



The Kern River Voice

The Monthly Newsletter of the Sequoia Amateur Radio Group



Volume 20 – Issue 8
August 2025



<http://www.n6krv.org>

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2025 Leadership

President

Mike KA6IYS (760) 378-1028

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Board Member at Large

Daniel KK6RAZ (661) 220-6889

Past President

Dale KG6TBQ (661) 867-0501

Membership Chair

Torin KK6YAB (760) 379-1000

Newsletter Editor/Program Chair

Mike KA6IYS (760) 378-1028

ARES Net

Monday – 6:45PM

146.550 Simplex

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 Except Sunday

145.450(-) PL 156.7

SARG Monthly Meetings

Second Sat. (exc. Dec.)

Kern Valley Elk's Lodge

6708 Wofford Blvd

Wofford Heights, CA 93285

QST QST QST!



The Prez Sez:

So far, it's been a nice summer, not too many days over 100°. It looks like August may return to normal, so plan accordingly and stay hydrated.

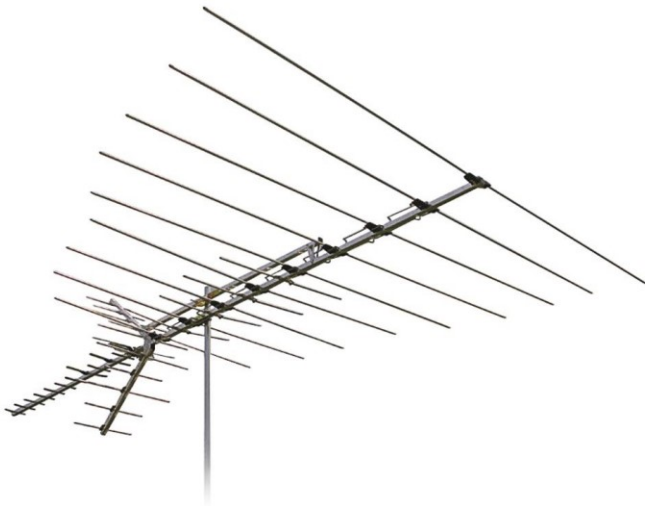
It isn't too early to begin thinking about new officers for next year. We seem to have the same people each year. While I really do appreciate their dedication, I would like to see them get some "time off" to just sit in the audience and enjoy the meeting and conversation. This group includes me! I have held an office of some sort since the very beginning in 2006. The jobs are not hard and you can always ask for help (and get it) if you need it. The hardest job is getting speakers for our monthly programs. Every thing else is just a few minutes a month to get the job done. We will begin searching in October for nominations for the election in November. Please consider stepping up.

Mike KA6IYS

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.

You can find the question pools at <http://www.ncvec.org/> .



Get on the air! Join us every morning (except Sunday) on the Prune Juice and Baloney Sandwich Net on the Rocky Point Repeater, 145.450(-), 156.7 Tone, 9AM. We discuss the weather, recent events and anything else that may cross our minds. If you don't have anything to add, just check in and let us know you are listening.

We also have a net every Friday night at 7PM on the same repeater. Amateur Radio Newsline is played just after the net for those that desire to keep up with ham radio in the news.

And now AR Newsline . . .



Sickness and Distress

For those that haven't heard, Jayne, KK6JPZ, was recently involved in a serious auto accident. This the note her husband Al, N6ALP, recently sent "Jayne is doing much better, and was able to guide a fellow over to a ranch nearby to help us pick up a 4th horse this morning, an appaloosa named Apache. We have to keep him separated from the other three horses, Charlie, Casper, and Jake for a little while, separated by only fencing and barbed wire, until they get used to each other. Apache has been raised by himself, on a local ranch, for the last 20 years, now he has to get used to being around other male horses, and they have to become accustomed to "the new guy". So far, it looks like they are going to get along just fine."

Torin, KK6YAB, has had yet another cancer related surgery. It was on July 30th (the day this newsletter

is being written). Keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Mike, KA6IYS, is awaiting biopsy results. He should have an answer in the next 7 to 10 days.

