



The Kern River Voice

The Monthly Newsletter of the Sequoia Amateur Radio Group



Volume 16 Issue 4

April 2021

N6KRV – An ARRL Affiliated Club

PO Box 2446, Lake Isabella CA 93240

<http://www.n6krv.org>



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The Prez Sez:

2021 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

Secretary

Christine Hesse KK6AZQ

Treasurer/ Web Master

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Membership Chair

Christine Hesse KK6AZQ

Board Members

Charles Caudell K16GOG (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
3.770 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

Hi Folks:

For those who missed our last meeting Al Price did his usual great job presenting little known points of interest and history along the lions trail.

This next meeting we are going to have Mr. Nicholas Magarett from "Lake Lynx Communications". He will give us some insights and background on the wireless internet in the Kern River Valley. I'm sure you will not want to miss this one.

With the Covid 19 beginning to recede we're just a little more hopeful than usual that we're starting to get back to a normal life.

Although at this time we haven't received clearance to meet in the dining room we can still meet in the lodge room. Instead of a 50/50 drawing we will give away a 32 amp switching power supply.

Be there or be square.

Don KC6OCA

ARRL:

The K7RA Solar Update

03/26/2021

Tad Cook, K7RA, Seattle, reports: On March 21 and 22 two new sunspot groups, 2811 and 2812, appeared. Average daily sunspot number this week faded a bit from 19 to 17.9, but average daily solar flux went from 78.1 to 78.6. Neither change is significant.

We haven't seen a day with no sunspots since March 1, so that brings the percentage of spotless days so far this year to 38%, down from 57% last year and 77% in 2019.

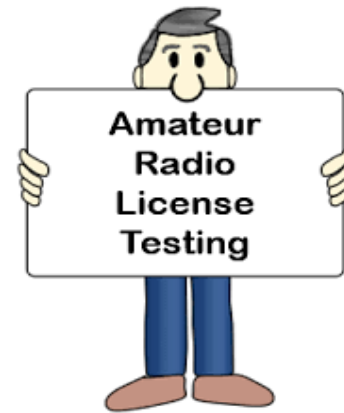
Geomagnetic activity was steady throughout this week, with average daily planetary A index rising from 10.3 to 13.3, and average middle latitude A index from 7.3 to 10.4. But geomagnetic conditions were disturbed at higher latitudes.

Alaska's College A index, measured near Fairbanks, was 40 and 45 on March 20 – 21. This was reflected in a report from N6QEK/KL7 in North Pole, Alaska (a town southeast of Fairbanks, not at the North Pole), who wrote, "HF frequencies here in the interior of Alaska were wiped out for the BARTG RTTY contest. FT8 signals were almost nonexistent as well."

Saturday was the first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere and fall in the Southern Hemisphere, positive indications for HF propagation.

Predicted solar flux over the next month is 80 on March 26 – 27; 75 on March 28 – 31; 70 on April 1 – 2; 80 and 81 on April 3 – 4; 82 on April 5 – 7; 81 on April 8; 80 on April 9 – 10; 78 and 76 on April 11 – 12; 75 on April 13 – 14; 76 on April 15; 77 on April 16 – 17; 76 on April 18 – 20, 77 on April 21, and 78 on April 22 – 28. Solar flux is expected to peak at 82 on May 2 – 4.

Predicted planetary A index is 8 on March 26; 5 on March 27; 25 on March 28; 20 on March 29 – 30; 12 on March 31; 8 on April 1 – 3; 5 on April 4 – 7; 15, 18, and 20 on April 8 – 10; 5 on April 11 – 15; 25, 22, 20, 15, and 8 on April 16 – 20; 5 on April 21 – 23; 25 on April 24, and 20 on April 25 – 26.



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:
Summer Ice Cream Social
ARRL Ham Radio Field Day, June 26th-27th



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

April 2, 1863 - A bread riot occurred in the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia, as angry people demanded bread from a bakery wagon then wrecked nearby shops. The mob dispersed only after Confederate President Jefferson Davis made a personal plea and threatened to use force.

April 9, 1865 - After over 500,000 American deaths, the Civil War effectively ended as General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant in the village of Appomattox Court House. The surrender occurred in the home of Wilmer McLean. Terms of the surrender, written by General Grant, allowed Confederates to keep their horses and return home. Officers were allowed to keep their swords and side arms.

April 14, 1986 - U.S. warplanes, on orders from President Ronald Reagan, bombed the Libyan cities of Tripoli and Benghazi in retaliation for the April 5th terrorist bombing of a discotheque in West Berlin in which two American soldiers were killed. Among the 37 person killed in the air raid was the infant daughter of Muammar Qaddafi, Libya's head of state.

April 16, 1862 - Congress abolished slavery in the District of Columbia and appropriated \$1 million to compensate owners of freed slaves.

April 19, 1995 - At 9:02 a.m., a massive car-bomb explosion destroyed the entire side of a nine story federal building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 persons, including 19 children inside a day care center. A decorated Gulf War veteran was later convicted for the attack.

