



The Kern River Voice

The Monthly Newsletter of the Sequoia Amateur Radio Group



Volume 16 Issue 3
March 2021



<http://www.n6krv.org>

N6KRV – An ARRL Affiliated Club

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2021 S.A.R.G. Leadership

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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

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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:

The winds of march are blowing. I just received word that we're cleared to have a meeting at the Elks Club.

I have talked to Al and he has agreed to give us a talk and slides of the area.

The dining area has not yet received clearance so we will meet in the lodge room.

Doughnuts will be available but no drinks. Maybe bring a Chocolate Glucerna or Ensure.

However we will have a long awaited meeting.

See you there.

Don KC6OCA.

ARRL:

The K7RA Solar Update

02/26/2021

Tad Cook, K7RA, Seattle, reports: Sunspots have returned, and solar activity increased on every day over the reporting week. On Thursday evening, Spaceweather.com reported that sunspot group AR2804 had doubled in size in a single day.

The total sunspot area was 200 millionths of a solar hemisphere, a level not seen since the end of last year. It actually took 2 days to double — Tuesday through Thursday — covering 100, 150, and then 200.

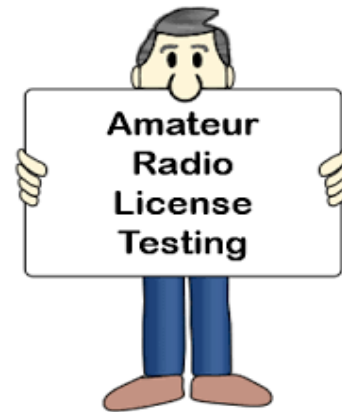
The average daily sunspot number increased from zero to 19.6, while average daily solar flux rose from 72 to 75.7. Geomagnetic activity was also higher, with average daily planetary A index increasing from 7.7 to 16, and average daily mid-latitude A index rose from 5.6 to 12.4.

Predicted solar flux for the next 30 days is 80 on February 26 – 28, 78 on March 1; 74 on March 2 – 5; 73 on March 5 – 6; 74, 70, 74, and 76 on March 7 – 10; 72, 71, 72, and 70 on March 11 – 14; 71, 72, 71, 73, 76, and 75 on March 15 – 20; 72 on March 21 – 22; 76 on March 23 – 24; 74 and 73 on March 25 – 26, and 74 and 73 again on March 27 – 28.

Predicted planetary A index is 5 on February 26 – March 1; 18 and 12 on March 2 – 3; 10, 8, and 15 on March 4 – 6; 5 on March 7 – 11; 15, 10, and 5 on March 12 – 14; 15, 5, 8, and 18 on March 15 – 18; 20 on March 19 – 20; 10 and 8 on March 21 – 22, and 5 on March 23 – 27.

OUR NEXT MEETING: Our next meeting will be at 09:30 am, Saturday, March the 13th at the Elks Lodge in Wofford Heights. Our speaker will be Al Price N6ALP talking about some points of interest in the community. The meeting will be in the Lodge Room, not the dining room.

Doors open at 09:00 and the meeting starts at 09:30. Pastries will be available. Please read “Prez Sez” for other details.....



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

Coming up this year:
Annual SARG potluck and swapmeet
Summer Ice Cream Social
ARRL Ham Radio Field Day, June 26th-27th
These are just a few events
suggestions are welcome



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

March 1, 1781 - Formal ratification of the [Articles of Confederation](#) was announced by Congress. Under the Articles, Congress was the sole governing body of the new American national government, consisting of the 13 original states. The Articles remained in effect through the [Revolutionary War](#) until 1789, when the current U.S. Constitution was adopted.

March 5, 1946 - The "[Iron Curtain](#)" speech was delivered by Winston Churchill at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri. Churchill used the term to describe the boundary in Europe between free countries of the West and nations of Eastern Europe under Soviet Russia's control.

March 12, 1888 - The Great Blizzard of '88 struck the northeastern U.S. The storm lasted 36 hours with snowfall totaling over 40 inches in New York City where over 400 persons died from the surprise storm.

March 18, 1974 - The five-month-old Arab oil embargo against the U.S. was lifted. The embargo was in retaliation for American support of Israel during the Yom Kipper War of 1973 in which Egypt and Syria suffered a crushing defeat. In the U.S.,

the resulting embargo had caused long lines at gas stations as prices soared 300 percent amid shortages and a government ban on Sunday gas sales.

