

KERN COUNTY – CENTRAL VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB W6LIE

April 2023

APRIL COMMUNICATOR

The Communicator newsletter editor is Larry Bragg-N7LWB
assisted by Rick Simmons-KN6NOC and Dave & Reba Peterson-KM6PJE

Upcoming Events

Next Club Meeting

Our next club meeting will be held Thursday, April 27, at the East Bakersfield Veteran's Hall. 6:00 pm board meeting, and the club meeting is 7:00 pm. All are invited to attend. The presentation will be from Karin Thompson of RT systems. They sell radio programming software and cables. This should be a great presentation to help with the software for various amateur HT's and base units.

This is a letter from Karin Thompson-RT Systems to John-KG6ZBN:

Hi. I am Karin Thompson-KD4DXX. I have been a licensed ham since 1990. I have worked in the ham radio industry since then and seen LOTS of changes in communications and technology. There has been a lot to learn over the years but so very much has remained the same. On most days you won't hear me on the air but will find me investigating settings and options of various radios to solve a reported problem of unusual behavior or to think of unusual ways to get more functionality with fewer button presses. I so enjoy helping others get on the air and get the most use from the features of their radios.

Karin / KD4DXX RT Systems
267 S Davis Road
LaGrange, GA 30241
404-806-9561

Mon-Fri 10-6 Eastern Time. Saturday by appointment

74th International DX Convention • April 21-23, 2023 • Visalia, California



See page 4 for details

LIFE IS SIMPLE



Club Officers & Directors

President: John Stumm-KG6ZBN
1st VP: Larry Bragg-N7LWB
2nd VP: Frederick MacHado-KN6NCV
Secretary: Scott Royer-KM6RLD
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Director: Peter Chandler-KK6WLN
Director: Larry Griffith-KM6ONQ
Director: Rick Simmons-KN6NOC
Net Chief Neal Janzen-N6YGG
Communicator Editor: : Larry Bragg-N7LWB

[A Note from our President, John Stumm-KG6ZBN](#)

Hello fellow club members,

Now that Spring is upon us, it's time to get out and have some ham fun! Coming up very soon (this weekend) is the annual International DX convention in Visalia. It is being held at the convention center from 4/21st – 23rd. It is the only major ham get-together we have that's relatively close by. Let's get some car pools going! More details at dxconvention.com.



Field day is approaching so let's keep that event in mind. We need to start planning for it this month. More details will be announced at the April meeting.

If you haven't noticed, the club and ARES websites are undergoing renovations. Get ready to see a major facelift to both. Javier-KN6SCN is taking on the task.

Hope to see you everyone at the next club meeting on the 27th. The planned presentation is a guest speaker (via Zoom) from the GM at RT systems, a major programming software supplier.

73, John-KG6ZBN

[New w6lie Webpage](#)

Have you visited our newly redone club webpage page (www.w6lie.org)? As of April 17th, the page has been reorganized and updated. Thank you, Javier-KN6SCN. who has worked very hard on this and is also updating the ARES website. Thank you for your efforts, Javier!



ARES Net monitoring

Every Monday evening at 7:PM we have ARES net and training:

145.150 Main frequency for ARES announcements and check-ins. The following frequencies are where they check-in and exercises commence and as follows:

147.480 - Simplex check ins for Northwest Bakersfield called by Glen, WB8DTJ

146.490 - Simplex Check ins for Shafter / Wasco and surrounding area. This is done by Arly, N6INT

146.415 - Simplex for Southwest Bakersfield also using digital C4FM. done by Richard KK6RJR

146.565 - Simplex for Oildale. East Bakersfield, Taft and Frazier Park need volunteers for check-ins.

146.550 - Simplex for Kern River Valley. Sunday evening called by Chuck, KI6GOG

146.700 - W6SLZ Tehachapi Repeater Check-ins, PL is 123 Sunday eves called by Dan AB6DM

144.225 - Upper sideband check-ins on 2 meters. Called by Ben N6SWR

28.380 - Upper sideband for 10 meters and **52.780** FM simplex called by John KG6ZBN

220 **224.060** Repeater check-in called by Frank KD6UQZ. PL 100

440 **443.900** Repeater check-in called by Glen WB8DTJ. PL 100

For information and if you want to help by volunteering please visit:

<https://westernkerncountyares.org/gpage.html>

Highlights from Antenna Building Class

Rick-KN6NOC offered his home for an antenna building class which was held at the end of March. John-KG6ZBN, said this was an excellent location for holding this as there was plenty of space and chairs available. Many who attended received a lot of valuable information and hands-on training for building their own antenna systems they can use. Here are a couple of pictures from this event taken by John-KG6ZBN.



A letter from Rick Simmons-KN6NOC



GREETINGS.....I had so much fun when we had the social time/lunch/and build an antenna work shop that I would like to do it again. I have been talking to different hams, new and old, and there are all kinds of activities that seem to be fun and educational. But I would like to get different ideas from the members. We want our monthly meetings to be relevant to the needs of both the old and new hams.

Sometimes as a new ham, we do not even know the questions to ask. So, if there is an area of ham radio that sounds interesting to you, but you don't know where to start, we will put the question out to the ELMERS of the club and find the direction we need to move. And the ELMERS, we want to know what you spend your time doing, what you like and why. I think that it would be very interesting and probably entertaining to spend some of the monthly meeting getting to know the ELMERS.

