



The Kern River Voice

The Monthly Newsletter of the Sequoia Amateur Radio Group



Volume 17- Issue 8
August 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

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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 staying cool as possible. We're all thankful the July 30 fire was put out quickly.

Everyone is invited to our next club meeting. It will be another no-host breakfast meeting at Nelda's. You can order breakfast, just coffee or nothing. Nelda's is welcoming our club. We will start a little earlier in the day to beat the heat. 09:00, Saturday August 13th, 2022.

We're continuing to sell special \$5 raffle tickets for the MFJ-948 Antenna Tuner. 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 breakfast!

Dale, KG6TBQ

August Club Meeting (Breakfast)

Our August get together will be a breakfast meeting at Nelda's in Lake Isabella. We will be meeting on the Patio at 9 AM. Note the time change, 9AM not 9:30 as normal. We will have the usual raffles for the 50/50 or more valuable prize and the special raffle tickets for the MFJ Tuner. There will be door prizes also. Bring you appetite and your money, hope to see you there.



That Radar guy is really a busy man. He has a job in just about every town you go through.

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



Prune Juice Lunch

August has five Wednesdays so this month we will hold the lunch on the 4th Wednesday, Aug. 24th. It will start at NOON at the Red Rooster



Café in Mt. Mesa. Try not to arrive too early as they have another group at 10:30 and the café needs a little time in between to get ready for us. RSVP's this time go to Mike KA6IYS. You

can reply to the email this notice came with or send it to Mike@N6KRV.ORG.

We have a couple of members undergoing surgery this month. Keep Bill N6TF and Pete W6SV in your prayers. The long term prognosis is good for both of them, and we wish them a speedy and full recovery. If you know of any other members that are under the weather please let the club secretary or vice president know so that we can send them a card.



Sometimes the family just doesn't understand how important an antenna is to an installation.

Oh Man, Do I Love History (and Research)!

(By Al Price, N6ALP, Walkers' Basin, CA --- and my "Internet Research")

It began this morning with three ham radio operators discussing why two other ham operators couldn't make it to a camping trip --- because they are remodeling / repairing their bathroom.

One commenter made the statement, "Well, a working toilet is one of the most important fixtures in the house." Then asking, "Who invented the first flush toilet?"

To which the reply came, "Well, most people think it was a guy by the name of Thomas Crapper --- thus the name "crapper" when you refer to a toilet; but I think they are wrong. I'm in my vehicle and on my way to the store, so I can't look it up right now."

----- AH ---THERE WAS THE CHALLENGE! Here I am at home, sitting in front of my ham radios and right in front of my computer. And I love history, almost as much as I love the research to find the history! I guess I should have

been a History teacher ---- Nah, I'd spend all my time reading and researching, and wouldn't have the time to pass anything on to the students!

Anyway, I entered the question, "Who invented the first flush toilet?" into my browser's search box. And that was the beginning of this quest!

Surprisingly enough it took me to "The history of water supply and sanitation", and even more surprisingly, the first entry said:

"Circa the 31st century BC: Britain's oldest Neolithic village, Skara Brae, Orkney, used Neolithic hydraulic technology. The village's design used a river and connecting drainage system to wash waste away."

Challenge number two! Where the heck is Skara Brae, Orkney? That doesn't sound very British to me! So, back to my browser's search box, and I entered, "Skara Brae, Orkney" ---- Guess what? It's the "Scottish Pompeii" --- a stone-built Neolithic village / settlement, located on the Bay of Skail on the west coast of Mainland Orkney, Scotland!

There was a local landmark; a large irregular mound of earth (known in Scottish as a howe) along the coast in Orkney. In the winter of 1850, a severe storm hit Scotland causing widespread damage and over 200 deaths. When the storm cleared, in place of the howe, the local villagers found an intact stone village, but without any roofs.

It sat there for the next 75 years without any serious investigation / exploration. It was however plundered by the locals, taking away an unknown number of artifacts. In 1924 another large storm hit, and after that, the University of

Edinburgh decided it was time to begin the protection and investigation of this site.

The investigation revealed that much like Pompeii the original inhabitants must have been caught unawares when a much older previous storm covered the ten building village with the nearby "middens" (pre-existing mounds of domestic waste). All of the dwellings contained a number of stone-built pieces of furniture, including cupboards, beds (a large stone bed, presumably for the husband was to the right of the entrance, and a smaller stone bed, presumably for the "little woman", was located to the left of the entrance in all of the houses), dressers, seats, and stone storage boxes. Each dwelling was entered by a low doorway that had a stone slab door that could be "locked" by a bar that slid through bar holes cut into the door jambs. There was a sophisticated drainage system included in the village's design that included at least one primitive form of toilet with a drainage system to wash away the waste in each dwelling.

Radiocarbon dating in 1972-73 indicated that Skara Brae was inhabited from 3180 BC to about 2500 BC. As with Pompeii, many artifacts have been uncovered at the site such as, necklaces made from animal teeth and bone, pins of Walrus ivory, remains of choice meat joints, bait-fish kept in stone boxes in the homes, grooved-ware pottery, small bowls, bone needles and flint axes, bedposts with "runic writings", stone tools (awls, knives, beads, adzes, shovels) and lumps of red ochre (interpreted as evidence of body painting) are examples. One stone cupboard in the wall of one of the houses had an animal skin draped over the front to keep the items inside protected.

But the most surprising fact ---- this village and its toilet system pre-date Stonehenge and the

building of the pyramids! (So "flush toilets" ain't new!)

Now wasn't that interesting? It was to me! Thank you guys for bringing up the subject of toilets! I guess I've just got too much time on my hands, huh?