March 22, 1972 - The Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was passed by the U.S. Senate and then sent to the states for ratification. The ERA, as it became known, prohibited discrimination on the basis of gender, stating, "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex," and that "the Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article." Although 22 of the required 38 states quickly ratified the Amendment, opposition arose over concerns that women would be subject to the draft and combat duty, along with other legal concerns. The ERA eventually failed (by 3 states) to achieve ratification despite an extension of the deadline to June 1982.

March 31, 1968 - President Lyndon Johnson made a [surprise announcement](#) that he would not seek re-election as a result of the Vietnam conflict.

Made of Copper

When my local barista handed me my change, one coin stood out.

"Look at that. You rarely get one of these old wheat pennies nowadays," I said, tapping the sheaf-of-wheat design.

I handed her the penny.

Turning it over and over in her hand, she said, "You know, I always thought they were made of copper."



Digital Radio: *Part two*

Continued from last month by Pete Higginbotham W6SV

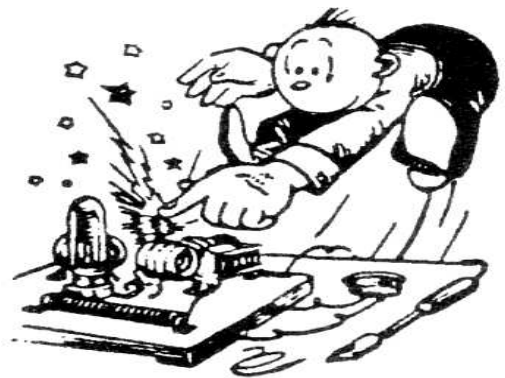
The old man in the digital world is Motorola and this is how I was introduced decades ago. Obviously things have changed a lot over the years and Motorola's digital scheme has been dubbed DMR or "Digital Mobile Radio". In my squad car, I just used it. It was transparent to me as all of the radios were set up by County Communications. This is the way in commercial radio. You just have the radio in your vehicle and it is programmed and set up by a professional. Some guy sits behind a computer driven piece of equipment that can set up as many as 50 devices at once. Devices being radios for our discussion. DMR has come to HAM radio via this commercial background and it is not really intended for HAM radio so it acts a bit differently. DMR is becoming more popular but be prepared for a LOT more configuration. For DMR you do have to register and get a digital identification. You register for DMR at www.radioid.net. A DMR radio comes as a blank sheet of paper. Everything has to be "programmed". The quotes are because this is not programming in the true sense, it is set up. Configuration is a better word. You configure these radio from the ground up and it can get complicated and it is easy to make mistakes. DMR also works a bit differently. The other systems use narrow band to save band width. Standard HAM frequencies are 25 kilohertz wide. Digital signals are narrow banded or 12.5 kilohertz wide so they use up half of the space. DMR uses two sides in that half space, slot one and slot two. I think about it as an old vinyl record. Your old record player could only play one side of the record at a time but what if there was a second needle on the bottom of the record and a switch to choose between the top or bottom needle? Same space but twice the potential music. DMR uses these two slots at the same time and very rapidly switches between the slots allowing two simultaneous conversations in that 12.5 kilohertz space. Instead of CTCSS DMR uses color codes, color code 1-?. All of your radio frequencies and color codes must match up. I do not recommend starting with DMR but a great contact for help is Ron, K6RET in North Bakersfield . He was a commercial radio man and can help you a lot if you run into problems. Find Motorola radios at: www.motorolasolutions.com/en_us/products/mototrbo-story.html There are lots of other brands available, Google "DMR HAM radio ".

You will hear the term "Hot Spot" in digital radio. These are little boxes containing a mini-computer called a Raspberry-Pi, a sound board and a memory chip with software loaded. The software is called "Pi-Star" and was developed in the U.K. by a fellow HAM. All of this in a box about the size of a pack of cigarettes with a short antenna sticking out of it. These devices change your radio signal into a digital signal and present that signal to the internet. They are an internet access point. They require configuration and will work with many different digital radio modes (brands) dependent on configuration. They can be configured to use your cell phone internet connection. If you have a signal you connect via Wi-Fi to your cell phone internet connection, also called a "Hot Spot" just to confuse things. These are often used in a car to go "digi-mobile" or at home if you can not access a repeater.

That is my synopsis of Digital radio. If you do get involved you will find many YOUNGER operators on this mode. This is the mode HAMS have been wanting to get younger people involved. It is computers and radio combined and younger HAMS take to it like water. Whether you try it or not I hope you have leaned enough to go explore on your own. The internet is full of information. It is an interesting study if nothing else. I find it fun and a great addition to our very diverse hobby. Try it, you may just like it.

