



The Kern River Voice

The Monthly Newsletter of the Sequoia Amateur Radio Group



Volume 13- Issue 8

August 2018

N6KRV – An ARRL Affiliated Club

PO Box 2446, Lake Isabella CA 93240

Newsletter Editor – Bill N6TF- editor@n6krv.org

<http://www.n6krv.org>



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2018 S.A.R.G. Leadership

President

Bill Hesse (661) 867-3203

Vice President / Programs Chr

Donna Higginbotham (661) 867-2033

Secretary

Christine Hesse KK6AZQ (661) 867-3203

Treasurer/ Web Master

Mike Higgins KA6IYS (760) 378-1028

Membership Chair

Charles Caudell

Board Members

Don Jefferson KC6OCA (760) 379-5084
(also Club Historian & The Raffle Guy)

Newsletter Editor

Bill Hesse editor@n6krv.org

Past President

Skip Reymann N6SR

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ARES Net

Monday – 6:45 PM

145.450 (-) PL 156.7

Monday – 7:00 PM

145.150 (-) PL 100.00

Club Nets

HF Net –Tue / Thu & Sat 8 PM
3.815 MHz

VHF Net – Friday 7PM

145.450 (-) PL 156.7

Packet Net – Sat 7PM

145.050 on N6KRV-5

Prune Juice & BS Net

Daily (exc. Sunday) 9AM

145.450 (-) PL 156.7

SARG Monthly Meetings

2nd Sat. (exc. Dec.) 9:30AM

KRV Elk's Lodge

6708 Wofford Blvd.,

Wofford Heights, CA 93285



The Prez Sez:

Whew! July is finishing as a scorcher and August isn't looking like it intends to be any cooler.

The “Ice Cream Social” was a hit with around 26 people attending. Everyone was “socializing” and enjoying a great selection of ice cream.

A special THANK YOU! Goes out to Mike KA6IYS for taking on the task of picking out the ice cream and toppings and picking up the bowls, spoons, etc. He did a great job of it. Thanks also goes out to Jan Robertson N7CCV for showing up with a couple very tasty pies. I had a piece (or two) and sure enjoyed it.

The only business conducted was taking nominations for the new Board Member At Large position and we had two volunteers: Bob Bradley KI6TLB, and Jan Robertson N7CCV. Both well respected members. We

“Prez” cont...

will hold the election at the August meeting, so you had better show up and vote!

The fact that our membership hit 50 necessitated the selection of another board member and I am proud to be your President at this time. Keep bringing people in. I hope our club will continue to grow.

No other business was conducted. The whole point was to simply have a time that we all could just sit around and talk with each other. No drawings, no monthly speaker, just a fun time with friends. (and ice cream) -Bill- N6TF-



OUR NEXT MEETING:

We will be having the aforementioned election for the new Board Member At Large followed by Mike Higgins KA6IYS giving a presentation on the goings-on at the latest Field Day event. It should be a fun time and we hope to see you there!

Other Coming Events – Conventions, etc.

“Prune Juice Net” quarterly breakfast: August 8th 8:30am at the “Dam Corner Cafe” in Lake Isabella

Amateur Radio License Information

VE Exams

The club offers exams for new or upgraded licenses after each meeting. Please bring a government issued photo ID (even if we personally know you) and your current license if you have one. Exams are processed by the Greater Los Angeles Amateur Radio Group and the fee is \$5. If you pass your exam and wish to take the exam for the next higher class of license there is no additional charge. If you fail the exam and there is time to take a second exam there is an additional \$5 fee. We can process renewals and address changes for \$2, but we recommend that you do this on the FCC website for free. On July 1, 2018 a new question pool will be instituted for the Technician Class Exam. The club website N6KRV.ORG has all three question pools with the distracters (wrong) answers deleted. There is also a link to the complete question pool with all 4 choices showing. Your FCC approved application Form 605 will ask you if you have ever been convicted of a felony. If you answer yes the FCC will contact you before they process your application. The exam team will not ask for any explanation and we will process



Exams cont...

the application the same as if you had answered no. Questions or reservation requests should be directed to mike@n6krv.org. We ask that you notify us at least 24 hours before the meeting if you intend to take an examination so that we can make sure to have enough examiners available after the meeting.

