



The Kern River Voice

The Monthly Newsletter of the Sequoia Amateur Radio Group



Volume 15 Issue 12

December 2020

N6KRV – An ARRL Affiliated Club

PO Box 2446, Lake Isabella CA 93240

Newsletter Editor – Bill N6TF- editor@n6krv.org

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2020 S.A.R.G. Leadership

President

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(also Club Historian & The Raffle Guy)

Vice President / Programs Chr

Cheryl Ripley (661) 867 0501

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Christine Hesse KK6AZQ

Treasurer/ Web Master

Mike Higgins KA6IYS (760) 378-1028

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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

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ARES Net

Monday – 6:45 PM
145.450 (-) PL 156.7

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:

Hi Folks

I can't believe that the end of 2020 is upon us. If we didn't have Ham Radio we might go "stir crazy". I for one am grateful for a way to reach out to each other without risk of spreading germs.

There has been a little movement towards moving the "sawmill" repeater to Rocky Point. A committee has been formed and measurements taken to get the ball rolling. A new antenna will be erected very soon and the rack mount will be mounted to the wall of the small building in anticipation of the move..

We still can't get together for a meeting so keep hanging in there a while longer.

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas, May your family groups remain intact.

Oh yes and happy New Year.

Don KC6OCA.

ARRL:

December is YOTA Month

The month of December has been designated as YOTA month. The annual initiative sponsored by Youngsters on the Air ([YOTA](#)) initially focused on International Amateur Radio Union ([IARU](#)) Region 1 (Europe, the Mideast, and Africa), with young radio amateurs taking to the air with YOTA-suffix call signs. YOTA ([Youth on the Air](#)) in Region 2 (the Americas) is following step, and [K8Y](#), [K8O](#), [K8T](#), and [K8A](#) will be on the air from the US.

The overarching idea is to demonstrate amateur radio to youth to encourage them to get licensed and for younger radio amateurs to get active on the ham bands.

YOTA-suffix stations have been on the air from the annual summer camp and other subregional camps in Region 1, but the COVID-19 pandemic sidelined those gatherings in 2020.

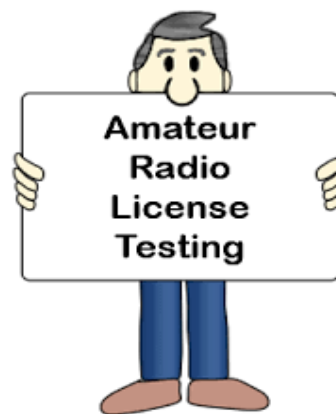
All radio amateurs can support this effort by contacting participating stations. An **awards program** is available. During YOTA month 2019, 47 participating YOTA stations racked up nearly 130,000 contacts. Follow YOTA via Twitter: [@hamyota](#) and [@hamyota_official](#). All young radio amateurs (up to age 26) are encouraged to participate. Direct questions via email to info@ham-yota.com.

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.

A note from the Editor:

There will be no newsletter for January, 2021... Your Editor is taking his annual break a month late. **Any important club news will still be distributed by email where necessary.**



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:
None scheduled so far.....



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.....

This month in History

December 1, 1941 - The American Civil Air Patrol (CAP), a U.S. Air Force auxiliary, was founded as Director of Civilian Defense, former New York Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, signed the formal order. The CAP currently provides aerospace education, a CAP cadet program, and emergency services such as locating missing aircraft.

December 4, 1791 - *The Observer*, now the oldest Sunday newspaper in the world, was first published in Britain.

December 6, 1917 - Two ships collided at Halifax, Nova Scotia, resulting in an explosion that killed more than 1,500 persons and injured 8,000. The Norwegian ship *Imo* collided with the French munitions ship *Mont Blanc* which was loaded with supplies for the war in Europe, including 5,000 tons of TNT. A tidal wave caused by the explosion destroyed much of the city.

December 10, 1950 - Dr. Ralph Bunche became the first African American man awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, for his efforts in mediation between Israel and nearby Arab states the previous year.

