



The Kern River Voice

The Monthly Newsletter of the Sequoia Amateur Radio Group



Volume 17- Issue 4
April 2022



<http://www.n6krv.org>

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2022 Leadership

President

Dale KG6TBQ (661) 867-0501

Vice President

Cheryl KN6PUQ (661) 867-0501

Secretary

Christy Hancock (760) 379-3276

Treasurer

Mike KA6IYS (760) 378-1028

Board Member

Don KC6OCA (760) 379-5084

Membership Chair

Bill N6TF (661) 867-3203

Newsletter Editor

Mike KA6IYS (760) 378-1028

ARES Net

Monday – 6:45PM
145.450(-) PL 156.7

Club Nets

HF Net -Tue/Thu/Sat 8PM
3813.0 Mhz

VHF Net – Wed 7PM
145.450(-) PL 156.7

Prune Juice & BS Net

Daily (exc. Sunday) 9AM
145.450(-) PL 156.7

SARG Monthly Meetings

Second Sat. (exc. Dec.)
Kern Valley Elk's Lodge
6708 Wofford Blvd
Wofford Heights, CA 93285



The Prez Sez:

Hello All,

Thanks to Mike, Cheryl and everyone for filling-in for me at our March meeting when I was under the weather. Thanks for the “Get Well Soon” card from N6KRV. I missed seeing all of you.

Thanks to our speaker, Lori Meza of the Kern County Sheriff's Office. I understand that she did a great job at our meeting and has been promoted to PIO for the KCSO.

Our next meeting will be a swap meet / pot-luck at the Valley Estates Community Center 14213 Allen Ave., Weldon, CA 93283 on Saturday, April, 9th, doors open at 10:00, the activities start at 10:30. Please bring something to eat and items (or pictures of items) that you would like to sell or trade.

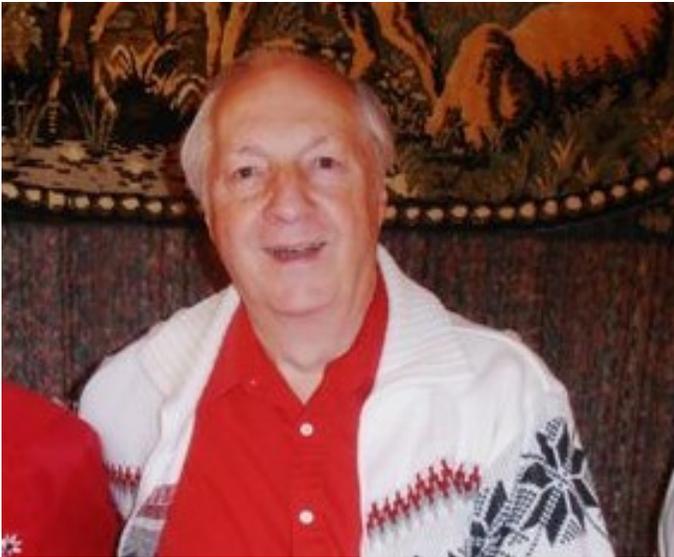
We look forward to lots of fun, friendly conversation and lunch together. We plan to have a free door prize drawing for all in attendance as well as a 50/50 drawing (6 chances to win for \$5.00). We look forward to seeing all of you there and at many more fun events throughout this year.

Dale, KG6TBQ

Silent Key



On March 21, 2022 Joseph "Skip" Reymann became a silent key. He was one of the Founders of the Sequoia Amateur Radio Group.



Skip (W6PAJ at the time) N6SR, Don KC6OCA, Marty KC6RIZ, Gary K6RYD, Bobby AA6HU and Mike KA6IYS used to see each other in various businesses in the valley and recognizing each other as ham radio operators would chat and inevitably the lack of an active ham club would come up. In late 2005 the group got serious and started working out forming a new club. We had some meetings, did some mailings and on April 1, 2006 SARG was formed and we had our first official meeting. Skip was our inaugural President and he served through 2007 as President. He took another term as President in 2017.

Skip was active in public service and was rightfully proud of being one of the ham radio

operators that wore the white suits at the annual Rose Parade in Pasadena. For many years he was the Kern River Valley point of contact for the Amateur Radio Emergency Services of Kern County.

Skip worked for JPL for many years before moving to the valley. He even worked a couple of years at China Lake doing programming on helicopter ordinance guidance systems after coming out of retirement for a short period of time. He was a man of many talents. He had just about every cable and software programming package needed to program the newer handhelds and mobile radios. He was always willing to help.

Skip and his wife Nancy, K6NJR, for many years hosted a New Years Eve gathering at the famous "Round House" up Sawmill Road. The gatherings were pot luck style and over by 4PM reflecting on the age group of those in attendance. We always had fun there and we missed having the party when the time came to no longer hold them.

