MARCH 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 March 28th 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 Support your parks, will be on the third week of April, April 20-21. https://parksontheair.com/.
- Our 75th Anniversary will be held at Yokuts Park May 18th, please sign up through contactw6lie@gmail.com

Message from Our President

I really don't have much for you this month other than a couple of reminders and some radio lor.

At our next meeting (March 28th) we will have a radio tune-up day. Jerry KB7BX and Jon WA6KLB will have their test equipment on sight to check your radio to see if it's working within specifications.

May 18th will be our 75th Anniversary Celebration at Yokuts Park. More information to come. Jerry KB7BX could use your help with the planning. Please Email us at contactW6LIE.org to let us know you would like to help.

"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

Article submitted by:
Patrick, KD6PAP.
KCCVARC President

(from Florida Skip Magazine - 1959)

Why radio amateurs are called "HAMS"

"Have you ever wondered why radio amateurs are called 'HAMS?' Well, it goes like this: The word 'HAM' as applied to 1908 was the station CALL of the first amateur wireless stations operated by some amateurs of the Harvard Radio Club. They were ALBERT S. HYMAN, BOB ALMY and POOGIE MURRAY.

At first, they called their station 'HYMAN-ALMY-MURRAY.' Tapping out such a long name in code soon became tiresome and called for a revision. They changed it to 'HY-AL-MU," using the first two letters of each of their names. Early in 1901 some confusion resulted between signals from amateur wireless station "HYALMU" and a Mexican ship named 'HYALMO.' They then decided to use only the first letter of each name, and the station CALL became 'HAM.'

In the early pioneer days of unregulated radio amateur operators picked their own frequency and call-letters. Then, as now, some amateurs had better signals than commercial stations. The resulting interference came to the attention of congressional committees in Washington and Congress gave much time to proposed legislation designed to critically limit amateur radio activity. In 1911 ALBERT HYMAN chose the controversial WIRELESS REGULATION BILL as the topic for his Thesis at Harvard. His instructor insisted that a copy be sent to Senator DAVID I. WALSH, a member of one of the committees hearing the Bill. The Senator was so impressed with the thesis that he asked HYMAN to appear before the committee. ALBERT HYMAN took the stand and described how the little station was built and almost cried when he told the crowded committee room that if the BILL went through that they would have to close down the station because they could not afford the license fees and all the other requirements which the BILL imposed on amateur stations.

Congressional debate began on the WIRELESS REGULATION BILL and little station 'HAM' became the symbol for all the little amateur stations in the country crying to be saved from the menace and greed of the big commercial stations who didn't want them around. The BILL finally got to the floor of Congress and every speaker talked about the '...poor little station HAM.' That's how it all started. You will find the whole story in the Congressional Record.

Nation-wide publicity associated station 'HAM' with amateur radio operators. From that day to this, and probably until the end of time in radio, an amateur is a 'HAM.' "

Calendar of Activities

Sunday, March 24	
8:00pm	NET Meeting
Monday, March 25	
7:00pm	ARES Net Meeting
Tuesday, March 26	
7:00pm	Tech Net
Thursday, March 28	
7:00pm	Club Mtg.
Sunday, March 31	
8:00pm	NET Meeting
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

CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **News from March 8th VE session; by Larry KM6OQI**
  - **We have three new Technicians:**
- Vincent De La Paz - Bakersfield
- John Yentes - Bakersfield
- Micheal Baker – Tehachapi

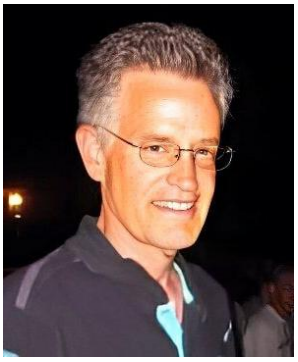
- Taylor Oliver, Shafter KN6ZAR, upgraded to General

- The next VE exam is scheduled for May 10th at 6:30pm.

- The Meeting Minutes for February will appear next month. We are now doing this as the minutes need to be approved by the board for them to be published. This also includes the Treasure's Report.

- Our February Meeting was hosted by Jon Wilhelm, WA6KLB who did an outstanding job demonstrating the repeater systems, brought in also one of his repeaters. Here are some of the pictures submitted by Ben Durham, N6SWR.

From Larry Bragg, N7LWB Communicator Editor



Our club weekly nets are as follows:

- **KCCVARC Sunday eve. Net** – Sunday, 8:pm 145.150 –offset, PL 100Meets every Sunday, a formal check in of members and visitors with weekly club announcements and updates and a swap meet following.

