



# The Kern River Voice

## The Monthly Newsletter of the Sequoia Amateur Radio Group



Volume 19 – Issue 3  
March 2024



<http://www.n6krv.org>

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/974329830487483>

Don't forget to 'spring forward'  
on March 10<sup>th</sup> as we begin  
Daylight Savings Time at 0200



### 2024 Leadership

#### President

Dale KG6TBQ (661) 867-0501

#### Vice President

Chuck KI6GOG (760) 376-1544

#### Secretary

Christine Hesse KK6AZQ  
(661) 303-6342

#### Treasurer

Mike KA6IYS (760) 378-1028

#### Board Member at Large

Bill Hesse N6TF (661) 332-2287

#### Membership Chair

Torin KK6YAB (760) 379-1000

#### Newsletter Editor/Program Chair

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 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 Attorney Karrie Bunting for her very informative presentation on trusts, wills, probate and estate planning at our February meeting.

We've been getting plenty of rain. The creeks are flowing and the hills are green awaiting the bloom of the wild flowers.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting, 09:30, Saturday March 9<sup>th</sup> at the Elks Lodge in Wofford Heights. **Mike and Chuck plan a presentation on homemade antennas. We plan to give away door prizes and refreshments. We'll sell tickets and have a 50/50 drawing.**

We look forward to great conversation and seeing everyone there.

Dale, KG6TBQ

### March Program

See **The Prez Sez** above for details.

### Upcoming Programs\*

April – Pizza Party/Swap Meet

May – Breakfast @ Nelda's

June – Ice Cream Social

July – Field Day

\*  
-subject to change

If you have anything you would like to see or present at a meeting, please let Mike KA6IYS know.

### Ham Radio License Exams

The club provides exams for new licenses and upgrades on a monthly basis, except December, at the Valley Estates Community Center, 14213 Allen Avenue, Weldon, CA 93283. The sessions are normally held on the third Saturday of the month at 11AM. You must preregister at least one day in advance. The forms and instructions to preregister are on the club website at <https://n6krv.org/exam-info/>. The exam fee is \$10 and there are waivers available as detailed on the webpage. The Federal Communications Commission also has a fee and, in most cases, it is \$35 and is not generally waived. We do not collect the FCC fee; they will provide payment directions after they receive and process your paperwork.

If you plan to take the Amateur Extra examination, please be aware a new question pool will take effect July 1, 2024. You can find the question pools at <http://www.ncvec.org/>.

### Available Ham Gear

The family of Don Jefferson, KC6OCA(SK) has donated much of his equipment to our club. We

have sold a good part of it already. There are a few nice items left. Anything not sold by April will be at the Pizza Party/Swap Meet. We have a dual band Yaesu FT8800R and a commercial quality watt meter still available in addition to many small parts and pieces. Contact Mike KA6IYS if you are interested.

Tom Klein, KG6YNO, has an antenna rotor available for FREE. For more details contact Tom at (661) 333-0265 text or voice.



**Get on the air!** Join us every weekday morning on the Prune Juice net on the Rocky Point Repeater, 145.450(-), 156.7 Tone, 9AM.



### Sickness and Distress

Bryan, KI6LSP, recently underwent surgery for skin cancer and is recovering. The club sent a Get Well card.

If you know of anyone else that should be listed here, please let the editor know at [editor@n6krv.org](mailto:editor@n6krv.org)



And now AR Newsline . . .

Newsline is played after the net each Friday night on the 145.450 (-) 156.7 repeater. If you have time check in at 7PM and find out what's going on in the valley.

### **Bob Heil, K9EID, Silent Key**

3/01/2024

The man who defined the sound of live rock 'n' roll music and brought audio engineering principals into mainstream amateur radio use, Dr. Bob Heil, K9EID, has passed away at the age of 83. He was an ARRL Life Member and in the ARRL Maxim Society. A Facebook post from Heil Ham Radio paid tribute to their founder: "Bob fought a valiant, yearlong battle with cancer, and passed peacefully surrounded by his family."

