

Section Manager

East Bay Section Newsletter May, 2022

ARRL East Bay Family,

Like April, May is a big month in telecommunication history. This month, is the 22nd anniversary of public accessibility to accurate GPS signaling; the concept of radio call letters in the U.S. was published; the International Telecommunications Union was formed; the Metric System was first formalized as a world standard via treaty; the Yagi antenna was patented; the first license for a commercial radio station in the U.S. was issued; and the first vanity call sign was issued; among other achievements. See the Significant Events in Telecomm History section below.

And, of course, I hope you have a “forceful” Star Wars Day (May the 4th).

And as the northern hemisphere moves deeper into warmer weather, public service events and special event stations are getting into high gear. A perfect time to do some hamming in the great outdoors.

Section & Division News:

* Pacificon is Open for Business

The Pacificon 2022 website and registration is now open. There will be forums, vendors, a Special Event Station; an outstanding banquet, their singular day-long antenna seminar and lots more. They'll have an extra special keynote speaker at the banquet this year; Dr. Seth Shostak, Senior Astronomer and Institute Fellow at the SETI Institute.

Of course, many of the details are still to be worked out this early in the year, such as exactly what the forum topics will be, which vendors will come, etc. so check back at the website occasionally. But get registered now. Remember that seating for the Antenna Seminar, banquet, one-day classes and other sessions is limited. Register for the convention and extra events; reserve your hotel guest room and get the details at: (<https://www.pacificon.org/>).

* Field Day is Fast Approaching

This year, Field Day will be June 25-26, 2022. So far, not a single East Bay group has registered their Field Day event on the ARRL website. If your organization is planning to participate in Field Day, be sure to register it, both on the ARRL Field Day website at (http://www.arrl.org/field_days/add) and on the Special Events page at: (<http://www.arrl.org/special-events-application>). The first link above is so I and other ARRL officials, along with other local hams, will be able to find your event. The second one is so other hams around the world will be able to contact you.

To see what events have registered, go to (<http://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator>). And full information about Field Day is at (<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>). Remember, some of the rules have changed, so read them carefully.

* Flying High

Amateur Radio Ballooning in the Bay Area has become an active pursuit for members in our Section. It's also called HAB (High Altitude Ballooning), with a segment of it using pico balloons. The balloons carry a tracking system and radio to report their position. Some balloons come down after a few hours, Others stay up for weeks or months. A few have circled the Earth. The group has email forums on Groups.io and Slack and discussed their hobby at Pacificon 2021. That presentation was recorded and can be viewed from a link on their website. See what it's all about and join the fun by going to (<https://sf-hab.org/>).

[Thankx to Martin, W6MRR, for the information.]

* Golden Eagle

The Bay Area Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) hosts an annual emergency preparedness exercise called Golden Eagle. This year the exercise will be on May 19, with the scenario being a severe magnitude earthquake. Cities & counties may decide their own level of participation, but it's always good to have ham involvement. Goals should be for counties & cities to establish contact among their teams, as well as neighboring cities/counties, the Region 2 coordinator, and possibly CalOES. Voice analog, D-Star and Winlink may be used, and HF to CalOES. For questions, contact our East Bay Section Emergency Coordinator, Dan Goldstein, KJ6KEU, at (dgold94544[at]gmail[dot]com).

* Earthquake!

Steve Donovan, WB6SAI, of Pleasant Hill CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) wrote an article about a February exercise with an earthquake response scenario. The article, published in the April 20 edition of the ARES Letter, discussed the issues they encountered, how they solved them and lessons learned. Among the issues they needed to solve was how to establish reliable communications between the search teams and the teams' local area command posts; and then between the command posts and the city EOC; considering the hilly terrain in some areas, the fact that only a fraction of the CERT members were licensed ham operators, and many of the CERTs were inexperienced with net operations. Give it a good read at: (<http://www.arrl.org/ares-el?issue=2022-04-20#toc01>).

* Pacific Division in the News

The Hawaii NewsNow TV station in Honolulu did a story about Hawaiian hams preparing for testing FEMA's Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (SEEP) during a mock mass emergency. See the video and text on the station's website at (<https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2022/03/15/worst-case-scenario-these-amateur-radio-operators-could-offer-key-communication-lifeline/#:~:text=On%20April%2016%2C%20Hawaii%E2%80%99s%20ham%20radio%20enthusiasts%20will,wind%20event.%20All%20the%20power%20lines%20are%20down.>) (Video; 00:01:54)

* Pacific Division Hams to the Rescue

A group was hiking in the Cascade Mountains of Shasta County when one of them fell and broke his hip. Fortunately, a ham was among the group and was able to call for help over the CARLA network, resulting in a rescue by helicopter. Then, while on their way out of the mountains, they were flagged down by another motorist whose fuel tank had been punctured in a cell phone dead zone. They gave him a ride to a nearby town where he called for help from AAA. Get the full story at: (<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter?issue=2022-04-14#toc01>).