- **ARES Emergency and frequency test net** – Monday, 7:pm, 145.150 and simplex frequencies on all bands and modes for testing. Announcements weekly for the Emergency services of Kern County, and members going for check-ins on assigned simplex frequencies followed by different bands and modes, such as FUSION, SSB and PACKET modes.

- **Tuesday Night Tech Net**, Tues. 7:pm, 145.150, informal net to answer questions and help you set up ham and antenna systems. This is an informal net with check-ins followed by questions posed by those needing information about their antenna setups and questions about their rigs and modes.

Why Should I Invest in HF Gear? – Larry Bragg N7LWB

In the early 70's, a neighbor brought over his shortwave radio while we all were playing basketball. Already having an interest in DX AM broadcast stations, this expanded my interest as a kid in junior high school. The next year my parents bought me a Wards Airline 5 band radio that received the Marine band which sparked more interest. Later I purchased a good multiband shortwave receiver. This received 1.8 khz to 22mhz.

I was so excited, listening to stations from all over the world that were in the shortwave bands. Then started hearing SSB in the shortwave spectrum…. I thought, Hmmm, I know many on CB were illegal… but in the 3.5 – 4.0 spectrum, 7.2 and up? How were they able to get away with this? At this time, none of the SW radios had BFO or SSB capabilities. So, I took another tunable radio and ran an IF carrier over these transmissions, and for the first time, was able to receive SSB.

I was so excited!! It didn't take me long to realize they were Ham radio operators and operating legally. This was in 1975. Back then, this was how amateurs kept in contact and had several talk groups up and down the spectrum. The California Weather Net, heard on 3.954, early in the morning was my favorite daily net hosted by Clifford, W6ERE, and Western Public Service System on 3.952.

I received my first ham license in 1978 with the call KA6CAI, thanks to Red, WB6ZWG through his class. I had fun listening to bands outside the amateur, listening to radiotelephone from other countries, US military, and HF aircraft using upper sideband. It was almost unlimited enjoyment.

HF listening was my favorite, until having work nights in 2001 – 2017. Just last year I was able to put a wire again, hook up my HF receiver….and I can still hear some conversations but not as many. So, what happened? Back in 2004, Talking to Jim Pierce, N6RSK, He was telling me that HF went into a "black hole" just the year before. From 2003 to 2012, DX fell off the cliff. Just static noise on the bands. I did some reading on this and found out; it happens maybe once every 80 years due to the sun's rotation that eliminated most of the sunspot activity. Now the sunspot activity is coming back to life.

Listening to other hams on the HF subject, many said "There is not much activity on HF, so why should I spend thousands of dollars on an antenna structure and HF transceiver?" Here's why! It won't be long before this side of the hobby becomes popular again. For the first time in nearly 20 years, the HF bands are coming back to life…. about as much as when I listened to it in the late '90s.

In the 80's and 90's, most hams used anywhere from 200 to 1,500 watts. Lately, and more in recent years, hams now only use anywhere from 50 to 100 watts and could be the reason why we aren't hearing as many on the air. Although, you can work many DX stations worldwide on low wattage if you put up a good antenna, that is grounded properly and measured for the right band spectrum. There's a lot to learn in HF! Yes, it's a numbers game! But once you mastered this, you won't want to go back to VHF or UHF. It's fun and exciting!!!

Rig Pick for March

YAESU FT-4XR

- Dual Band 5W VHF/UHF FM
- Ultimate Compact Handheld Transceiver
- On sale for $79.99 (normally 89.99) at HRO.

Description:

The FT-4XR 2 meter/ 440 MHz HT has three output power levels: 5, 2.5 or 0.5 watts transmitting from 144 to 148 MHz and from 400 to 480 MHz.

- Coverages are 65-108 (FM broadcast band), 136-174 and 400-480 MHz.
- The FT-4XR is compact and light, yet ruggedly constructed.
- The speaker provides a full 1 Watt of powerful, clear audio.
- The supplied 1750mAh Li-ion battery pack is capable of up to 15 hours operation (TX 5 seconds, RX 5 seconds, Standby 90 seconds).
- The SBH-22 3.5-hour rapid charger is included.
- VOX operation is available with the optional SSM-512B earpiece microphone.

Other features include:

- WX Channels with “Severe Weather” Alert, PC Programming (optional cable),
- Transceiver-to-Transceiver Cloning (optional cable)
- Keypad Entry
- FM Broadcast Receiver
- Automatic Range Transponder System (ARTS), CTCSS/DCS Operation
- Busy Channel Lockout
- (BLCO), Automatic Power Off feature
- Transmitter Time Out Timer (TOT).

The new FT-4XR meets demanding commercial grade specifications. Size: 2.1 x 3.5 x 1.2 inches (less knobs and antenna) 8.82 oz.