

Section Manager

East Bay Section Newsletter

October, 2024

ARRL East Bay Family,

Pacificon is almost here! If you haven't registered yet, stop reading this and do it right now. The deadline to register online is today! After midnight tonight Pacific time, you can only register in person when you arrive that weekend, and the price will be \$10.00 more. Beat feet to <https://www.pacificon.org/registration/attendees>).

Every so often, I see an entry in an email forum or other social media I subscribe to complaining that the ARRL "should be doing something" to get more young people involved in ham radio. Seeing these and similar whining about other things "they" should be doing makes me grind my teeth. I notice the complaints are always about "they", never "we" and certainly not "I". But even more than that, it's clear that these people simply aren't paying attention. Or perhaps they have very short memories. It's especially frustrating since some of those I see are themselves ARRL volunteers.

The fact is that the League is doing a LOT to attract young people into our craft. Every ARRL section in the nation has a Youth Coordinator position specifically for this purpose. Every Pacificon convention hosts a Scouting Jamboree On The Air event, where dozens of Scouts come to learn about radio and electronics, assemble kits, visit vendor booths and actually make contacts on HF. For years, the League has hosted a Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology, where teachers spend a week learning about radio and electronics with classroom instruction, kit building and hands-on activities, so they can take their new knowledge and enthusiasm back to their classes. Those Institutes are so popular they're being expanded to multiple sessions per year and located around the country, not just in Newington. They, among countless other things, are managed by the ARRL's Education and Learning Manager, a full-time employee position and former high school teacher.

The ARRL Board has taken a number of steps to do more. They revised the League's Mission statement, which now includes the phrase "and to develop the next generation of radio amateurs". In 2021, they created the Youth Licensing Grant Program which substantially reduces a young person's cost to take a license test and to reimburse the FCC license fee. They've also created a free associate membership for students aged 21 and younger. The League is launching a coding competition for young people to inspire creativity and a deeper understanding of amateur radio, with substantial cash awards. "They" also work with ARISS to help classrooms contact the International Space Station and learn about the radios needed for that. [ARISS = Amateur Radio on the International Space Station.]

And there's more. From the longstanding Collegiate Amateur Radio Program to increased social media presence (e.g., our Section has its own Discord server!), to college scholarships for young hams and the recent arrival of new Board Directors and Vice-Directors in their 30s and 40s.

Find out more by seeing our CEO's column in this month's QST (page 9) and the report on the July Board meeting (page 66). And remember that you can help. Encourage young people to come to your club meetings, public service events and other activities – then listen(!) to their thoughts. Volunteer at Pacificon for the kit building booth. Become a Scouting radio merit badge counselor. Work with your local school to get a ham radio club going. And contribute to the ARRL's Teachers Institute and Scholarship funds, both of which are funded solely by contributions.

What more can we do? Let me know. Or better yet, come to the ARRL booth at Pacificon and speak directly to the ARRL CEO, the Education and Learning Manager, Division Directors and other officials. See you there.

(OK, end of rant – for now.)

Congratulations and thank you to the North Bay Amateur Radio Association (NBARA) and the Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC), who became affiliated with the ARRL on October 2, 1947 and October 14, 2020, respectively.

* Question:

What is the function of a power supply bleeder resistor?

- A. It acts as a fuse for excess voltage
- B. It discharges the filter capacitors when power is removed
- C. It removes shock hazards from the induction coils
- D. It eliminates ground loop current

(See the last page for the answer.)

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Section & Division News:

* Pacificon

Pacificon starts in 18 days! There's lots to do over those three days. The all-day Antenna Seminar on Friday; the Special Event Station running all weekend, 24 hours a day; kit building; display of vehicles outside at the curb; transmitter hunts; a one-day license class; license testing; an excellent banquet dinner; and of course, the full day and a half of forums and vendors. Stop by the ARRL booth and meet the CEO, the Education and Learning Manager, Division Directors, Section Managers and others. And don't miss the ARRL Forum on Sunday afternoon, where the ARRL leadership will tell us about any number of things and answer your questions. So much to do; so little time...