* Division Hamfest Reminders

-- The Reno Hamswap will be in Reno on May 21. See (<http://renohamswap.com/>).

-- The N7RCA N. Nevada Annual Hamfest will be in Minden, NV on June 4. See (<https://n7rca.com/>).

* Special Events In or Near our Division

-- The USS Midway Museum Ship in San Diego will host a Battle of Coral Sea special event on Saturday, May 14. For frequencies and other details, see (<https://www.qrz.com/db/ni6iw>).

Search for all Special Event Stations nationwide at (<http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations>)

ARRL News:

* ARRL Foundation Club Grants Program

In the February newsletter, I told you about the new ARRL Club Grant Program. The program will provide up to \$25,000 for worthy club projects. Clubs do not need to be ARRL-affiliated to submit proposals, but a key criterion will be how the project will advance amateur radio in the grantee's community. The start of the program has been delayed a couple of weeks. But there will be a webinar discussing the program on this Wednesday, May 4, at 5:00 PM Pacific Time. You need to register for the webinar and will be sent a link to join it. For more details on the program and a link to register for the webinar, go to: (<http://www.arrl.org/club-grant-program>). Also, a new mailbox at ARRL has been created for correspondence concerning the program: (clubgrants@arrl.org).

* ARRL Website Upgrade

Work continues on a major update of the new IT systems at headquarters. New features are being added as well. One of them is that club officers will have access to the New Ham Report. That's the report system where I get the information for the New Hams and New Upgrades at the bottom of these newsletters each month. Another long-requested one is to enhance the Section Email tool, which is what sends these newsletters to you. The current tool can only send them in plain text; which means no formatting, like bold or underlines, no images or attachments, lists with their columns messed up, and no web links that open with a click (unless your email client converts them for you). Hopefully, the new tool will fix these and more.

Remember that this isn't just a website upgrade. The entire background data systems, such as membership, ARES, Logbook of the World, awards and certificates, ecommerce and other systems are being upgraded from a collection of separate patched-up out-of-date programs into a unified tool. This is a major project and an entire team of professionals has been working nearly around the clock to get everything working the way that it should. If you're having trouble with ARRL systems, see the item below, "ARRL on Group.io", and join the Feedback forum. You can post your question there. The forum is actively monitored by Robert Naumann, W5OV, ARRL Director of Operations.

* QST Publishing

You likely are very aware that the pandemic and other issues have created significant supply issues across many industries. The printing industry is a case in point. Many organizations have found it extremely hard to get the paper they use for their publications; the ARRL among them. Rather than miss sending us all the QST this month, the ARRL chose a more expensive method to get the paper needed. Unfortunately, the quality of the paper they could get is not up to the usual QST standards. Rest assured that this is not a permanent change to the look and feel of QST. As soon as HQ can get the kind of paper they need in a timely manner, we'll be back to the usual top quality QST we've come to expect. See their full bulletin at: (<http://www.arrl.org/member-bulletin?issue=2022-04-05>).

* ARRL on Groups.io

The ARRL has forums on Groups.io. They've created a primary forum, limited to only announcements from their moderators. But under that primary forum are nine sub-forums (so far) on various topics, such as New Hams, Feedback to the ARRL, Education, and Awards. Go to the primary group at (<https://groups.arrl.org/g/ARRL-Groups>), then on the left-hand navigation bar, click on "Subgroups". Select the forum you want, scroll down and click the blue button "Join This Group". Or if you've already subscribed to any Groups.io forum, click the green button "Log In If You Are Already A Member". Repeat for any other sub-group you want to join.

* Executive Committee Meeting – March, 2022

The ARRL Executive Committee met on March 21, 2022 via Zoom. The minutes of the meeting are available at [[http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Executive Committee Minutes - March 2022 - \(Final\).pdf](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Executive%20Committee%20Minutes%20-%20March%202022%20-%20(Final).pdf)].

* SEA-PAC

The ARRL Northwestern Division Convention will be at Sea-PAC again this year; June 3-5 at the Seaside Convention Center in Seaside, Oregon. Registration is now open. Get details and register at (<https://www.seapac.org/>).

