



The Kern River Voice

The Monthly Newsletter of the Sequoia Amateur Radio Group



Volume 15 Issue 8

August 2020

N6KRV – An ARRL Affiliated Club

PO Box 2446, Lake Isabella CA 93240

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2020 S.A.R.G. Leadership

President

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

Vice President / Programs Chr

Cheryl Ripley (661) 867 0501

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Christine Hesse KK6AZQ

Board Members

Charles Caudell KI6GOG (760) 223 3929

Newsletter Editor

Bill Hesse editor@n6krv.org

Past President

Bill Hesse N6TF

.....

ARES Net

Monday – 6:45 PM
145.450 (-) PL 156.7

Club Nets

HF Net – Tue / Thu & Sat 8 PM

3.813 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:

Hello again Fellas and Gals,

Here it is nearing the end of July and time has slipped away much faster than I had expected it to.

We must be closer to our next meeting than we were but it sure doesn't seem to be.

For those of you who knew him Bill, AB6CF passed away. He was well respected and very active in the Bakersfield club.

We took Marty KC6RIZ down to start her next round of chemo.

I wish I had better news to report, But that's about the best I can do.

I am grateful for the Prune Juice Net to break up the monotony.

Behind the scenes there is a great team of Hams just itching to get our club moving again. To them I say "we still have to be patient a while longer. hang in there"

Don, KC6OCA

Radio Amateurs Help Air Ambulance

07/21/2020 (ARRL)

Peru's Radio Club Peruano (RCP) reports that Guillermo Guerra, OA4DTU/XQ3SA, and the Peruvian Relief Net assisted an air ambulance en route to Easter Island on July 9 after its satellite communication equipment failed. The aircraft was about 1,000 nautical miles from the continent, so the pilot tuned to the Peruvian Relief Net on 7100 kHz.

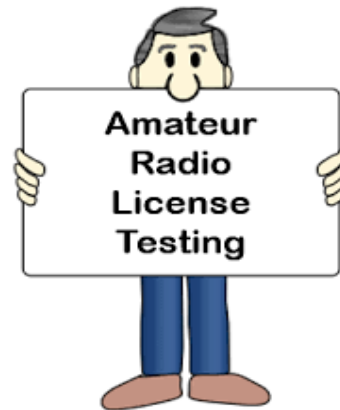
Net control station OA4DTU and Giancarlo Passalacqua, OA4DSN, were still on frequency, and communication was established with the aircraft. The pilot detailed its tenuous connection and requested support to communicate via telephone with Ocean Air Control, a service of the Directorate General of Aeronautics of Chile, which watches over 32 million square kilometers of air space off the Chilean coast in the Pacific.

Authorities were already on alert for the aircraft because of the communication loss, plus the HF at the Easter Island tower was inoperative. About 10 phone calls were made to point out the aircraft's position and route schedule, as well as any additional information needed. Other hams in Peru were listening in and standing by.

Guerra remained in contact with the aircraft until he was sure that it would reach its destination. At approximately 2330 UTC, the pilot reported making VHF contact with the Easter Island control tower for landing instructions. — *Thanks to Radio Club Peruano*

OUR NEXT MEETING: *Our next meeting has been canceled once again due to the current Covid-19 situation. Updates will be posted on the Club Website. (N6KRV.ORG)*

Please stay safe, well and at home.



VE Exams

The club now sponsors VE Exams on the 3rd Saturday of each month, except December. The exams will be held at the Valley Estates Community Center, 14213 Allen Ave., Weldon, CA 93283 at 11AM. Preregistration is required and the forms and directions are on the club website n6krv.org on the exam info page. This change was made on a trial basis as the Elk's Lodge was not yet available for the May testing session. It worked so well, no distractions, good social distancing for all involved and plenty of work space for everyone that it was decided to make the change of location and date permanent.

Mike KA6IYS – Lead Examiner

Some upcoming Events:

Annual Christmas Dinner



SICKNESS AND DISTRESS

If you hear of any of our members who aren't feeling so well, please let Christine Hesse KK6AZQ know so she can get a card out to them. Keep those prayers going.....

