



KERN COUNTY – CENTRAL VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

July 2024 COMMUNICATOR

Club Officers

President, Patrick Ponec KD6PAP	Secretary, Javier Ruiz KN6SCN	Director, Jon Wilhelm, WA6KLB
First Vice President, Rick Simmons KN6NOC	Past President, John KG6ZBN	Net Chief, Neal Janzen NY6GG
Second Vice Pres. Mario Aribas N6ABT	Director, Jerry Waclawski, KB7BX	Newsletter Editor, Larry Bragg N7LWB
	Director Keith Fields, KN6SNW	Treasurer, Jeff Tougas KN6WEZ

Upcoming Events

- Our July 25th, 2024 Club Meeting will be held at the Veterans' Hall, located on 13161 Eberle Rd., Bakersfield, CA.
- The meeting topic will be a Field Day summary or recap.
- Terry, N6AJ will also be sharing his recent experience on POTA.
- There will also be a raffle prize, so get your tickets at the meeting.

- Board Meeting Starts at 1800 hrs.
- Membership meeting start at 1900 hrs.

- The next POTA event starts next Saturday, July 20th thru the 21st. For more information visit the link below or read the included flyer.

<https://docs.pota.app/docs/events.html>

- Next VE exam start is scheduled at 1800 hrs. on September 13th. At the Veterans' Hall located on 101 Ridge Rd. East Bakersfield. Contact Larry KM6OQI for more information or websurfer@bak.rr.com



Well, at the time I'm writing this we have had a busy few weeks. Between the ARRL June VHF contest, ARRL Field Day, The Annual 13 colonies Special Event and of course Independence Day. Speaking of celebrating our Independence, I would like to express my thanks to all who have served and continue to serve and to those who have paid the ultimate price to ensure our freedom, my deepest gratitude.

I am looking forward to our upcoming POTA Support You Park Day at Fort Tejon on the 20th. This is a great time to get into the field and set up a portable station and activate the park. If you have never done it before this is even a better time to get out there and give it a try. There will be plenty of experienced operators to help you out. Always remember that anytime you get out of the shack and operate in the field you are practicing Emergency Communications. We have the Spooktacular where we provide communication for the event, is just around the corner and we are looking at having a greater presence than in the past.

There are also other upcoming events that we as Hams can provide Comms for. I would like to encourage every member to look at the ARES Task Book: [www.arrl.org/files/file/EMCOMM/ARES-TRAINING-TASK-BOOK-v1_2_1_\(Use%20this\).pdf](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/EMCOMM/ARES-TRAINING-TASK-BOOK-v1_2_1_(Use%20this).pdf), and really consider taking the Level 1 and Level 2 training. They're online and free.

The information in these classes will give you a good foundation on how emergencies run and how Amateur Radio can help with communications.

Keep in mind that we as Hams have certain communication capabilities that local government just does not have, and they are very interested in what we can do. Ullil next time.

73 and stay on the cool side of the door.

Patrick Ponec, 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

Parks on the Air- Support Your Park Weekend

DATE AND TIME

Saturday July 20th from 8am-4pm (these are the park hours)

POTA PARK REFERENCE

US-3436 Fort Tejon State Historic Park and US-9757 Butterfield National Overland Historic Trail (This is a "2-fer" which means you and the hunter get credit for both parks)

ADDRESS

4501 Fort Tejon Rd. Lebec, CA 93243

Follow CA-99 S and I-5 S to Fort Tejon Rd in Lebec. Take exit 210 from I-5 S. Admission is \$6 per vehicle, \$5 for senior (62 and older) and \$3 disabled (must display permit along with valid state parks disabled discount pass)



Bring your radios and antennas if you wish. We will have plenty of radios set up and available for you to use if you just want to show up. We encourage EVERYONE to attend this special event! Those who have never activated a park or are just starting out, we will partner you with an experienced park activator to learn more.

Bring your own water, beverages and sack lunch. We do not have the amenities to cook at the park. Frazier Park is located 2 miles south and has 3-4 places that you can go grab a quick bite. The Tejon Outlets back towards Bakersfield also have numerous places to eat.



There are plenty of old large oak trees for shade and a nice breeze to keep us cool. Old wooden picnic tables are available to sit at and/or set your station up. We would however encourage you to bring a comfortable chair and there will be portable shade canopies as well.