Birthday - Jazz trumpet player Louis Armstrong (1901-1971) was born in New Orleans, Louisiana. Known as "Satchmo," he appeared in many films and is best known for his renditions of *It's a Wonderful World* and *Hello, Dolly*. (Ed note: *It's a Wonderful World* is my favorite song of all time. I had it played when I danced with my oldest daughter at her wedding)

August 5, 1861 - President [Abraham Lincoln](#) signed into law the first Federal income tax, a 3 percent tax on incomes over \$800, as an emergency wartime measure during the [Civil War](#). However, the tax was never actually put into effect.

August 7, 1964 - Following an attack on two U.S. destroyers in the [Gulf of Tonkin](#) off North Vietnam, the U.S. Congress approved the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, granting President Lyndon B. Johnson authority "to take all necessary measures to repel any armed attack against the forces of the United States and to prevent further aggression."

August 7, 1990 - Just five days after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, President [George Bush](#) ordered Desert Shield, a massive military buildup to prevent further Iraqi advances.

August 14, 1935 - President Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act establishing the system which guarantees pensions to those who retire at age 65. The Social Security system also aids states in providing financial aid to dependent children, the blind and others, as well as administering a system of unemployment insurance.

August 18, 1920 - The 19th [Amendment](#) to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, granting women the right to vote.

Birthday - American explorer Meriwether Lewis (1774-1809) was born near Charlottesville, Virginia. Along with William Clark, he explored the American West, and in 1805, after a journey of over 18 months, reached the Pacific Ocean.

August 21, 1959 - President [Dwight D. Eisenhower](#) signed a proclamation admitting Hawaii to the Union as the 50th state.



SICKNESS AND DISTRESS

If you hear of any of our members who aren't feeling so well, please let Marty KC6RIZ or Christine KK6AZQ know so they can get a card out to them.

Augustthis month in History

Birthday August 1, 1779- *Star-Spangled Banner* author Francis Scott Key (1779-1843) was born in Frederick County, Maryland. After witnessing the British bombardment of Fort McHenry on the night of September 13-14, 1814, he was enthralled to see the American flag still flying over the fort at daybreak. He then wrote the [poem](#) originally entitled *Defense of Fort McHenry* which became the U.S. National Anthem in 1931.

August 2, 1776 - In Philadelphia, most of the 55 members of the Continental Congress signed the parchment copy of the [Declaration of Independence](#).

“History” cont.....

August 26, 1883 - One of the most catastrophic volcanic eruptions in recorded history occurred on the Indonesian island of Krakatoa. Explosions were heard 2,000 miles away. Tidal waves 120 ft. high killed 36,000 persons on nearby islands, while five cubic miles of earth were blasted into the air up to a height of 50 miles.

Birthdays August 26 - American inventor Lee De Forest (1873-1961) was born at Council Bluffs, Iowa. He held hundreds of patents for inventions and was also a pioneer in the creation of wireless radio broadcasting and television.

ARRL Exhibits for First Time at AirVenture Oshkosh 2018

07/26/2018

ARRL has been exhibiting for the first time ever this week at [AirVenture Oshkosh 2018](#) in Wisconsin. The ARRL exhibit complements other ham radio demonstrations at the air show. ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, is working with a team of members who are supporting the exhibit at the weeklong aviation celebration and fly-in. The annual event draws more than 500,000 visitors. Inderbitzen said that by mid-week, the ARRL guest book was filled with call signs from around the world.

“Cool! ARRL is here! That’s the sentiment shared by hundreds of ham radio operators who have visited our exhibit at AirVenture this week,” Inderbitzen said. ARRL Life Member and flight instructor TJ Johnson, K9KJ, of Munster, Indiana, was among those stopping by the ARRL booth. He shared his experience of operating aeronautical mobile during ARRL Field Day

with his friend Bob Johnson, W9XY. They made hundreds of radio contacts from a Cessna 182 aircraft, 7,000 feet above the Wisconsin countryside. They operated on 20-meter CW using an end-fed wire; they also made many contacts on 2-meter FM simplex.

Two Amateur Radio [Special Event Stations](#) are on the air throughout AirVenture. Organized annually by the Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club in Appleton, Wisconsin, W9ZL is set up at KidVenture at the Pioneer Airport airstrip in Oshkosh. The EAA Warbirds of America AirVenture Celebration Special Event Station, W9W, is set up near the display of vintage military aircraft. It celebrates historic aviation achievements, legendary pilots, and groundbreaking aviation innovations.

