



President: Joe Hart, WD6FPE

1st VP: Dustin Carpenter, KC0AZW

2nd VP Joe Luque, K6JLL

Secretary: Scott Royer, KM6RLD

Treasurer: John Stumm, [KG6ZBN](#)

Directors:

Rob Vella, KK9ROB

Glen Del Tour, [WB8DTJ](#)

Larry Miller, [KM6OQI](#)

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

July Club Meeting

For the first time since the Wuhan Virus ignited the lock down and extraordinary measures to protect the public, KCCVARC was able to meet in July.

The board of directors met prior to the general meeting with a quorum of board members, with the appointment of Joe Luque, K6JLL, as 2nd vice president, filling a vacancy left by Joe Hart's elevation to club president.



Board members from left to right, treasurer, John Stumm, Dustin Carpenter, Joe Luque and Joe Hart

The board, under the direction of Joe Hart, reviewed events from the last year and a half and looked forward to the remaining months, mapping out some activities and future meetings.

The general meeting was called to order at 1930 and Joe Luque led the pledge of allegiance. Joe Hart showcased new items of equipment added to the club's inventory and offered a plan for a lending program that would allow newly minted General class operators access to equipment in order to begin operating on HF bands.

John Stumm gave a presentation on antennas, including a discussion on the effect of SWR on radiated power and the use of antenna tuners to better match the antenna to the frequency in use.



Randy Randall, KC6ZRF, was presented with a life-time club membership, in recognition of the many years of service and participation in club events. Randy is often a fixture in the kitchen, preparing food for Field Day and the Christmas celebration.

A number of items were raffled off, including the main item, a Yaesu FT70DR dual band hand held transceiver. The lucky recipient was Ed Smith, KC6YUF.

The August meeting will feature the traditional root beer float. Be sure to attend.

Welcome Joe Luque

Joe Luque, K6JLL, accepted an appointment to the position of 2nd Vice President, allowing for a quorum present during board of director meetings.

Joe, a long-time member and resident of Delano, shared that he and his family have lived in Delano for years.

Joe said his grandfather moved to Delano in 1920 and was considered one of the pioneer families. His father was born in Delano in 1929 and remained in Delano.

Joe was born in 1947 and attended elementary and high school in Delano. He joined the Marine Corp in 1965 and retired in 2000 as a Chief Warrant Officer 4.

The shack he operates from is about a 9x11 foot building, away from the main house. It contains everything he needs, he said.

Joe shared this photo of his shack. His rigs include ICOM 7000, 7610 and 7800. The signal is feed to a 256 loop for most contacts, and he has a 7 element Yagi coupled with an amplifier, when he really wants to reach out to the world.



Make sure to introduce yourself to Joe at the next meeting if you are new to the club. Thanks for your service, Joe.

Notes From the ARRL

HF and Sun Spots

HF propagation has been somewhat iffy recently. Tad Cook, K7RA, Seattle, reports: Solar activity slowed with the average daily sunspot number declining from 48.9 to 33.9 the week of July 22 – 28.

Wednesday, July 28, saw no sunspots at all. Geomagnetic activity summary: expect at most quiet to unsettled conditions. The more unsettled events are possible about August 1 – 2, and also about Thursday, August 5. The other days, we expect quiet to unsettled conditions generally, closer to quiet level.

Changes For ARES Reporting

Recent discussions between ARRL and the ARES Connect software vendor, software used to report ARES activity, have made it clear that the League's evolving needs for an EmComm / Public Service reporting package are not aligned with the vendor's future plans for the product from which ARES Connect is derived.

Following a review of all available information, a decision was made to discontinue the use of ARES Connect and seek development of a software reporting package more tailored to the needs of ARES.

All ARRL Sections that have been using ARES Connect should plan to transition to the ARES Form 4 reporting form until a replacement system is identified. ARRL HQ discontinued ARES Connect effect June 30, 2021.

The local ARES group, Western Kern County AREA, has been impacted by the cancellation of ARES Connect and are exploring ways to continue effective and efficient means of gathering data and providing the necessary report.

If you are interested in ARES join the net, meeting Monday evening at 1900 on the W6LIE repeater on 145.15.

8 Meter Testing

A 2019 *Petition for Rulemaking* ([RM-11843](#)) asked the FCC to create a new 8-meter amateur radio allocation on a secondary basis. The *Petition* suggests the new band could be centered on an industrial-scientific-medical (ISM) segment somewhere between 40.51 and 40.70 MHz.

The spectrum between 40 and 41 MHz is currently allocated to the federal government and, as such, within the purview of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration ([NTIA](#)).

John Desmond, EI7GL, reports that as of mid-July, WL2XUP was intermittently transmitting on Weak-Signal Propagation Reporter (WSPR) on 40.662 MHz (1500 Hz) for 2 minutes out of every 10, with an output power of 20 W ERP into an omnidirectional antenna.

For FT8 check-ins and tests, an ERP of 100 W may be used. The band is affected by several propagation modes, including tropospheric ducting, sporadic E, transequatorial propagation (TEP), and F2 propagation.

As Desmond notes, the 40 MHz band will open a lot earlier than 50 MHz and could be a useful resource for stations monitoring the transatlantic path.

From the Archives

Mental floss prevents moral decay.

It's not really hard to meet expenses; they are everywhere.

Definition of a budget: a refined method for going broke methodically.

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-