Next Meeting

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at the next S.A.R.G. meeting, and will be presenting the PowerPoint presentation that I should have presented in July, on some of the plaques that E Clampus Vitus has put up around in Kern County. See you then.

--- Al, N6ALP



Two percent of the Earth's people have red hair.

Camels store fatty tissue in the humps, not water.

Emperor penguins can stay underwater for as long as 22 minutes.

The spots of light you see when you rub your eyes are called phosphenes.

Wounds infested with maggots heal quickly and without the spread of gangrene or other infection.

While in Youngstown, Ohio, it's against the law to run out of gas.

Fifty percent of all Americans live within fifty miles of where they grew up.

Alfred Hitchcock's *Psycho* features the first shot of a flushing toilet in mainstream American cinema.

Humans don't just shrink with age. We shrink every day. Humans shrink and regain height daily, sometimes as much as $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch in one day. When we move throughout the day, the fluid disks in our spinal column compress and we shrink. When we rest at night, our backbones reabsorb the fluid and height come back.

The lethal dose of caffeine for humans is ten grams, or about 100 cups of coffee consumed in four hours.

Snakes are venomous, not poisonous. An animal is considered poisonous when eating or touching it makes you sick (e.g. toads). An animal is venomous if being bitten or injected makes you sick (e.g. snakes, jellyfish, and spiders).

A female dude is a dudine, not a dudette.

If you were able to put Saturn in water it would float.

The longest running T V drama was *Guiding Light*, which was cancelled in 2009 after 57 years and nearly 16,000 episodes.

In the early 20th century, windmills were optimized to more easily take advantage of wind power. They could reach the output of around 100 horsepower.

The world's largest pyramid is not in Egypt. It's in Cholula de Rivadabia near Mexico City.

Pigs are members of the Suidae family, which includes eight genera and 16 species. Among those species are wild boars, warthogs, pygmy hogs, and domestic pigs.

Whale voices are able to travel a whopping 479 miles through the waters of the ocean. They have the ability to communicate with each other for long distances.

Early designs for *Toy Story*'s Buzz Lightyear revealed the action figure was originally going to be called Lunar Larry.

There are over 600,000 acres of shopping malls in the U.S.

After mating, male octopuses wander off to die. As for the females, they can lay up to 400,000 eggs, which they obsessively guard and tend to.

Founding fathers Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and James Monroe all died on July 4th.

The average American eats about 200 sandwiches per year.

There are about 4,700 satellites still in space, but only an approximate 1,900 are still working.

The U.S.-Canada border is the longest border on the world without a military defense.

Amateur Radio Volunteers Serving During Texas Floods

07/09/2025

Volunteer amateur radio operators serving in the [ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®](#) (ARRL®) [Amateur Radio Emergency Service®](#) (ARES®) are embedded with local served agencies in the areas of central Texas affected by devastating floods.

The needs and assignments have been changing, but ARES volunteers are stepping up to the dynamic needs of their communities. "This is a very fluid situation. It changes by the hour," said ARRL South Texas Section District 7 Emergency Coordinator Terry Jones, K5LGV.

The trained ham radio operators were activated starting on Friday, July 4, 2025. Radio amateurs are providing communications capabilities to agencies whose primary systems were damaged in the flooding event or where they suffer poor connectivity due to the terrain.

ARES members helped the American Red Cross with setup of a reunification shelter in response to the floods. Ten hams were assigned to search-and-rescue teams.

Dozens of health and welfare messages were passed by ham radio operators who provided a critical link when phone lines were overwhelmed. "A lot of this is tied to circuit overload preventing folks from making direct contact with family members in the area," said Kevin McCoy, KF5FUZ.

During the flooding event and subsequent search and recovery missions, ARES members have been deployed to serve many different counties, including hard-hit Kerr and Kendall Counties. Mutual aid has been offered between several surrounding ARRL sections.

This page will be updated as new information is confirmed.

About ARES®

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment with their local ARES leadership, for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes.

