

KERN COUNTY – CENTRAL VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB W6LIE

APRIL 2024

APRIL COMMUNICATOR

Club Officers

President, Patrick Ponec KD6PAP

First Vice President, Rick Simmons KN6NOC

Second Vice Pres. Mario Aribas N6ABT

Secretary, Michael Word KM6VBW

Past President, John KG6ZBN

Director, Jerry Waclawski, KB7BX

Director Keith Fields, KN6SNW

Director, Jon Wilhelm, WA6KLB

Net Chief, Neal Janzen NY6GG

Newsletter Editor, Larry Bragg N7LWB

Treasurer, Jeff Tougas KN6WEZ

Upcoming Events

- Our next club meeting will be held Thursday April 25, 2024, at the East Bakersfield Veterans Hall, 2101 Ridge Rd, 6:pm for the board, 7:pm club meeting.

See the President's Message for full details.

- POTA – Saturday April 20th Tule Elk State Park near Buttonwillow. See flyer below.
- Our 75th Anniversary will be held at Yokuts Park May 18th, please sign up through contactw6lie@gmail.com check the flyer for information.



Message from Our President

Greetings all; first off, I would like to thank Scott KN6ZAT for his informative presentation on POTA, and a special thanks to Jerry KB7BX and Jon WA6KLB for bringing out their test equipment to our last meeting.

It looks like we've been blessed with an extended spring, so we should have great weather for the Club POTA event at the Tule Elk Preserve. If you have never tried it, this will be an excellent opportunity to check out POTA. (See the attached flyer) I know it is one of my favorite aspects of our hobby.

Just a reminder the 75th anniversary celebration will fast be upon us, May 18th at Yokuts Park. Please contact Jerry KB7BX at contactw6lie@gmail.com if you would like to help.

It was 2010 in Chile. It would've been just another warm August day, only if there wasn't one thing going on. San José copper-gold mine buried 33 men 700 meters (2,300 feet) underground. The complexity of the situation required unconventional approaches for the rescue operation.

That's where HAM Radio kicked in. Radio Club de Chile and Radio Club Copiapo provided the equipment and established all the radio communication inside the mine itself and decisively helped the rescue operation. The story has a happy ending, as all 33 miners were rescued.

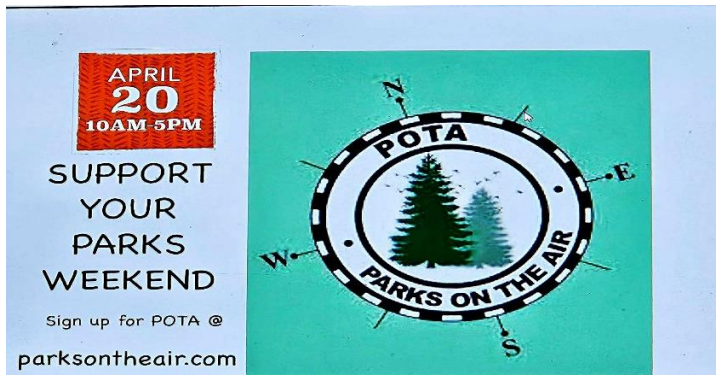
"Let's Get Radio-Active" 73's

Patrick KD6PAP



W6LIE CLUB REPEATERS:

Frequency	Offset	PL Tone	Location	Comment
145.150	minus	100.0	Breckenridge Mt.	echolink #w6lie-r 487530/allstar #2029
146.910	minus	100.0	Grapevine Pk.	Temporary Antenna - Storm Damage
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 Damaged Antenna



TULE ELK STATE NATURAL RESERVE
 8653 Station Rd. Buttonwillow, CA 93206.
Parks on the Air

We will be participating in the practice of portable ham radio exercises using the Parks on the Air program. We will have 2 stations provided but we encourage you to bring your HT's and HF portable stations to get the full experience. We will have plenty of expertise to guide you along and support you. We hope to have one station dedicated to the club callsign W6LIE/75 to promote our club's 75th anniversary this year. Bring your water and snacks. and lawn-chairs. There are plenty of trees, covered picnic tables and clean restroom facilities available. The park is easy access and ADA compliant. A hotdog and chips lunch will be provided around 12:30. For more information please call or text Scott Pohlenz 661-978-9124 or email KN6ZAT@YAHOO.COM Tule Elk SNR charges \$8 per vehicle at the gate.