*Jimmy Carter was the first
U.S. President to be born in
a hospital...*

This month in History

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

August 6, 1945 - The first Atomic Bomb was dropped over the center of Hiroshima at 8:15 a.m., by the American B-29 bomber *Enola Gay*. The bomb detonated about 1,800 ft. above ground, killing over 105,000 persons and [destroying the city](#). Another estimated 100,000 persons later died as a result of [radiation effects](#).

August 9, 1945 - The second Atomic bombing of Japan occurred as an American B-29 bomber headed for the city of Kokura, but because of poor visibility then chose a secondary target, Nagasaki. About noon, the bomb [detonated](#) killing an estimated 70,000 persons and [destroying](#) about half the city.

August 11 Birthday - *Roots* author Alex Haley (1921-1992) was born in Ithaca, New York. His

Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, published in 1976, explored seven generations of his family from its origins in Africa through slavery in America and eventual hard-fought freedom. Roots was translated into 37 languages and also became an eight-part TV miniseries in 1977 which attracted a record American audience and raised awareness concerning the legacy of slavery.

August 16, 1896 - Gold was discovered in Rabbit Creek, a tributary of the Klondike River in Alaska, resulting in the Great Klondike Gold Rush.

August 16, Birthday - T.E. Lawrence 'of Arabia' (1888-1935) was born in Tremadoc, North Wales. He led an Arab revolt against the Turks during [World War I](#) and served as a spy for the British. He was killed in a motorcycle accident at Dorset, England, on May 19, 1935.

August 24-25, 1814 - During the War of 1812, Washington, D.C., was invaded by British forces that burned the Capitol, the White House and most other public buildings along with a number of private homes. The burning was in retaliation for the earlier American burning of York (Toronto).

August 26, Birthday - 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.

August 27, Birthday - [Mother Teresa](#) (1910-1997) was born (as Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu) in Skopje, Yugoslavia. She founded a religious order of nuns in Calcutta, India, called the Missionaries of Charity and spent her life working to help the poor and sick of India.

August 29, 1991 - Following the unsuccessful coup of August 19-21, the Soviet Communist Party was suspended, thus ending the institution that ruled Soviet Russia for nearly 75 years.

August 29, 1792 - In one of the worst maritime disasters, 900 men drowned on the British battleship *Royal George*. As the ship was being repaired, a gust of wind allowed water to flood into open gun ports. The ship sank within minutes.

off Topic but interesting anyway:

***“He Couldn’t Hit the Broadside of a Barn,
Even if He Was Locked Inside with all the
Windows Closed!”***

(from Book # 3, “*Lore of the California Vaqueros*”
by Arnold R. Rojas)

One of our favorite writers was Arnold R. Rojas, whose great grandparents came to California from Mexico in the early 1820’s. Arnold wanted to become a Vaquero. He learned much from the older Vaqueros he rode and worked with, and luckily for us, decided to put their stories into writing, eventually authoring five books on the subject. He spent 45 years in the saddle, and working with horses. You can’t buy a first edition of any of his hardbound books for less than \$300, and that one will probably be a discarded library book. Most go for \$500 or more. This is one of Jayne and my favorite stories:

“During his boyhood, Leonardo Chavarria lived and grew up on the Mojave Desert near what is now called Lake Elizabeth. When Chavarria was old enough to go to work, his first job was on the Tejon Ranch. As a youngster, he was started at \$15 per month for the first year and an increase of \$5 per year each year until he was making \$30 a month, which was top wages in those days. He was ordered to report to a mesa just southwest of Lebec for work, but he was in need of clothing before he could report, so he borrowed \$6 from the *mayordomo*, J.J. Lopez (J.J.).

As he recalled, he paid 30 cents for a pair of trousers, 25 cents for each shirt, and his entire outfit for the year including a pair of boots was just under the \$6.00.

The kid was worthless. He couldn’t have driven a cow down a lane unless the animal wanted to go that way. The

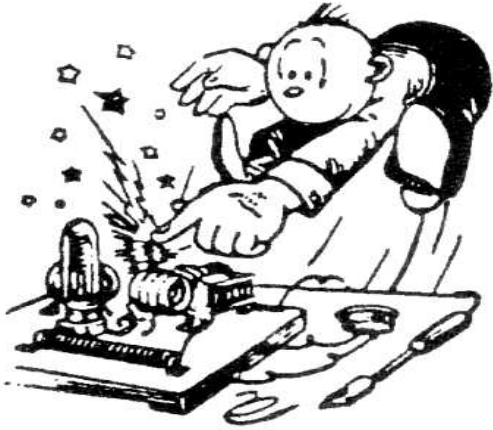
boss, J.J., had hired him not for the work he could get out of him, but from feeling pity for him.

