



President: Larry Callahan KF6JOQ
 1st VP: Dustin Carpenter, KC0AZW
 2nd VP Larry Bragg, N6LWB
 Secretary: Scott Royer, KM6RLD
 Treasurer: John Stumm, [KG6ZBN](#)

Directors:

Paul Ball, KN6FVI
 Glen Del Tour, [WB8DTJ](#)
 Steve Holmes, KM6POI

Net Chief

Neal Janzen, N6YGG

KCCVARC Repeater Frequencies

145.150	minus	100.0	Breckenridge Mt.	
146.910	minus	100.0	Grapevine Pk.	
224,060	minus	100.0	Breckenridge Mt.	
443.900	plus	100.0	Low level North of Town	
52.780	minus	82.5	Grapevine Pk.	Off the Air - Storm Damage

March Meeting

The board meeting was called to order at 1830, President Larry Callahan presided. A quorum of directors and officers were present.



Board member Steve Holmes and President, Larry Callahan

The treasurer, John Stumm, gave the treasurer's report. The report was accepted by the board. Scott Royer reviewed the February meeting. Since there wasn't a quorum no club business was addressed.



Secretary Scott Royer and Treasurer John Stumm

It was suggested that the minutes of the meeting be published in the Communicator. Scott will arrange to have them forwarded for publication.

The topic of Field Day came up and more details will be made available as the date draws near.

Membership cards have been produced and will be distributed to the members. The cost, as reported by John, KG6ZBN, totaled \$54.32.

A club projector was discussed. It would be made available for presentations during the general meeting.

The annual Christmas party has been tentatively scheduled for December 3. The venue will be determined at a later date.

FT8 has been a topic of general interest. Terry Godley, N6AJ, gave a presentation on the format.

The raffle prize was an antenna analyzer and was won by Keith, KN6SNW.

-BREAK-

Ham of the Month

From the archives – John, KG6ZBN, took a trip down memory lane and recalled a conversation with Steve Crouch, KB6WR, and an article that resulted. The article is reproduced below.



Steve relaxing in his shack

I had the opportunity to chat with Steve Crouch, KB6WR, about his history in Ham Radio. He is our selection for the inaugural "Ham of the Month".

Steve originally hailed from the Bay area but has called Bakersfield his home for the last 15 years. He got his Novice class license in 1979. It was only a couple of months before he passed his General. He obtained his Advanced ticket soon after.

He currently holds an Extra class. His favorite HF bands are the 10 and 40 meter bands using SSB. He says he's worked between 100 and 200 countries with the total probably closer to 200.

Since glaucoma robbed him of his eyesight some ten years ago he says he's not as active on HF, especially CW. Now it's mostly the high bands rag chewing with other area Hams.

I was impressed with neat and well laid out "shack". Kenwood is the only brand you'll see in use with Steve. The TS-590S is the centerpiece. He employs voice modules for monitoring just about everything imaginable. I was amazed!

He ended our time together, telling me that he's never met so many nice, considerate people in his life until he moved to Bakersfield. We're sure glad to have him here!
(Submitted by John Stumm)

HF Band Activity



The recent sun spot activity has had an impact on the bands. Some folks are reporting spotty propagation, swinging from incredible contacts with stations here to for inaccessible to lack of ability to contact old reliable stations.

There has been a lot of interest in digital, specifically FT8. The bands seem to support these digital modes, getting through on low power with solid signal reports

One of the best known gauges of overall solar activity is the number of *sunspots* seen on the Sun's surface. Sunspots are relatively cool areas that appear as dark spots, appearing so only because the surrounding surface is even hotter and brighter. A large sunspot can be up to 80,000 miles in diameter.

On average, the number of sunspots reaches a maximum every 11 years, but the period has varied from 7 to 17 years. The first cycle to be completely and scientifically observed began in 1755; we know it as Cycle 1.

Large areas of sunspot activity usually last through several rotations of the Sun, some as long as two years. HF propagation predictions commonly use Smoothed Sunspot Numbers (SSN), which are monthly sunspot counts averaged over a 12-month period.