* Benicia Ham Class Reminder

Benicia will host another one of its highly successful one-day ham classes on Saturday, October 5, 2024. It will be from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm with a one-hour lunch break, at the Benicia Senior Center, 1201 East 2nd Street. The class offers training for both the Technician and General Class licenses. The fee is \$35.00, which includes the exam fee. For details and to register, see (<https://beniciaarc.com/hamclass/>).

* Stockton One-Day Class

Another one-day class will be hosted by the Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club, for Technician, General and Amateur Extra. This one is on Saturday, October 12th starting at 8:05 AM. Doors open at 7:45 AM. Location is the Stockton Fire Station #2 - Bret Lawes Classroom, 110 W Sonora St, Stockton, CA. License testing will begin at 3:00 PM. They ask for a donation of \$20 to cover the study session materials. There is no cost to take the Amateur Radio License Exam. Limited seating – Pre-registration is highly recommended so they will be sure to have a study guide for you. Sign up at (<https://www.w6sf.org/hamcramsignup.html>).
[Thankx to Grant, K6CBK, for the information.]

* International ShakeOut Day Reminder

The annual International ShakeOut Day will be Thursday, October 17 this year. That's the day before Pacificon! At 10:17 a.m. (local time), you can join millions of people across the world practicing earthquake safety. You don't have to register to participate, and you or your group can plan your drill for a different day if needed. But it's good to participate, since the ShakeOut "has been organized to encourage you, your community, your school, or your organization to review and update emergency preparedness plans and supplies, and to secure your space in order to prevent damage and injuries. ShakeOut is also a reminder for Californians to be prepared financially". Get details and planning guides at (<https://www.shakeout.org/>). Another good place for information on preparing for an earthquake is the Earthquake Country Alliance at (<https://www.earthquakecountry.org/>), a California-based public-private-grassroots partnership of people and organizations. And see the ShakeOut Drill Webinar item in the Government News section and the Amateur Radio Community Intensity Map item in the Other News section below.

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ARRL News:

* Simulated Emergency Test Reminder

The League's SET is October 5-6 this year. It's a nationwide exercise to test your personal emergency-operating skills and the readiness of your communications equipment and accessories in a simulated emergency-like deployment. We're hoping to have participations from ARES & RACES groups, SKYWARN, CERT, SATERN and perhaps even MARS.

There will also be some new 2024 SET reporting forms posted on the website soon. Get details and guidelines on this year's SET at (<https://www.arrl.org/simulated-emergency-test>).

[SET = Simulated Emergency Test. ARES = Amateur Radio Emergency Service ®. RACES = Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service. CERT = Community Emergency Response Team. SATERN = Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network. MARS = Military Auxiliary Radio System.]

* ARRL Announces Partnership to Encourage Healthy Living

The League announced a partnership with Grouper, the national leader in activity benefit administration, which aims to enhance the health of ARRL members by providing access to benefits that support staying active and engaged. Grouper is a company administering group activity benefits for Medicare Advantage and Supplement members. Their focus is on promoting social fitness and healthy aging through partnerships with various groups, clubs, and associations. If you are 65+ and have a participating Medicare Advantage or Medicare Supplement plan, you could receive periodic payments adding up to a possible \$130 per year, just by reporting your amateur radio activities -- such as attending ARRL Affiliated Club meetings, getting on the air with friends, going to hamfests, or even just socializing with other members at the coffee shop. To see if you qualify, go to (<https://app.hellogrouper.com/p/arrl>). To see the ARRL's full announcement, go to (<https://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-announces-partnership-with-grouper>).