Skip had a law degree and was an engineer. We saw these sides of him when he tackled paperwork while forming two clubs here in the valley and when he designed a project for field day deployment. He and I used to kid each other about whose background was worse, him a lawyer, or me a banker. He is missed and will be for many years to come. I am proud to say he was my friend. We are currently working on memorializing his call on the Rocky Point Repeater.

Mike KA6IYS

Annual Pot Luck / Swap Meet



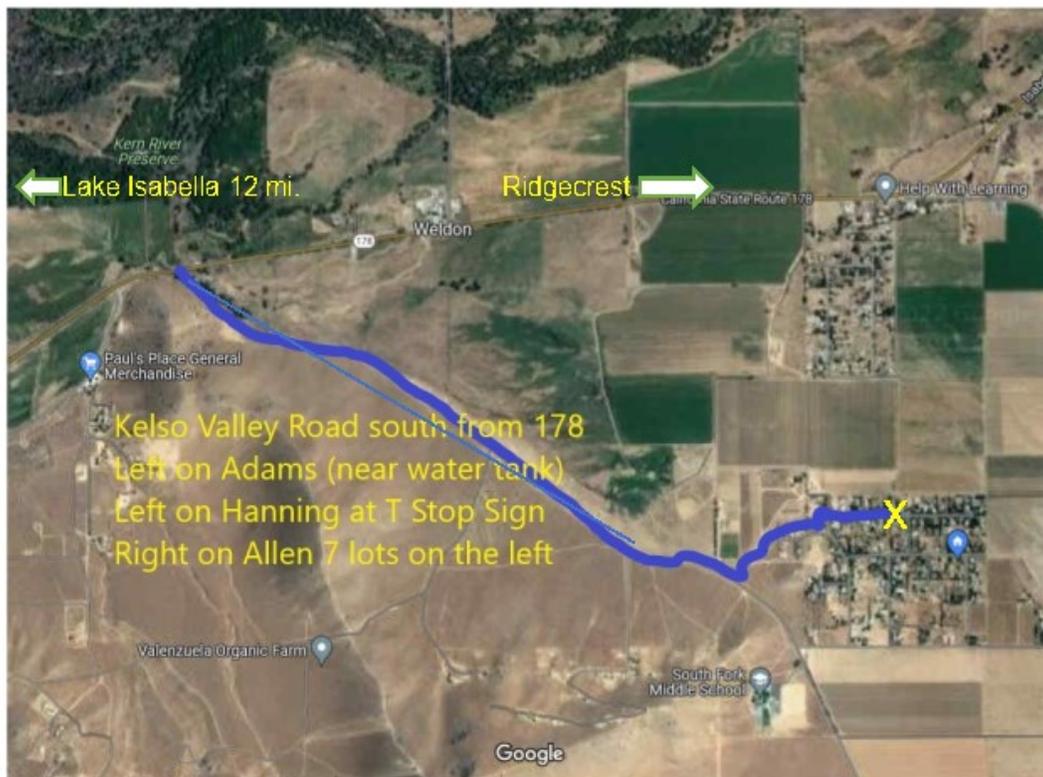
Sequoia Amateur Radio Group

Annual Yard Sale and Pot Luck
Saturday April 9, 2022 10AM – 1PM
Valley Estates Community Center
14213 Allen Avenue
Weldon, CA 93283

Bring your excess ham radio gear and anything else you would normally find at a yard sale, with the exception of clothing, and join us for our annual Yard Sale and Pot Luck.

We will have a charcoal grill available if you want to have hot dogs or hamburgers, even a steak if you are so inclined. Bring a side dish or dessert to serve 4 to 6 servings and your own main dish. The club will furnish utensils and paperware.

Tables and folding chairs will be available, but bring a lawn chair if you do not wish to sit on a hard metal folding chair. In the event of inclement weather, we can meet inside, but we normally gather outside in the parking lot under the shade trees.



Get Well Soon



If you know of anyone on the sick or injured list, please let Cheryl, KN6PUQ, know so she can send them a card.

This list this month has been quite long. Christy Hancock has been hit with kidney stones and is still attempting to recover as this issue goes to press. Chuck, KI6GOG, is having either severe allergies or has the flu. He is starting to improve, but is still avoiding public contact. Don, KC6OCA, got exposed to a plant he was allergic to and he is still sounding stuffed up. If we missed anyone, we are sorry.

New Amateur Radio License Applications Fee To Become Effective April 19, 2022 03/24/2022

A Public Notice released by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on March 23, 2022, in MD Docket No. 20-270, announced that new application fees for Wireless Telecommunications Bureau applications will become effective on April 19, 2022. The new fees, mandated by Congress, apply to applications for Amateur Radio licenses including those associated with filing Form 605, the Amateur Operator/Primary Station Licensee Application.

