



# The Kern River Voice

## The Monthly Newsletter of the Sequoia Amateur Radio Group



Volume 14 Issue 2

February 2019

N6KRV – An ARRL Affiliated Club

PO Box 2446, Lake Isabella CA 93240

<http://www.n6krv.org>



[n6krv@n6krv.org](mailto:n6krv@n6krv.org)

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

### 2019 S.A.R.G. Leadership

#### President

Bill Hesse (661) 867-3203

#### Vice President / Programs Chr

Robert Bradley K16TLB (760) 417-3739

#### 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:*

Our January was a good one. There were so many prizes to be given out that Don Jefferson K6OCA had 6 door prize tickets drawn just to manage the pile. Thanks to the Higginbothams for adding so many trinkets to the pile. John Strand W6IBL also brought a “grab box” of radio items which was promptly pounced on by members. Thanks John!

We also had a new member sign up. Jim Harris, KJ6HYL who was visiting our meeting decided to go ahead and sign up.

Welcome Jim!!

On that subject we could always use more new members. Be sure to tell people about the club and the fun and challenges of being a Ham and the great club you belong to.

Skip Reymann was our speaker this time. He filled us in on his repeater project and all

“Prez Says” continued...

the fun and games he is having with getting the use of his proposed site.

It belongs to the BLM and the bureaucratic path is strewn with potholes and landmines, as you can well imagine.

These things are no match for someone like Skip and it's a matter of time until his vision comes to fruition.

I see a work party in my future. Skip seems to have the equipment lined up, thanks in most part to the generosity of Dave Light and his family. So only the aforementioned red tape and a bit of labor stands in the way.

Well that's about it for now. Please be sure to attend the next meeting. Participation and involvement are what makes this club such a great one. We recently hit the 50 member mark and we are continuing to build on that.

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.



## 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, 2019 a new question pool will be instituted for the General 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 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



“exams” continued...

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

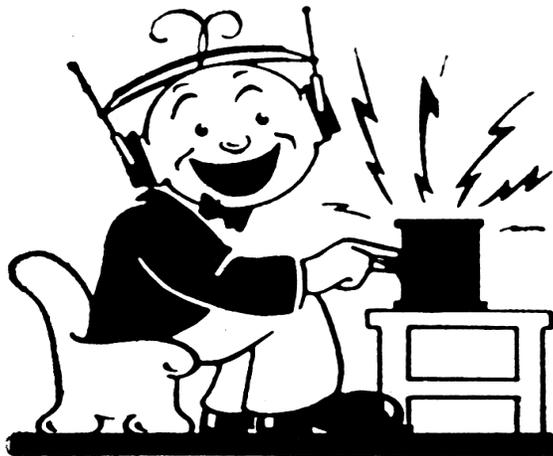
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### SICKNESS AND DISTRESS

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

**February 1, 2003** - Sixteen minutes before it was scheduled to land, the Space Shuttle Columbia broke apart in flight over west Texas, killing all seven crew members. The accident may have resulted from damage caused during liftoff when a piece of insulating foam from the external fuel tank broke off, piercing a hole in the shuttle's left wing that allowed hot gases to penetrate the wing upon re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere. This was the second space shuttle lost in flight. In January 1986, Challenger exploded during liftoff.

**February 7, 1795** - The 11th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, limiting the powers of the Federal Judiciary over the states by prohibiting Federal lawsuits against individual states.

**Birthday** - British novelist Charles Dickens (1812-1870) was born in Portsmouth, England. He examined social inequalities through his works including; David Copperfield, Oliver Twist, and Nicholas Nickleby. In 1843, he wrote A Christmas Carol in just a few weeks, an enormously popular work even today.

**February 13, 1945** - During World War II in Europe, British and American planes began massive bombing raids on Dresden, Germany. A four-day firestorm erupted that was visible for 200 miles and engulfed the historic old city, killing an estimated 135,000 German civilians.

**Birthday -February 22,** George Washington (1732-1799) was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia. He served as commander of the Continental Army during the American Revolution and became the first U.S. President.

**Birthday - February 26,** American frontiersman "Buffalo Bill" Cody (1846-1917) was born in Scott County, Indiana. He claimed to have killed over 4,000 buffalo within 17 months. He became world famous through his Wild West show which traveled throughout the U.S. and Europe for 30 years.

**February 28, 1994** – NATO conducted its first combat action in its 45 year history as four Bosnian Serb jets were shot down by American fighters in a no-fly zone.

From ARRL:

## Amateur Radio Applications Piling Up as Partial Government Shutdown Continues

01/23/2019

Volunteer Examiner Coordinators across the US are continuing to receive paperwork from Amateur Radio exam sessions held during the partial government shutdown. While it's still possible to access the Universal Licensing System ([ULS](#)) and file applications, the FCC is not processing individual, club, and exam session — new and upgrade — Amateur Radio applications. The FCC closed most operations on January 3, when available funding ran out. According to the FCC public notice, aside from a few emergency and auction-filing systems, all other Commission electronic filing systems will be unavailable to the public until normal agency operations resume.