Government News:

* FCC License Processing Down

The FCC Universal Licensing System (ULS) electronic batch filing (EBF) system has been down since April 19; the day the FCC application fees became effective for amateur radio. Amateur radio license filings are currently on hold until further notice and FCC did not estimate how long the system would be down. So, if you're waiting on an application to be processed, this may be why. ARRL notices on this are at: (<http://www.arrl.org/wlaw-bulletins-archive/ARLB012/2022>), (<http://www.arrl.org/wlaw-bulletins-archive/ARLB013/2022>) and (<http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-not-processing-new-license-applications>).

Other News:

* Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting.

If you're going to Dayton this month, think about also stopping by to see the National Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting. It will have extended hours for this year's Hamvention®. The Museum will be open Thursday, May 19, from 1 PM to 9 PM; Friday, May 20, from 1 PM to 9 PM; Saturday, May 21, from 1 PM to 9 PM, and Sunday, May 22, from 1 PM to 5 PM. Admission is \$10 at the door. The Museum is a short drive from Hamvention down either Interstate 75 or Route 42 from Xenia. For GPS directions use, Crosley Blvd.

* NASA On The Air

We've talked here before about various xxx-On the-Air events; Parks on the Air (POTA), Summits on the Air (SOTA), Islands on the Air (IOTA) and others. Thankx to my Section Manager predecessor, Jim Siemons, W6LK, I recently learned of another one; NASA On The Air (NOTA). NASA locations host a dozen or so amateur radio clubs around the nation and they join forces to commemorate various special anniversaries for NASA. One of those clubs is at the Ames Research Center on Moffett Federal Airfield over on the peninsula; call sign NA6MF.

It started in 2018 with the 60th anniversary of the founding of NASA and has been done annually since. This year, the Main event period was April-23-27 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 16 Moon landing (sorry we missed it); but many NASA clubs will be active through December. Get details, rules, scoring, how to get a certificate and other information at: (<https://nasaontheair.wordpress.com/0>); and check your score at: (<https://nota.ka0s.net/>).

* Museum Ships On The Air

Another On-The-Air event, Museum Ships Weekend, is an annual event hosted by the Battleship New Jersey Amateur Radio Station. This year, it will be the weekend of June 4-5. As of this writing, 63 ships from around the world have signed on to participate this year, including our own USS Hornet in Alameda, the USS Potomac in Oakland, the SS Jeremiah O'Brien in San Francisco, the USS Lucid in Stockton and the USS Pampanito in San Francisco. Get details at: (<https://www.nj2bb.org/museum/>). A full list of all the world's museum ships is available from that oracle of oracles, Wikipedia, at: (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_museum_ships).

* Wings Over Solano

Travis Air Force Base near Fairfield is hosting an air show on the weekend of May 14-15. A variety of large and smaller aircraft will participate in performances beginning at 11 a.m. each day. Admission is free, but reserved seats may be purchased in advance. Shuttle busses will also take visitors to and from the base aviation museum. One downside: you'll have to leave your ham radio (and any other kind of radio) in your car. Head over to (<https://www.travis.af.mil/travisairshow/>) for details and directions. Not ham related, but too good not to mention. [Thankx to Harry, K6HS, for the information.]

* Smith Charts

Understanding Smith charts is an oxymoron for many of us. But I was told about a short good video that explains the fundamentals of a Smith chart very clearly. It's done by a company called Rhode & Schwarz that has made other very good videos on various telecommunications topics. It's definitely worth the ten minutes of your time. See it at: (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rUDMo7hwihs&ab_channel=RohdeSchwarz) [YouTube; 0:10:18]. [Thankx to Larry, KI6LNB, for the information.]

* Software Defined Radio

One of the YouTube channels I subscribe to is for a guy named Lon Seidman, who reviews a variety of technology things. Recently, he released a couple of reviews of the RTL-SDR Adapter, a USB plug-in dongle that comes with an antenna and a few other trinkets and costs around \$40. It's a receive-only software defined radio adapter that, along with recommended software, can receive an exceedingly wide range of radio signals: aircraft, maritime, fire departments, ham radio and a lot more. The first review focused mostly on receiving analog signals, while the second is about methods to receive various digital signals, including DMR, APRS/packet, FT8 and others. He's gotten so interested in these things that he's now studying for his ham license. The descriptions of his learning about the world of radio are interesting and has taught me a few things. See his videos at:

-- 1st video: (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OJJRVR7zItA>) [YouTube; 0:14:14]

-- 2nd video: (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQZC52z0hIw>) [YouTube; 0:25:21]

Significant Events in Telecomm History – May

** Note: Send me the date and location your club was founded, so I can add it to this list. **

5/2/2000 Intentional degradation, or "selective availability", of public GPS signals was discontinued, leading to much more accurate positioning.