At the next club meeting, we will have a question-and-answer time to get an idea what activities are interesting to the members of the club. If you would like to email me with questions or ideas, my email is RICKKN6NOC@GMAIL.COM. We will also share some of the ideas that have been presented.

See you at the next club meeting. Rick-KN6NOC

KCCVARC Repeater Frequencies

| | | | | |
|------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 145.15 | 146.91 | 224.06 | 443.9 | 52.78 |
| minus | minus | minus | plus | minus |
| 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 82.5 |
| Breckenridge Mtn | Grapevine Peak | Breckenridge Mtn | Low level North of Town | Grapevine Peak |
| | | | | Off the Air–Storm Damage |

The IDXC announced from the ARRL the Annual Dx Convention [this weekend](#) in Visalia:

74th International DX Convention • April 21-23, 2023 • Visalia, California



Pre-Registration Ended On Monday, April 10, 2023

Online Registration is now closed.

However, you will be able to register at the Convention:

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Thursday | April 20, 2023 | 3:00 to 5:00 PM |
| Friday | April 21, 2023 | 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM |
| Saturday | April 22, 2023 | 8:00 AM to 11:30 AM |

The **74th** International DX Convention, co-sponsored by the **Northern California DX Club (NCDXC)** and the **Central Arizona DX Association (CADXA)**, will be held again at the beautiful [Visalia Conference Center in downtown Visalia, California from April 21-23, 2023.](#)



Grand Prize Announced: Elecraft K4D Transceiver

If you're a DXer or interested in any aspect of Ham radio, then IDXC is the place to be. Top DX operators (and contesters) from around the world will be there. You'll match those familiar callsigns with new faces, and shake hands with the person you have had a sched with for the past 10 years but never met.

Convention Overview

- **Convention is a full 2.5 Days: Friday (April 21); Saturday (April 22); 1/2 day Sunday (April 23)**
- **Full day of training & presentations on Friday, April 21**
- **Two Seminar Tracks on Saturday, April 22**
- **Contest Forum, DX Forum, YL Forum, QSL Card Checking**
- **15-20 DX & Technical Seminars**
- **Large Exhibit Hall - where you can comfortably talk to the people who design and sell ham radio equipment**
- **Great Raffle Prizes**
- **Friday Evening Dinner Options: TopBand, IOTA, and Contesting**

Over the next several months we'll be inviting speakers, finalizing the program, setting up the Exhibit Hall, and generally preparing for a memorable convention for all attendees.

Use the left-side navigation bar to explore the website. Information will be added and updated frequently.

<https://www.dxconvention.com/>

From Neal Janzen–N6YGG Club historian

Captured at Wake Island

In the early morning hours of December 7, 1941 Victor Besancon, N6PV, had just gotten off the 5pm to 7am shift at the communications center on Ford Island. Vic was in charge of the night shift for Patrol Wing 2, whose mission was to scan the approaches to Pearl. That shift, as so many before, was uneventful and Vic was fast asleep well before 7:55 am.

When the infamous attack came, it didn't occur to anyone that all the noise was anything but practice until a look out the barracks window, about two blocks from battleship row, revealed low flying Japanese aircraft. Besancon, then a 28 year old veteran with seven years in the Navy, reported to the comm. center to help ensure the wings available patrol planes, about five out of a complement of 50 PBV's and handle traffic. Vic also recalled the transmissions of the message from Adm. Husband E. Kimmel, Commander in Chief of the Pacific Fleet; "Enemy air raid, Pearl Harbor. This is not a drill."

By Dec. 8, the communication center was relocated to the west side of Ford Island in the basement of a house occupied by Rear Adm. Patrick Bellinger, Patrol Wing 2's commander. The house had been constructed from what had been a concrete shore battery. Although the Japanese Fleet was long gone, Pearl was on full alert and would remain so for most of the week.

Victor was transferred to Wake Island, some 2100 miles to the west on Dec. 9. His mission was to establish a communications station to direct marine fighters protecting the island. Wake, like Pearl, had been attacked on Dec. 7. But Wake was subjected to several more attacks before it surrendered to Japanese forces on Dec. 23. The invaders, about 5,000 verses a few hundred defenders came ashore at 4 am on the 23rd. A surrender decision was made after the defense became futile.

The prisoners were sent to a small camp near Yokohama called Ofuna, where they spent the rest of the war. Prison life was difficult but not impossible and they were treated fairly in comparison to some of the more notorious camps. All prisoner lost 30 to 40 pounds and some died of pneumonia. Vic suffered from beri-beri.

From his small pay of \$2 a month for farming, he was able to buy a Japanese dictionary and was using it to learn the language. One day, while working on the new language, Vic wrote his call sign, N6PV, a guard queried him about it and indicated he was a radio operator and wrote his call sign also. Vic told the guard he recalled contacting a Japanese operator with that callsign from San Diego in 1939. The guard went home and checked his log, confirming the QSO. Life became less difficult for the remainder of his stay as he was treated regularly to magazines in English, sweets and other favors but has to admit "it's a heck of a way to eyeball a contact."

During repatriation leave in Washington D.C. Vic met his old commander, now Adm. Bellinger, who authored paperwork for his (Vic) accelerated promotion to chief warrant officer. Victor subsequently rose to the rank of lieutenant commander, retiring in 1965 at Pt. Mugu, CA. as a Navy flight officer specializing in electronic warfare.

It has been noted many times as to where amateur radio may lead one in the course of a lifetime, this story of N6PV is a good example how one contact in 1939 united two men in a