* ARRL License Test Processing

One of the systems impacted by the IT systems hack back in May was the VEC Program. As of early September, they advise that VEs should continue to submit exam registrations and material requests. They're able to post new or revised exam session dates and details to the website, and ship out exam materials. International Amateur Radio Permits and License Class Certificates are being created and shipped. They're still unable to create VE badges, certificates, and stickers. New ARRL VE applications and renewals are unable to be processed. Additionally, the VE session counts webpage data entry programming has been unavailable since May 12th. It will be updated with new data as soon as they are able. A comprehensive update on the status of all ARRL VEC services is available at (<https://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-vec-services-update-during-systems-disruption>).

[VEC = Volunteer Examiner Coordinator. VE = Volunteer Examiner.]

* IT Systems Disruption

Although the League is making progress restoring their systems, a number of them are still non-functional. Such systems as the hamfest & convention system and the find-a-club databases are working now; and new SET forms have been released. But the DXCC system is still down. Much of the reason is that it's very old software that only runs on Windows XP, and their new security system won't allow XP. They're currently testing a solution, but it could take a while to release it. Field Appointments, Affiliated Club and Special Service Club updates have also been impacted, but they came back online just a few days ago. HQ is now working on the backlog. The system for handling new and renewing member applications through a club still does not provide for direct deposit, so HQ is mailing printed checks for now. Keep up with the recovery's general status at (<https://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-systems-service-disruption>).

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Government News

* FCC Prohibits Authorization of Equipment With Kaspersky Software

Last month, the FCC issued a Public Notice to confirm that "any equipment that integrates cybersecurity or anti-virus software produced or provided by Kaspersky, or any of its successors or assignees, is prohibited from obtaining an equipment authorization from the Commission." Kaspersky "was added to the list of communications equipment and services (Covered List) that have been determined to pose an unacceptable risk to the national security of the United States or the security and safety of United States persons." The complete Covered List is at (<https://www.fcc.gov/supplychain/coveredlist>). The Public Notice, which includes the complete Covered List, is at (<https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-prohibits-authorization-equipment-including-kaspersky-software>) [Docx, PDF & Txt, 3 pages].

* ShakeOut Drill Webinar

FEMA is offering "The Great ShakeOut Drill: Earthquake Preparedness Webinar" on Oct. 7 at 2:00 p.m. EST (11:00 AM Pacific). The webinar will provide attendees with an informative session that covers essential earthquake preparedness tips and explain what the Great ShakeOut Drill is, and how to participate. Preparing for earthquakes can dramatically reduce the risk of injury or death when one strikes. It's free and will take attendees through essential steps to take before,

during, and after an earthquake, providing actionable tips that could help save lives. Register for the webinar at (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-great-shakeout-drills-earthquake-preparedness-webinar-tickets-1022731255717>).

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Other News:

* Icom Issues Statement on Radios After Explosions

I expect you heard the news last month about the exploding pagers and radios in Lebanon, and may have heard some reports say that some of the radios were made by Icom.

From the Amateur Radio Newline Report for Friday September 20th, 2024:

As Newline went to production, Icom Japan issued a statement regarding its IC-V82 handheld radio, a discontinued model that some reports say may have been counterfeited in connection with deadly explosions in Lebanon. The company statement did not directly address those explosions by name but said that the radios and batteries, which were manufactured and exported between 2004 and 2014, went to markets that included the Middle East between 2004 and 2014.

Ray Novak, N9JA, senior sales manager for Icom America's amateur radio division, expressed certainty that the radios in question were counterfeit. Attending a Rhode Island trade show, he told the Associated Press: [quote] "I can guarantee you they were not our products."

Acknowledging the relative ease with which unauthorized radios can be duplicated, Icom's website also includes detailed information showing how consumers are able to determine whether or not their radio is a counterfeit.

For a link to that part of the company website, see (https://www.icomjapan.com/explore/genuine_info/).

* Amateur Radio Community Intensity Map

ARCIM is a project for hams by hams and open to all interested in sending DYFI for ShakeOut Day. The intent of the map is to show radio operators their own and their groups' "Did you feel it?" (DYFI) reports in an easy-to-use format. All amateurs can add their entries to the map by submitting Winlink DYFI reports To: SHAKEOUT on Oct 17 at or after 10:17 local time. The development team has included step-by-step instructions in an easy-to-use PDF format. They also have a "How to Use the ARCIM" video. Check it out at (<https://www.shakeout.org/>).