5/9/1913 The first official United States Policy for Radio Call Letters was published, including the creation of 9 call sign districts. District 6 consisted of California, Nevada, Utah and Arizona.

5/13/1878 Joseph Henry died in Washington, DC at age 80. He was the first Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, inventor of the first practical electrical relay & namesake of the unit of Inductance.

5/17/1865 The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) was formed.

5/17/1904 Christian Hülsmeyer demonstrated his Telemobiloskop in Cologne, Germany; a spark gap transmitter, parabolic antennas, detector, and an indicator, becoming the predecessor of radar.

5/20/1875 World Metrology Day. The Treaty of the Metre was signed in Paris, creating the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM).

5/22/1783 William Sturgeon, inventor of the electromagnet, was born in Whittington, Lancashire, England.

5/24/1932 Hidetsugu Yagi was granted a U.S. patent for the Yagi-Uda antenna.

5/25/1911 Representatives of the Department of Commerce and Labor at the Brooklyn Navy Yard issued License No. 1, a Certificate of Skill; the first official U.S. document ever issued for the operation of a commercial wireless station, to James M. Baskerville.

5/31/1996 The first Vanity call sign was issued.

New Hams:

Please congratulate the following new hams in the East Bay Section. If you hear them on the air, be sure to say hello and welcome them to our craft.

KN6TJX	Joshua Thorndike	Concord
KN6TKE	Lance Petersen	Concord
KN6TFT	Consuelo Von Ehrenkrook	Pleasant Hill
KN6TFW	Eduardo Miramontes Flores	Fairfield
KN6TKC	Colton Ranson	Fairfield
KN6TEC	Derek Dubow	Castro Valley
KN6TJY	Bradford Prescott	Lafayette (General)
KN6THF	Don Zheng	Fremont
KN6TFX	Ping Hale	Moraga
KN6TJJ	Brett Inman	Napa
KN6TJD	Janet Manousos	Pleasanton
KN6TKA	Isaac Liu	Pleasanton
KN6TJZ	Evan Liu	Pleasanton
KN6TKD	Joanne Lee	Pleasanton
KN6TGB	David Miller	Pleasanton
KN6TKB	Kyle Schomaker	Pleasanton
KN6TIJ	Glen Alvarez	Vallejo
KN6TDG	Megan Prevolos	Vallejo

KN6TIG	Cecilia Albay	Vallejo
KN6TIF	Rhoderic Bruno	Vallejo
KN6TDO	Dianne Schneider	Walnut Creek
KN6TFS	David Blanchard	Walnut Creek
KN6TFY	Nancy Strandberg	Walnut Creek
KN6TFZ	Robin Barooah	Oakland (General)
KN6TEQ	Moshe Schandelson	Emeryville
KN6TJW	Raleigh Mclemore	Oakland
KN6THT	Jean-luc Watson	Berkeley
AJ6VX	Derek Calderon	Berkeley (Extra)
KN6THS	Alvin Tan	Berkeley
KN6TCA	Alex Gao	Berkeley
KN6TDB	Jimmy Li	Berkeley
KN6TCB	Vint Lee	Berkeley
KN6THR	Shishir Patil	Berkeley
KN6TCK	Nikhil Maserang	Berkeley
KN6TBZ	Parth Behani	Berkeley
KN6TFO	Giang Nguyen	Berkeley
KN6TIN	Mariano Trujillo	Vacaville

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New Upgrades:

Please congratulate the following upgraded hams in the East Bay Section.

KN6SNG	Austin Rojanasathira	Livermore (Extra)
KN6SWY	Arthur Beckman	Pleasanton (General)
KD2DOL	Neal Deckant	Walnut Creek (Extra)
KN6SGK	Julie Hawthorne	Oakland (General)
KN6CXJ	David Halat	Berkeley (Extra)
KN6AHJ	Kostadin Ilov	Richmond (General)

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Until next time, remember that the East Bay Section team is here to serve you, the hams of the East Bay. If you have a question or a problem concerning ham radio, don't hesitate to contact us.

Mike Patterson, N6JGA
ARRL East Bay Section Manager

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<https://www.arrleb.org>

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