

KERN COUNTY – CENTRAL VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB W6LIE

May 2024

MAY 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 Wacławski, 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 upcoming meeting will be held, 6:pm for the Board, 7:pm Club meeting. 2101 Ridge Rd.
- Check the last page for the photos submitted from the 75th W6LIE picnic at Yokuts Park.
- Field day is Saturday, June 22-23rd. Please check www.w6lie.org for more information.
- Congratulations to **Paul V Cowlshaw, KG6TID** for passing his Extra Class License, during our last VE session.
- The next VE session is scheduled for the first Friday in July at 10:00 am at our club meeting location, 2101 Ridge Rd.

President's message

WOW!! Good Food, Good Friends, and Ham Radio, it just doesn't get any better than that! The 75th Anniversary Celebration was a resounding success. I personally enjoyed getting to visit with so many of you that I normally don't get a chance to.

Thanks to everyone who had a hand in pulling it off. A Very Special Thanks to Jerry KB7BX and Rick KN6NOC for leading the charge.

We were honored with a visit from our Central Valley Section Manager Steven Hendricks who presented the club with a Certificate of Recognition from the ARRL for 75 Years of Service.

Don't forget Summer Field Day is just around the corner. Check our web site on a regular basis to stay informed on any upcoming events. Please feel free to contact me via KD6PAP@gmail.com with any questions, concerns, or ideas.

"Let's Get Radio Active"
Patrick Ponec



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



May FARC Swap and Estate Sale

Sat May 25, 2024 8 A.M. to 1 P.M.

Sellers arrive and set up at 7 A.M.

Admission is FREE for everyone

Location of Swap Meet:

Lion Automotive
2944 Phillip Avenue
Clovis, CA 93612-4934

Directions: From Clovis Ave. turn East onto Gettysburg Ave. and travel for 2 blocks, turn South on Phillip Ave., proceed to Lion Automotive building and Parking Lot.

Walk through the open gate to the Swap Meet, which will be held in the fenced yard attached to the building.

Held in conjunction with the Clovis Amateur Radio Club

Calendar of Activities

Thursday, May 23		
7:00pm	Club Mtg.	
Sunday, May 26		
8:00pm	NET Meeting	
Monday, May 27		
7:00pm	ARES Net Meeting	
Tuesday, May 28		
7:00pm	Tech Net	
Sunday, June 2		
8:00pm	NET Meeting	
Monday, June 3		
7:00pm	ARES Net Meeting	
Tuesday, June 4		
7:00pm	Tech Net	
Sunday, June 9		
8:00pm	NET Meeting	
Monday, June 10		
7:00pm	ARES Net Meeting	
Tuesday, June 11		
7:00pm	Tech Net	
Sunday, June 16		
8:00pm	NET Meeting	
Monday, June 17		
7:00pm	ARES Net Meeting	
Tuesday, June 18		
7:00pm	Tech Net	
Sunday, June 23		
8:00pm	NET Meeting	
		Monday, June 24
		7:00pm ARES Net Meeting
		Tuesday, June 25
		7:00pm Tech Net
		Thursday, June 27
		7:00pm Club Mtg.
		Sunday, June 30
		8:00pm NET Meeting

From Scott Pohlenz, a big thank you to all who participated in the POTA (Parks On The Air) event.

KN6ZAT

As you may already know we had our first ever club POTA event on April 20th and it was a HUGE success. We gathered out at the Tule Elk State Natural Reserve where we had about 7 or 8 stations set up to participate in the big SYP (support your park) weekend of POTA. We had 12-13 members and visitors for most of the day. We had 3 club members and our very own club call sign got credit for their first activations. Those were:

- John KG6ZBN
- Javier KN6SCN
- Dustin KC0AZN
- KCCVARC W6LIE

Give them a round of applause for coming out and getting involved with the fastest growing activity involving amateur radio. I think they are now hooked, and I expect to see more activations from them this year!

Special thanks to Michael KN6VBW and Jeff KN6WEZ for your support and encouragement in helping these 3 get on the scoreboard! It's always nice to have some experienced activators close by... we get a little tongue tied and forgetful when we are just getting started don't, we guys? (I can hear your laughs now LOL).

Outside of the radio "stuff" we had lots of great conversations and fellowship as well. Jerry KN7BX came out just to see what this was all about and offer his vast knowledge of everything ham radio related and to support the group! Thanks Jerry, I truly appreciated that!

Thanks to KD6PAP, our very own club president for showing up with your support, getting your activation and more importantly for cooking the hamburgers and hotdogs! (this may have secretly been the highlight of the day for some)

John KN6FVK was working away on his 2 activations. THAT'S RIGHT! He got credit for two activations! How might you ask? The end of the UTC Day is 5:00 PT so that's when his log ended and he got 10 more contacts after that, so he got credit for 2 activations. One for April 20th and one for April 21st. And if I may share this... since John sat with us his very first activation, I think Jan. 1st he has received credit for 17 park activations at 8 different parks. WAY TO GO JOHN!

Rick KN6NOC also came out after he was done with his prior commitments. Although he didn't get any airtime, we anticipate that Rick will also become a frequent park activator. Rick, like many of you reading this, desires a little better understanding of how it all works. After all... making contacts and proper logging can be a bit much to some but with practice even you can do it!

KO6DWU John and his wife came out and hung out with us. John, possibly having the newest call sign of our club members, wanted to check it out as well. He had lots of questions that we were hopefully able to answer for him. We look forward to getting you on the air soon John!