* Route 66 On the Air Report

Following up on the Route 66 On the Air items in the August and September newsletters, Vicki Zumwalt, N6KLS, in Kingman, AZ sent me a report on the great success of the effort, saying their main station, W6F, made 6,197 contacts! "I am so proud of our team which consisted of 17 individuals, 2 non club members, 3 out of state guest operators, 2 trainees, and 10 Hualapai Amateur Radio Club members! Of the 17 team members there were two YL's. 2,162 contacts were made from 1 home station. There were 7 operators that used multiple bands/frequencies on both SSB and CW. The balance of 4,035 contacts were made by 10 operators on multiple bands/frequencies using CW, FT8 and SSB.

The Rover W6W made 1,308 contacts! There were 5 operators who drove 382 miles over 5 days. During 4 of these days, it took 2 hours to go to the location and return home which did not include the operating hours in the cramped back seat of Big Bertha!"

Congratulations to everyone!

* History of Land Mobile Radio

A paper in the May, 1962 edition of the "Proceedings of the IRE" has a history of land mobile radio communications up to that date. Of course, a lot have changed since then as well. This paper talks about the development and deployment of FM, especially for public safety systems; which eventually led to the use of FM in amateur radio. The IRE merged with the AIEE to become the IEEE (acronym overload, anyone?). See the paper at (<https://fasma.org/wp-content/uploads/1962-Proceedings-of-the-IRE-The-History-of-Land-Mobile-Radio-Communications-Daniel-E.-Noble.pdf>) [PDF, 10 pages].

[IRE = Institute of Radio Engineers. AIEE = American Institute of Electrical Engineers. IEEE = Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)]

[Thankx to Marv, WA4NC, for the tip.]

* The First TV Was Mechanical

Another history item is from the IEEE Spectrum magazine. This one is how Scottish inventor John Logie Baird created what many consider the first use of television. He demonstrated the device, which he called a "televisor", to select members of the Royal Institution gathered in his lab on January 26, 1926, where he showed an image of a ventriloquist

dummy's face, followed by a human subject, who observers could see speaking and moving on the screen. See the full article at (<https://spectrum.ieee.org/first-tv>).

[IEEE = Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers]

* The First Transistor Radio

Another interesting story from the IEEE Spectrum magazine is "The Incredible Story Behind the First Transistor Radio". How Texas Instruments developed and sent to market the Regency TR-1 only six months after the CEO gave the directive. There's even a short, 3-1/2 minute video showing how the radio was assembled. Read all about it at (<https://spectrum.ieee.org/transistor-radio-invented>).

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Hamfests And Special Events:

* 10/12/2024

Redding Hamfest 2024 Location: Redding, CA. Sponsor: Bentronics/Amateur Radio Club Of Anderson/Shasta-Tehama ARES. Website: (https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YwbwBADQxsw7GlrD_mRTUUGe_k)

* 10/12/2024

Rocklin Maker Faire 1700Z-2200Z, N6M, Rocklin, CA. ARRL Sacramento Valley Section. 146.520 14.074 14.290. Certificate. Carol F Milazzo, PO Box 665, Citrus Heights, CA 95611. ARRL Sacramento Valley Section Exhibit at Rocklin Maker Faire. Send inquiries to KP4MD (<https://rocklin.makerfaire.com>)

* 10/18-20/2024

Pacificon Convention. Location: San Ramon, CA. Sponsor: Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club. Website: (<http://www.pacificon.org>)

* 10/18-20/2024

Pacificon 2024 Special Event Station. 1900Z-1900Z, W1AW/6, San Ramon, CA. Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association. 14.270 7.050. QSL. W1AW, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111. (<https://www.pacificon.org>)

* 11/16-18/2024

W6SFM Bug Roundup 0000Z-0000Z, W6SFM, Fair Oaks, CA. Samuel F. Morse Amateur Radio Club. 3.533 7.033 14.033 28.033. QSL. John Geyer, 4901 Minnesota Avenue, Fair Oaks, CA 95628. This is an operating event. (<https://w6sfm.org/bug-roundup>).