Access into the park from the parking lot is fairly flat and once you enter the park there are nice hard packed dirt paths all around the park. Restrooms are also available. Several of us will bring wagons to help bring stuff in if needed.

Support Your Park Weekend is a family friendly event. Bring your families and friends out to enjoy the park with you and see some pretty cool historical buildings and museums. The landscape is beautiful as it's tucked right into the Los Padres National Forest. Lastly we encourage carpooling with other club members and not coming alone. The drive is easy but lets make it a FUN day by enjoying fellowship with others!



DUE TO THE NATURE OF THIS EVENT AND NUMEROUS OPERATORS WANTING TO ACTIVATE PLEASE RSVP TO SCOTT (KN6ZAT) CALL OR TEXT 661-978-9124 or KN6ZAT@YAHOO.COM



Calendar of Activities

21 JUL, SUN	● 8 – 8:45pm	NET Meeting	4 AUG, SUN	● 8 – 8:45pm	NET Meeting
22 JUL, MON	● 7 – 7:45pm	ARES Net Meeting	5 AUG, MON	● 7 – 7:45pm	ARES Net Meeting
23 JUL, TUE	● 7 – 8pm	Tech Net	6 AUG, TUE	● 7 – 8pm	Tech Net
25 JUL, THU	● 7 – 8pm	Club Mtg. 2101 Ridge Rd, Bakersfield, CA 93305, USA	11 AUG, SUN	● 8 – 8:45pm	NET Meeting
28 JUL, SUN	● 8 – 8:45pm	NET Meeting	12 AUG, MON	● 7 – 7:45pm	ARES Net Meeting
29 JUL, MON	● 7 – 7:45pm	ARES Net Meeting	13 AUG, TUE	● 7 – 8pm	Tech Net
30 JUL, TUE	● 7 – 8pm	Tech Net	18 AUG, SUN	● 8 – 8:45pm	NET Meeting
			19 AUG, MON	● 7 – 7:45pm	ARES Net Meeting
			20 AUG, TUE	● 7 – 8pm	Tech Net
			22 AUG, THU	● 7 – 8pm	Club Mtg. 2101 Ridge Rd, Bakersfield, CA 93305, USA

The Technician Corner

Mario Arribas, N6ABT n6abt@arrl.net

Product Review

\$100 Dollar Antenna

Sometimes, we don't have the space required to deploy even a small 10-meter dipole; but we want to play radio. What to do?

Recently, I saw an ad for a "Less-than-\$100-antenna", it caught my eye, and curiosity made me spend \$100 on an antenna that I didn't need.

Google for "TAURUS RO-109 ANTENNA". It's a simple, vertical, end-fed, 19 ft rigid, HF antenna; good for 6 meters all the way down to 80 meters, manufactured by DNJ Radio, from Fremont, CA.

I have seen the same antenna marketed with different names specially in European publications, so I think it's a copy from more expensive units. It comes inside a non-marked box, with no instructions whatsoever. But if you write an email to the manufacturer or call them on the phone (You find the info on the online receipt), within a couple of days they will send you a pdf with such instructions; in my case, I received the instructions for the same antenna but from another brand (?) All dimensions were in metrics. Remember when I wrote about European origin?

Well, according to that instruction sheet, the max power that you can put to the antenna is 400 watts. Most of us always use 100 watts max anyway, so far, so good. No radials needed, if you use at least 30 feet of coax to feed it, still...so far so good. It works at 6 feet from the ground, but it will work better at 30 feet high. So far, it meets the requirements of a compromised ham that needs to put the signal out somehow.

The antenna comes with all the necessary hardware to get it up, as well as with all the hose clamps used to assemble it. I followed the instructions provided by the vendor; I measured exactly each element of the antenna.

I drove an eight-foot long, 1 inch diameter pipe in my backyard, so the antenna SO-239 was about my eye level. I connected my antenna analyzer with a 9-foot run of RG-58, with PL-259 at both ends.

I was able to tune the antenna with acceptable SWR (Below 2.5:1) in all the bands from 6 meters to 20 meters, in the 20-meter band I got a SWR reading of 1.1:1. On the 30 and 40-meter bands, SWR was well over 2.5:1, getting dangerously closer to 3:1. On the 60-meter band it went to 4.2:1, and on the 80-meter band it peaked at 5.2:1.

Just for the sake of it, I connected my FT-450d (With internal tuner), to that antenna using the same RG-58 coax. The internal tuner was able to drop the SWR down to 1.1:1 on all the bands from 6 to 40 meters; but it was not able to tune on 60 and 80-meters bands.