His father, now deceased, was a very well-respected Vaquero who helped build the California Missions, Francisco “Chico” Lopez (and also a relative of J.J.’s). The boy just was not cut out to be a cowboy and blundered in everything he attempted. If he was sent out alone, he got lost, or, he would get off his horse without holding onto the reins, and would end up having to walk back to the ranch or camp. To make matters worse, he strapped on a gun, and while out, supposed to be working, would practice shooting at what he called “targets”, to the great annoyance to the other men in the crew, afraid he would shoot one of them because, “*he couldn’t hit the broadside of a barn, even if inside with all the windows closed.*” The other men let him alone, that is to say they rebuked him because he was shirking his duties, letting them do his share of the work, causing them trouble ---- so they ignored him altogether.

One day, the bosses’ horse (J’J’s horse) fell with him, and when the horse got up, J.J.’s foot was caught in the stirrup. The horse was getting set to run, but before that could happen, Leonardo Chavarria drew his gun and shot the horse in the head, killing it immediately. From that time forward, for as long as the boy worked on the Tejon Ranch, every few days J.J. would ask him if he had plenty of shells for his gun, and if not, he would buy them for him. He never wanted the boy to ever run out of ammunition.”

Submitted by Al Price N6ALP

Q: Why was 6 scared of 7?



A: Because seven ate nine..

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

Ham Radio Glossary

Editor's note: Although I have run "Ham Radio Glossary" in past editions and have already covered it all "from A to Z" it is my intention to cover it all again. This is intended as a service to the new "Ham" as well as gentle reminders for the seasoned veteran.

R-

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.)

S-

Safety interlock -- A switch that automatically turns off ac power to a piece of equipment when the top cover is removed.

Schematic symbol -- A drawing used to represent a circuit component on a wiring diagram.

Selectivity--The ability of a receiver to separate two closely spaced signals.

Sensitivity--The ability of a receiver to detect weak signals.

Series circuit -- An electrical circuit in which all the electrons must flow through every part of the circuit. There is only one path for the electrons to follow.

Shack -- The room where an Amateur Radio operator keeps his or her station equipment.

Short circuit -- An electrical circuit in which the current does not take the desired path, but finds a shortcut instead. Often the current goes directly from the negative power-supply terminal to the positive one, bypassing the rest of the circuit.

Sidebands -- The sum or difference frequencies generated when an RF carrier is mixed with an audio signal. Single-sideband phone (SSB) signals have an upper sideband (USB -- that part of the signal above the carrier) and a lower sideband (LSB -- the part of the signal below the carrier). SSB transceivers allow operation on either USB or LSB.

Silent Key -- SK. Euphemism for a deceased Amateur Radio operator. In the Western Union company's "92 code" used even before the American Civil War, the number 30 meant "the end. No more." It also meant "good night." In Landline Morse, 30 is sent didididahdit daaah, the zero being a long dash. Run the 30 together and it has the same sound as SK.

Simplex operation -- Receiving and transmitting on the same frequency. See duplex operation.

Single Sideband (SSB) phone -- A common mode of voice operation on the amateur bands. SSB is a form of amplitude modulation. The amplitude of the transmitted signal varies with the voice signal variations.

Single-pole, double-throw (SPDT) switch -- A switch that connects one center contact to one of two other contacts.

Single-pole, single-throw (SPST) switch -- A switch that only connects one center contact to another contact.

Skip zone -- An area of poor radio communication, too distant for ground waves and too close for sky waves.

From the ARRL:

High School Marine Buoy Transmitter Now Active on 20-Meter WSPR

07/23/2020

Phil Karn, KA9Q; Randy Standke, KQ6RS, and members of the Mount Carmel High School Amateur Radio Club (MCHSARC) in San Diego have constructed and deployed an amateur radio marine buoy in the Pacific. The buoy, which transmits *WSPR* on 14.0956 MHz USB, has already been heard around the continental US, Brazil, Hawaii, Japan, Costa Rica, Australia, and South Africa.