Here are some photos of the Tule Elk State Park and its facilities.



Here is a reminder that next weekend, April 20th out at Tule Elk State Natural Reserve is our first ever club POTA event that will begin at 10am. We will not leave until the last man gives in and all who wish will have an activation of the park or, sunset comes upon us, and we get run out. Bring your radios (HTs included) and everything you need to set up YOUR station. We will have 2 stations set up for you to use if you wish. We will

rotate operators and make sure everyone gets some mic time.

If you've never participated in parks on the air this is the PERFECT place for you to learn. A lot of us will be available to walk you through and activation. Don't be afraid to come out... we want all of you there even if it's just to hang out with us! It will be FUN!!!!

What we need from you:

1. Make sure you go to parksontheair.com this week and register for your account
2. Let us know if you plan on making it, so we have enough food. Let Scott know via text or phone call at (661) 978-9124 or email him at KN6ZAT@yahoo.com

A hotdog lunch will be provided around 12:30-1:00.

Directions: Go 1 mile west past I-5 on Hwy. 58 (Stockdale Hwy) and turn S. on Morris Rd. Follow that south around the bend and you'll see the entrance to the park. Remember that the park charges an \$8 per vehicle entrance fee that you pay on site. Bring \$8 cash as sometimes the machine isn't working.

If you've never been there here is an idea of the amenities available. There are several tables with shade. We will need to spread out our stations to prevent as much interference as possible.

----- Forwarded message -----
 From: **Scott Pohlenz** <kn6zat@yahoo.com>



Calendar of Activities

Monday, April 1
7:00pm ARES Net Meeting

Tuesday, April 2
7:00pm Tech Net
Sunday, April 7
8:00pm NET Meeting
Monday, April 8
7:00pm ARES Net Meeting
Tuesday, April 9
7:00pm Tech Net
Sunday, April 14
8:00pm NET Meeting
Monday, April 15
7:00pm ARES Net Meeting

Tuesday, April 16
7:00pm Tech Net
Sunday, April 21
8:00pm NET Meeting
Monday, April 22
7:00pm ARES Net Meeting
Tuesday, April 23
7:00pm Tech Net
Thursday, April 25
7:00pm Club Mtg.
Sunday, April 28
8:00pm NET Meeting



Contests and contesting

Submitted by Mario, N6ABT

Our hobby has a lot of different aspects to explore; you might not like them all, but I'm pretty sure that you have a favorite one. Besides experimenting with wire antennas, my favorite thing on HAM radio is contesting.

I've heard a lot of fellow hams saying that they don't participate in contests because:

A) "My station is not powerful enough" - it sounds to me like; "...I want to play, but the big kids don't let me...."

You don't need a "Monster" station to compete with the "Big guns;" let the big kids play, patience, take your time, don't get frustrated if you don't hear your callsign back. If after several tries, you still don't get any answer, move to another frequency, and try answering to some other station calling CQ. Of course, having a good antenna helps a lot. As I wrote in another article, if you want to build your own antenna, just let me know and I'll be happy to help you.

B) "I don't know when those contests are." All the contests worldwide are listed on the ARRL website April 2024 Corral.pdf (arrl.org) the previous link will lead you to 04/2024 contests; you pick the month you want to explore and there you go.

C) "I don't know what to say" (By the way that is called "Exchange"). If you go to the link mentioned in the previous point, you can find the rules and the specific exchange for the contest you've chosen to participate in. Usually has a signal report, or an abbreviated state, or a sequential number, sometimes they ask you to identify as an OM (Old man), XYL (not so young lady), YYL (Young lady), and so on.

D) "It takes way too much time." There is no minimum time in contesting. You can go from 10 minutes to the whole extent of the contest; only you can tell how much time can put into it.

E) "Do I have to keep a log?." It's the most recommendable thing to do, so you can confirm the contact with the other station either sending out a QSL card, or electronically. We'll discuss electronic logs in another article.