“Nothing’s moving until the FCC reopens,” said ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM. “ARRL VEC continues to enter exam session, individual, and club license data into the system while we wait for the FCC to reopen and normal agency operations to resume. We have approximately 1,600 applications and 125 exam sessions waiting in the queue to be processed. Everything’s in there ready to go.”

Somma stressed that, although license upgrade applications are still on hold, current FCC Amateur Radio licensees who have successfully upgraded and hold a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) may operate temporarily using the privileges of their new license class, until their new licenses are granted.

Even though it's not possible for the FCC to grant a new license, a license upgrade, a change of address or other modification, or a vanity call sign application, the Commission Registration System ([CORES](#)) remains functional to allow critical radio services to obtain FRNs and file applications during

the shutdown. Registering a user name and logging into CORES is required to apply for and receive an FCC Registration Number (FRN). An FRN is a unique 10-digit identifier necessary to conduct business with the FCC and to manage existing FRNs. The FCC said that starting in March, users who already have an FRN from the legacy Commission Registration System will need to create a user name to continue managing their FRNs.

If an Amateur Radio license recently has expired or is about to expire, the licensee can apply for license renewal via the ULS and continue to operate while the FCC is closed. The filed application will remain in limbo until the FCC is back to work. Licensee who wait until the FCC reopens to apply then will have 2 days to submit a renewal application before the license is considered to have expired in the FCC database.

The FCC has said it would not automatically extend deadlines in cases where the license has expired and the 2-year grace period has expired, but said it would “consider whether it is appropriate to do so once normal operations resume.”

Also from the ARRL:

## FCC Reactivating Equipment Authorization System

01/22/2019

The FCC says it will reactivate its Equipment Authorization System ([EAS](#)), which had been unavailable since the FCC ran out of funds on January 3 because of the partial government shutdown that began a month ago. RF devices, including most Amateur Radio equipment, must be properly authorized before being marketed or imported into the US. The FCC Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) administers the equipment authorization program.

“After reviewing our statutory authority, the status of contract obligations, and our lapse in funding plan, we will be reactivating this system today,” the FCC

“FCC” continued....

said in a January 18 public notice. “Most radio transmitters are required to be certificated to ensure compliance with the Commission’s technical rules.”

Certification applications are reviewed and granted by private-sector Telecommunications Certification Bodies (TCBs), which must enter the application and grant of equipment certification into the EAS before the grant becomes effective.

“The reactivation of the EAS will enable the TCBs to grant equipment certifications, thereby allowing that equipment to be imported and marketed in the United States,” the FCC said. “While the EAS will be available to the public, no support will be provided by Commission staff.”

There are some exceptions. TCBs are required to consult with FCC staff before granting certification for certain products under a procedure called Pre-Approval Guidance (PAG). “This procedure generally involves products where the required tests are complex or break new ground,” the FCC said. “TCBs will continue to be unable to grant equipment certification for products subject to the pre-approval guidance procedure until the FCC resumes normal operations and staff is available for consultation.”

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

*An old cowboy walks into a barbershop in Dillon, Montana for a shave and a haircut. He tells the barber he can't get all his whiskers off because his cheeks are wrinkled from age. The barber gets a little wooden ball from a cup on the shelf and tells the old cowboy to put it inside his cheek to spread out the skin.*

*When he's finished, the old cowboy tells the barber that was the cleanest shave he'd had in years, but he wanted to know what would have happened if he had accidentally swallowed that little ball. The barber replied, just bring it back in a couple of days like everyone else does.*

**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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**Q: What did the duck say when he bought lipstick?**



**A: "Put it on my bill."**

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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:

**R-**

**Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES)** -- A part of the Amateur Service that provides radio communications for civil preparedness organizations during local, regional or national civil emergencies.

**Radio-frequency interference (RFI)** -- Disturbance to electronic equipment caused by radio-frequency signals.

**Radioteletype (RTTY)** -- Radio signals sent from one teleprinter machine to another machine.

“Glossary” continued...

Anything that one operator types on his teleprinter will be printed on the other machine. Also known as narrow-band direct-printing telegraphy.

**Receiver**--A device that converts radio waves into signals we can hear or see.

**Receiver incremental tuning (RIT)**--A transceiver control that allows for a slight change in the receiver frequency without changing the transmitter frequency. Some manufacturers call this a clarifier (CLAR) control.

**Receiver overload** -- Interference to a receiver caused by a strong RF signal that forces its way into the equipment. A signal that overloads the receiver RF amplifier (front end) causes front-end overload. Receiver overload is sometimes called RF overload.