The ARRL display also includes an APRS beacon, operating as W1AW-9. “Many pilots carry small APRS beacons on their aircraft,” said Inderbitzen. “The beacons are easily tracked by other APRS users, but also by friends and family who can track the beacons and aircraft position in real-time on map-based web services such as [aprs.fi](#).”

“Our booth volunteers are also helping direct newcomers to radio clubs and testing locations,” said Inderbitzen. Those committed to getting their first Amateur Radio license are able to become ARRL members at AirVenture and get a free Technician class license manual in the bargain. ARRL’s booth is located in Hangar B, Booth 2152.

Member Dan Vanevenhoven, N9LVS, from Appleton, Wisconsin — a private pilot and one of the organizing chairs who oversee

“Oshkosh” cont....

the show’s admission booths — escorted Inderbitzen and ARRL Central Division Director Kermit Carlson, W9XA, around the sprawling grounds and airfields where thousands of aircraft have converged for AirVenture. At least for a week, the fly-in makes Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh the busiest airport in the world. AirVenture continues through Sunday, July 29.

Ham Radio Glossary From the ARRL website.....

I-

Impedance -- The opposition to electric current in a circuit. Impedance includes factors other than resistance, and applies to alternating currents. Ideally, the characteristic impedance of a feed line is the same as the transmitter output impedance and the antenna input impedance.

Impedance-matching device -- A device that matches one impedance level to another. For example, it may match the impedance of an antenna system to the impedance of a transmitter or receiver. Amateurs also call such devices a Transmatch, impedance-matching network or antenna tuner.

Inductance -- A measure of the ability of a coil to store energy in a magnetic field.

Inductor -- An electrical component usually composed of a coil of wire wound on a central core. An inductor stores energy in a magnetic field.

Input frequency -- A repeater's receiving frequency. To use a repeater, transmit on the input frequency and receive on the output frequency.

Insulator -- A material that maintains a tight grip on its electrons, so that an electric current cannot pass through it (within voltage limits).

Intermediate frequency (IF) -- The output frequency of a mixing stage in a superheterodyne receiver. The subsequent stages in the receiver are tuned for maximum efficiency at the IF.

Ionizing radiation -- Electromagnetic radiation that has sufficient energy to knock electrons free from their atoms, producing positive and negative ions. X-rays, gamma rays and ultraviolet radiation are examples of ionizing radiation.

Ionosphere -- A region of electrically charged (ionized) gases high in the atmosphere. The ionosphere bends radio waves as they travel through it, returning them to Earth. Also see sky-wave propagation.

J-

Jumper--A small piece of wire used to connect two parts of a circuit. In computers and other devices, a jumper may take the form of a smaller plastic piece with an internal conductor that fits over two circuit board posts.

And, once again: our agreement is to “re-print it EXACTLY as published originally” ... We did! So if you noticed any spelling errors, improper spacing, seemingly meaningless statements, punctuation errors, font, etc., etc. It ain’t me! (I do all my misspelling, and seemingly meaningless statements elsewhere in this document, and 'a purpose

--- Editor---

Why isn't a Koala a bear? He doesn't have the



Koalafications.....

Let me hear from you if you like or don't like what you've seen in this issue of *your* "Kern River Voice". EDITOR@N6KRV.ORG

Also from ARRL:

International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend Welcomes First-Time Lights

07/24/2018

Marking its 21st anniversary this year, the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend ([ILLW](#)) in August will celebrate Amateur Radio operation at several lighthouses that will make debut appearances in this year's event. So far, 300 [groups or individuals](#) have registered to indicate plans to participate from a lighthouse or lightship during the 2-day operating activity. Newcomers joining the list of perennials include the Ashdod and Mount Carmel lighthouses in Israel; Shabla Lighthouse in Bulgaria; Porthcawl Breakwater in Wales, and Tanjung Datu in Malaysia. Additional newcomers are in Mexico and Cuba, sponsors said.

ILLW is always held on the third full weekend in August. This year, it will get under way at 0001 UTC on August 18 and continue until 2400 on August 19 — 48 hours in all. The ILLW typically attracts more than 500 lighthouse entries in dozens of countries. Registration is not required for participation, but it does let other stations know which lighthouses and lightships will be activated.

Other lighthouses making a first appearance in ILLW include Malarri in Iceland and Akmanrags Lighthouse in Latvia. The Lightship Huron on the St Clair River in Michigan also is a newcomer.