"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 r

Birthdays April 25, - Radio inventor Guglielmo Marconi (1874-1937) was born in Bologna, Italy. He pioneered the use of wireless telegraphy in the 1890's. By 1921, Marconi's invention had been developed into wireless telephony (voice radio).

April 30, 1789 - George Washington became the first U.S. President as he was administered the oath of office on the balcony of Federal Hall at the corner of Wall and Broad Streets in New York City.



OUR NEXT MEETING: Our next meeting will be at 09:30 am, Saturday, April the 1th at the Elks Lodge in Wofford Heights.

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

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

MORE DIGITAL RADIO

Last month we talked about the many different digital modes available and we looked at how they are similar under the hood, so to speak. This month I want to break our digital modes into two large sub-groups and talk about how these two sub-groups work. I am going to call these two types Linking Modes and Conversation Modes. These are my terms and are used just to help our understanding.

Linking modes were designed to link Analog equipment over the internet using our, before mentioned, VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol). These included EchoLink, IRLP (Internet Radio Linking Project), AllStarLink and others. Note that most (not all) will have the word link in the name. The big ones listed here are commonly used as a HAM introduction into digital. Arguments will arise that these modes are not digital. They do use the internet to pass voice via digitalized signals (VOIP). You need to be careful using these modes. They are, as advertised a method of linking equipment. Mostly, we as individuals simply "link" ourselves to one of these devices and use it remotely just as if we were able to connect to it directly. You "link" to a repeater in Austin Texas, as an example, and talk on it just like you would Rocky Point. Just like your were in Austin Texas. Yeah there is some latency. AND here is the problem, if we do not unlink from one machine and then we link to another machine, we have effectively linked the two machines through us. This is call "Back Dooring" and is HEAVILY frowned upon. By some, considered illegal, and is the biggest "problem" with the Linking Modes. Be careful. The proper way to link two machines is through a "HUB". Each machine goes to the hub and connects to it rather than to each other. You will see these HUBs all over the internet. Machine to machine connections are possible but the machines have to be carefully matched or machine to machine feed back occurs. One machines keys the other. Back and forth. This can be very difficult to stop. Reset often demands shutting both machines down completely. Note that a "machine" can be an entire system, like the WinSystem.

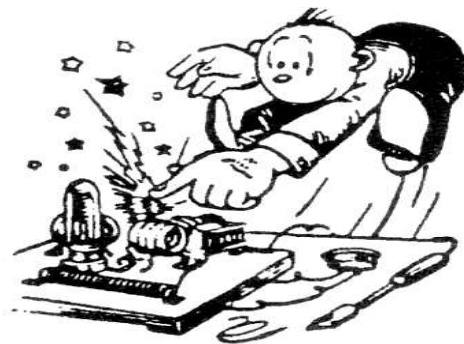
Communication Modes like D-Star, WiresX, DMR, and others, translate voice to digital in the radio or

the repeater. They use the "long path". Previously Translated signals are introduced to the internet. They stay "coded" in the chat rooms or groups we use and are not translated back until they hit the radio or repeater (depending on "brand") on the "other side". I guess it is a subtle difference but it is a huge one. Each of the Communication Modes requires its own equipment and each uses its own way of translating. This is the "problem" with the Communication Modes. You want to talk to your buddies on Wires but they have NexEdge equipment. Sorry. Well maybe not. As this article is being written HAMS world wide are successful bridging and cross translating these modes. A lot of work has gone on and is going on right now. The ClearNode Hot Spot, made in San Francisco, can be used for linking via EchoLink and AllStarLink. And, it also allows DMR access with promises of additional "conversation" modes in the future. This is big. With a hot spot you can use a conventional analog handheld radio to access both linking modes and digital modes, right now! It is limited, but come on, this is the future of digital and has been the big argument against it. Cross compatibility is here.

Again I have made no attempt here to teach you "how to". Learn it by looking it up. You need to use your computer anyway, do your own research. U-tube has video. Most of the commonly visited HAM-sites like QRZ talk about it. I want to inspire you to check digital radio out. If there is any further interest, I will break the "conversation" modes down further. Let your editor know or let me know on the morning net. I do not want to beat a dead horse.

73 de W6SV! Pete Higginbotham

I thought my chiropractor couldn't help.....



I stand corrected.....

Off Topic but of local interest

GO TO A TRAIN STATION TO BUY A WATCH?

If you were in the market for a watch in 1880, would you know where to get one? You would go to a store, right? Well, of course, you could do that, but if you wanted one that was cheaper and a bit better than most of the store watches, you went to the train station!

Sound a bit strange?

Well, for about 500 towns across the northern United States, that's where the best watches were found. Why?

The railroad company wasn't selling the watches, not at all. The telegraph operator was.

Most of the time the telegraph operator was located in the railroad station because the telegraph lines followed the railroad tracks from town to town. It was usually the shortest distance and the right-of-way had already been secured for the rail line.

Most of the station agents were also skilled telegraph operators and it was the primary way they communicated with the railroad. They would know when trains left the previous station and when they were due at their next station.

And it was the telegraph operator who had the watches.

As a matter of fact, they sold more of them than almost all the stores combined for a period of about 9 years. This was all arranged by "Richard", who was a telegraph operator himself. He was on duty in the North Redwood, Minnesota train station one day when a load of watches arrived from the East.

