not face opposition as Pacific Section Manager and was declared elected for her upcoming new term of office beginning October 1, 2026. Congratulations, Heather.

* Radio Day By the Bay

The California Historical Radio Society is hosting its annual Radio Day by the Bay on Saturday, July 18 at its museum in Alameda. Hours are 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. They'll have a variety of radio-related activities (broadcast and amateur radio), including an electronics surplus sale, live music, an antique radio auction, tours of the museum and ham shack, vendor booths, food trucks and more. For more information and to RSVP, go to (<https://californiahistoricalradio.com/event/radio-day-2026/>).

* 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>). Also, you must register at (<https://hamstudy.org/>) prior to testing. The answers to the question pool can be found at (<https://ncvec.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.

* Stockton Ham Cram Reminder

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 Reminder

The Benicia ARC will host another one-day ham class 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/>).

ARRL News:

* Board Meeting Agenda

The ARRL Board will meet on July 17-18 for its usual second meeting of the year. The agenda for the meeting is available at (https://www.arrl.org/files/file/About%20ARRL/Board%20Meetings/Draft%20Agenda%20July_26'.pdf). If you have any questions or thoughts on the items to be discussed at the meeting, please contact our Division Director, John Litz, NZ6Q, at nz6q@arrl.org.

* Virtual NTS Training Net

The Virtual NTS Training Net (VNTN) meets via Zoom weekly on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM Eastern time (4:00 PM Pacific). For newcomers, trainer Shawn Dodds, N1CVO, covers the basics, including a National Traffic System (NTS) overview, how traffic is routed and relayed, an explanation of the radiogram form, precedence and handling instructions, voicing, prowords, and ITU phonetics. This is a relaxed atmosphere in which practice and questions are encouraged. Get details and join the net at (<https://nts2.arrl.org/virtual-nts-training-net/>).

Government News

* Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act Update

ARRL's nationwide grassroots campaign supporting the bipartisan Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act has generated more than 155,000 letters to members of Congress in support of H.R. 1094 and S. 459. The legislation seeks to ensure that amateur radio operators can install and maintain effective outdoor antennas at residences where private land-use restrictions might otherwise prohibit them, helping communities maintain resilient emergency communications capabilities during disasters. As of mid-June, we have 28 cosponsors in the House. Only one is from California, Jimmy Panetta from District 19 (Santa Clara area and points south). There is still only one cosponsor in the Senate, from Connecticut. We Californians still have work to do. If you have not yet submitted your letter authorization, please do so

now. Also, if you or someone you know had a GMRS license, you can also submit an authorization as a GMRS operator. It takes less than a minute - really. Go to (<http://www.arrl.org/current-legislation>).

* Costly Antenna Repairs for NASA's Deep Space Station

NASA is facing a repair bill of between \$4.1 and \$4.6 million for Deep Space Station 14, its 70-meter RF antenna near Barstow, California - all because of what it has found to be inadequate procedures and inadequate training of workers. A report recently released by the agency said that its investigation found a number of primary causes, including human error, weaknesses in software and an undetected failure in the antenna's hydraulic limit system, which is its final mechanical safeguard. The incident that took the antenna out of service occurred last September as it was tracking the Juno mission for deep-space exploration focused on Jupiter. The antenna over-rotated, adding stress to structural supports and cables and damaging water lines feeding the antenna's fire-suppression system. An article on NASA's website states that investigators concluded that operators felt compelled by "workplace culture" to work as quickly and efficiently as possible "often stretching beyond their usual roles, expertise and training to keep the antenna operating." NASA considers these findings to be its final report. The antenna, a key part of the Deep Space Network, is expected to be out of service until October of 2028.

[from the Amateur Radio Newline Report for Friday, June 26th, 2026]

See the full NASA article at (<https://www.nasa.gov/directorates/somd/space-communications-navigation-program/nasa-concludes-antenna-mishap-investigation-releases-report/>).

Other News:

* New Technician Class Question Pool in Effect

Remember that the previous Technician Class question pool (for 2022-2026) expired this June 30. The new one became effective July 1. This means you'll need the updated ARRL manual for current and future courses. You can download the question pool at (<https://www.ncvec.org/index.php/2026-2030-technician-question-pool>). The new ARRL Technician manual is available at (<https://home.arrl.org/action/Store/Product-Details/productId/2097393415>).

* 13 Colonies Special Event Reminder

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/>).

