



# The Kern River Voice

## The Monthly Newsletter of the Sequoia Amateur Radio Group



Volume 14- Issue 1  
January 2019



<http://www.n6krv.org>

N6KRV – An ARRL Affiliated Club

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Newsletter Editor – Bill N6TF- [editor@n6krv.org](mailto:editor@n6krv.org)

### 2018 S.A.R.G. Leadership

#### President

Bill Hesse (661) 867-3203

#### Vice President / Programs Chr

Robert Bradley KI6TLB (760) 223-1441

#### Secretary

Skip Reymann N6SR (760) 646-6719

Nancy Reymann K6NJR (760) 646-6720

#### 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)

Jan Robertson N7CCV

#### Newsletter Editor

Bill Hesse [editor@n6krv.org](mailto: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

#### Club Nets

HF Net – Tue / Thu & Sat 8 PM

3.770 MHz

VHF Net – Friday 7PM

145.450 (-) PL 156.7

#### 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:*

Well, it's a new year and I hope an exciting one for our club.

The Christmas party was a very enjoyable affair with good food and many prizes awarded. The usual cash prizes were given out along with a very nice 2 meter mobile radio won by Jayne Hotchkiss KK6JPZ.

Ellen Niduvitch did a great job of putting together the swag bags that everyone received. Lots of nice stuff in a small bag. She put a lot of work and thought into these and deserves our thanks. Thank You Ellen!!

Also donated this time was a very nice brand new 2 meter mobile radio donated by Torin Swinland KK6YAB. It made for a great grand prize and was a very generous donation on Torin's part. Thank you Torin!!

The beautiful centerpieces gracing our tables were crafted and donated by Cheryl Ripley. These were loved by all and were

"Prez" continued...

raffled off at the end of the party. Great work Cheryl!!

The new slate of officers takes over now with Robert Bradley taking over for Donna Higginbotham as Vice President and Skip and Nancy Reymann are taking the Secretary duties over from Christine Hesse. Our outgoing officers did a great job and are also deserving of our thanks.

2018 saw the loss of some of our members as "Silent Keys" and it is my fervent hope that 2019 sees our membership grow. As current members it is up to all of us to promote this club and it's activities. Attend meetings and bring friends whenever you can. Tell your friends and neighbors about us and Ham radio in general.

Thanks to all of you for supporting me in the past year as your President, and for supporting the club in general.

-Bill- N6TF-

**OUR NEXT MEETING:** Our next meeting will be a good one starting with donuts and coffee along with great company. Please make a special effort to attend.



## 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 was instituted for the Technician Class Exam. The club website [N6KRV.ORG](http://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](mailto: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.

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### Some upcoming events

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Coming up this year:

Annual SARG potluck and swapmeet

Summer Ice Cream Social

ARRL Ham Radio Field Day, June 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>

These are just a few events  
suggestions are welcome

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### SICKNESS AND DISTRESS

If you hear of any of our members who aren't feeling so well, please let Skip N6SR or Nancy N6NJR know so they can get a card out to them. Keep those prayers going.....



### ...this month in History

**January 1, 1863** - The [Emancipation Proclamation](#) by President Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves in the states rebelling against the Union.

**January 2, 1942** - During [World War II in the Pacific](#), the Japanese captured the Philippines capital of Manila and the nearby air base at Cavite.

**January 3, 1993** - President George Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin [signed](#) the Start-II (Strategic Arms Reduction Talks) Treaty, eliminating about two-thirds of each country's long range nuclear weapons.

**January 6, 1941** - President Franklin Roosevelt delivered [his State of the Union address](#) to Congress asking for support for the lend-lease program aiding Allies fighting the Axis powers. Roosevelt also defined four essential freedoms worth defending; freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear.

**January 11, 1964** - The U.S. Surgeon General declared cigarettes may be hazardous to health, the first such official government report.

**January 15, 1973** - Golda Meir became the first Israeli Prime Minister to visit the Pope.

**Birthday** - Martin Luther King (1929-1968) was born in Atlanta, Georgia. As an African American civil rights leader he spoke eloquently and stressed nonviolent methods to achieve equality. He received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. He was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968. In 1983, the third Monday in January was designated a legal holiday in the U.S. to celebrate his birthday.