December 13, 1937 - The beginning of one of the worst atrocities of World War II as the Chinese city of Nanking (Nanjing) was captured by the Japanese. Over the next six weeks, the [Rape of Nanking](#) occurred in which Japanese soldiers randomly attacked, raped and indiscriminately killed an estimated 200,000 Chinese persons.

December 19, 1946 - War broke out in French Indochina as Ho Chi Minh attacked the French seeking to oust them from Vietnam. This marked the beginning of a [thirty-year conflict](#) which eventually led to heavy U.S. involvement and ended with a Communist victory in April 1975 after U.S. withdrawal from South Vietnam.

December 21, 1846 - Anesthesia was used for the first time in Britain during an operation at University College Hospital in London performed by Robert Liston who amputated the leg of a servant.

December 23, 1947 - The transistor was invented at Bell Laboratories by John Bardeen, Walter Brattain and William Shockley, who shared the Nobel Prize for their invention which sparked a worldwide revolution in electronics.

December 24, 1990 - On Christmas Eve, the bells of St. Basil's Cathedral in Moscow rang for the first time since the death of Lenin.

December 25th - Christmas Day, commemorating the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. Although the exact date of his birth is not known, it has been celebrated on December 25th by the Western (Roman Catholic) Church since 336 A.D.

December 29, 1940 - During the Blitz, German aircraft dropped thousands of incendiary bombs on the center of London, causing the worst fire damage since the great fire of 1666. St. Paul's Cathedral survived but eight other Wren churches along with the Guildhall and Old Bailey were badly damaged.

December 30, 1903 - In Chicago, a fire inside the Iroquois Theater killed 588 persons, eventually resulting in new fire safety codes for theaters.

Arecibo Observatory Instrument Platform Falls into Iconic Dish

The 900-ton instrument platform of the 305-meter radio telescope at Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico fell some 400 feet Tuesday morning, crashing into the huge, already-damaged dish below, the National Science Foundation (NSF) reported in a December 1 Tweet. “No injuries were reported,” NSF said, adding that it is still assessing the situation. “Our top priority is maintaining safety.” The calamity not only was a final and fatal blow for the observatory but for the people of Puerto Rico.

Head of Telescope Operations Angel Vazquez, WP3R, is quoted in a *Primera Hora* [report](#) that he was working in the Observatory’s control room at the time, salvaging important instruments. “There was a large noise heard outside the control room,” he said. “When we looked outside, we could see that the [instrument] platform began to fall slowly from the three [support] towers. The azimuth...the arm below the triangle...that detached from the triangle, fell a little outside the center of the plate and the rest of the platform, in 30 seconds, fell off on the plate to the north side.”

The towers supported the massive instrument platform, which was suspended on cables above the dish. On August 10, an auxiliary cable that helped to support the platform snapped and fell, causing a 100-foot gash in the reflector dish. After an extensive evaluation, NSF [announced](#) on November 19 that the damaged radio telescope — in service for nearly 60 years — was beyond repair and would be decommissioned due to safety concerns. Arecibo, which, among other accomplishments had contributed to the observation of black holes, was the second-largest radio telescope in the world.

The iconic dish has served as a backdrop for several science fiction movies. The Arecibo Observatory Amateur Radio Club, KP4AO, is headquartered at the research facility, and several other radio amateurs are employed there in addition to Vazquez. Operations at the world-famous observatory have been managed by the University of Central Florida (UCF).

Engineers were ready to implement emergency structural stabilization of the auxiliary cable system, but while arranging delivery of two replacement cables and two temporary cables, a main cable broke on the same tower on November 6. Based on the stresses borne by the second broken cable, engineers concluded that the remaining cables were likely weaker than originally projected.

Antenna designer and electrical engineer Jim Breakall, WA3FET, who conducted research at the world-famous

facility over more than 45 years, told ARRL that his experience with Arecibo began in 1974 when he was a student, and he worked on the first HF ionospheric heating design and calibration of the dish for ionospheric research. He also conducted amateur radio moonbounce experiments there. Later, he designed feeds for radio astronomy and designed and built the HF ionosphere modification facility that fed the dish with a dipole array at the bottom of the huge dish, after Hurricane Georges destroyed the first HF facility some 10 miles away in 1998.

