

KERN COUNTY – CENTRAL VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB W6LIE

August 2023

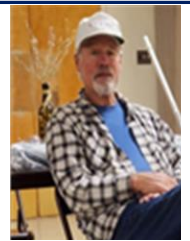
AUGUST COMMUNICATOR

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

Upcoming Event

August 24 – Club Meeting
Please join us for our
upcoming meeting, Thursday
August 24 at the East
Bakersfield Veterans Hall,
located 2101 Ridge Rd. All
are welcome. Board Meeting:
6:pm, Club Meeting, 7: pm.
See attached from Rick,
KN6NOC.

Message from John, KG6ZBN KCCVARC President



Greetings fellow members,

With summer winding down, it will be time to get back to the grind. I am fresh back from vacation to some cooler country. I got some hf radio time in on 20 and 40 meters. Getting away from noisy urban areas makes for a more pleasant experience. It is not that difficult with today's portable radios and lithium battery packs. Antennas can be a challenge, but I have long wire ones available to those who want to get their feet wet. They work well for me! This month's presentation will touch on HF ops as well as other facets of Ham Radio. We will see everyone on the 24th!

73, John, KG6ZBN



Club Officers & Directors

President: John Stumm-KG6ZBN
1st VP: Larry Bragg-N7LWB
2nd VP: Frederick MacHado-KN6NCV
Secretary: Scott Royer-KM6RLD
Treasurer: Steve Holmes-KM6POI

Director: Peter Chandler-KK6WLN
Director: Larry Griffith-KM6ONQ
Director: Rick Simmons-KN6NOC
Net Chief Neal Janzen-N6YGG
Communicator Editor: : Larry Bragg-N7LWB

Upcoming Meeting for August. Submitted by Rick Simmons, KN6NOC



At the August 24th general meeting, we are going to explore the reasons hams decided to pick a certain area of ham radio to focus on. We will examine four areas in the time that we have; FT-8, ECHOLINK, satellites, and HF/DX. During this meeting we are not going to figure out how to set the different modes up, but we will explore the several reasons people enjoy a particular ham venue. If there is interest in any of the different areas, we will set up a workday so there will be ample time to learn how to get started in each specific area.

These are some of the questions that we are going to answer at the August club meeting. If you have additional questions, you would like answered, please email them to RICKKN6NOC@GMAIL.COM and we will put them on the list. If there is interest in this type of program, or if you have an idea for another area, we can cover them in future meetings. Thank you for any ideas or suggestions.

FT-8; How difficult was it to set up and how long have you done FT-8? What has been the most difficult part of the program? What do you enjoy about FT-8 the most? Is there any part that you do not like or you would like to see done differently? Does a person need a high degree of technical skill to be able to work in this program?

ECHOLINK; How did you learn about ECHOLINK? How long have you used ECHOLINK? How much did you use ECHOLINK? What is the best feature about ECHOLINK and what is the most difficult or the worst feature?

SATELLITES; How long have you been doing SATELLITES and what is it that you do with SATELLITES? What has been your best call? How inexpensive can a person start with a SATELLITE and how involved is your system? Out of all the ham operations that you do, what percentage are SATELLITES? Is there a bad part of SATELLITES?

HF/DX; What percent of ham for you is HF? What percent of HF is used of any kind? Why do you participate in contests? Is HF your favorite part of HAM? Why or why not? What is the hardest part of HF and the most rewarding? Where does DXING fit into what you do with HF?

These presentations will not fill a whole hour, so you will be able to talk to the presenters during social time as you cool off with a social treat. Our plan is to HAVE FUN, learn something, and eat our way into the next ham venue.

Minutes from our July Board Meeting, Submitted by Scott Royer, KM6RLD:

7-27-23 KCCVARC Board Meeting Minutes

- Called to order 1805
- Pete Chandler, Steve Holmes, Larry Bragg, John Stumm, Rick Simmons, and Scott Royer
- Financial...
 - \$6766.90 starting
 - \$342.40 income
 - \$438.40 expenses
 - \$6749.04 ending back balance
 - Motion Larry Bragg, 2nd Rick Simmons – all ayes – carried
- No meeting minutes due to no meeting since April
- Rick had suggestions of sending an agenda before the meetings
If agenda items are sent, the secretary can form an agenda and send it out
Rick asked the board to produce activities that can be sanctioned by the board and sent out by the board.
- Steve mentioned the upcoming Spooktacular
- Boy Scout help for Terry N6AJ
- By-Laws, Rick presented changes to the by-laws
 - § The 501(c)7 status was discussed
 - § Board agreed to slightly modify the by-laws
 - Motioned by KM6POI, 2nd by N7LWB
 - All ayes, motion carried
 - Updated copy will be presented
- Presentations
 - Pete will be handling October presentation
 - Rick will be handling August presentation
- Steve Holmes motioned to adjourn, 2nd by Larry Bragg adjourned 1839hrs