**Reflection** -- Signals that travel by line-of-sight propagation are reflected by large objects like buildings.

**Reflector** -- An element behind the driven element in a Yagi and some other directional antennas.

**Repeater station** -- An amateur station that automatically retransmits the signals of other stations.

**Resistance** -- The ability to oppose an electric current.

**Resistor** -- Any material that opposes a current in an electrical circuit. An electronic component specifically designed to oppose or control current through a circuit.

**Resonant frequency** -- The desired operating frequency of a tuned circuit. In an antenna, the resonant frequency is one where the feed-point impedance contains only resistance.

**RF burn** -- A burn produced by coming in contact with exposed RF voltages.

**RF carrier** -- A steady radio frequency signal that is modulated to add an information signal to be transmitted. For example, a voice signal is added to the RF carrier to produce a phone emission signal.

**RF overload** -- Another term for receiver overload.

**RF radiation** -- Waves of electric and magnetic energy. Such electromagnetic radiation with frequencies as low as 3 kHz and as high as 300 GHz are considered to be part of the RF region.

**RF safety** -- Preventing injury or illness to humans from the effects of radio-frequency energy.

**Rig**--The radio amateur's term for a transmitter, receiver or transceiver.

**RST** -- A system of numbers used for signal reports: R is readability, S is strength and T is tone. (On single-sideband phone, only R and S reports are used.)

## New Book Announcement

(simply an announcement, not an endorsement)

### ***The Successful Ham Radio Operator's Handbook***

This new book is aimed at new or returning hams to help them understand the practical aspects of the hobby, how to use their radios, build antennas and baluns, and get on the air successfully. In it you will find explanations of how the various parts of your ham radio - the transmitter and receiver - work, plus how these are being implemented using software defined radio technology. Operating techniques for VHF/UHF repeaters, HF radio DXing techniques, and the new digital modes are covered. Radio propagation, antennas, transmission lines, SWR and the mysteries of baluns are explained. Building your HF station, choosing a radio, connecting your radio to a computer, and mobile and portable operation are extensively covered.

This book has 267 pages, 211 figures and diagrams, and 53 tables of data to make understanding the sometimes complicated ham radio operations much easier. The book follows KE7X's philosophy of presenting material in several forms to accommodate people with different learning styles -- reading, visualizing, hands-on -- with the many figures and text explanations and there are hands-on exercises throughout the book that can help you learn more about your particular radio.

*Both the pdf and spiral-bound printed versions are available from Lulu.com, and the print copy is also sold by DX Engineering.*

## ***China to Launch Two Amateur Radio Satellites in April***

01/21/2019

Two new Chinese satellites with Amateur Radio payloads are planned for an April 5 launch, CAMSAT has reported.

CAS-7A will carry H/T (21/29 MHz) and H/U (21/435 MHz) mode linear transponders, V/U linear and V/U FM transponders, a UHF CW telemetry beacon, UHF AX.25 4.8k/9.6k baud GMSK telemetry, and 3-centimeter AX.25 1 Mbps GMSK image data transmission for an onboard camera.

CAS-7B is described as a 500-millimeter sphere spacecraft weighing 3 kilograms. It will carry a V/U transponder and a UHF CW telemetry beacon. — *Thanks to AMSAT News Service*

## ***Some other items of note***

*Did you happen to see the recent total lunar eclipse? It was visible here at the ol' homestead in Walker Basin but quickly be came obscured by clouds.*

*Christine got a picture or two of totality but that was about it for us.*

*It was reported in Sky and Telescope magazine that the impact of a small asteroid or meteorite was observed and even captured in pictures and a video. Normally these things are pretty faint and almost never observed, let alone photographed. But because of the eclipse lots of people were doing the same thing we were doing: observing and photographing the Moon. Because of that the faint flash was captured.*

*Excellent work!*

#####

## ***Poachers***

A game warden stops a poacher walking along the beach and tells him he's going to fine him for taking lobsters without a permit. The poacher tells the warden the two lobsters in his hands are his pets and he was just taking them for a walk. "Nonsense," says the game warden. "It's true, it's not against the law to walk your pets along the beach, is it?" asks the man. "I send them into the surf for a swim and when I whistle they come back to me". "I've got to see this; show me" says the game warden. So the man tosses both lobsters into the ocean and the game warden says, "Okay, now let's hear you whistle for your lobsters to swim back to you." "Lobsters?" asks the poacher, "What lobsters?"

## **Over-the-Horizon Radar Reported on 15 Meters**

01/17/2019

The International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 (IARU-R1) Monitoring System (IARUMS) reports that an over-the-horizon (OTH) radar located on Cyprus has been active on 21.170 MHz, which is inside an exclusive Amateur Radio allocation. "The Sovereign Base areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia is a British Overseas Territory on the island of Cyprus," IARUMS Coordinator Wolf Hadel, DK2OM, explained in the December [IARUMS newsletter](#).

Reported on December 11, the radar was said to be using FM CW, 50 sweeps/second and 20 kHz wide, on 21.170 kHz.



# FEBRUARY 2019

Serving the Kern River Valley and Walker Basin



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