Then, I disable the internal tuner and put the MFJ-969 manual tuner in line using a shorter length of RG-58 to connect the tuner to the transceiver. I was able to tune all the bands to acceptable levels; even was able to tune it for the 160-meter band.

With the same configuration, I made contacts in the 10, 12, 15, 20, and 40-meter band, with several states and some countries on North, Central, South America, Alaska, Hawaii, Japan, and Europe with 100 watts, with good reports; on the 80-meter band I was able to hear stations from CA, WA, OR and NV; but they never heard me. On the 160-meter band I could not hear any station at all. (The test on 160 was mere curiosity). I Did not try 6, 17, 30 and 60-meter bands. If you're a technician interested in 6 and 10-meter bands, or a seasoned ham in a budget, this might be the antenna for you.

So, after a week playing with that antenna, at 6 feet off the ground, I'm happy with my \$100 purchase. I might consider it for use on the next field day, it collapses to probable 5 feet. Very handy.

If you don't have the area required for at least a 10-meter dipole, in my opinion this is an antenna you might consider, and for 100 bucks, it is a good deal.

It is not a great antenna, but.... any antenna is better than no antenna at all. If you decide to purchase this antenna and need help putting it up; or if you don't have an antenna analyzer, please drop me a line and I will be happy to help you out.

Mario

N6ABT@arrl.net

<https://www.amazon.com/Taurus-RO-109-3-5-57MHz-Base-Antenna/product-reviews/B0926TQXYL>

From: John KN6FVT at HamCon Zion

I attended the first HamCon Zion at the Dixie Convention Center, in St. George Utah.

I thoroughly enjoyed myself, didn't spend an exorbitant amount of money, and met a lot of very nice amateur radio enthusiasts.

I watched eight presentations, which included an Arduino workshop and presentations on Baluns/Ununs, Winlink, Sun to Ionosphere, System Fusion and Wires X. Probably the most enjoyable was Gordon West's Tropospheric Ducting presentation (Gordo also signed my new Extra Class study book).

I also had the opportunity of meeting Jason, KC5HWB from Ham Radio 2.0 and Frank KG5AHJ from Tank Radio! (whooooooo \o/). In addition; I visited the following booths: Buddipole, ICOM, Yaesu, SignalStuff, 12 Volt Power, Comet Antenna, the DX Store, Impulse, DX Engineering, HamStudy, and GigaParts I was lucky they were in attendance (and helped sponsor this first event). I talked to the rep from GigaParts and I found out that the company, is currently working on reopening their Las Vegas store!

Sunday, I drove over to Zion National Park (POTA Park #0072). I found a spot at 7,890' that overlooks the whole park. I then spent the day playing radio and enjoying the amazing scenery and tranquility.

On Saturday night at the final event banquet, it was announced that there will be a HamCon Zion 2025! I will definitely be returning.

John, KN6FVT

Results from Field Day 2024

Congratulations! You've successfully submitted your Field Day entry, as well as uploaded all required documentation. Your confirmation number is 270h7fap. A summary of your submission is provided below for your review. If you have any questions about your log, please contact the Contest section at contests@arrl.org.

If you need to update your entry, enter soapbox comments or upload photos of your Field Day activities, please use the appropriate link below.

Links:

Update entry/upload documents <https://field-day.arrl.org/fdentry.php?call=w6lie&id=270h7fap>

Soapbox comments/photos

<https://contests.arrl.org/contestsoapbox.php?call=w6lie&id=270h7fap>

Summary:

Entry received at: 2024-07-02 19:04:04

Call Used: W6LIE GOTA Station Call: (NONE) ARRL/RAC Section: SJV Class: 6D

Participants: 15 Club/Group Name: Kern County Central Valley Amateur Radio Club

Power Source(s): Commercial

Power Multiplier: 2X

Preliminary Total Score: 922

Bonus Points:

Formal message to ARRL SM/SEC	100 - Documented by Message EDLUUHW019MN.txt
Entry submitted via web	50
Total bonus points	150

Score Summary: (Cabrillo log/dupe sheet file: W6LIE.dup)

	CW	Digital	Phone	Total	
Total QSOs	0	20	346		
Total Points	0	40	346	386	Claimed Score = (QSO points x power mult) = 772

Submitted by: Patrick Ponec, KD6PAP KD6PAP@gmail.com

Band/Mode QSO Breakdown:

