



The Kern River Voice

The Monthly Newsletter of the Sequoia Amateur Radio Group



Volume 17- Issue 7
July 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 – Friday 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,

Hope everyone is healthy and having a wonderful summer. We're all bracing for more hot weather.

Our Field Day adventure at Big Meadow was very fun with beautiful weather and great food. Thanks to Brian and Christine Minor for securing our campsite at Camp Andrew Brown. Thanks to all our great cooks for the wonderful food. Thanks to Mike Higgins for leadership and record keeping for our Field Day efforts. Thanks to our Field Day participants; Chuck - KI6GOG, Bill- N6TF, Mike – KA6IYS and others.

Everyone is invited to our next club meeting. It will be our annual ice cream social in the picnic area of the Kern Valley Elk's Lodge, 6708 Wofford Blvd, Wofford Heights, CA 93285. We will start a little later in the day, 10:30AM on Saturday July 9, 2022. The club will furnish, bowls, spoons, toppings, napkins and of course Ice Cream.

Thanks to Torin Swinland, KK6YAB for donating an MFJ-948 Antenna Tuner to the club. We are continuing to sell special \$5.00 raffle tickets for it. In addition, we will have a door prize drawing and a 50/50 or HT raffle. Come join the fun!

We look forward to seeing everyone at the ice cream party!

Dale, KG6TBQ

Ham Radio License Exams

We continue to offer in person license exams through the Greater Los Angeles Amateur Radio Group to anyone who is interested and can travel to Weldon. We normally offer the exams on the third Saturday of the month at 11AM in the Valley Estates Community Center, 14213 Allen Ave., Weldon, CA 93283. Go to the Exam Info page at N6KRV.ORG for details and a form that needs to be filled out at least 24 hours in advance of taking an exam. A new Technician exam went into effect on July 1, 2022. If you have any questions contact Mike, KA6IYS, (760) 378-1028 or mike@n6krv.org

Field Day 2022

11 of us went to Camp Andrew Brown for Field Day this year. Mike KA6IYS and Janet Higgins, Bill N6TF and Christine KK6AZQ Hesse, Dale KG6TBQ and Cheryl KN6PUQ Ripley, Robert W6PVG and Caroline KD6KMN Parsons, Bryan KI6LSP and Christine Minor, along with Chuck KI6GOG Caudell. Four stations were set up to run Class 3A as we didn't expect all 4 to be on the air at one time. At start time (11AM local) on Saturday the bands were DEAD. Some of us wondered if our antennas were working at all. Around 1PM the bands started working and we began making contacts. We made all of our contacts on 40 meters as no one wanted to get on the air on 80 meters after dinner. As usual, we ate and ate and ate. We had some wonderful group meals. We are already looking forward to next year. Further on in the newsletter you will find an article by Pete W6SV about his and Christy's Field Day experience.

Rocky Point Repeater

On Tuesday June 28, 2022 the Rock Point Amateur Radio Club was officially issued the N6SR call sign. We thank Skip's family for allowing us to apply for the call sign to honor and remember all of Skip's hard work in obtaining the site for the repeater.



We still have a few members dealing with some ongoing health issues. Bill N6TF is awaiting some sinus surgery after hopefully getting clearance from his cardiologist. Pete W6SV is dealing with some cardiac issues. Hopefully they will both get this all behind them with positive results.

Prune Juice Lunch

Jayne KK6JPZ has us scheduled for 11AM Wednesday July 20, 2022 at McNally's Outpost in Kernville. It is at 11301 Kernville Road, right next to the bridge. Please let Jayne know if you plan to attend.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Sir Isaac Newton was 82 years old when 18 year old Ben Franklin met him while vacationing in England. Well, that's according to author, Joy Hakim, in "A History of US", Volume 2, page 167. One of his first inventions was figuring out that ships Captains could follow the Gulf Stream course just by using a thermometer! Then young Ben got into the study of electricity, and took a lot of abuse for it.

"It was a very old tradition (superstition) to ring the church bells during a lightning storm. This was supposed to ward off evil spirits. But a book published in Germany in 1784 noted that "in the past 35 years, churches in Germany had been hit 386 times by lightning, and killed 103 of the bell ringers --- making bell ringing a very hazardous occupation.

Ben Franklin devised lightning rods and put them all around on buildings --- and they worked! They made those bolts harmless by conducting them into the ground. But later, when a large earthquake struck

Boston, Ben got blamed for it. It was said that his rods took the lightning from the skies and drained it into the earth, where it later exploded. (Not true, but it sounded likely back then).

