



The Kern River Voice

The Monthly Newsletter of the Sequoia Amateur Radio Group



Volume 21 – Issue 9
September 2026



<http://www.n6krv.org>

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Newsletter Editor

Mike KA6IYS (760) 378-1028

ARES Net Monday 6:30PM

145.450 (-) 156.7

Mike KN6ILG (760) 376-2091

Club Nets

HF Net -Tue/Thu/Sat 8PM

±3815.0 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:

Our next meeting is scheduled for 9:30AM Saturday September 12th, 2026. It will be held at the Kern Valley Elk's Lodge in Wofford Heights. The doors open at 9AM with coffee and donuts.

The program will be on EME/Satellite work presented by Dennis Kidder, W6DQ, from Inyokern. Dennis is also the Emergency Coordinator for Eastern Kern County ARES.

Our October program will a presentation on the Kern Emergency Radio Network, aka the K.E.R.N. System. Discover the magic behind the RF curtain that makes a multiple repeater system operate.



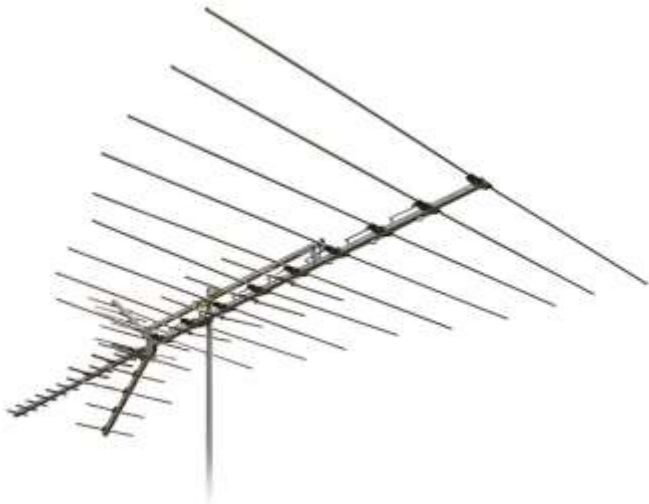
<https://www.hamradio247.com/dxthreads>

DX Threads is a relatively new company that specializes in ham radio related wear products. They have hats, shirts, sweatshirts etc. Check out the above link for more details. Our club logo is on file and ready for you to use. We will have available at the next meeting order forms to use to combine orders and save on shipping and handling.

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** by the Thursday preceding the exam date. You may register for the exam by going to <https://ham.study/sessions/> and looking for the upcoming session. The instructions to preregister are also 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/>. The Technician Class question pool changed July 1, 2026. Be sure to study the current pool.



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 . . .



We also have an open informal net in the General portion of the 75 meter band around 3815.0 MHz at 8PM local time on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Feel free to join in.



Sickness and Distress

If you know of someone who has not been previously reported on that should be listed here, please let Mike KA6IYS know.

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

Newsletter Content

If you have something of general interest to our members, please share by sending it to editor@n6krv.org.

Fact or Not

[Answers appear later on in the newsletter]

