

KERN COUNTY – CENTRAL VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB W6LIE

October 2022

OCTOBER COMMUNICATOR

The Communicator newsletter editor is Larry Bragg-N7LWB
assisted by Rick Simmons-KN6NOC and Dave Peterson-KM6PJE's wife

Next Meeting

Please join us for our upcoming meeting, Thursday October 27th, 7:pm at the East Bakersfield Veterans Hall, 2101 Ridge Rd. Bakersfield CA, Corner of Mt. Vernon Ave and Ridge Rd.

Club Information

Ballots are being sent out for the 2023 slate of officers. Please vote. We need to have these back, either at the club meeting or mailed in by November 12th.

You may have received an email about the group IO page and dues. Club dues are \$20 per year for a single membership. However, a family membership is \$25 per year if you have other family members with their license.

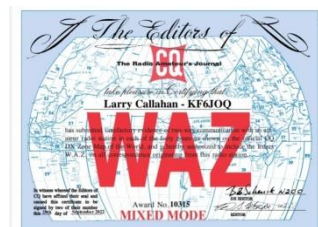
Did you know that we're on Facebook? Yes, we are! Our group is [W6LIE Kern County-Central Valley Amateur Radio Club](#). If you do FB, check it out.

Correction to August/September Communicator

Silent Keys, Self-Appointed Elmers was written by Frederick Machado-KN6NCV, not Glen-WB8DTJ.

Congratulations

Larry Callahan- KF6JOQ obtained his CQ WAZ Award, said it took him two years but he did it!



Russell Allison passed his Amateur Extra!



Club Officers & Directors

President: Larry Callahan-KF6JOQ
1st VP: Dustin Carpenter-KC0AZW
2nd VP: Larry Bragg-N7LWB
Secretary: Scott Royer-KM6RLD
Treasurer: John Stumm-KG6ZBN

Director: Paul Ball-KN6FVI
Director: Glen Del Tour-WB8DTJ
Director: Steve Holmes-KM6POI
Net Chief: Neal Janzen-N6YGG

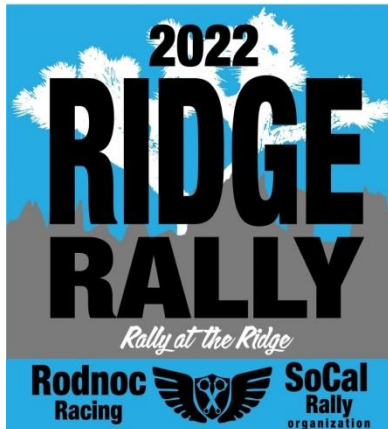
Volunteers Needed

Larry Callahan-KF6JOQ is in need of 2 more volunteers to help with communication at the Kern Wheelman Spooktacular, Oct. 22nd.

<https://kernwheelmen.org/spooktacular>



Ridge Rally, Dec. 3

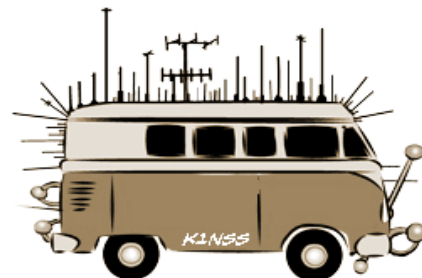


I'm seeking volunteer hams who would like to spend a Saturday in Jawbone and Kelso Canyons and Piute Mountain (north of Mojave) providing safety communications for this event. Hams provide tracking of the rally cars along the racing sections and respond in case of an emergency. Lunches and T-shirts are provided!

The Ridge Rally (formerly the Gorman Ridge Rally) is a rally race needing amateur radio operators to provide the essential safety and emergency net for the event. In its new location (the roads west of Jawbone Station on Hwy. 14, north of Mojave) and date (Saturday December 3), the event has hams positioned along the racing sections (stages) to track the rally cars going by at speed. The event is fun to watch and a great chance to practice using your radio for public service. We will train you if you're new to working rallies, and we can find a spot for you whether you have a handie talkie or a dual-band mobile rig with portable antenna (all are appreciated!). Please sign up as a volunteer at <http://www.rallydata2.com> using your password from the original rally data. If you're new, you'll create a password. Be sure to put in your T-shirt size, as all volunteers get lunch, dinner, and an event shirt! If you have any questions, please contact me, Paula-N6OQQ at mpgibeault@gmail.com or give me a call at 760-382-0821, and I'll be happy to answer them I look forward to meeting you and hope you can volunteer for the Ridge Rally!