**January 20, 1981** - Ronald Reagan became president of the United States at the age of 69, the oldest president to take office. During his inauguration celebrations, he announced that 52 American hostages that had been seized in the U.S. embassy in Tehran, Iran, were being released after 444 days in captivity.

**January 29, 1916** - During [World War I](#), the first aerial bombings of Paris by German zeppelins took place.

From ARRL:

## **Radio Amateurs Position to Support Emergency Communication in Tsunami's Wake**

12/24/2018

Radio amateurs in Indonesia's Banten Province are in position to support emergency any necessary emergency communication in the wake of a "stealth tsunami" on December 22, that struck without warning. Indonesia's Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency concluded that a volcanic eruption triggered a landslide underwater at Anak Krakatau.

The tsunami struck in the Sunda Strait between the islands of Java and Sumatra, which connects the Java Sea to the Indian Ocean. Rescue and relief activities are under way. The death toll is expected to top 400, and many people are reported to be still missing. Fatalities occurred in the Pandeglang, South Lampung, and Serang regions of Indonesia. Some 1,500 people were reported injured.

IARU Region 3 Disaster Communications Coordinator Dani Hidayat YB2TJV, said ORARI, Indonesia's IARU member-society, would use 7.110 MHz for any relief and recover communication. An ORARI CORE emergency team is using a VHF repeater for regional communication.

ORARI reported that the LAPAN A2 satellite (IO-86) was being pressed into service for emergency communication purposes during the relief and recovery effort. IO-86 should not be used at this time for non-emergency traffic.

"ORARI Daerah Banten, immediately deployed the CORE ORARI Banten team to Cilegon and Serang where the disaster occurred to help the existing volunteer team," said a report on the ORARI website.

"The disaster management agency warned that the death toll is likely to rise further," Hidayat said. Some believe that high seas resulting from the full moon may have contributed to the force of the waves. The disaster management agency said hundreds of buildings were damaged.

Also from ARRL:

## **US Radio Amateurs Help to Make YOTA Month Happen in Ethiopia**

12/20/2018

Two US radio amateurs helped to make Youngsters on the Air Month ([YOTA Month](#)) a success in Ethiopia. YOTA month takes place each December, and several participating stations obtain permission to use YOTA suffix call signs for the occasion. Ken Claerbout, K4ZW, and Bob Johnson, W9XY, traveled to Addis Ababa to assist the young members of the Ethiopian Amateur Radio Society ([EARS](#)) as they've transformed ET3AA at Addis Ababa University Institute of Technology into ET3YOTA, making their country available on the air during YOTA Month. A check of spots on [DX Summit](#) shows that ET3YOTA mostly has been active on 20 meters SSB, with some operation on 160 and 40 meters.

"The operators use SSB and FT8, although some would like to learn CW," Claerbout told ARRL. "They all do quite well actually on SSB. Bob, W9XY, worked with them a bit, to give them some pointers, but they have no problem turning on the radio, calling CQ, and facing the masses."

Several students at the university hold US Amateur Radio licenses because the Ethiopian government has not issued any licenses in some years, Claerbout explained.

In a narrative he shared with [The Daily DX](#), Claerbout said the goal for the week was to spend a lot of time on the air. "It was a chance for us to work with them, to refine operator skills, and jointly work on some station projects," he said. "This is a very enthusiastic group. They love to get on the air and operate!"

Claerbout, Johnson, and the Ethiopian operators obtained permission to stay at the university for three nights to activate 80 and 160 meters. They erected an inverted L antenna supported with an 18-meter fiberglass pole.

"It is one of the ugliest antennas I've ever built but, boy, did it work, far beyond my expectations," Claerbout said. The antenna's location above a university building's metal roof provided an excellent RF ground, but manmade noise did turn out to be a



"YOTA" continued...

major issue — a steady S-9 + 20 dB on 160, and a mere S-9 on 80 meters. Unfortunately, using a noise-cancelling device didn't help.