* IARU HF World Championship

The International Amateur Radio Union will hold its annual IARU HF World Championship on the second full weekend of July (July 11-12, 2026). The contest period begins 1200 UTC Saturday and runs through 1159 UTC Sunday. Both Single and Multioperator stations may operate the entire 24-hour period. They will use the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands. Get details and rules at (<http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-world-championship>).

* 2026 DARK WIRE Exercise

Not to be confused with the true-crime book of the same name about an FBI sting operation, the Dark Wire exercise in southern California was a rigorous communications drill that tested the resilience of hospital connectivity during a catastrophic "Digital Quake" scenario. The exercise simulated the total loss of cellular and internet infrastructure, exacerbated by a power grid failure and a major M 6.3 earthquake in the San Fernando Valley. The results were resounding: Through advanced digital protocols and seamless inter-agency collaboration, amateur radio operators maintained rock-solid situational awareness across multiple medical facilities. Read all about it at (<https://www.laxnortheast.org/exercises/5th-saturday-exercises/2026-darkwire>).

* There's More to Global Positioning Than Just GPS

The GPS, or Global Positioning System, is the U.S. version of a Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS). Although GPS was the first system, it's no longer the only one; and your "GPS" device may be able to use one or more of the others. There are now systems from Russia, China, the European Union, Japan and India. With the right app, your phone can track all of them. The app I'm using is GPSTest, available in your app store. Here's a good article that briefly describes all of the above GNSSs (<https://twiar.net/2026/06/02/via-hackaday-theres-more-to-global-positioning-than-just-gps/>).

* International Dog Day Special Event Station Reminder

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/>).

Hamfests And Special Events:

* 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 – July

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

- 07/01/1881 The world's first international telephone call was made between St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Canada, and Calais, Maine, United States
- 07/01/1911 The Wireless Ship Act of 1910 became effective, the first federal legislation regulating radio communication in the U.S.
- 07/01/1941 The first national standards for the broadcast of television went into effect.
- 07/01/1951 The Novice and Technician Class licenses were created by the FCC. The Novice was good for 1-year, non-renewable, low power CW only.
- 07/01/1971 Federal frequency & time signal radio station WWVH began broadcasting from its current location near Kekaha on the Island of Kauai, Hawaii.
- 07/02/1928 W3XK went on the air in Wheaton, Maryland, becoming the first commercially licensed television station in the US.
- 07/02/1939 The Hewlett-Packard Company was founded in a garage in Palo Alto, California by Bill Hewlett and David Packard, producing a line of electronic test and measurement equipment. The "HP Garage" at 367 Addison Avenue is now designated an official California Historical Landmark, and is marked with a plaque calling it the "Birthplace of 'Silicon Valley'".
- 07/04/1838 Edward Davy received a patent for a telegraph system using his mercury dipping electrical relay.
- 07/04/1973 The first broadcast signal from Sutro Tower in San Francisco took place.
- 07/05/1687 Isaac Newton published the first edition of his Principia Mathematica, widely regarded as one of the most important works in both physics and applied mathematics. The work underlies much of the technological and scientific advances from the Industrial Revolution.
- 07/05/1912 Forty-five Q-codes were formally adopted into international law by the Second International Radiotelegraph Convention in London. The concept of callsign prefixes was also established, giving the U.S. the prefixes KDA-KZZ, N (all), and W (all).
- 07/05/1963 Federal frequency & time signal radio station WWVB was launched near Fort Collins, Colorado, replacing the experimental callsign KK2XEI.
- 07/06/1854 Georg Simon Ohm died in Munich, Kingdom of Bavaria in the German Confederation (present-day Germany) at age 65.
- 07/09/1962 A major manmade geomagnetic storm struck Earth, following the detonation of a thermonuclear warhead 250 miles above the Pacific Ocean—a test called “Starfish Prime.” The event caused an artificial solar storm complete with auroras, geomagnetic activity, and blackouts, including radio and satellite failures.