You name it, there are a myriad of reasons I've heard. But as I said at the beginning, contesting might not be your thing, and that is OK.

Now, but if you want to try contesting, or "Radiosport" how is called nowadays, let me give you some pointers to make your experience a pleasant and fulfilling one.

1) Plan ahead. Choose the contest you want to participate in and mark the date in your calendar. Usually contest time varies from 4 hours to 48 hours. You don't have to do it all the time; so, plan the time you want to play radio. Be aware that family, chores, and other activities might be as important or more than our hobby. After all, it's a hobby.

2) Investigate. Contests have rules and they vary from contest to contest, especially the exchange. Exchange is the information is expected from you to give and receive from to the other ham.

3) During the contest, don't get fixated in one station and don't spend too much time trying to get an answer from it. Move from that frequency and find another one to talk to.

4) Don't expect to chat with the other contestant; this is not rag-chewing, it's contesting. QSO's last less than 10 seconds each.

5) Keep a log of all your contacts. And after the contest, send the log to the organizers. Just follow the instructions on the contest web site. (Point B, several paragraphs back)

About logs and logging we'll talk in another article.

So, get a wire in the air and try doing some exciting QSO's.

If you need help to start contesting, just let me know, and I will be more than happy to help you.

Mario, N6ABT@arrl.net





W6LIE

On the Air

THE KERN COUNTY - CENTRAL VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Come and join the celebration!
May 18th at "Yokuts" Park

The celebration will start at 9:00 am sharp with the following events:

- ◊ Radios on the air
- ◊ Lunch at 1:00pm
- ◊ 2:30pm history of the radio club; speakers, and sharing memories.

Take this opportunity to meet other members, create a network of friends and show your equipment.

If you can not make it to the event in person; turn your radios on, and contact people on the park .

Remember! Keep radio Active!

73's

The Technician Corner.

Mario Arribas – N6ABT, N6ABT@arri.net

I passed my first amateur radio test, and waited for my CALLSIGN, and here I am a brand new Technician with no idea on what to do with my recently acquired privileges.

Now what? you might ask.

Well, there are a bunch of things you can do with your license. You have all the legal privileges to operate on all segments of the radio spectrum assigned by FCC, to Amateur Radio Operators from 50 MHz (6-meter band) and above, for starters. You also have privileges to operate CW (Morse code) on certain segments of the 15-, 40-, and 80-meters bands; and SSB (Voice) on a big chunk of the 10-meter band.

· Using repeaters.

Our club maintains several repeaters that you can use, the most used is the 145.150 MHz repeater. It works on the 2-meter band, and it's located at a remarkably high elevation, Breckenridge Mountain. Because its elevation covers a lot of area, a simple handy talkie has enough power to activate it. The club also has repeaters in the 1.25-, 0.70- meter bands, as well as other at higher frequencies. With your license not only can operate the club repeaters, but as well as any other open (No membership required) repeaters in the valley, our county, or any other place in the fifty states or any US possession or territory. Information about a specific repeater can be found in the "Repeater Book," by ARRL, or installing the Repeater Book app on your phone.

· Working satellites.

Most of the amateur satellites work in FM and can easily be accessed by using your handy talky, some hard-to-get satellites might require a better antenna on your radio to access them. Satellites work like a super high elevation repeater, if the club repeater has a gigantic coverage area because it's on the top of a mountain, imagine what coverage might a satellite have. You might be making contacts with other hams in who knows what part of the country, or Mexico and Canada! More information on www.amsat.org

· Work the ISS.

You have enough privileges to use the International Space Station as a repeater with a huge coverage area. Do you know that there is a HAM station aboard the ISS? Well sometimes when astronauts aboard of the station are in their leisure time, they are open to answer calls from any ham willing to call them, the American callsign of ISS, is NA1SS. More information is at www.ariss.org.

· Work HF.

Morse code is a challenge, but with a little patience and some dedication you can learn to copy the code fast enough to have a nice QSO (Contact in CW lingo). When trying the bands make sure you let the other operator know that you're a new Technician, and the other operator will slow down enough for you to copy comfortably.