Fact or Not

1. The Missouri 8.0 (or greater) magnitude earthquake of 1811 was so strong it rang bells in Boston, Massachusetts, over 1,500 miles away.
2. In August 2024, Ireland became the first country in the world where electric cars outnumbered petrol cars.
3. When the dance, the Turkey Trot, a livelier version of the Fox Trot, was introduced in 1909, it was immediately banned in America.
4. Adidas, the athletic shoe manufacturer uses kangaroo leather in shoe production as of August 2024.
5. In August 2024, a 13-foot (and growing) python was seized from a New York home and sent to a zoo.
6. According to a study, hot dogs can reduce a person's life expectancy by 36 minutes for each hot dog eaten.
7. In 321 CE, the seven-day workweek was established in Rome.
8. The first patented sports bra was invented by three women sewing together jock straps.
9. In 2024, NASA warned there is a 73 percent chance an 88 foot asteroid will hit Earth on July 12, 2038.
10. All the eggs a woman will carry throughout her life form in ovaries before she is born.
11. China has the largest diamond reserves on the planet.
12. Ducks have regional accents.
13. Schools are stopping teaching students how to write in cursive in favor of typing skills because AI tools cannot read cursive.
14. In 1940, Henry Ford built a car with an exterior body made of soybean plastic.
15. According to physicist Toan Pham, when an American football lands and hits the ground it can bounce in up to 30 billion different directions.
16. The American Medical Association bans cats from being employed as therapy animals in American hospitals.
17. Cats have fewer toes on their back paws.
18. In Detroit, Michigan, allowing a pig to run free is illegal unless it has a ring in its nose.
19. Calling a 5G phone, which is placed near a bottle of champagne, can cause the phone to emit enough radiation to pop the cork.
20. California got its name from Queen Calafia, a formidable warrior who rode a griffin and ruled over a tribe of women on a mythical Caribbean island named California.
21. One of King Charles III of England's first decrees was to ban garlic from Buckingham Palace.
22. During the 1920s, when hemlines were shortened, flappers took the opportunity to paint their exposed knees and legs with portraits of their boyfriends, flowers, and landscapes.

FCC Cites GMRS Licensee for Illegal Linked Repeater Network

08/10/2026

The FCC Enforcement Bureau has issued a [Notice of Violation](#) to Gary M. Beckstedt, Sr., of Newnan, Georgia, for operating a network of nearly two dozen linked General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) repeaters in violation of FCC rules for the service. Beckstedt is co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of North Georgia GMRS, Inc., and licensee of GMRS station WQYU407. He also holds amateur radio license WB4GMB.

According to the FCC Notice, "There are only eight repeater frequency pairs shared nationwide by more than 300,000 active GMRS licensees and millions of

Family Radio Service users. Because GMRS spectrum is so limited, the service only works as intended when local users can hear each other and cooperate in the sharing of channels. Linking multiple repeaters is not in the public interest because it enables the retransmission of messages over much larger geographic areas, thereby limiting localized availability of the GMRS channels, monopolizing a limited spectrum resource, and increasing the potential for interference.” It notes that GMRS repeaters may be connected to the telephone network “or other networks” (such as the internet) only for the purpose of remote control. Repeater linking is permitted in the Amateur Radio Service, but not for GMRS communications for the reasons explained in the Notice.

Enforcement Bureau agents monitored several of Beckstedt’s GMRS repeaters this past February, according to the Notice, and observed that the repeaters were connected via the internet and “were being used to convey messages to multiple repeaters for simultaneous transmission on the repeaters’ respective over-the-air output frequencies, in violation of section 95.1749 of the Commission’s rules.”

Beckstedt was given 20 days to “fully explain the violation” and spell out “the specific action(s) taken to correct the violation and preclude recurrence.”

Navigating an HOA and Returning to Amateur Radio and Field Day!

07/06/2026

Fred Johnson, K6FRD, is an amateur radio operator in Riverside, California. Like many hams, he lives in an HOA-controlled neighborhood. For Johnson, finding practical, low-visibility, antenna solutions has become part of the fun over the years.

“For years I struggled to enjoy HF because, like many amateurs in an HOA, towers and conventional outdoor antennas simply aren't an option,” said Johnson. “I tried several radios over the years, but without an effective antenna I rarely heard much activity and had very limited success making contacts. A few weeks ago, I decided to stop

chasing radios and instead focus on building the best stealth antenna I could.”

Johnson said that after returning to HF last year, he enjoyed experimenting with antennas, portable operating, FT8, and station design to see what's possible from a suburban backyard.

“The result is a simple 145-foot horizontal loop made from 14 AWG THHN wire, mounted on stainless cup hooks around the top of my backyard fences about six feet above the ground. The wire is insulated from the hooks with short pieces of clear vinyl tubing and is fed with a 4:1 current balun and approximately 25 feet of RG-8X coax. I also added ferrite chokes at both the antenna and radio ends of the feed line to help minimize common-mode current and noise.”