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

Editor's Note: From Larry Bragg N7LWB, Communicator Editor



During the board meeting, a suggestion of our club's name-change was discussed. The idea brought forth to "Change the club's name from The Kern County-Central Valley Amateur Radio to Kern County Amateur Radio Club." dropping Central Valley out of the name. Years ago, this was the name of our club.

In the discussion, there is a lot of work in changing a club or organization name dealing with the state and tax codes. As we discussed, Kern County Amateur Radio Club no longer is a true description of our club... Kern County-Central Valley Amateur Radio Club is. The reason: Our club covers the Grapevine, through Bakersfield and up the valley to Delano, which includes the club's memberships from Delano, McFarland, Wasco, Shafter, Bakersfield, Taft, and the surrounding communities.

The eastern half of Kern County is not served by our club but is covered by 3 additional amateur radio clubs associated with their local coverage areas. This is the reason given by the board to keep the club's name as it stands. If you have any thoughts on this, please contact the board, we will be happy to answer any questions concerning this.

Rig Picks this month!

For you who are starting out in the amateur radio hobby, here are some radios of interest:

YAESU FT-65R

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

Regular Price: \$99.95

Additional Savings

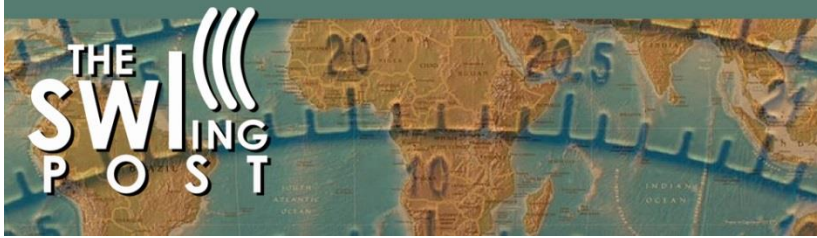
-\$10.00 Huntsville Ham fest Special Coupon (Exp:08/21/23)

HRO Discount Price: \$89.95



<https://www.eham.net/reviews/view-product?id=13257>

See the video below to get more information.



The Tecsun PL 990 X

is one of the three new radios offered by Tecsun and according to the news from the company these may be the last developed.

This is great for beginning HF listening. HF on the ham bands have quite a unique value due to propagation and atmospheric changes.

The other two radios are the Tecsun H-501 and the PL-330. The H-501 is the largest with dual speakers and the PL-990 is of a comparable size to the PL-880, PL-680, PL-660 and PL-600. The PL-330 is the smallest and is like the PL-310ET and PL-380. The Tecsun PL-990 is a medium sized portable multi-function radio. It has the following features:

- Shortwave (SW)
 - Medium Wave (AM)
- Frequency Modulation (FM)
 - SSB (LSB and USB)
- Bluetooth connectivity (BT)
- MP3 playback from a microSD port
- Clock and two Timers with Alarms
 - Auto Sleep
- powered by a single 18650 rechargeable 3.7V Lithium Ion Battery, unbranded and supplied.

Kenwood TH-D74A



144/220/430 MHz TRIBANDER. Triband Amateur radio packed with convenient features and the advantage of a digital transceiver with D-STAR and APRS support. Featuring a color transfective TFT display that offers excellent visibility during the day or at night. Built-in GPS and Bluetooth support, as well as Micro USB and microSD/ SDHC. This radio is ready to harness the exciting developments in radio communications. You can also have installed a voice chip that makes this handheld great to use for those who are visually impaired.

<https://www.eham.net/reviews/view-product?id=13063>

This HT has been replaced by the Kenwood D75A

[Kenwood REVEALS The TH D75A Triband DSTAR Radio at Hamvention 2023](#)



Here are some links to the propagation map to check HF current band conditions

<https://hf.dxview.org/>

<https://www.dxmaps.com/spots/mapg.php?Lan=E>