TWISTS OF FATE

(From "The Greatest Stories Never Told" Chapter 7, pg 258 "Man Overboard", Reader's Digest, Special Edition, in conjunction with The History Channel, 2008)

A powerful storm battered the Mayflower as it carried the Pilgrims across the Atlantic in 1620. The wind and waves were so ferocious, when passenger John Howland came up on deck the force of the storm swept him overboard and into the sea. It looked like he was going to be lost beneath the rolling waves.

But fate was kind to John Howland. He managed to reach out and grab onto a rope that was trailing from the ship and he held on for dear life. He kept disappearing beneath the waves, but was finally hauled back up to the ships deck as the crew finally fished him out with a boat hook. By this slender thread, hung the lives of three future presidents. Watching the ordeal from the deck of the Mayflower was a 12-year-old girl named Elizabeth Tilley. Years later, she and Howland were married, and populated the New World with 10 children, which led to 82 grandchildren, and way too many other decedents from that time to count.

Among these were three presidents of the United States: Franklin D. Roosevelt and the two George Bushes. Also descended from John and Elizabeth Howland were actors Humphrey Bogart and Alec Baldwin, as well as the founder of the Latter-day Saints, Joseph Smith, none of

whom would have been born if Howland had not been saved that fateful day.

Why did this story interest me so much? In WWII my father was a first class torpedoman on the "unsinkable" destroyer, the U.S.S. Hull, which rolled over on its side during a typhoon off Luzon Dec. 18, 1944. My father was on deck-watch duty at the time the ship was tossed on its side and he was tossed into a lifeboat as 191 sailors went down with the ship. Only 62 enlisted men and officers survived, my Dad was one of them. ---- Al Price N6ALP



COMMON SENSE SAYS, LEAVE SNAKES ALONE!
by Al Price

Now that I have your undivided attention ----Let me tell you a story that happened to my family awhile back. We were camping in the mountains. Here came my oldest son running towards the campsite holding a stick out in front of him ---- with a 2 to 2 1/2 foot rattlesnake dangling from it. "Look Dad, a dead snake!" he hollered.

"Wait a minute. How do you know it's dead?" I asked. "I knocked him out," he replied proudly. Now let's stop and think about this ---- "Knocked him out" is not quite the same as "killed him." Hmmmm, --- I wonder? Just then he dropped the snake onto the ground. Yup, it looked dead --- BUT IT WASN'T!

I didn't go into any of the details with him about how he knocked him out (besides, how does he know it was a him?) Did he simply throw a rock?

Clobber it with a stick (a right-hook to the chin?) --- Whatever it was ---- it wasn't enough! The snake was still alive and slithered into the nearby rocks a little while later (which was the main reason we moved our campsite that evening.) Oh yes, we had a long talk about avoiding contact with Mr. Hissssssss!

Now let's talk about you. Are you planning on taking the family out camping or going hiking? Tell your kids TO LEAVE THE 'DEAD SNAKES' ALONE ! ---- They might not be, and probably aren't DEAD !

What can you do if you get bitten? Swelling at the bite site, numbness and tingling around the mouth are symptoms of venom injection --- in 20% of all rattlesnake bites venom is not injected.

According to the latest medical advice I've been able to find:

- You should try to stay calm (excitement causes the heart to beat faster, thus pumping blood more quickly through the body -- -- and the venom with it), rest the affected part if possible, and seek medical attention immediately.
- If the bite is on an arm or leg, apply tourniquets above and below the bite area if possible. Do not tighten so tight that you completely restrict all blood flow, otherwise you may lose total circulation to a body part, killing its tissue.
- Do not cut at the fang marks (Rambo-style) and try to "suck the poison out," or immerse the bite area in icy water. Medical authorities now think that rapid transport to a medical facility is much more effective. (Do you know where your "nearest medical facility is?)"

Most people survive snakebites; small children are at greatest risk. According to hospital records, "Not one snakebite has been suffered by hikers in the mountains from the Sierra Madre's down to the Mexican Border in many years."

The people who have been bitten were persons clearing overgrowth from the trails; Woodlands fire fighters; people who taunt snakes to see how close they can get without getting bit; and those people who decided to handle "dead" snakes (that weren't.) Also, I might mention, it is best to stay away from the old "snake-on-a-stick" routine!

How that kid ever made it to adulthood I'll never know ---- but I'm sure that our parents said the same thing about us.

My Favorite Jokes !

My Favorite Animal

Our teacher asked us what our favorite animal was, and I said, "Fried chicken." She said I wasn't funny, but she couldn't have been right because everyone else in the class laughed.

My parents told me to always be truthful and honest, and I am. Fried chicken is my favorite animal. I told my dad what happened; he said my teacher was probably a member of PETA. He said they love animals very much.

I do too, especially chicken, pork and beef. Anyway, my teacher sent me to the principal's office. I told him what happened, and he laughed, too. Then he told me not to do it again.

The next day in class my teacher asked me what my favorite live animal was. I told her it was chicken. She asked me why, just like she'd asked

the other children. So I told her it was because you could make them into fried chicken.

She sent me back to the principal's office again. He laughed, and told me not to do it again.

I don't understand. My parents taught me to be honest, but my teacher doesn't like it when I am. Today, my teacher asked us to tell her what famous person we admire most. I told her, "Colonel Sanders."

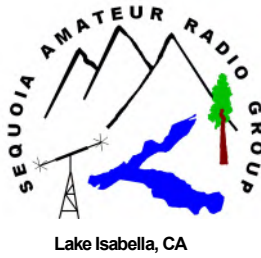
Guess where I am right now



From the Editor

I want to thank Al, N6ALP, and Pete, W6SV, for always sending me jokes and items of interest for the newsletter. If you find something you think the rest of us might enjoy please send it to editor@n6krv.org and it will find it's way to the current newsletter editor.

Mike, KA6IYS



August 2022

Sequoia Amateur Radio Group

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