It was a huge crate of pocket watches. No one ever came to claim them. So, Richard sent a telegram to the manufacturer and asked them what they wanted to do with the watches. The manufacturer didn't want to pay the freight back, so they wired Richard to see if he could sell them. So, Richard did.

He sent a wire to every agent in the system asking them if they wanted a cheap, but good, pocket watch.

He sold the entire case in less than two days and at a handsome profit.

That started it all. He ordered more watches from the watch company and encouraged the telegraph operators to set up a display case in the station offering high quality watches for a cheap price to all the travelers. It worked!

It didn't take long for the word to spread and, before long, people other than travelers came to the train station to buy watches. Richard became so busy that he had to hire a professional watchmaker to help him with the orders.

That was Alvah.

And the rest is history as they say.

The business took off and soon expanded to many other lines of dry goods. Richard and Alvah left the train station and moved their company to Chicago -- and it's still there.

YES, IT'S A LITTLE KNOWN FACT that for a while in the 1880s, the biggest watch retailer in the country was at the train station. It all started with a telegraph operator, Richard Sears and partner, watch maker, Alvah Roebuck!

Bet You Didn't Know That! OK, maybe you did; I didn't!

Submitted by Al Price N6ALP

Happy Birthday SARG

A long time ago in a nearby land six radio amateurs kept bumping into each other in various stores around the valley.

Those six hams were Bobby Hudson AA6HU (SK); Gary Calkins K6RYD (SK), Skip Reymann W6PAJ (Now N6SR); Don Jefferson KC6OCA; Marty Jefferson KC6RIZ; and Mike Higgins KA6IYS.

As we got to know each other from these chance encounters and talking on the morning Prune Juice and Baloney Sandwich Net we decided to look into either reviving the then defunct Lake Isabella Amateur Radio Club or forming a new club. In the late fall of 2005 we had somewhat of a plan and knew what we wanted in a 'new' club. We wanted to avoid some the pitfalls that had led to the demise of the 'old' clubs.

At one time there had been two clubs active at the same time. It was decided to contact as many local hams as we could by post card and invite them to a formation meeting. We had a great response and over the course of two or three months we ironed out a Constitution and By-Laws for the new club.

On April 1, 2006 the Sequoia Amateur Radio Group was born. Happy 15th Birthday SARG! account for the minimal staff involvement in these applications.”

Submitted by Mike Higgins KA6IYS

ARRL:

FCC Not Yet Collecting \$35 Application Fee

03/22/2021

The majority of the FCC's revised Part 97 rules (adopted in December 2020) establishing new license application fees become effective April 19, but the new amateur radio license application fees will NOT become effective on April 19, 2021. The FCC announced on March 19, 2021 that the amateur radio license fees, including those associated with Form 605 filings, would not become effective until the “requisite notice has been provided to Congress, the FCC's information technology systems and internal procedures have been updated, and the Commission publishes notice(s) in the *Federal Register* announcing the effective date of such rules.”

The \$35 license application fee, when it becomes effective, would apply to new, modification (upgrade and sequential call sign change), renewal, and vanity call sign applications, as well as applications for a special temporary authority (STA) or a rule waiver. All fees will be per application. Administrative updates, such as a change of mailing or email address, are exempt.

It is expected that such fees will not become effective before summer 2021. The FCC has stated that amateurs will have advance warning of the actual effective date, because it will publish such date in the Federal Register.

Insurance forms

Editor's note:

In the last issue I solicited "famous last words" contributions from our readers.

In the absence of any contributions here are a few blatantly stolen from the internet:

"Surprise me."

— Bob Hope, comedian (when his wife asked him where he wanted to be buried)

"They couldn't hit an elephant at this dist—"

John Sedgwick, general of the Union Army
(as he was shot mid-sentence)

"I should have never switched from scotch to martinis."

Humphrey Bogart, actor

"Gun's not loaded... see?"

Johnny Ace, singer (while playing with a gun backstage during a concert)

"This is no way to live."

Groucho Marx, comedian

Is it supposed to feel like that?

While taking a clinical history from an elderly patient, I asked, "How's your love life?"

"I don't know," he said. "I'll ask my wife."

He got up, walked into the hallway where his wife was sitting, and shouted, "Hey, the doctor wants to know if we still have sex."

His wife shouted back, "No, the only thing we have is Medicare and Blue Cross."

Hearing Aid Missing

The old man was sitting on the examining table in the doctor's office having his hearing checked. The doctor poked his light scope in the old man's ear and said, "Hey, you have a suppository in your ear!"

"Rats," said the old man. "Now I know where my hearing aid went."

Older and Not Bothered

When the new activities director for the rec center walked in, all us retirees quickly took notice. She was 20-something, statuesque, and gorgeous. My buddy whispered, "She makes me wish I was 30 years older." "Don't you mean 30 years younger?" I asked. "No. If I were 30 years younger, I'd still never have a chance with a woman like that. If I were 30 years older, it wouldn't bother me so much."



APRIL 2021

Serving the Kern River Valley and Walker Basin



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