Heil founded Heil Sound in 1966, through which he created the template for modern concert sound systems for musicians like the Grateful Dead, The Who, Joe Walsh, and Peter Frampton. The talk box used on iconic live record Frampton Comes Alive! was of Heil's design. His audio engineering products have been featured in the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, and he was honored in 2007 with the Parnelli Audio Innovator Award for his impact on the live sound industry. "My life has been about achieving great sound, whether on the concert

stage or in the amateur radio world," Bob Heil recounted in 2022. "I've watched Heil Sound go from a regional sound company to a world-class microphone manufacturer. This company has been my passion," he said.

Parallel to his commercial and artistic success in live music, was his passion for amateur radio. He was active in ham radio from a young age and merged his expertise in audio engineering with his love for radio. Heil Ham Radio was founded to produce microphones, headsets, and other gear for radio amateurs with an emphasis on high-quality audio.

Heil was known as a mentor who enjoyed helping others find success in ham radio. Recently, his grandson Charlie Hartley, KF0OOP, became a licensed ham to surprise Heil for his birthday. The pair attended the ARRL Midwest Convention/Winterfest in St. Louis, Missouri, on January 27, 2024.

Heil was a generous donor to amateur radio organizations, including ARRL. Recently, he donated a host of new audio gear to the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, W1AW.

His generosity and kind nature will be missed by many, including ARRL Director of Development Kevin Beal, K8EAL. "Bob was a titan in many areas. He was generous with his time, offered keen insights, and had the heart of a philanthropist in the ARRL Maxim Society," Beal said. "He was a gentleman to his core, making friends easily and everywhere he went, from rock stars to captains of industry. I consider it a real privilege to have become a friend to him, too, all because of amateur radio."

Heil was known for his passion for AM operations. He served for many years as an on-camera host of the Ham Nation podcast. Tributes to Heil have been flooding social media, including from his co-hosts.

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, said Heil's passing is a significant loss. "Bob Heil's technical achievements that brought high-quality audio to amateur radio pale in

comparison to his generosity and willingness to help his fellow ham. He's long been known as someone eager to help mentor and teach. His legacy on our hobby will be long-lasting. Our thoughts are with his loved ones."

### ***The First Amateur Radio Station on the Moon, JS1YMG, is Now Transmitting***

02/02/2024

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) successfully landed their Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) on January 19, 2024. Just before touchdown, SLIM released two small lunar surface probes, LEV-1 and LEV-2.

LEV-2 collects data while moving on the lunar surface, and LEV-1 receives the data.

The JAXA Ham Radio Club (JHRC), JQ1ZVI, secured amateur radio license JS1YMG for LEV-1, which has been transmitting Morse code on 437.41 MHz since January 19. The probe uses a 1 W UHF antenna with circular polarization and is transmitting "matters related to amateur business."

Radio amateurs have been busy analyzing JS1YMG's signal, with Daniel Estévez's, EA4GPZ, blog introducing the method and extraction results for demodulating Morse code from the signal, as well as extracting the code string.

It's unclear how long signals will be heard. JAXA has said that SLIM was not designed to survive a lunar night, which lasts about 14 days, and is due to return in a few days.

SLIM was launched on September 6, 2023, and landed on January 19, 2024, with the mission of analyzing the composition of rocks to aid research about the origin of the moon. SLIM's landing made Japan the fifth country to achieve a soft touchdown on the moon. The landing was achieved with exceptional precision -- within 180 feet of its targeted touchdown location.

[Reprinted from ARRL.ORG with permission]

## Lady Telegraphers? You Bet!

Ideas for articles come from the strangest places sometimes. A very good friend, and Clamper brother, Dr. Gregg Wilkerson, sent me a photo of a memorial plaque that the Los Angeles Chapter of E Clampus Vitus put up in 1976, dedicated to "Lang Station" out near today's Santa Clarita. OK, so now I had to do some research to find out what the heck Lang Station was? I found out it was a Railroad terminal where Charles Crocker drove a golden spike to celebrate the completion of the Southern Pacific Railroad link between San Francisco and Los Angeles County, 100 years ago. --- But then, off on another tangent --- in my research I also found a book about Lang Station called "*A Golden Spike*". Yup, I had to have that one, and in it, it said Lang Station had a female telegraph operator, who made extra money selling pies, cookies, and cakes as a sideline!