“I built a super contest station on my farm there about 2 miles away using Angel’s call sign, WP3R. It got destroyed in Hurricane Maria in 2017,” Breakall recounted. “I also was on the team for KP4AO in 2010 for EME [moonbounce] and my photo was on the cover of QST with Joe Taylor, K1JT.”

“I was prepared for this, but still never wanted to hear it,” Breakall told ARRL. “It is like losing a loved one when you know they are dying. Wow. Who would have ever believed it.”

NSF said it was saddened by the latest development regarding the aging radio telescope. “As we move forward, we will be looking for ways to assist the scientific community and maintain our strong relationship with the people of Puerto Rico.” (Ed note: I apologize for the fine print. I really wanted to fit the entire article in)

Why do hamburgers go to the gym?



better buns

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.

- [Y-](#)

Yagi antenna -- The most popular type of amateur directional (beam) antenna. It has one driven element and one or more additional elements.

- [Z-](#)

Z-- In electrical equations, this is used to mean "Impedance."

That concludes our second trip through the "Ham Radio Glossary" It will not be reprised for now.

Your Editor will find some other subject to cover in this space. As always reader suggestions are welcome. editor@n6krv.org

Also from the ARRL:

RadioShack Purchased by Online Retailer

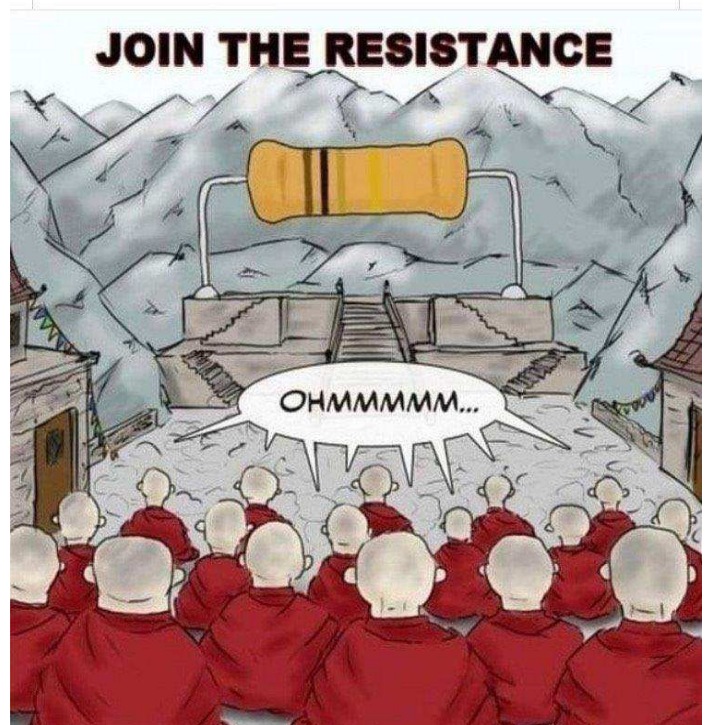
11/30/2020

[RadioShack](#)® is back as an online retailer of electronics, offering some parts in its inventory that largely consists of radios, batteries, telephone gear, drones, computer accessories, and even cameras. The iconic company was recently purchased from General Wireless by Retail Ecommerce Ventures (REV).

No plans are in place to reopen RadioShack-owned stores, although some 400 brick-and-mortar outlets not affiliated with REV are operated by franchisees. REV, which specializes in online retail, has previously revamped the internet presence of such bankrupt businesses as Pier 1 Imports and Dressbarn, according to a news release.

During its heyday, RadioShack has some 8,000 retail outlets and once offered some amateur radio equipment, including some popular handheld transceivers and a 10-meter transceiver.

RadioShack came out of its second bankruptcy in January 2018 with 400 dealers, an online retail presence, and a distribution center.



ARRL Seeks Waiver of Proposed FCC Amateur Application Fees

ARRL has urged the FCC to waive its proposed \$50 amateur radio application fee. The proposal already has drawn more than 3,200 individual comments overwhelmingly opposed to the plan. The fees, directed by Congress and imposed on all FCC-regulated services, are to recover the FCC's costs of handling and processing applications.