John KG6ZBN got his first activation! This guy has more gadgets on his station than a toy store. He did great and the great thing about POTA is you do it how you want to! It's your station and your activation and you run it how you want to. There really is no right way or wrong way.

Javier KN6SCN showed great resilience. He was determined to get his activation. After having some station difficulties, he resorted to his 2m radio to complete his log with 10 contacts. Just goes to show... NEVER GIVE UP!

Dustin KC0AZW was also having some troubles of his own. He was having power issues with his battery holding charge. He was also learning about one of his new antennas and trying to get that dialed in. Over the course of the morning, he overcame those obstacles and the headache (literally almost a migraine) that he was experiencing. Long story short he ended the day with only 7 contacts BUT... Like KN6FVK he stayed at it and together he and I got 18 contacts by doing a "2 op" activation. That is where there are 2 operators sharing the mic and both get credit. This is a very common practice among first-time activators. Many times, you can hear up to 4 or 5 operators doing this. Way to go Dustin!!!!

Vincent (Vinnie) AK6VP joined us from the Pine Mountain area. He heard we were having this event, and he came down to hang out and share his ham stories! Great guy and lots of fun. Join us anytime Vinnie!

KCCVARC W6LIE gathered 54 contacts for our first official club activation. We will be doing more club activations in the future for sure!

As for myself Scott KN6ZAT I was there to support and oversee the day. I really enjoyed seeing all the experienced guys helping the new guys out! This day could not have been what it was without you guys! My passion for ham radio is POTA! Thanks to Terry N6AJ for introducing me! I love the adventure and challenges that POTA brings to the table.

All in all, we had exactly 200 contacts that day which we consider a very successful day!

Well, what is POTA you might be asking? It's abbreviated for "Parks on the Air".

Well, what does that mean? POTA is a "special event" station (meaning yours) that is set up in or on -predetermined parks and trails that you can find by visiting parksontheair.com and making contacts. If you get 10 contacts or more then that is considered a "successful" activation. If you don't quite make 10 and get 9 or less, then POTA considers that a "failed" activation.

You still get credit for the contacts but not the activation. However, ... Do not let that discourage you because every time you go out and attempt an activation you will learn something new, and it's guaranteed you will have more fun than sitting home eating cheese puffs and drinking Dr. Pepper. Eating cheese puffs and operating ham radio makes a real mess of your equipment so don't do that.

The next POTA SYP weekend is July 20th... we will be coordinating another event so keep your eyes peeled for this one!

Until the next time... 73 Scott KN6ZAT

Digital Repeaters in the Local area

D-STAR

- **145.450** – WX6D linked to a nationwide, worldwide system.
- **440.975** + WX6D/KE6YJC, Open to all users. Two new 1.2 Ghz repeaters are also planned in the future, however not sure if they will be included with these.

D-STAR is a digital format that uses reflectors for talk groups. Radios for this are made by Icom and Kenwood.

FUSION/C4FM

- **447.040** – N6SMU/KA6SUB Linked to a group of repeaters starting with Frazier peak, connecting to the northern states and extending to Ohio.
- **441.600** + K6KGE Located in Taft CA. Using WIRES X
- **146.415** Simplex frequency used, Monday evenings 7:15pm ARES test check-ins.

FUSION is a digital format used by the YAESU company. Most use FUSION for local transmitting while other repeaters use the WIRES X technology to talk worldwide. This format is also called C4FM; also contains various talk groups. Radios for this are Yaesu brands for digital.

DMR

- **440.950** + WX6D, Open to all using C-Bridge, owned by Mountain West DMR
- **442.225** + K6GTA Brand Meister /Allstar. Open to all and used by Spanish speaking.
- **442.675** + K6RET, Brand Meister System. Open to all, located in Tehachapi CA
- **442.925** + K6RET, Connected also to K6RET repeaters on the Kern System.
- **443.000** + K6RET, Brand Meister System. Open to all, Located on Shirley Peak.
- **448.1625** – WD6FM, Western States DMR, C-Bridge system. Frazier Peak.

DMR (Digital Mobile Radio) is a very complex system having hundreds of talk groups both nation and worldwide and is the most popular. Brand Meister uses all the available talk groups, while C-Bridge only uses select ones. Radios for DMR are: Alinco, Anytone, TYT, B-Tech and Motorola.

Fun, Fun, Fun at Yokuts Park for our 75th Commemoration of our club's call **W6LIE**. Although we were organized as a group, as far back as 1946, we became official as the Kern County–Central Valley Amateur Radio Club; July 4th, 1949, with the W6LIE callsign.



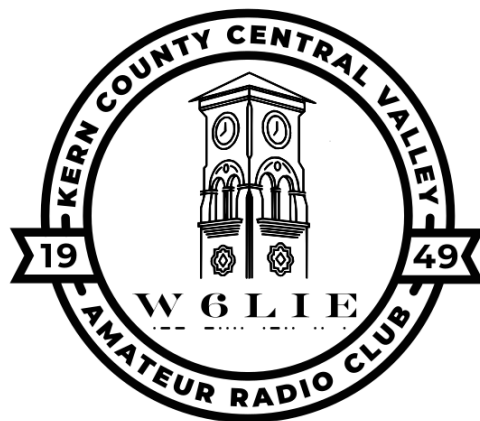




* Pictures submitted by Keith Fields, Scott Pohlenz, and Larry Bragg.

*Event Prepared by Rick Simmons and Jerry Waclawski.

A special thanks to Central Valley Section Manager, Steven Hendricks for the award he presented to our club, and our President, Patrick Ponec, who helped make this happen.



Thank You for Your Support!