73 de W6SV!

We had Himalayan Rabbit Stew for dinner.....



We found him a layin' in the road.....

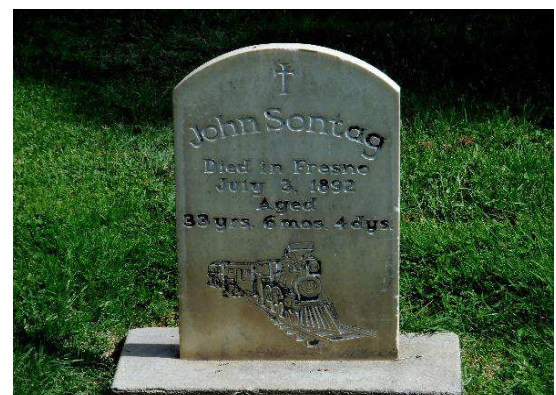
Let me hear from you if you like or don't like what you've seen in this issue of *your* "Kern River Voice". EDITOR@N6KRV.ORG

Off Topic but of local interest

Train Robbers Chris Evans and John Sontag

Page 43 , Chapter VIII, "Onyx Store", of Bob Powers book, "South Fork Country", you'll read that two ner-do-wells, Chris Evans and John Sontag were hiding out in Kelso Canyon and knew that William Scodie had a habit of coming to his store early to restock the shelves and get the supplies ready for local farmers and cattlemen. In the winter of 1892-93, these two fugitives snuck up under the cover of darkness and slipped a grocery list and \$20 gold piece under the door, advising Scodie to have a deliveryman proceed up Kelso Canyon with the goods and he would be met. Scodie sent his employee Louie Bowers up the canyon with the supplies, that's when two masked hombres stepped out from behind some cactus and demanded that he surrender the load. They were counting on the fact that even if Scodie knew who they were, he wouldn't turn them in, banking on the fact that most people believed they had been forced into a life of crime by the Southern Pacific Railroad. It was long believed that Chris Evans, a respected Farmer in Visalia, had his land confiscated by the railroad as it made its way through the town, maybe, maybe not. But it is a fact that John Sontag had worked as a Brakeman for the Southern Pacific, but had been injured on the job, then fired by the Southern Pacific Railroad company. Sontag went to work on Evans' farm. How and why they decided to rob trains is unknown, but the fact is, they did. To make a very interesting, but long story a little shorter, the posse shot-up Sontag

and Evans as they hid behind a haystack in Fresno in July of 1893. Sontag died a day or so later in the Fresno jail. Evans was caught later, convicted and sentenced to life in prison. Ok, so that's all that we knew of Sontag and Evans, until a week or so ago when Jayne and I went with a Cemetery Interest group on a field trip to meet with the Fresno Catholic Diocese's Cemetery director, Carlos Rascon. Carlos is in the process of taking over the St. Joseph Cemetery in Havilah since a records search reflected the fact that the Church still owns the property, and he is planning on constructing a small, replica church on the site in Havilah. While in Fresno we toured a couple of local cemeteries with Carlos. At the Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery Carlos asked us if we knew anything of a John Sontag? And he showed us John's headstone. We told Carlos, "Yeah, John Sontag was a train robber in the 1880's and 1890's". "Well, that's strange," said Carlos, "Just look at his headstone --- there's a railroad train engine carved into it!" Here's a photo Jayne KK6JPZ took that afternoon. Very strange, but very true!



Submitted by Al Price N6ALP

Also from the ARRL:

ARRL Board Considers Plan to Cover New \$35 FCC Fee for Some Young Applicants

02/17/2021

At its Annual Meeting in January, the ARRL Board of Directors considered a motion to offer a new service that would pay the new but not-yet-implemented \$35 FCC application fee for a limited number of new radio amateurs younger than age 18 who, at the time of testing, belonged to an ARRL Affiliated 501(c)(3) charitable organization and passed their tests through an ARRL VEC-sponsored exam session. The proposal called for reducing the VEC fee for these candidates to \$5.

The initial proposal came from ARRL Southeastern Division Director Mickey Baker, N4MB. Other Board members offered subsidiary motions. Supporters said the purpose behind the motion was to ameliorate the potential financial hardship the pending FCC application fee posed on certain minors applying for their first license, and to encourage new youth membership.