“Over the past year, Randy and I have mentored the MCHSARC in designing and constructing a simple marine buoy that was deployed from the RV *Sally Ride* [on July 16], about 700 kilometers off the coast of southern California,” Karn said in a [post](#) on the AMSAT Bulletin Board. “It is up and transmitting *WSPR* on 20 meters using the call sign KQ6RS, and is being received all over the US and into Canada and Brazil.” Karn is [blogging](#) about the project with updates.

The electronics are the 20-meter *WSPR* version of the WB8ELK “pico tracker” that has been flown on long-duration balloons. “We removed the solar panels and substituted 21 ordinary alkaline D cells, wired to supply 4.5 V,” Karn explained. “We estimate battery lifetime will be 6 months.”

Karn said that the [project](#) made use of everyday hardware. The buoy — essentially a spar buoy — was constructed using a 5-foot section of 4-inch PVC pipe, with sufficient ballast in one end of the pipe to permit it to float vertically in the water. The top is closed using a sewer pressure test plug, which has a bolt in the center that acts

as a convenient feed-through and antenna mounting point. The antenna is a stainless-steel CB whip with a matching network.

“We use the sea as a counterpoise, but to avoid direct metal/sea water contact, we lined the inside of the pipe with copper tape to form a capacitive connection,” Karn said.

During initial flotation testing, the project team found that the ballasted pipe alone was remarkably stable in pitch, roll, sway, and surge, but oscillated a lot in heave — i.e. up and down movement. Cross arms were at the water line to add drag in the vertical direction, to counter the issue.

“It wasn’t our intent to mimic a religious icon, but that’s where the physics went,” Karn said. Because sea water was required to tune the antenna, Standke floated the buoy off a dock in Mission Bay.

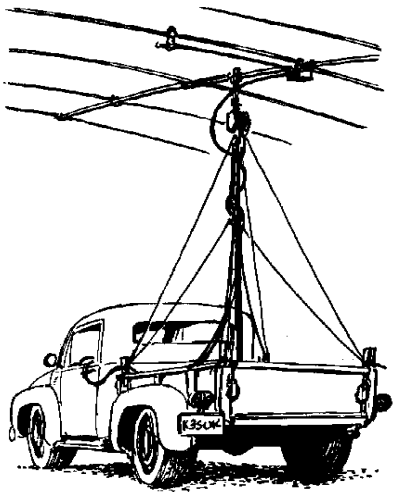
“We tried to make this thing as rugged as we could,” Karn recounted, offering his favorite saying to the students: “The sea always wins in the end, but we can delay that long enough to be useful.”

Deployment was to be from a NOAA vessel in April, but the trip was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Standke secured a trip on the RV *Sally Ride*, a research vessel operated by Scripps Institute of Oceanography.

The first reception report was on July 16 at 12:52:30 UTC from grid square CL89eu, although the current carried the buoy east into CL89fu at 20:32:30 UTC. The buoy (KQ6RS-1) can be tracked on the [APRS](#) and [WSPRnet](#) sites.

Karn said the project team is already planning its second buoy, which may include two-way links, satellite tracking, and sensors.

The internet allowed people to swiftly compare life insurance quotes. As a result the prices of U.S. Life insurances fell dramatically in 1996.



August, 1985 witnessed more passenger and crew deaths on commercial airlines than any other month in history....

*A man runs into a bar...
Panting, he tells the barkeep, "Give me ten shots of your best whiskey—quick!"
So the barkeep sets them up and the man knocks them all back in seconds.*

"Why you drinking so fast?" asks the barkeep.

"You'd drink fast too, if you had what I have," says the man.

"Why, what do you have?" asks the barkeep.

"Only twelve cents."

An amnesiac walks into a bar...

He goes up to a beautiful blonde and says, "So, do I come here often?"

"Father of Traffic Safety" William Eno invented the stop sign, crosswalk, traffic circle, one-way street, and taxi stand—but never learned to drive!



The barman says, "We don't serve time travelers in here."

A time traveler walks into a bar.



AUGUST 2020

Serving the Kern River Valley and Walker Basin



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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