Or you can try SSB; in a previous article of November 2023, I wrote about 10-meter band to be open. It's still open, and with your privileges and the current conditions, you can talk around the globe with a very modest set up.

If you need help with any of the items described above, please contact me; and I will be more than happy to help you out.

Equipment spotlight for April



YAESU FT-65R

2 Meter/70cm Dual Band FM Handheld - Compact, Light, and Very Rugged

HRO Discount Price: **\$109.95*** Check prices as they will fluctuate.

The FT-65R is very compact and light, yet ruggedly constructed Dual Band FM Handheld Transceiver. Three selectable output power settings - 5W/ 2.5W and 0.5W - allow each user to choose the power they want for their operating needs.

The supplied 1950 mAh Li-ion battery pack is capable of over nine (9) hours operation while an optional higher capacity 2500 mAh Li-ion battery pack provides over 11.5 hours of expanded operating time for those needing even more operating time between recharges. A 2.5-hour Rapid Charger is included as a supplied accessory that fulfills the needs of most operators who want to have their transceivers ready for use at all times. Ratings, 4.5 out of 5

From N5OFF Review: Skip the Baofeng and get a FT-65R due to build quality. I've been a ham for 35 years and had lots of HTs. Recently I used Baofengs due to price, but I got a FT-65R due to curiosity about how the big3 radios were built lately. I'm impressed with this radio and think it is a great fit for a basic analog repeater user like me and esp for the price of \$89. I really only use 1 repeater in my town and one simplex frequency. This radio was a snap to program; no need for a computer and a lot easier than Baofeng. For example, the repeater offset is automatic based on frequency and the CTCSS setup is logical. Also, the build quality is much better than Baofeng e.g., the volume control and body are much tougher. If you are so inclined the TX frequency range can be unlocked using a simple code but I've never used that. The only beef I had was with the manual regarding the battery removal. The manual says to slide the battery down (which does not work). You have to lift the lower part of the battery up which works FB once you figure it out. In summary I really like it and will buy a second one for my ham-son. Copied from eham.com.

KENWOOD TH-D75A

144/220/430 MHz Digital Triband Handheld Transceiver

HRO Discount Price: **\$749.95***

- APRS® Protocol compliant: Real-time 2-way data communications, plus standalone digipeater function further enhances the capability. APRS® is a registered trademark of TAPR and is used with permission.
- D-STAR® Digital Protocol compatible: Flexibility stretches with simultaneous reception of 2 signals for digital voice and data operation.
- Reflector Terminal mode: Easy access to D-STAR reflectors via a Windows PC or Android device using a USB port or Bluetooth®, so there is no need for a mini RF device such as a Hotspot.
- Wideband and Multimode reception, and on top of that IF output via USB port lets you connect the radio to a PC to use bandscope for checking nearby frequencies while listening to the radio.
- USB Type-C™ port for serial connection, audio out and charging functions.
- Enhanced voice guidance including 4-step variable speed and 770+ phrases.
- 1.74-inch TFT transfective color LCD.
- Renowned KENWOOD sound quality.



- **Review from VE3SSR**

I have bought this radio recently and so far, quite happy with it.

Transmitting audio quality is great, loud, and punchy.

Beside of multiple digital features and ability to operate on 3 VHF/UHF bands it is also capable of receiving HF bands in AM, SSB and CW modes where it utilizes filters with adjustable band width. Though, after evaluating its HF reception I have to say that it was not what I was expecting.

Selectivity is good but sensitivity apparently HF front end has no input filters and gets easily overloaded. However, using attenuator function and adjusting the length of telescopic antenna it is possible to reach acceptable HF Reception. Considering that the main purpose of the radio is VHF/ UHF operations, not the HF, I decided not reducing its score since its performance on VHF/UHF bands is good.

To my opinion, appearance of the radio is a bit old fashioned and its display is rather small compare to other radios like, for example, ID-52 from ICOM, but still easy to read. Battery life is quite short. Consider purchasing another battery if you plan intense transmitting.

I am still on learning curve and may update the review after further exploration of the radio.