Consideration of the motion, which was subject to considerable discussion, was deferred to an ad hoc committee composed of the members of the Administration & Finance Committee, two Members of the Programs & Services Committee, and ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA (or his designated representative). The Board directed the panel to review and more fully develop the proposal and report back to the Board by the end of March with a recommendation as to whether such a program should be adopted and, if adopted, how it should be implemented.

Supporters expressed the belief that recruitment and training of young radio amateurs “is a necessary and proper mission of the ARRL” and that subsidizing the \$35 fee “will reduce the number of new amateurs that otherwise would be lost from these groups.”

In December, the FCC agreed with ARRL and other commenters that the initially proposed \$50 fee for certain amateur radio applications was “too high to

account for the minimal staff involvement in these applications.”

In a *Report and Order* ([R&O](#)), the FCC scaled back to \$35 the fee for a new license application, a special temporary authority (STA) request, a rule waiver request, a license renewal application, and a vanity call sign application. All fees are per application. There will be no fee for administrative updates, such as a change of mailing or email address.

As the FCC noted in its *R&O*, although some commenters supported the proposed \$50 fee as reasonable and fair, “ARRL and many individual commenters argued that there was no cost-based justification for application fees in the Amateur Radio Service.”

“After reviewing the record, including the extensive comments filed by amateur radio licensees and based on our revised analysis of the cost of processing mostly automated processes discussed in our methodology section, we adopt a \$35 application fee, a lower application fee than the Commission proposed in the *NPRM* for personal licenses, in recognition of the fact that the application process is mostly automated,” the FCC said in the *R&O*.

No fee would apply to minor modifications or administrative updates, which, the FCC noted, “are highly automated.”

The FCC turned away the arguments of some commenters that the FCC should exempt amateur radio licensees. The FCC stated that it has no authority to create an exemption “where none presently exists.” The FCC also disagreed with those who argued that amateur radio licensees should be exempt from fees because of their public service contribution during emergencies and disasters.

The FCC has directed the Office of Managing Director, in consultation with relevant offices and bureaus, to draft a notice for publication in the Federal Register announcing when rule change(s) will become effective, “once the relevant databases, guides, and internal procedures have been updated.”

Reopening

Our local Lego store finally re-opened after being shut down for almost a year.

People were lined up for blocks....

Talk about a cold seat

Q: What do you get from sitting on the snow too long?

A: Polaroids!

Items in the Closet

After a health scare, I hugged my wife and whispered, "If something happens to me, the presents in my closet are yours." She whispered back, "If anything happens to you, everything in your closet is mine." —

Dean Simpson

Driver's Education

My niece Loretta tailgates other cars and it makes me nervous. I just can't get it through her head that she does this and that it's very dangerous.

One good thing is that I sometimes find myself drawing closer to the Lord when I ride with her.

Q: What does daylight saving time mean in Seattle?

A: An extra hour of rain

Editor's Note

Next month I am going to run a list of "Famous Last Words" and I am asking the membership for help on this one.

Write down your favorite last words quote and send them to me at editor@6krv.org

I will publish them here along with your name and call sign (if applicable)

The cornier the better....

"Nah, go ahead and reach in there...it's too cold for rattlesnakes.."

Case Study

I was having a drink at a local restaurant with my friend Justin when he spotted an attractive woman sitting at the bar. After an hour of gathering his courage, he approached her and asked, "Would you mind if I chatted with you for a while?"

She responded by yelling at the top of her lungs, "No, I won't come over to your place tonight!"

With everyone in the restaurant staring, Justin crept back to our table, puzzled and humiliated.

A few minutes later, the woman walked over to us and apologized.

"I'm sorry if I embarrassed you," she said, "but I'm a graduate student in psychology and I'm studying human reaction to embarrassing situations."

At the top of his lungs Justin responded, "What do you mean, two hundred dollars?"



MARCH 2021

Serving the Kern River Valley and Walker Basin



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																										
<p>February 2021</p> <table> <tr> <td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>28</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28							<p>1</p> <p>6:45 PM EmComm Net 145.450</p> <p>9:00 AM Prune Juice Net 145.450</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9:00 AM Prune Juice Net 145.450</p> <p>8:00 PM HF Net +/- 3.770.0MHz</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:00 AM Prune Juice Net 145.450</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:00 AM Prune Juice Net 145.450</p> <p>8:00 PM HF Net +/- 3.770.0MHz</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:00 AM Prune Juice Net 145.450</p> <p>7:00 PM SARG Net 145.450</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:00 AM Prune Juice Net 145.450</p> <p>8:00 PM HF Net +/- 3.770.0MHz</p>
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