Amateur radio operators use their training, skills, and equipment to provide communications during emergencies When All Else Fails®. Hams serve their communities when storms or other disasters damage critical communication infrastructure, including cell towers, and wired and wireless networks. Amateur radio can function completely independently of the internet and phone systems. An amateur radio station can be set up almost anywhere in minutes. Hams can quickly raise a wire antenna in a tree or on a mast, connect it to a radio and power source, and communicate effectively with others.

About ARRL®

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® was founded in 1914 as The American Radio Relay League, and is a noncommercial organization of radio amateurs. ARRL numbers within its ranks the vast majority of active radio amateurs (or "hams") in the US and has a proud history of achievement as the standard bearer in promoting and protecting amateur radio. ARRL supports members with opportunities to discover radio, to develop new skills, and to serve their local communities. For more information about ARRL and amateur radio, visit www.arrl.org.

ARRL Heritage Museum

The Historical Committee met to review the ARRL Heritage Museum's online collection, Radio Alpha, which currently features more than 3,000 images and documents. The repository is now online and can be found at www.arrl.org/arrrl-museum-and-research-library.



Radio Alpha, the ARRL® Museum and Research Library, is an all-volunteer project of ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®. This collection is still under development, and you are welcome to browse the library. Most entries currently include only the most basic information. Radio Alpha will take years to complete, but will never actually be finished, because the history of amateur radio is still being written. Our goal is to distinguish Radio Alpha from other online sources through completeness, quality of information, and careful attention to detail—all curated in a clean, well-organized environment free of advertising, spam, and clickbait. Work will proceed in two phases: The first phase is simply to identify significant people, organizations, manufacturers, events, and equipment, and establish placeholders for them in the database. In the second phase, details will be added. We invite your comments, criticisms, and suggestions. Please email them to Chuck Penson, WA7ZZE, principal architect, at radioalpha@arri.org.

[Enter the ARRL Museum and Research Library](#)

US Radio Orienteering Champs Crowned

07/07/2025

The 24th USA Radio Orienteering Championships were held June 19 – 22, 2025. The event was hosted by the Backwoods Orienteering Klub (BOK) at Morrow Mountain State Park in Albemarle, North Carolina, and drew about 30 athletes from across the United States and Canada. Radio orienteering is also known as amateur radio direction-finding, or ARDF.

There were four World Championship-style races: Foxoring, Sprint, 2m Classic and 80m Classic.

The Elite results:

- Eduard Nasybulin (Massachusetts), unofficial overall crown, dominated the men's field, winning Sprint, 2m and 80m Classics, and adding silver in Foxoring.
- Gheorghe Fala (North Carolina/BOK) seized Foxoring gold and finished second to Nasybulin in 2m and 80m Classics.
- In W35 (women ages 35 and older), Lori Huberman (California Bay Area Orienteering Club) captured Foxoring and Sprint, while Erin Hammer (NC/BOK) sprinted to 2m and 80m Classics gold and added silver in the other formats.

Masters stand-outs:

- Nadia Scharlau, KO4ADV (North Carolina/BOK), extended her W55 (women ages 55 and older) legacy with victories in both 2m and 80m Classics.
- The M60 class (men ages 60 and older) became a two-way battle: Evgeny Danilov, KQ4QYZ, and Nicolai Mejevoi traded wins and podium spots across all four events, with Mejevoi topping the Sprint and 80m Classic races while Danilov took 2m Classic and Foxoring gold.

Senior competitors:

Every entrant in the M70 (men 70 and older) and W75 (women 75 and older) divisions completed at least three of the four demanding courses. Their steady performances — and obvious enjoyment — underscored the value of adding senior categories to future championships.

Youth sweep:

BOK junior Tiger Zhao claimed a perfect four-event sweep in M16 (men 16 and under) and teammates Anastasia Afonkin W16 (women 16 and under) and Adalia Schafrath-Craig W19 (women 19 and younger) also took golds — some with times that would have placed competitively in older divisions.