As the ILLW website notes, "August seems to have become the international weekend for lighthouses." In the US, August 7 in [National Lighthouse Day](#), which is marked by Amateur Radio operations at lighthouses during US National Lighthouse Week. In Britain, the Association of Lighthouse Keepers conducts International Lighthouse Heritage Weekend during the third full weekend in August, coinciding with ILLW. Sponsors stress that the event is *not* a contest — and there are no prizes, certificates, or other enticements to participate. Each station's operators decide how they will operate their station with respect to bands and modes, and participating stations do not have to be on the air for the entire weekend.

Activity does not need to take place inside the structure itself. A Field Day-style setup at the light or other building adjacent to the light is sufficient. Sponsors say the intent of that requirement is to make the station visible to visitors.

"After your License Arrives, now what?"

written by [Gerry Crenshaw](#), *WD4BIS, Rowlett, Texas*

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Well, that great day finally came and your license is in your hand. You have a call sign and the desire, now what equipment do you spend your hard earned money on. You have been to one or the other stores in the area that sell ham gear or looked at the catalogs and seen all the snazzy offerings from Kenwood, Yaesu and Icom. Where do you start and how much to spend??

First take a deep breath and sit down. Make a list of the things you want in your first radio. If your interest is 2 meter, your first thought is a handi talkie, maybe one of new dual banders. OK, let's be honest. If you can get on the local repeater with a basic radio, do you really need all the bells and whistles found on the newer HT's. Is your local repeater carrier or tone access? Do you need autopatch capability? What's the other band for crossband repeating? Are you good with Techno whizbang things like the VCR? Pick that first radio with these things in mind.

One of the things you look over when you are buying that first radio is that you tend to stay in the same area, talk to the same bunch of people on the repeaters, and stay on the same frequencies most of the time. Get a radio that will do the job for now. It's going to take awhile to get over "microphone fright" until you have found a few people

"Now What?" cont.....

from the local repeater crowd that you want to talk to or have common interests with. Don't forget to look at the used equipment that's available before buying that new dual bander. When looking at used equipment ask to see it demonstrated or put on the air. No one will mind and we usually enjoy showing off our proficiency.

Many of the newer radios have to be programmed from the keypad with multi-keystroke commands, having the instruction book open and three hands. If you are not good with these things, seek advice on the model you are considering buying. Some of them are easier to use and program than others. If you have a friend who is a ham, seek his advice before buying that first radio, and don't be afraid to ask for help (for most of us this is easier said than done).

Other things to look for in a HT are items like: will it take an external 12 volt DC voltage? Can you run it from a car battery? How much are the NiCad battery packs, and does the radio have an battery pack that uses Alkaline batteries like "AA's"? If you're on a trip and forget the charger, you can buy the double A cells anywhere.

Other than the radio remember that a good antenna is your best investment. You have to be able to hear the other station before you can talk to them. Although the rubber duck looks impressive, it's really not much of an antenna. Remember that you can you can trade antenna gain for power. For every 3 dB of antenna gain you double your effective power. So, a 2 watt radio with an external antenna that has 3 dB of gain is about equivalent to a 6 Watt transmitted

signal. If the antenna has 6 dB of gain, that's 2 watts from the radio doubled to 6 watts, and 6 watts doubled again to 12 watts.

Remember to monitor the frequency first prior to calling a "CQ". In most cases, the statement over the air that "This is (CALL SIGN) monitoring" is enough to get several responses. Our radio spectrum is a shared resource. Use it wisely lest it be taken away.

Regardless of your buying decision, most of us soon find that the radio is a welcome and trusted companion whether it's used just rag-chewing on the way to work or school and are grateful the first time it brings help in a crisis. Have fun and enjoy your privilege, you earned it, so probably talk to them. Mount the antenna with care and please be careful. Something else to remember is that although an antenna is a thing of beauty to us it might not be to you neighbors. Think about starting off small and working up to something

73's and GL Gerry WD4BIS

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A child asked his father, "How were people born?" So his father said, "Adam and Eve made babies, then their babies became adults and made babies, and so on." The child then went to his mother, asked her the same question and she told him, "We were monkeys then we evolved to become like we are now." The child ran back to his father and said, "You lied to me!" His father replied, "No, your mom was talking about her side of the family."



AUGUST 2018

Serving the Kern River Valley and Walker Basin



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