Female telegraph operator? Hmmmm, now maybe, just maybe there's another story there! You bet there was, and quite an eye opener. OK, a little more research and I found that there was a book published in 2000, called, "*My Sisters Telegraphic*", and it covered women in telegraph offices from 1846 through 1950 in 231 pages. Nope, I'm not going to give you the whole history, but here are some items I think you (and I) would find interesting (not in any particular order):

- By 1870 there were over 8,000 male telegraph operators, but also 355 female operators. By 1920 there were 16,860 female telegraph operators.
- July 11, 1876, an 18 yr old female operator Elizabeth "Lizzie" Clapp was working the keys for the Boston and Providence Railroad in Readville, Mass. when lightning hit the telegraph wires, followed it to the telegraph key, jumped to Lizzie's gold necklace. She was found dead on the floor, which led to many new safety regulations.
- In 1878, George and Cassie Hill moved to Placer County Calif. where George took over as the Roseville Depot telegraph operator, station master, and Wells Fargo Representative. George taught Cassie how to read and send telegraph messages.

George died unexpectedly in 1883. Cassie was then appointed to take over all of George's responsibilities, while also mothering five children. She remained on that job for 23 years, until her retirement in 1907.

- Most women operators made between \$6 and \$25 a month in the 1860's as telegraph operators. Male telegraph operators made an average of \$50 a month.
- The National Telegraphic Tournament was held in New York City April 10, 1890. Men competed against men, and ladies against ladies. First prize in each class was \$50, Second place got \$40, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place received \$20. For the ladies, K. B. Stephenson got 1<sup>st</sup> place by sending and receiving 217 words in 5 minutes, or 43 words per minute, 2<sup>nd</sup> place was R.M. Daniels with 212 words in 5 minutes, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place was E.R. Vanselow at 210 words. The overall winner in the men's division was B.R. Pollack who was able to send and receive at 260 words in 5 minutes.
- There was a section leader in Chicago, a female, Medora Olive Newell, who worked for the Postal Telegraph Company, and who loved to go on cruises when she went on vacations. In 1905, while on a ship returning from Europe, a Hungarian delegation to the Hague Peace Conference, whose members wished to send a wireless message to their emperor, Franz Joseph, on his birthday, were on board, but the ship's operator didn't know how to use the wireless equipment. Newell stepped in and volunteered to send their messages for them. They were so happy, and grateful that they invited Newell to Hungary the following year, where she was the guest of honor at several banquets, and was able to ceremonially preside over a session of the Hungarian Parliament.
- Female operators often got married, then quit to raise a family. At first, both male and female operators worked side by side in the same room, but then management realized that it was common for a male operator to marry a female operator, then the female operator would quit, so, first they separated them, males in one room and females in another. That didn't work, so again, some new rules came out. On March 23, 1872, the New York Western Union office issued these new orders: "Any female operator, corresponding, meeting, or calling at any

gentleman's office, *shall immediately forfeit her position*". It went on to say, "The mere recognition of a male acquaintance, even outside the office, and/or out of business hours, will be punished with instant dismissal." They went as far as to hire a corps of spies and detectives to watch suspected females as they went to and from work.

- Women of any age could be employed as telegraph operators after passing "hands on testing". In 1880, they ranged from 11 yr old Nellie Welch, operator of Point Arena, CA, to 55 yr old, Elizabeth Cogley in Harrisburg, PA.
- The Civil War caused there to be more women telegraph operators than men.
- Abbie Gail Struble and her sister Madge were both employed by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad as telegraph operators. On a blustery cold winter night Abbie received a message that a train with only one car, loaded with Union Army officers, had just left Pittsburgh bound for Washington D.C. for an emergency conference with President Lincoln. At the same time a west bound freight train pulled into a depot 15 miles east of Abbie's work station in Allegheny, PA and the conductor was told that he had an "all clear" to Pittsburgh. As the freight train picked up steam heading for Pittsburgh, a frantic message came through to Abbie saying "Stop that freight train! There is a special train heading for Washington D.C., and they are heading straight for each other!" Abbie peered out the window just in time to see the freight train coming. At this time there were no emergency lights to tell trains to stop. Abbie rushed out into the freezing weather and quickly grabbed hold of an iron handle of one of the freight cars and could be seen kicking frantically as she was jerked about. The frosted handle she grabbed onto actually tore the wool from her mitten. She stumbled over the roof of the cars until she made it to the coal car and got the attention of the crew. Once the engineer heard of the problem he put the brakes on and backed up to Abbie's station. The crisis was averted, and the crews were ever grateful to Abbie for her heroic actions! Abbie retired in 1907, and taught telegraphy in a local school in Long Beach, CA, but was brought out of retirement at the start of WWI. She passed away in