Team USA will go on to compete at the 2025 IARU World Championships, to be held in Lithuania in August. The complete results of these championships, available at the BOK website, will be used for selecting the US team. Learn more about amateur radio direction finding on the ARRL ARDF page.

DMR

DMR stands for Digital Mobile Radio, an international standard for digital two-way radio communication. It was developed by the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI). DMR offers advantages over traditional analog radio systems, including improved voice clarity, increased range, longer battery life, and higher capacity. As I get more into DMR I am finding that with the proper hardware and an internet connection you can talk to the world with a hand-held radio.

Here in the Kern River Valley, depending on your location, you can also enter the DMR world on the local DMR repeater that is located at the Rocky Point repeater site. If you have a clear path to Rocky Point, you can eliminate the need for a Hot Spot and an internet connection. You may test your coverage by seeing if you can access the 146.805 (-) 156.7 N6SR repeater. If you can, you can probably use DMR without having to use a Hot Spot. Here locally the <https://kernsystem.org/> has a number of repeaters on the 440MHz band that may also provide you with DMR coverage without having to purchase a Hot Spot. You can check their website for repeater locations/frequencies.

Getting started at a minimum you will need a DMR capable radio. Hand-held radios are less expensive than a mobile/base station radio. A Baofeng DMR capable radio can be purchased on Amazon starting around \$30. You will also need a programming cable for an additional \$15 - \$20 dollars. If you want a higher quality radio you can step up to the Anytone AT-D878UVII for around \$350 plus tax. There are other options available in between, but I am not familiar with them. The Anytone comes with a cable and other accessories. The Anytone has more memory and the ability to store more user data than the Baofeng. A good Hot Spot can be obtained from HRO for around \$200 delivered.

The radio (and the Hot Spot) both require programming prior to use on the DMR network. The radio(s) will work on analog systems without the DMR programming, just as any amateur radio will. Computer programming is highly recommended for analog use, but is required for DMR use. Analog radios use frequency pairs (channels) on repeaters and DMR radios use Talk Groups in place of channels. Think of a Talk Group (TG) as a repeater that can be accessed from anywhere there is an internet connection. Each TG has a unique numerical identifier and anyone listening for the that TG via a repeater or Hot Spot can use it to communicate.

Some of the more popular TGs are World(TG91), North America(TG93), and California(TG3106). A complete list is available at:

<https://brandmeister.network/?page=talkgroups>

Using TG91 you are literally monitoring radio traffic from around the world. I will be setting up a Kern River Valley TG for those that wish to use it to monitor for local radio traffic. It will be TG313572 which is the DMR address of the N6SR DMR repeater at Rocky Point.

If you are interested in getting on DMR you can call, me or talk to me at one of the club meetings. I have been using DMR for a couple of years now and it is finally starting to make sense to me. When you first get started it can be overwhelming and very confusing. Once you figure out the logic behind the system it becomes easier to use and more

adaptable to your operating style/needs. DMR gives our remote club members access to a place all of our members can monitor and use for communication. Hams in Ridgecrest, Bakersfield and the Kern River Valley can talk to each other with just a hand-held radio and access to a Hot Spot or DMR repeater in their area. If anyone wants to get started, I will help you setup your radio and/or Hot Spot if they are a model I am familiar with:

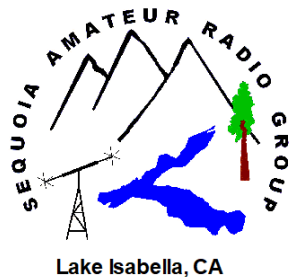
ZUMSpot (Hot Spot from HRO)

Baofeng (Amazon or other dealers)

Anytone (Bridgecom Systems)

At this time, I plan on doing an in-depth presentation at the September club meeting. I will start with a blank CPS code-plug and build it to talk to a hot spot I will bring that is connected to either the wi-fi of the Elks, or my cell phone. I hope to see you on DMR soon.

Mike KA6IYS



August 2025

Sequoia Amateur Radio Group



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