Effective April 19, 2022, a \$35 fee will apply to applications for a new Amateur Radio license, modification (upgrade and sequential call sign change), renewal, and vanity call signs.

Anticipating the implementation of the fee in 2022, the ARRL Board of Directors, at its July 2021 meeting, approved the "ARRL Youth Licensing Grant Program." Under the program,

ARRL will cover a one-time \$35 application fee for license candidates younger than 18 years old for tests administered under the auspices of the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (ARRL VEC). Qualified candidates also would pay a reduced exam session fee of \$5 to the ARRL VEC. ARRL is finalizing details for administering the program.

ARRL had filed comments in opposition to imposing a fee on Amateur Radio license applications. The FCC initially proposed a higher, \$50 fee. In a Report and Order (R&O), released on December 29, 2020, the amount was reduced -- the FCC agreeing with ARRL and other commenters that its proposed \$50 fee for certain amateur radio applications was "too high to account for the minimal staff involvement in these applications."

ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (ARRL VEC) Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, explained that all fees are per application. "There will be no fee for administrative updates, such as a change of mailing or email address. The fees will be the responsibility of the applicant regardless of filing method and must be paid within 10 calendar days of FCC's receipt of the application. For applications filed by a VEC, the period does not begin until the application is received by the Commission, a ULS file number assigned, and an email sent by the FCC directly to the applicant."

VECs and Volunteer Examiner (VE) teams will not collect the \$35 fee at license exam sessions. New and upgrade candidates at an exam session will continue to pay the \$15 exam session fee to the ARRL VE team as usual, and pay the new, \$35 application fee directly to the FCC by using the CORES FRN Registration system (CORES - Login).

When the FCC receives the examination information from the VEC, it will email a link with payment instructions to each successful candidate who then will have 10 calendar days from the date of the email to pay. After the fee is paid and the FCC has processed an application, examinees will receive a second email from the FCC with a link to their official license or explanation of other action. The link will be good for 30 days.

Somma also explained that applications that are processed and dismissed will not be entitled to a refund. This includes vanity call sign requests where the applicant does not receive the requested call sign. "The FCC staff has suggested that applicants for vanity call signs should first ensure the call signs requested are available and eligible for their operator class and area, and then request as many call signs as the form allows to maximize their chances of receiving a call sign."

Further information and instructions about the FCC Application Fee are available from the ARRL VEC at www.arrl.org/fcc-application-fee. Details for the ARRL Youth Licensing Grant Program will be similarly posted there, when available.

“A Tale of Two Cities”

(Well, actually - “A Tale of Two Mining Towns”)

By Al Price, N6ALP

OK, OK, so we all know the story of Havilah -- -- or do we? Well, how about a refresher? Really quickly -----

In the 1860's, if local residents wanted to conduct any type of formal business such as property sales, mining claims, marriage licenses, birth, or death recordings, they had to travel to the county seat in either Tulare or Los Angeles counties. So, a petition was sent to the State asking for a new county to be formed locally. A vote was taken, and that's when Kern County was born in Havilah, April 2, 1866. At that time Havilah had roughly 900 miners and 26 families, whereas Bakersfield didn't even exist. In 1866, the area where Bakersfield now stands was called "Kern Island", and consisted of swamplands and about 6 residents. Things changed. Col. Thomas Baker had cleared a lot of the swampy land and many new residents had moved in. Baker established a field of about 10 acres where travelers could stop and pick fruits for themselves, and could gather feed their animals. That parcel of land became known locally as Baker's Field. In 1868, Philo Jewett suggested to the Board of Supervisors that the city be named,

“Baker’s Field”. Over the years, the name just ran together, and is now known as Bakersfield.

Gold mining began to falter by the late 1860’s, early 1870’s, and Havilah had suffered several devastating fires. After about the third one, the residents began moving away.

By now, Bakersfield had grown due to mostly agricultural, dairy farming, oil field work, fruits & vegetable farming, etc. and a petition was filed again with the state, this time to move the county seat to Bakersfield. A vote was taken in 1872, there were 16 polling areas created within the county. The County Board of Supervisors, headed at that time again by Col. Thomas Baker decided to toss out the ballots from five of the polling areas, due to what they called “*inconsistencies*”.

As a result, Bakersfield won by 22 votes! Residents up in the mountain communities seriously objected, and challenged the outcome! The Court ordered those ballots to be restored in 1873, but those ballots could not be located, so, the Court decided that Bakersfield was the winner, and even though they had no courthouse building, the county seat was moved to the Town Hall building in Bakersfield in 1874.