"My goal for the 3 nights, along with working as many people as we could, was to see if operating [the] low bands from the club station would be feasible for future visits," Claerbout said. "I believe the noise can be dealt with to some degree, making future low-band operations a real possibility. On Top Band, many signals were right at the noise. Bob and I both agree that even knocking down the noise an S-unit or two would [open up another layer] of signals."

Claerbout conceded that FT8 would be "very effective" in this sort of situation, but he said FT8 holds no interest for him. "I like the challenge this situation provides and developing solutions to overcome it, with the young engineers at the club station," he said.

The ET3YOTA call sign will be used for the rest of December, with operation on SSB and possibly some FT8. Logs are to be uploaded to Logbook of The World.

Claerbout said, "[M]y involvement with the club is one of the coolest things I have done in Amateur Radio. I think W9XY would agree." He thanks DX Engineering and those who have helped foster the ham community in Ethiopia. "Youth and Amateur Radio in Ethiopia is flourishing," he concluded.

### ***How about a little humor?***

*Jack, a handsome man, walked into a sports bar around 9:58 pm. He sat down next to this blonde at the bar and stared up at the TV as the 10:00 news came on. The news crew was covering a story of a man on a ledge of a large building preparing to jump.*

*The blonde looked at Jack and said, "Do you think he'll jump?"*

*Jack says, "You know what, I bet he will." The blonde replied, "Well, I bet he won't." Jack placed \$30 on the bar and said, "You're on!"*

*Just as the blonde placed her money on the bar, the guy did a swan dive off of the building, falling to his death. The blonde was very upset and handed her \$30 to Jack, saying, "Fair's fair... Here's your money."*

*Jack replied, "I can't take your money, I saw this earlier on the 5 o'clock news and knew he would jump."*

*The blonde replies, "I did too; but I didn't think he'd do it again."*

*Jack took the money.*

**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 'apurpose**

**--- Editor---**

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**What happens to a frog's car when it breaks down?**



**It gets toad away.**

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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](mailto:EDITOR@N6KRV.ORG)

## Ham Radio Glossary

From the ARRL website:

### P-

**Phonetic alphabet** -- Standard words used on voice modes to make it easier to understand letters of the alphabet, such as those in call signs. The call sign KA6LMN stated phonetically is Kilo Alfa Six Lima Mike November.

**Pico** -- The metric prefix for  $10^{-12}$ , or divide by 1,000,000,000,000.

**PL** -- (Also known as CTCSS - Continuous Tone-Coded Squelch System) A sub-audible tone system used on some repeaters. When added to a carrier, a CTCSS tone allows a receiver to accept a signal.

**PNP transistor** -- A transistor that has a layer of N-type semiconductor material sandwiched between layers of P-type semiconductor material.

**Polarization** -- The electrical-field characteristic of a radio wave. An antenna that is parallel to the surface of the earth, such as a dipole, produces horizontally polarized waves. One that is perpendicular to the earth's surface, such as a quarter-wave vertical, produces vertically polarized waves. An antenna that has both horizontal and vertical polarization is said to be circularly polarized.

**Portable device** -- A radio transmitting device designed to have a transmitting antenna that is generally within 20 centimeters of a human body.

**Potentiometer** -- Another name for a variable resistor. The value of a potentiometer can be changed over a range of values without removing it from a circuit.

**Power** -- The rate of energy consumption. We calculate power in an electrical circuit by multiplying the voltage applied to the circuit times the current through the circuit ( $P = IE$ ).

**Power supply** -- A circuit that provides a direct-current output at some desired voltage from an ac input voltage.

**Priority traffic** -- Emergency-related messages, but not as important as Emergency traffic.

**Procedural signal (prosign)** -- One or two letters sent as a single character. Amateurs use prosigns in CW contacts as a short way to indicate the operator's intention. Some examples are K for "Go Ahead," or AR for "End of Message." (The bar over the letters indicates that we send the prosign as one character.)