	CW QSOs	Digital Pwr(W)	Phone QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)
160m	0	0	0	0	0	0
80m	0	0	0	0	0	0
40m	0	0	0	0	131	100
20m	0	0	19	30	114	100
15m	0	0	0	0	76	100
10m	0	0	0	0	14	100
6m	0	0	1	30	1	100
2m	0	0	0	0	9	100
222	0	0	0	0	0	0
432	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	1	100
Satellite	0	0	0	0	0	0
GOTA						
<u>TOTAL</u>		0	20		346	

Rig-Pick of the month



Multi-Band Reception: The Raddy RF919 Seamlessly access a wide range of frequencies including FM, AM, SW, CB, VHF, UHF, WX, AIR with SSB. Tailored for global use with easy tuning to meet regional standards.

Precision Tuning: Experience precise frequency adjustment with dual knobs featuring a satisfying click or use quick-tune buttons for convenience. Store up to 1600 channels for easy navigation.

Dual Display Clarity: A 3.54-inch main screen provides essential reception details, complemented by a secondary screen for signal strength and time.

Remote App Control: Command your radio effortlessly with our intuitive app. Single-handed operation meets powerful wireless functionality for seamless control from your smartphone.

Powerful Audio and Battery: The RF919 features a robust 5000mAh battery, Bluetooth connectivity, micro SD support, and a potent 20W speaker system for a superior audio experience. Private Stereo listening is just a 3.5mm TRS jack away.

Superior Antenna Connectivity: Enhance your listening with three external antenna options for unmatched clarity across all bands. Enjoy superior sound quality, no matter your location. For more information, visit <https://iraddy.com/products/rf919>

MEETING MINUTES FOR 05-23-2024

The meeting was initiated at 18:00 HR at the East Bakersfield Veteran's Hall at 2101 Ridge Road.

Board Members roll call:

P	A	President, Patrick Ponec KD6PAP	P	A	1st VP, Rick Simmons KN6NOC
P	A	2nd VP, Mario Aribas N6ABT	P	A	Treasurer, Jeff Tougas KN6WEZ
P	A	Secretary, Javier Ruiz A. KN6SCN	P	A	Jerry Waciawski KBRBX
P	A	Keith Fields KN6SNW	P	A	Jon Wilhelm WA6KLB
P	A	Past Pres John Stumm KG6ZBN			

QUORUM **YES** NO

Approval of Minutes 03/27/2024 and 4/25/2024 Meetings as presented.

Motion made by RICK SIMMONS second by JERRY WACLAWSKI

AYE ___ NAY ___ ABSTAINED ___ **Unanimously X Approved X** Not Approved ___

Jeff Tougas presented the financial report, announcing \$ 4,247.29 in the general fund for the club as of 5/23/2024.

Approval of Financial Report as presented.

Motion made by MARIO ARRIBAS second by JOHN STUMM

AYE ___ NAY ___ ABSTAINED ___ **Unanimous X Approved X** Not Approved ___

Old Business:

- All planned workshops have been suspended, until the club can be surveyed to determine areas of interest.
 - Field Day is on June 22-23, 2024. Rick Simmons and Jeff Tougas will head the planning committee. Plans are to have the event at Rick Simmons' place of residence, as of this time.
 - New nametag design – Tabled waiting for sample

New Business:

- Mario Arribas would like to make a presentation on tape measuring Yagi antennas. WE NEED TO SEUPT DATES.

- VHF Contest event details for Saturday June 8th set.
- We need to create a future calendar of events.
- DXing (Mario Arribas) Training set dates and times next Board meeting.

Motion was made to Create an online survey to collect information on whether to hold a "Club's Swap meet" September this year and whether or not to have a "Fox Hunt" Event this year.

Motion made by RICK SIMMONS second by MARIO ARRIBAS

AYE ___ NAY ___ ABSTAINED ___ Unanimously X Approved X Not Approved ___

Reports: NO REPORTS PROVIDED DURING THIS MEETING

1.-

2.-

3.-

Open Forum

- **Several topics were covered including but no limited to: Grapevine repeater repair, that may need an antenna replacement, Yagi antenna build training for members, VHF Training for new ham members, etc.**

Motion was made adjourn the meeting

Motion made by Jerry Waciawski second by MARIO ARRIBAS

Unanimously X Approved X

The meeting was adjourned at 18:56 HR.