“The results have honestly exceeded my expectations,” he said. “My noise floor is typically only S1 to S2, allowing me to hear stations I would have completely missed before.”

ARRL Field Day 2026 gave Johnson a chance to operate entirely on battery power using his IC-7300 and his new antenna, making contacts on 10, 15, and 20 meters. Since installing the loop, he has worked 39 states, 24 countries, and stations throughout Japan, Hawaii, Samoa, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, South America, and across North America—all from his HOA backyard!

Johnson went on to say he hopes that sharing his successes, and the occasional lessons learned along the way, encourages other operators, especially those with HOA restrictions, to get on the air and enjoy this amazing hobby.

Johnson has created a Google photo album with all of the photos of his antenna design: photos.app.goo.gl/qeF1eToA4q7cAj5PA

Editor’s note: Thanks to Fred Johnson, K6FRD, for sharing his story, his HOA-proof antenna, and his effort to return to amateur radio and Field Day!

JUST LOSE YOURSELF IN THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINES AND FIND YOURSELF IN A NEW WORLD, OR MAYBE EVEN A VERY OLD ONE!

.... Or so we all thought. I had left Viet Nam, the 173rd Airborne (Army Paratroopers), and back into civilian life in June of 1966. In 1971, I seem to remember a story about a lost tribe of stone age people being found on the Island of Mindanao, in the southern Philippines. At that time the war in Viet Nam was still on, so it was a welcome change to hear about this small band of Tasaday people that a hunter had stumbled upon, and had reported to the Philippine Government's Cultural Minister (amateur Anthropologist, and wealthy businessman), Manuel Elizalde, Jr., who immediately took charge and he made sure these people were shielded from the modern world. Elizalde insisted that all interaction between the media, or anyone else, and the 26 Tasaday people be under strictly supervised conditions, and for only a limited time.

But somehow reporters were able to get a few photos of these cave dwelling people, as they survived solely on wild foods, and wearing animal skins and leaves for clothing. That's when President Ferdinand Marcos made all contact with the Tasaday people off limits. He pretty much hit the ceiling when the August 1972 National Geographic Magazine had a photo of the Tasaday boy, "Lobo", climbing a tree on its cover! It wasn't until 1986, that a Swiss journalist, Oswald Iten, was able to sneak into the jungle in Mindanao, and found the Tasaday people living in modern houses, wearing modern clothing. Of course, one of the Tasaday men showed up wearing leaves, but with modern underpants underneath. Iten then learned that the whole story was fabricated from the start, and Elizalde was even sneaking "real food" into them, and not the roots, wild berries, grubs, crabs, frogs, and / or fish from the few small streams as previously reported.

Actually, the Tasaday were "paid" to get into animal skins and leaves for the photos and were positioned in the caves for those pictures. The Philippine gov't also promised to protect them from counterinsurgency and other tribal fighting. In 1988, then President, Corazon Aquino, announced that the Tasaday people were and are an authentic minority group, part of the Lumad group of indigenous people living in the Southern Philippines. But several scholars still remain skeptical,

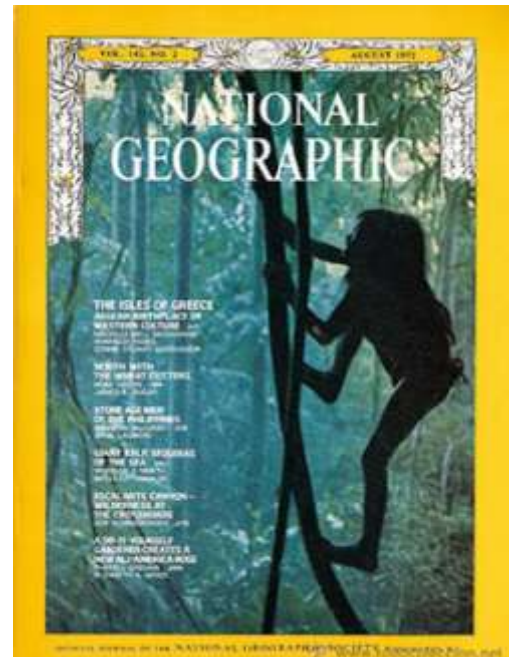
and still believe the whole thing is still nothing but one big hoax.