**Product detector** -- A device that allows a receiver to process CW and SSB signals. Propagation -- The study of how radio waves travel.

### Q-

**Q signals** -- Three-letter symbols beginning with Q. Used on CW to save time and to improve communication. Some examples are QRS (send slower), QTH (location), QSO (ham conversation) and QSL (acknowledgment of receipt).

**QRL?** -- Ham radio Q signal meaning "Is this frequency in use?"

**QSL card** -- A postcard that serves as a confirmation of communication between two hams.

**QSO** -- A conversation between two radio amateurs.

**Quarter-wavelength vertical antenna** -- An antenna constructed of a quarter-wavelength long radiating element placed perpendicular to the earth.

### *At the movies*

*When the usher noticed a man stretched across three seats in the movie theater, he walked over and whispered "Sorry sir, but you are allowed only one seat." The man moaned but didn't budge. "Sir," the usher said more loudly, "if you don't move, I'll have to call the manager." The man moaned again but stayed where he was. The usher left and returned with the manager, who, after several attempts at dislodging the fellow, called the police. The cop looked at the reclining man and said, "All right, what's your name, joker?" "Joe", he mumbled. "And where are you from, Joe?"*

*Joe responds painfully, "The balcony!"*

## Off Topic

(not radio related but fun anyway)

*Sometimes at night I like to go outside and just gaze at the stars and reacquaint myself with a few old friends.*

*When I was about 14 years old my parents bought me a very nice telescope for Christmas. I didn't know a lot about the night sky but I figured this was a pretty great gift and went outside to set it up and take a look.*

*I looked around for the brighter objects. As luck would have it the very first thing I pointed it at was Jupiter. I could immediately identify four of it's moons.*

*The next thing I looked at was Saturn. Although it was smaller than Jupiter the rings were a dead giveaway. In the eyepiece it looked like a single eye looking back at me!*

*I was hooked!*

*I mean really truly hooked.*

*And this was before I pointed it at the moon!*

*It was the start of a long relationship between me and the night sky. I even started sleeping in our back yard during the summer.*

*This was before computers were in wide use so if I wanted to find interesting celestial objects I had to find them in "Astronomy" or "Sky and Telescope" magazines or consult a sky atlas. After finding some favorites I had to remember them or keep good notes. I came to know the Constellations and the names of the main stars in them. On those summer nights they all became "friends."*

*Nowadays you can take your tablet or smart phone outside and it will tell you what you are looking at. They will even identify any satellites you may see drifting past.*

*Which brings me to the point of this essay.*

*The other night I saw the International Space Station (ISS) and got to wondering just how many satellites we had overhead these days?*

*According to the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) as of 2018 we have a staggering 1980 operating satellites orbiting our planet. Overall there are 4857 objects up there.*

*What are all these things doing up there?*

*Well, of the operating satellites:*

*Communications: 792 satellites,*

*Earth observation: 661 satellites,*

*Technology development/demonstration: 213 satellites,*

*Navigation/Positioning: 121 satellites,*

*Space science/observation: 76 satellites, Earth science: 23 satellites.*

*Now before you grab your calculators and start checking the math remember that many satellites have multiple uses. The numbers don't necessarily add up.*

*Add to this the fact that there are 81 countries putting these things up there...well that's food for thought the next time I step outside to spot a few "old friends". (editor)*

#####

*Two students were arguing when their teacher entered the classroom. The teacher says, "Why are you arguing?" One boy answers, "We found a ten dollar bill and decided to give it to whoever tells the biggest lie." "You should be ashamed of yourselves," said the teacher, "When I was your age I didn't even know what a lie was." The boys gave the ten dollars to the teacher.*

## The Good Deed

*A lady lost her handbag in the bustle of Christmas shopping.*

*It was found by an honest little boy and returned to her. Looking in her purse, she commented, "That's funny. When I lost my bag there was a \$100 bill in it. Now there are 100 \$1bills." The boy quickly replied, "That's right, lady. The last time I found a lady's purse, she didn't have any change for a reward."*



# JANUARY 2019

Serving the Kern River Valley and Walker Basin



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