1924 at the age of 79. Another interesting note, all five of her children later worked as telegraph operators.

- Mattie Collins-Brite learned to operate a telegraph key from residents living in her mother's boarding house. She practiced on her own homemade telegraph key at home. One day a resident passing her room while going down the hall heard her practicing. He turned out to be the superintendent over telegraphers at a R/R station in New Orleans. He was impressed that she was taking it upon herself to learn Morse code, and made arrangements for her to come listen to some telegraph messages to see just how much she had learned. He was impressed and offered her a job as telegrapher for the R/R in Sabinas, Mexico, then on to Durango, Mexico, but the Chairman of the R/R told her he didn't want a woman working there as a telegrapher. In 1907, Mattie was living in Austin, TX when a supervisor for the Western Union offered her a job at \$40 per month. Men, doing the same job were getting \$65 per mo. The superintendent told her that he didn't think women could do the job as well or as quickly as the men could. That was a challenge --- Mattie sat right down and showed that superintendent and every man in the room how well she could work. She began work that day at \$65 per month. She retired in 1942 after over 40 years as a telegraph operator.
- By the 1920's, the age of the Morse code telegraph operators was drawing to a close. Commercial telegraph offices switched over to Teletype. The last telegraph operator in New York State was retired in 1934.

The telegraphers played a significant role in the history of the Railroads. They were essential for increasing traffic on single track R/R lines, communicating train's arrivals and departures, and for making the movement of goods and people much safer than before. These skilled women operators proved they were just as capable as men to transmit messages along the R/R lines with the same efficiency.

Hope you enjoyed this article as much as I did while doing the research! --- Al Price

***Where I stole this information from:***

*"My Sisters Telegraphic"* by Thomas C. Jepsen

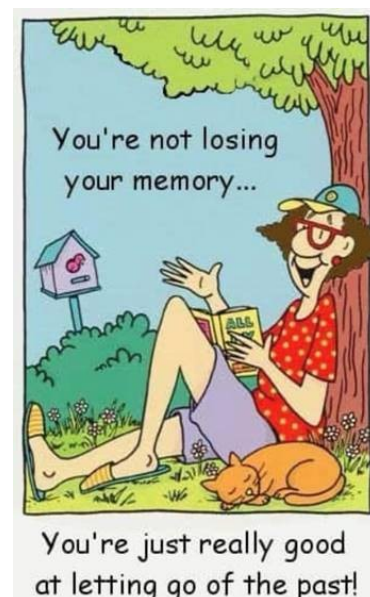
Article from True West Magazine, March 3, 2021, *"Wild Women of the West: The Telegraphers"*

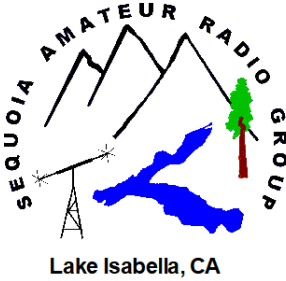
*"A Golden Spike"* by Marie Harrington, (a gift to me from the San Fernando Valley Historical Society)

*"Pass Into Yesterday"* by M.R. Harrington in Westways Magazine, 1952

*"1876 Lang Station Golden Spike"*, scvhistory.com

---- and other Internet searches.