Now, for the second city ----- Belleville, (up in Holcomb Valley, Big Bear, CA area). Another mining town, about 10,000 local residents, and again in the 1860’s, lost the county seat to San Bernardino --- *by two votes!* A good friend, and fellow Ham Radio operator, Sherman Davis, KI6WMI, told the story over the air a few days ago, and I looked it up. He was right, but like the *missing ballots* from the Havilah - Bakersfield balloting, the story says, “unfortunately, some of the ballots were lost when the wooden ballot box was placed near, and accidentally got kicked into the campfire!”

Fast Forward to modern times! In 2015, Jayne, KK6JPZ, and I were up in Exeter, CA., visiting with our friend, Chris Brewer, N6SKC, the Great-Great Grandson of Col. Thomas Baker, a fellow Ham Radio operator and a past president (Ex-Humbug) of the Peter Lebeck Chapter 1866 of E Clampus Vitus. Chris inherited much of the Baker memorabilia, and has it stored in warehouses at his ranch. “I remember seeing those ballots, but don’t know exactly where they are right now, but when I find them, I’ll give you one or two to place on display in the Havilah Courthouse Museum,” Chris said.

*(I don’t think that there were any shenanigans going on back in 1873, when they claimed they couldn’t find the missing ballots --- Tom Baker died in the typhoid epidemic **Nov. 24, 1872!** Probably no one*

knew that Baker had those ballots, and he was in no shape to even care at the time! --- Al)

NEWS FLASH ! Chris contacted Jayne and I on Thursday, March 3, 2022, and told us that he found those ballots and has framed one of them for us! Jayne and I drove up to Exeter on Thursday March 10th, had lunch with Chris and picked it up! It will be prominently displayed in our Havilah Courthouse Museum! **THANK YOU, CHRIS BREWER, FOR CONSERVING AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR HAVILAH HISTORY!** (*Chris was voted into a lifetime membership in the Havilah Historical Society in 2015*).

Col. Thomas Baker's Great-Great Grandson, Chris Brewer, N6SKC, presenting one of the professionally mounted, "Lost Ballots" from 1872 to Havilah Historical Society President, Jayne Hotchkiss-Price, KK6JPZ, on Thursday March 10, 2022, in front of one of his shops in Exeter, CA.

Volunteer Monitor Program Cautions
against Operating Beyond License Privileges

03/03/2022

Many of the Advisory Notices sent out each month by the ARRL Volunteer Monitor Program go to stations heard operating outside the operator's license privileges.

Typical cases often involve operators holding

Technician- or General-class amateur licenses being heard on a frequency or band not permitted by their license privileges. Most recent incidents have frequently entailed FT8 digital mode operation by Technician licensees on 20 and 40 meters. Technician licensees do not have any operating privileges on 20 meters, let alone digital privileges, and FT8 is a

digital protocol.



Technicians (and Novices) may operate CW between 21.025 and 21.200 MHz on 15 meters, from 7.025 and 7.125 MHz on 40 meters, and from 3.525 to 3.600 MHz on 80 meters, but they do not have any digital (data) mode privileges on these bands.

ARRL Volunteer Monitor Program Administrator Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, said licensees who need a refresher course regarding their operating privileges may refer to Section 97.301 of the rules. ARRL also has a convenient chart on its website that details privileges available to all license classes, from Novice to Amateur Extra.

As monthly Volunteer Monitor reports indicate, some General-class operators have lost their way on some bands too, and Advisory Notices have gone out to those operating outside of the General-class phone subbands. For example, on 20 meters, Generals may operate phone from 14.225 to 14.350 MHz, but occasionally, General-class operators are heard outside of that subband. On 40 meters, the phone and image subband open to General licensees is 7.175 to 7.300 MHz. Of course, Technician- and General-class licensees may operate CW on any subband on which they have operating privileges, although operation within the CW subbands is preferred by band plan.

On 10 meters, Technicians have RTTY and data privileges — including FT8 — from

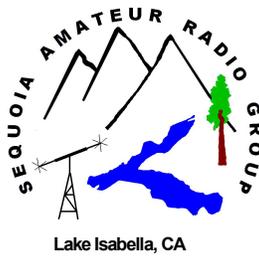
28.000 to 28.300 MHz, and SSB phone privileges from 28.300 to 28.500 MHz, and may operate on CW over the entire 28.0000 – 28.500 MHz segment. Technicians may enjoy all operating privileges at 50 MHz and above.

The ARRL Volunteer Monitor program is a formal agreement between the FCC and ARRL. Volunteers trained and vetted by ARRL monitor the airwaves and report evidence that may be used to correct errant operation or to recognize exemplary on-air operation.

SARG is 16!!

This April 1st marks the 16th anniversary of SARG. You can see the history of the club on our website www.n6krv.org. There you will find a list of the Founders, Charter Members and Silent Keys.





April 2022

Sequoia Amateur Radio Group



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