A French priest also attacked Franklin, saying "It is impertinent to guard against 'the thunders of Heaven". To which Ben answered, "Surely the thunders of Heaven are no more supernatural than the rain, hail, or sunshine of Heaven, which we guard ourselves by roofs and shades."

FCC Proposes Record \$34,000 Fine for Alleged Interference and Unauthorized Transmissions During Idaho Wildfire
06/09/2022

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has proposed a \$34,000 fine against Jason Frawley of Lewiston, Idaho, for allegedly interfering with radio operations of the U.S. Forest Service during firefighting activities for the Johnson Creek Fire near Elk River in July 2021. The FCC issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL) on June 8, 2022 to Frawley. The FCC states in the NAL that Frawley holds an Extra-class Amateur Radio Service license, WA7CQ, and is the owner/operator of Leader Communications LLC, licensee of eight microwave licenses and one business license.

The FCC alleged in the NAL that "On July 17, 2021, using his amateur hand-held radio, Frawley transmitted five (5) times, and on July 18, 2021, Frawley transmitted three (3) times on frequencies allocated and authorized for government use, apparently causing harmful interference with his apparently unlawful transmissions."

The frequencies with which Frawley is alleged to have interfered were being used to coordinate firefighting crews from the U.S. Forest Service and Idaho Department of Land to fight the 1,000-acre Johnson Creek Fire, including the communications between fire suppressant aircraft and ground crews.

The NAL includes details of the Forest Service's complaint and the FCC's investigation. On July 18, 2021, the Johnson Creek fire operations section chief drove to the Elk River airstrip and hanger where Frawley, who had disclosed his location, was found holding a radio next to a banner that read, "Leader Communications." Frawley admitted to transmitting on government frequencies and identifying himself as "comm tech." He argued that he was not trying to cause interference but instead was transmitting to provide information to the fire fighters.

"[A]t no time was I trying to disturb any other communications or air traffic. I was honestly just giving them information I had since I have been working on the butte since the early 90's . . ." wrote Frawley in his October 15, 2021 response to a Letter of Inquiry from FCC Special Counsel Laura Smith.

The FCC however concluded that "Frawley's admitted unauthorized transmissions on frequencies for which he did not have a license had the potential to cause substantial harm to life and property."

The FCC held that Frawley, by his own admission, apparently willfully and repeatedly violated the Commission's rules when he made eight separate radio transmissions on a frequency for which he did not have a license. The FCC stated that unauthorized transmissions on frequencies licensed to public safety entities using those frequencies to respond to emergencies also constitutes a violation of Section 333 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

A news release from the FCC states that the fine is the largest of its kind proposed. "The Communications Act prohibits such interference with authorized radio communications and the Commission takes very seriously any interference with public safety communications," said the FCC. In a separate statement, FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel added, "You can't interfere with public safety communications. Full stop. So today we propose the largest fine of its type for this interference that put fire suppression and public safety itself at risk."

[Reprinted from the ARRL with permission]

Jayne's new kittens

At a recent Prune Juice gathering at the Red Rooster AI, N6ALP, related a story about Jayne's, KK6JPZ, two new black kittens. It seems that while Jayne was out working on the ranch AI began to talk to the new kittens who were contained in the "sun room". He saw them on the other side of the gate and began talking to them. He wondered why they were not moving. Turns out he was talking to Jayne's black shoes, not her kittens!



Miss Kitty on the left showing what a 'real cat' looks like. Those are fake kittens (aka shoes) on the right. Thanks to Pete, W6SV, for the photos, and of course Miss Kitty for modeling for us.

Inflation Jokes

(almost too true to be funny)

How bad is inflation?

My neighbor got a pre-declined credit card in the mail.

CEOs are now playing miniature golf.

Exxon-Mobil laid off 25 Congressmen.

McDonald's is selling the 1/4 ounce.

Angelina Jolie adopted a child from America.

Parents in Beverly Hills fired their nannies & learned their children's names.

A truckload of Americans was caught sneaking into Mexico.

Called to get Blue Book Value on my car. They asked if gas tank was full or empty.

And, finally...

I was so depressed last night thinking about the economy, etc., I called the Suicide Hotline. I got a call center in Afghanistan, & when I told them I was suicidal, they got all excited, & asked if I could drive a truck.