# March 2024

## Sequoia Amateur Radio Group



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday														
<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Feb 2024</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Apr 2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">S M T W T F S</td> <td style="text-align: center;">S M T W T F S</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1 2 3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1 2 3 4 5 6</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">4 5 6 7 8 9 10</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7 8 9 10 11 12 13</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">11 12 13 14 15 16 17</td> <td style="text-align: center;">14 15 16 17 18 19 20</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">18 19 20 21 22 23 24</td> <td style="text-align: center;">21 22 23 24 25 26 27</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">25 26 27 28 29</td> <td style="text-align: center;">28 29 30</td> </tr> </table>					Feb 2024	Apr 2024	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	1 2 3	1 2 3 4 5 6	4 5 6 7 8 9 10	7 8 9 10 11 12 13	11 12 13 14 15 16 17	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	18 19 20 21 22 23 24	21 22 23 24 25 26 27	25 26 27 28 29	28 29 30	<p style="font-size: 24px; color: blue;">1</p> <p>9:00 AM Prune Juice Net 145.450 (-) 156.7</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; color: blue;">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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<p style="font-size: 24px; color: blue;">10</p> <p>9:00 AM Prune Juice Net 145.450 (-) 156.7</p> <p style="color: red;">Daylight Savings Time Begins</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; color: blue;">11</p> <p>9:00 AM Prune Juice Net 145.450 (-) 156.7</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; color: blue;">12</p> <p>9:00 AM Prune Juice Net 145.450 (-) 156.7</p> <p>8:00 PM HF Net 3.813Mhz</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; color: blue;">13</p> <p>9:00 AM Prune Juice Net 145.450 (-) 156.7</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; color: blue;">14</p> <p>9:00 AM Prune Juice Net 145.450 (-) 156.7</p> <p>8:00 PM HF Net 3.813Mhz</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; color: blue;">15</p> <p>9:00 AM Prune Juice Net 145.450 (-) 156.7</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; color: blue;">16</p> <p>9:00 AM Prune Juice Net 145.450 (-) 156.7</p> <p>11:00 AM VE Exams</p> <p>8:00 PM HF Net 3.813Mhz</p>														
<p style="font-size: 24px; color: blue;">17</p> <p>9:00 AM Prune Juice Net 145.450 (-) 156.7</p> <p style="color: red;">St. Patrick's Day</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; color: blue;">18</p> <p>9:00 AM Prune Juice Net 145.450 (-) 156.7</p> <p>7:00 PM 145.150 Net</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; color: blue;">19</p> <p>9:00 AM Prune Juice Net 145.450 (-) 156.7</p> <p>8:00 PM HF Net 3.813Mhz</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; color: blue;">20</p> <p>9:00 AM Prune Juice Net 145.450 (-) 156.7</p> <p style="color: red;">First Quarter Spring begins</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; color: blue;">21</p> <p>9:00 AM Prune Juice Net 145.450 (-) 156.7</p> <p>8:00 PM HF Net 3.813Mhz</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; color: blue;">22</p> <p>9:00 AM Prune Juice Net 145.450 (-) 156.7</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; color: blue;">23</p> <p>9:00 AM Prune Juice Net 145.450 (-) 156.7</p> <p>8:00 PM HF Net 3.813Mhz</p>														
<p style="font-size: 24px; color: blue;">24</p> <p>9:00 AM Prune Juice Net 145.450 (-) 156.7</p> <p style="color: blue;">Palm Sunday</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; color: blue;">25</p> <p>9:00 AM Prune Juice Net 145.450 (-) 156.7</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; color: blue;">26</p> <p>9:00 AM Prune Juice Net 145.450 (-) 156.7</p> <p>8:00 PM HF Net 3.813Mhz</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; color: blue;">27</p> <p>9:00 AM Prune Juice Net 145.450 (-) 156.7</p> <p>Full Moon</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; color: blue;">28</p> <p>9:00 AM Prune Juice Net 145.450 (-) 156.7</p> <p>8:00 PM HF Net 3.813Mhz</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; color: blue;">29</p> <p>9:00 AM Prune Juice Net 145.450 (-) 156.7</p> <p style="color: blue;">Good Friday</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; color: blue;">30</p> <p>9:00 AM Prune Juice Net 145.450 (-) 156.7</p> <p>8:00 PM HF Net 3.813Mhz</p>														
<p style="font-size: 24px; color: blue;">31</p> <p>9:00 AM Prune Juice Net 145.450 (-) 156.7</p> <p style="color: blue;">Easter</p>																				