Articles from:

- IFLSCIENCE.COM
- Newslab.philstar.com
- Tasaday.org, and
- YouTube's Tasaday people

Hope you had fun, like I did. ---- Al Price, N6ALP

A 1972 issue of the National Geographic featuring Tasaday boy Lobo.



Another trip through, ***“Random House Dictionary of America’s Popular Proverbs and Sayings”*** (2000), by Gregory Titelman.

And pilfered by, Al Price, N6ALP

Back again? Oh, you gluttons for punishment! Once again, we will delve through some familiar, and maybe some not-so-familiar Proverbs and Sayings as listed in the book referenced above. Let’s begin with an obscure one, from WW I.

- (Page 93, **“Fifty Million Frenchmen Can’t Be Wrong”**). This saying originated with the American Expeditionary Force soldiers under Gen. Pershing during WW I (1917-1918). It was to show everyone that the U.S. was siding with the French. The saying was later made famous by the song, *“Fifty Million Frenchmen”* (1927) by Billie Rose, and Willie Ruskin, and popularized by singer Sophie Tucker (1884 – 1966), then also made popular by American actress, “Texas” Guinan (Mary Louise Cecilia Guinan, 1884 – 1933), when she and her troupe were refused entry into France in 1931. She was then often quoted as saying, “This goes to show you that 50 million Frenchmen can be wrong!” Cole Porter’s musical, *“Fifty Million Frenchmen”* opened on Broadway in 1929; it was his first Broadway hit!
- (Page 95, **“First catch your rabbit and then make your stew”**). Meaning that you must make all the necessary preparations before beginning a project. This proverb has been attributed to Mrs. Hannah Glasse’s *“Art of Cookery Made Plain and Easy”* (1747) or the 1851, *“Book of Household Management”*, by Mrs. Beeton. Others say the proverb goes back as far as 1250. Similar proverbs may be found in several different languages and from all around the World. They are also found as, “First you must catch the deer, chickens, etc.” (But my personal favorite was the *“Have Gun, Will Travel”* episode *“First You Must Catch the Tiger”*!)
- (Page 100, **“Fool Me Once Shame on You. Fool Me Twice, Shame on Me!”**) In other words, if you fall for the same thing twice, you’ve got to accept the responsibility for the second “deceit” yourself. Now down below this

explanation was a newspaper article, of a woman complaining of “having a wallet stolen eleven different times out of her purse after moving to New York City.” A reader quoted this phrase to her, then added, “Come on, 11 times? I’ve lived here for 14 years, and only had a purse stolen once. I’m from a small town, where it was common to hang your purse on the back of your chair while eating in a restaurant. Not here!”

- (Page 102, **“Forbidden Fruit is Sweet”**. 1893, “Adam was only human. That explains it. He didn’t want the apple because it was fruit. He wanted it --- because it was FORBIDDEN!” Mark Twain, in *“Pudd’nhead Wilson”*.

Fact or Not Answers:

1. Fact.
2. Not. But it is true of Norway where 94.3% of new cars registered were electric.
3. Not. Some local ordinances did ban it, but not nationwide.
4. Fact.
5. Fact.
6. Not.
7. Fact.
8. Fact – 1978.
9. Not.
10. Fact. So, the egg that became you was in your mother while she was in your grandmother.
11. Not. It’s Russia even though China makes the most grown diamonds.
12. Fact. Odd Ducks!
13. Not. Many AI tools can read cursive handwriting with relative high accuracy, unless written by a doctor!
14. Fact.
15. Fact. Fickle football.
16. Not.
17. Fast. Most have 5 toes on the front, and four on the back.
18. Fact.
19. Not.
20. Fact.
21. Not. It was his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, who hated and banned garlic.
22. Fact. It was the bee’s knees.



September 2026

Sequoia Amateur Radio Group



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
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