"Amateur radio applications were not listed when the Congress adopted its 1985 fee schedule for applications, and therefore amateur license applications were excluded from the collection of fees," ARRL said on November 16 in its [formal comments](#) on the proposal. "Similarly, a decade later when regulatory fees were authorized, the Amateur Service was excluded, except for the costs associated with issuing vanity call signs." The new statutory provisions are similar. Amateur radio license applications are not addressed in the application fees section and explicitly excluded from regulatory fees," ARRL said, and there is "no evidence of any intent by Congress to change the exempt status of amateur applications and instead subject them to new fees."

ARRL argued that the FCC has explicit authority to waive the fees if it would be in the public interest, and should do so for the Amateur Radio Service. Unlike other FCC services, the Amateur Radio Service is all volunteer and largely self-governing, with examination preparation, administration, and grading handled by volunteers, who submit licensing paperwork to the FCC, ARRL pointed out.

"Increasingly, the required information is uploaded to the Commission's database, further freeing personnel from licensing paperwork as well as [from] day-to-day examination processes," ARRL said. "The addition of an application fee will greatly increase the complexity and requirements for volunteer examiners."

The Communications Act, ARRL noted, also permits the FCC to accept the volunteer services of individual radio amateurs and organizations in monitoring for rules violations. In 2019, ARRL and the FCC signed a memorandum of understanding to renew and enhance the ARRL's Volunteer Monitor

program, relieving the Commission of significant time-consuming aspects of enforcement. These volunteer services lessen the regulatory burden — including the application burden — on the Commission's resources and budget in ways that licensees in other services do not, ARRL said.

Amateur radio's role in providing emergency and disaster communication, education, and other volunteer services also justifies exempting radio amateurs from FCC application fees. For example, ARRL noted, last year more than 31,000 participated as members of the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), and local ARES teams reported taking part in more than 37,000 events, donating nearly 573,000 volunteer hours, providing a total value of more than \$14.5 million.

Amateur radio also has motivated many students to develop critical science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) skills. ARRL noted that the Amateur Radio Service contributes to the advancement of the radio art, advances skills in communication and technology, and expands the existing reservoir of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts — all expressed bases and purposes of the Amateur Radio Service.

"Accomplishing these purposes entails working with young people, many of whom may have difficulty paying the proposed application fees of \$50, \$100, or \$150," ARRL said. "The \$150 fee would be the cost of passing the examinations for the three amateur license levels in three examination sessions," ARRL said. "Such multiple application fees to upgrade would dampen the incentive to study and demonstrate the greater proficiency needed to pass the examinations for the higher amateur classes."

ARRL concluded that the FCC should exercise its authority to exempt amateur radio from application fees generally. If the FCC cannot see its way clear to waive fees for all amateur radio license applications, the fees should be waived for applicants age 26 years and younger. Such individuals, ARRL contended, have the most to contribute to the future of radio technology and other STEM-related activities and are the most likely to find the proposed application fees burdensome.

No Dumb Questions (Except This One)

Just before the final exam in my college finance class, a less-than-stellar student approached me.

"Can you tell me what grade I would need to get on the exam to pass the course?" he asked. I gave him the bad news. "The exam is worth 100 points. You would need 113 points to earn a D."

"OK," he said. "And how many points would I need to get a C?"

**Answer to last month's riddle:
The letter "D"!**

A Frenchman walks into a bar with a parrot on his shoulder. The bird is wearing a baseball cap. The bartender says, "Hey, that's neat. Where did you get that?"

The parrot says, "France—they've got millions of them there."

If it was a blustery day, you could be sure to hear my dad remark, "It was so windy today, I had to wrinkle my forehead and screw my cap on to keep it there!"

Ivy League Music

A month after Donald MacDonald started at Harvard, his mother called from Scotland. "And how are the American students, Donald?" she asked.

"They're so noisy," he complained. "One neighbor endlessly bangs his head against the wall, while another screams all night."

"How do you put up with it?"

"I just ignore them and play my bagpipes."





DECEMBER 2020

Serving the Kern River Valley and Walker Basin



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