There are three general types of major disturbances on the Sun that can negatively

affect radio propagation. You may hear people complaining about *Solar Flares*, *Coronal Holes* or *Sudden Disappearing Filaments*, especially when propagation conditions are "rotten."

Just like the weather, there's not a lot we can do about solar disturbances, except perhaps to know they're coming and then to endure the effects.

-BREAK-

From ARRL

The FCC released a [Public Notice](#) on March 23, 2022, stating that the amateur radio application fees, including those associated with Form 605 application filings, are **effective on April 19, 2022**. The Federal Communications Commission's authority to impose and collect fees is mandated by Congress.

The \$35 application fee will apply to new, renewal, rule waiver, and modification applications that request a new vanity call sign. The fee will be per application.

VECs and Volunteer Examiner (VE) teams will not have to collect the \$35 fee at exam sessions. New and upgrade applicants will pay the \$15 exam session fee to the ARRL VE team as usual.

The \$35 application fee is paid directly to the FCC by using the CORES [Payer FRN System](#) (easier to use) or the CORES FRN Registration system ([CORES - Login](#)). VEC and VE team licensing procedures will not change.

-BREAK-

ARRL Code Practice



ARRL has made practice sessions available for those for whom someday has arrived. If you are interested you can find W1AW on these frequencies at 1300, 1600 and 1900 local time

Frequencies are 1.8025, 3.5815, 7.0475, 14.0475, 18.0975, 21.0675, 28.0675, 50.350, and 147.555 MHz.

Slow Code = practice sent at 5, 7-1/2, 10, 13 and 15 words per minute (wpm).

Fast Code = practice sent at 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 wpm. Code bulletins are sent at 18 WPM.

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Western Kern County ARES

Western Kern County ARES holds a net on the W6LIE repeater on 145.150 at 1900 local time, Monday evenings. The participants will move off to simplex frequencies in order to test the effectiveness and range of simplex communications.

The third Monday of the month ARES stations will be directed to a specific area control's

assigned frequency. All stations will be asked to check in with the area control and list their availability.

Recognizing some limitations using simplex, stations will be asked to provide relays for stations unable to make direct contact with the area controller.

At the conclusion of the test, the area controller will report back to net control on the repeater, providing the number of check ins and available stations.

The 2 meter SSB and UHF frequencies will operate as normal. Net control will guard the repeater and take information from outlying areas as well as visitor check ins.

ARES is open to amateur radio operators interested in supporting their community in times of emergencies. If you are interested in participating, check in on the net. There is also an application available on the W6LIE web site.

For more information about ARES please send an email to WKCARES@GMAIL.COM.

-BREAK-

Heard on the Band



A couple was celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. Friends and family threw them a

big celebration to honor the couple's milestone.

The party began to wind down and finally the last guest had departed. The couple, exhausted from the festivities, found a seat on the porch swing. They sat together, taking in the evening and enjoying the solitude.

Finally, the wife broke the silence, took her husband's hand in hers, and whispered, "I am so proud of you."

Now, the husband was a little hard of hearing and said, "What did you say?" The wife repeated herself, a bit louder, saying "I am so proud of you."

The husband still did not understand her and asked her once again to repeat her statement. The wife complied, speaking louder still. "**I am so proud of you.**"

The husband looked a little shocked, disbelief written on his face. He said, "Well, I am tired of you, too."

Upcoming Events

The April meeting is scheduled for the 28th of April. The meeting will take place at Round Table Pizza, 4200 Gosford Road. Members will pay for their own food and drink.

The board will meet at 6:00pm, prior to the general meeting. The general meeting is scheduled to begin at 7:00PM.

Terry Godley, N6AJ, will give a presentation on Parks On The Air. There will be a drawing for a raffle prize.

VE testing Contact Larry Callahan, KF6JOQ for information regarding testing. If you would like to test on another date, please contact Larry and he may be able to make arrangements for an earlier date.

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Looking for Stuff!



Hey! Bet you didn't know that you have an editorial staff for *The Communicator*, did ya! Currently it is a staff of one. But we have members out there that might have a topic or two that could be of interest to the membership.

So if you have an article you would like to submit or photos from past or current events please let me know and we can set them up for publishing. This is your newsletter. It should reflect the interests of the members.

73!

-BT-