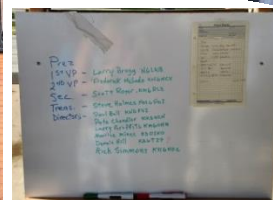
73,

Paula Gibeault-N6OQQ - Chief of Comms



Highlights from September Potluck/Swap Meet

The club swap meet and meeting was quite a success! Take a look at the pictures of the gear presented at the swap. Also, the board approved those who are running for the officers and board of directors for 2023. Because many are running for a position on the board, it's encouraged that you submit a bio to help us familiarize with the new faces. More information will be announced at the meeting and also on the Sunday evening net.



KCCVARC Repeater Frequencies					
145.150	minus	100.0	Breckenridge Mt		
146.910	minus	100.00	Grapevine Pk		
224.060	minus	100.0	Breckenridge Mt		
443.900	plus	100.00	Low level North of Town		
52.780	minus	82.5	Grapevine Pk		Off the Air – Storm Damage





IS THE MORSE CODE DEAD?

Frederick Machado-KN6NCV

If you got your ham radio operator license before 1991, you learned the code and passed the exam. Congratulations. After 2003, it was not required any more. Does the advent of the Internet, personal computers, and laptops make the use of the code obsolete? Is it still an option? Is it something in which our club members would be interested to learn, practice, and engaged with? Is it still a practice that could inspire and induce satisfaction, fulfillment, and joy to the operator?

In short, this article is the first of a series of three motivational notes to encourage experienced and new operators to go into the beautiful and always challenging use of the Morse code. The second will be about the psychology of learning, and the last about the best approach to learn and master the Code. Do you still believe that it is difficult to learn? If you believe that it is difficult and unnecessary, I fully agree. It is not only not needed, but it has no practical value or use.

But, wait, don't go so fast. It could be the source of joy and fulfillment that you have been waiting for. You are a Technician, a General, or an Amateur Extra operator. You have made contacts that go beyond our borders, and now you do not see a path to move forward in the art of radio communication. The Code is the answer. That is the heart of my presentations here. The Code, or as it is called today the CW or continuous waves, term that does not accurately describe the waves since they are not really continuous.

It was 1837. Samuel Morse came with the bright idea of translating words and messages into dots and dashes: .- -... -.-., a, b, c. dit-dah dah-di-di-dit dah-dit-dah-dit. Does it sound difficult? Probably not. It was the beginning of telegraphy. However, going into history is not the purpose of this article. It is about preparing to get into the joy of playing with dits and dahs. It is the excitement of learning a new simple language. It is like a children's game. You will learn the secret to use the memorizing power of the subconscious mind to learn and practice the code. Stay tuned.

If you all have any articles or contributions you'd like to submit for the Communicator, please send them by email to Larry Bragg-N7LWB, Editor larryb64@msn.com

Our Club's History

By.....Alex – WB6ZWG

As we approach a new century, perhaps we should review the history of our Amateur Radio Club. That history would begin with a small group of men who called themselves "*The Short Wave Club of Bakersfield.*" The group consisted of 15 members and were active in the 1930's. This was never an official group And money was raised, as needed, by member contribution.

At one time the group established dues at ten cents per meeting attended. the Short Wave group used the call W6HPZ. It belonged to Clete E. Armistead. Their most active time was when they hoped to reactivate the Naval Reserve Radio Club. The final meeting of the Short Wave group was on Nov. 27, 1939. An effort was made in 1940 to reactivate the group but with no success. When it disbanded, there was a small amount of equipment and \$15.45 remaining.

The early 1940's were the years of WWII, so nothing was done until early 1946, when local Amateurs initiated plans to create a new Club. Clete Armistead was contacted for advice and he pledged his support to the group. He also said they could have the equipment and cash left from the Short Wave group if they were successful.

The 1946 attempt to organize a new Club was plagued with problems since so many were still in the Armed Forces. However, the effort did continue, and dues for the new group were set at .25 per meeting. Several social meetings were held but nothing official occurred until April 30, 1949, when the members responsible for the organization of "*The Kern County Radio Club,*" met in the office of H. H. Bell, a Notary Public, to have official notarization of those original Articles of Incorporation, and By-laws. This document was submitted to the Secretary of State, of California, and on May 12, 1949, the "*Kern County Radio Club,*" became official. The object of this new organization was

- To develop individual efficiency and furthering of interest of Radio, and the development thereof, in the members and in the community.
- To organize Radio station activities and other entertainment of Radio and further the advancement of the interest there-of, in the members and in the community.

History continued...next page...

Another ELMER helped me get started in ECHOLINK and as he said, "This is just another tool in the box". or in the shack. There is so much that can be done in ham and it is exciting and fun, even when I make a mistake, sometimes a better way to learn. There are a dozen people that have passed their technician exam in September with different levels of knowledge. But as new hams, we need the ELMERS to learn from and again I want to thank the guys that have brought me along so far.....