My field day 2022

Chris (Christy) and I had planned to meet the rest of the S.A.R.G. group up on the mountain at Camp Andrew Brown for a Saturday get away and by the way, thank you to the L.D.S. Church for the use of this fantastic facility each year, they are a wonderful group of people, generous and helpful far beyond average. We left my house Saturday morning around 8:30 and decided, since we had just been there a few weeks before, to drive over Sherman Pass, through Kennedy Meadows, down 9 mile canyon and back through Walker Pass. Chris had never been on this route and it had been near 20 years since my last trip over the entire route. The day was perfect so off we went. Traffic was light for a Saturday and everything pointed to a perfect day! As we drove along, I pointed out several sights including the turn off to Horse and Big Meadow. She had been that far. On up we went and after about 10 miles above the turn off, we saw an individual in a turnout where the forest service had placed an outhouse. They are along the road every so many miles to keep waste down to a minimum, I suppose. We drove passed him but I noticed he had a di-pole antenna and a small tent set up in the wide spot in the road. I told Chris I bet he was doing field day and she suggested we turn around and meet our fellow Ham operator; so we did! A perfect spot, you could see to the North almost forever! He had a small dome tent, a folding table, the antenna and a little dog with him. I introduced myself as Pete (W6SV). His name was Arthur Barnes (KB0DBI) and he was from Fresno.

He indicated he had originally intended to stop at Troy Meadow a National Forest Camp sight further up the road but found this sight to be a far better location for his QRP set-up. On his table was his CW key and a

batch of radios.





I told him that the Lake Isabella club was right below him and pointed out the general area. Turns out he was from Lake Isabella, had been a member of the old club and was an ARES net control operator for several years. Some of you may know him from his past involvement. His radio dog was named Winston. Of course, he told us all about his set up including several small, actually tiny, HF radios and his HF all band Di-Pole antenna.



Chris, your beautiful Club Secretary, and I headed on up the road. If not for her I would never have gotten to know this dedicated HAM! I had made my first field day contact. Did I log it? You bet, I borrowed the local giants', he was jolly and Green, pencil.



Next stop, The Kern Plateau.

The Plateau is the Sherman Pass summit and the view from there is more than just spectacular. Mt. Whitney and Mt. Olancho are both visible from the provided look out, complete with a guide to what you are viewing.



The pass is over 80 miles in length and covers from the North fork of the Kern to the South fork of the Kern, the Kern Plateau and of course, Kennedy Meadow, a cute little community with about 200 residents. We were getting hungry around noon so the truck headed to Grumpy Bears Cafe. Ole Grumpy is famous for his burgers and is a favorite stop for hikers on the Pacific Crest Trail. There is also a Grocery Store nearby and even a gas station. Don't run low on gas. The sign showed \$8.49.9 per gallon of regular on the Saturday we drove past! I didn't buy any, but I doubt high Sierra gas is any different than low Sierra gas.



Grumpy's isn't the cleanest place you'll ever visit, but you cannot beat the burgers. I ordered a Grumpy burger. It is Bacon and Eggs on a double cheese burger flavored with Jalapeño peppers and Avocado! I got my Grumpy on! Chris had a huge Cheese burger also with Avocado and a Lemonade. As we left the bar-keep said "now go out there and drive crazy, spin donuts and scare everyone to death". Great place and fun people. Ole Grumpy was my second contact!

We passed the Chimney Peak recreation area shortly. You have probably seen or driven the dirt road through the area. A fairly mild curvy dirt road running from Walker Pass up to Sherman Pass Road.

Next was 9 mile canyon. I guess it is called 9 mile canyon because it is 9 miles long but I swear, it is actually called that because of the shear drop off from the road to the creek 9 miles below. You sure don't want to make a mistake on that part of the road.



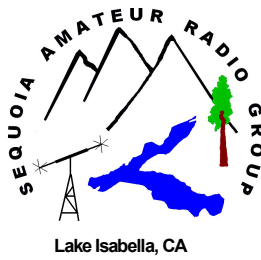
We hit Hwy 395 soon and we're headed back home.



It was 102° on 395 in Inyokern. 70° on the Plateau. What a difference. Another great, stop if you ever make the trip, is Indian Wells. A Brewery and a Steak house await you there.



We had a great Field Day and man oh man did we see some country. I hope you also had a fun and successful Field Day. We may even get on the radio in 2023! 73 de W6SV.



July 2022

Sequoia Amateur Radio Group

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
	<p>Jun 2022</p> <table border="1"> <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></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</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	29	30			<p>Aug 2022</p> <table border="1"> <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>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</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	29	30	31						<p>1</p> <p>9:00 AM Prune Juice Net 145.450 (-) 156.7</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9:00 AM Prune Juice Net 145.450 (-) 156.7</p> <p>8:00 PM HF Net 3.813Mhz</p>
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