Search for all hamfests at (<https://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar>)

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

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Significant Events in Telecomm History – October

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

10/01/1919	Federal frequency standard radio station WWV was launched in Washington, D.C.
10/01/1919	The government ban on civilian radio stations (both transmitters and receivers) during World War I was lifted.
10/01/1958	The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) began operations, with major advancements in radio and television technology as one of its missions.
10/02/1947	The North Bay Amateur Radio Association (NBARA) became an ARRL-affiliated club.
10/04/1957	Sputnik 1, the first artificial Earth satellite, was launched into space by the Soviet Union.
10/05/1921	The New York Yankees (AL) beat the New York Giants (NL) 3-0 in the first World Series Game to be broadcast over radio. Grantland Rice called the play-by-play live for radio station KDKA direct from the Polo Grounds. The game was re-created on station WBZ by Tommy Cowan.
10/05/1947	President Harry S. Truman delivered the first-ever televised presidential address from the White House.

10/08/1921	Radio station KDKA transmitted the first broadcast of a live football game, between West Virginia University and the University of Pittsburgh.
10/09/1876	Alexander Graham Bell made the first two-way long-distance telephone call between Cambridge and Boston, Massachusetts.
10/14/xxxx	World Standards Day. The day honors the efforts of the thousands of experts who develop voluntary standards within standards development organizations, and to raise awareness among regulators, industry and consumers as to the importance of standardization to the global economy.
10/14/2020	The Delta Amateur Radio Club became affiliated with the ARRL.
10/18/1931	Thomas Alva Edison died in West Orange, New Jersey at age 84.
10/20/1960	The 11th General Conference on Weights and Measures concluded, approving the International System of Units ("SI"), redefining the meter and other resolutions.
10/21/1911	The Junior Wireless Club was formally renamed the Radio Club of America.
10/21/1915	The first transmission of speech across the Atlantic Ocean by radiotelephone took place, from Arlington, Virginia to Paris, France.
10/24/1861	The first transcontinental telegraph line was completed by the Western Union Company between St. Joseph, Missouri, and Sacramento, California.
10/26/1906	Lee de Forest filed for a patent on a diode vacuum tube detector, precursor to the three-element "Audion" (triode) vacuum tube, the first practical amplification device.
10/29/1969	The first ARPANET message was sent from UCLA to the Stanford Research Institute, launching the Internet revolution.
10/30/1938	The Mercury Theatre on the Air broadcast for its Halloween episode "The War of the Worlds", directed and narrated by Orson Welles. Some claim it incited a panic by convincing some members of the listening audience that a Martian invasion was taking place, though the scale of panic is disputed, as the program had relatively few listeners. Others say the panic is a myth, perpetuated by the newspaper industry to discredit the burgeoning radio broadcast industry.
3rd Thursday	International ShakeOut Day

New Hams:

The new Ham and Upgrade reports are currently not available, due to the IT systems disruption.

New Upgrades:

The new Ham and Upgrade reports are currently not available, due to the IT systems disruption.

Question & Answer:

What is the function of a power supply bleeder resistor?

B. It discharges the filter capacitors when power is removed

[General Class question pool (2023-2027) no. G7A01 (<https://www.ncvec.org/index.php/2023-2027-general-question-pool-release>)]

If you'd like a better-looking PDF version of this newsletter, or want to refer to previous editions, they're all available on the East Bay Section website at (https://arrleb.org/index.php/files/get_dir/Newsletter).

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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Website: <https://www.arrleb.org>

East Bay Section Discord: <https://discord.gg/DNAAfC7hax>

ARRL HQ Help Desk: 888-277-5289 or hq@arrl.org

Index of Contacts at ARRL HQ: <http://www.arrl.org/contact-arrl>

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