- 07/09/2016 The first meeting of QCWA Chapter 228 (Diablo) took place at Legends Cafe at Diablo Creek Golf Course, Concord. Ron Luttringer, K6XC, presided as the first President.
- 07/10/1856 Nikola Tesla was born in Smiljan, Austrian Empire (modern-day Croatia).
- 07/10/1962 Telstar 1 was launched, the first satellite to relay through space television pictures, telephone calls, and telegraph images, and providing the first live transatlantic television feed.
- 07/12/1999 The final commercial Morse code transmission in the U.S. was sent, using Samuel Morse's original 1844 message, "what hath god wrought", and the prosign sk ("end of contact").
- 07/13/1866 The Great Eastern steamed westward toward Heart's Content, Newfoundland, Canada from Valentia, Ireland, laying the first transatlantic cable.
- 07/13/1948 The Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club became affiliated with the ARRL.
- 07/19/1977 The first satellite navigation positioning signal was received from NTS-2 (Navigation Technology Satellite), by Rockwell Collins engineer David Van Dusseldorp in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. This marked the beginning of the Global Positioning System (GPS) era.
- 07/20/1937 Guglielmo Marconi died in Rome, Kingdom of Italy at age 63.
- 07/21/1984 The ARRL and the FCC signed a Memorandum of Agreement authorizing the ARRL to accredit Volunteer Examiners and coordinate examinations; creating the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator office.
- 07/25/2005 The California Amateur Radio Linking Association became affiliated with the ARRL.
- 07/27/1866 The first transatlantic cable was completed, with its landing in Heart's Content, Newfoundland, Canada from Valentia, Ireland.
- 07/29/1958 President Dwight Eisenhower signed the National Aeronautics and Space Act, establishing NASA.
- 07/29/1985 The Space Shuttle Challenger launched, carrying the first official Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX) payload.
- 07/30/1959 The Livermore Amateur Radio Klub (LARK) was founded.
- 07/31/1940 The first meeting of the National Television Standards Committee (NTSC) was held, with a mission to develop standards for the broadcast of television nationwide. The new standards were accepted by the FCC in May, 1941 and went into effect on July 1, 1941.
- July, 1908 Modern Electrics magazine, published by Hugo Gernsback, printed the first "Wireless Registry" list of amateur stations, including self-designated call signs.
- July, 1948 The first of two parts of Claude Shannon's "A Mathematical Theory of Communication" was published in the Bell System Technical Journal, essentially inventing the field of information theory.
- July, 1949 The establishment of the National Traffic System was announced in the ARRL's CD Bulletin.

=====

New Hams:

June, 2026 Report

KO6NQK	Adam Haas	Antioch
KO6NNP	Paul Blomdal	Benicia
KO6NWG	Po Wong	Concord
KO6NWL	Alicia Hurst	Fremont
KO6NWR	Bridget Maguire-Colton	Hayward
KO6NOX	David Voinea	Moraga
AK6TV	Oliver Wendt	Moraga (Extra)
KA2WNN	Zak Winnick	Napa
K8NPA	Catherine Moon	Napa
KO6NSR	Charles Moidel	Pleasanton
KO6NWN	David Johansen	Dublin
KO6NNQ	Mario Ferrer	Dublin
KO6NUO	James Farr	Dublin
KO6NOY	Kai Gottschalk	Pleasanton
KO6NOC	Erinn Terry	Vallejo
KO6NQJ	Carson Gunther	Walnut Creek
W6JLB	Josh Billions	Oakland
KO6NPL	Alex Perry	Oakland
KO6NNR	Pa Ousman Jobe	Oakland
KO6NUD	Adrian Cotter	Oakland
KO6NNN	Angel Juarez	Berkeley

KO6NWH	Chris Hoofnagle	Berkeley
KO6NOR	Thomas Ayres	Kensington
KO6NNU	Gabriel Moran	San Pablo
KO6NOB	Albert Margolis	San Pablo
KO6NNK	Woodie Douglas	Vacaville

Upgraded Hams:

June, 2026 Report

KG6WIP	Kenneth Levins	Alameda (Extra)
KG6WIP	Kenneth Levins	Alameda (General)
K6TJK	Timothy Kress	Benicia (General)
KO6MTB	James Jewell	Concord (General)
KM6UXF	Alla Lyubinina	Concord (General)
KK6WPZ	Alexander Bisceglie	El Cerrito (General)
KN6MEF	Micahel Ware	Napa (General)
N6RIO	John Rio	Oakley (General)
KO6MIM	Tim Burgess	Oakley (General)
KO6MYK	Ericson Reduta	Oakley (General)
KN6CDJ	Michael Devengenzo	Vallejo (General)

Question & Answer:

Which type of code is used for sending characters in a PSK31 signal?

A. Varicode

[General Class question pool (2023-2027) no. G8C12 (<https://www.ncvec.org/index.php/2023-2027-general-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>
