



The Weekly Communicator

Thursday September 3, 2026 news@w6lie.org

Upcoming Club Events

Tonight, 6:30pm VE testing. Be prepared to upgrade or get your amateur radio license. East Bakersfield Veterans Hall, 2101 Ridge Rd. Doors open at 6:00pm for setup. Please bring your Callsign and FRN number as it's required for testing. To retrieve both, go <https://www.arrl.org/advanced-call-sign-search> . We also need VE volunteers. For more information contact Mario at testing@w6lie.org

Tuesday September 8 – Bimonthly ARES meeting. Daniel, KM6TFY is presenting with a live demonstration “Discover the Power of AREDN”. For more information contact@wkcares.org. See pages 5 & 6 flyer and details.

Saturday September 20 – 9:am to 1:pm. Rock Harbor Amateur Radio group will be hosting an amateur radio information booth at the Exchange, Rock Harbor Church 10904 Snow Rd Bakersfield CA 93312. Contact Ivan, KO6FJG (661) 619-1251.

Thursday September 24 – 7:pm, Club meeting and Board meeting! At this meeting we will accept nominations for the 2027 Board Members. If you would like to serve on the KCCVARC board, please let us know. Meeting location is East Bakersfield Veteran's Hall, 2101 Ridge Rd. John, KG6ZBN and the Nominating Committee are assembling, more information, check out the next page.

Saturday September 26. POTA Camp, Tule Elk State Reserve. See page 7

The Club Elections Are Just Around the Corner

In accordance with the Bylaws, the nomination slate of officers will be presented at the September club meeting. During this time, any person can be added to the slate. When all the nominations are completed, it will be voted on to accept the slate of officers. The voting for the board will be done during the month of October, and new officers will be presented at least by the Holiday Club Dinner.

Our board has many opportunities in various capacities

The officers consist of a President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three Directors. The ninth member of the board is the Past President. All positions are for a one-year term. One of the most needed positions on the board is knowing what the club would like and being up to date on activities. Some activities we do every year in the Ham Radio tradition.

In addition to serving on the board, our club has many committees that we need help with. A list of committees will be available in the next Communicator. This is a good starting point and offers a great opportunity for involvement—and it's fun. If you haven't been active in the club, please give this a try. Let's grow ham radio and have fun doing it.

If you would like to run for office in the coming year or have any questions,

Have any Questions, comments, or suggestions? You can email the club at contact@w6lie.org. This is your club. Not only does the board need your input but also needs the members of the club to help implement ideas that will help us grow and learn more about ham radio.

If you're considering a board position, send your resume to contact@w6lie.org. Resumes will run in our newsletters during the months of Sept. and October. We are almost into our 80th year. Let's make it our best.

– W6LIE

Fun and Items discussed at the August Meeting

ASAP Electric had a demonstration about proper ways of grounding



We had a great turn-out and everyone felt they learned something new. So many of us well-seasoned HAMS felt they learned some great information and may make changes that are necessary.

In addition, we had root beer floats and two items were raffled off: A tri-band Baofeng UVK6 and a \$35 Amazon gift card. Congratulations to the winners. Thomas KO6JPZ and Larry, KM6OMQ.



The refurbished club trailer was brought in by Thomas – KO6JPZ. See the pictures below. Please note that the banners are being worked on. See below.

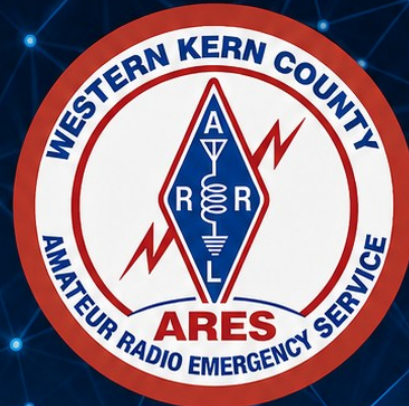
The Club trailer, re-painted, is almost in new shape thanks to Thomas Trammell, KO6JPZ, who took the time taking the trailer to Larry Bashor Sandblasting, and San Joaquin Collision Body shop, having this re-painted with the same as what they use on fire trucks.



AREDN

MEETING & LIVE DEMO

BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNICATIONS
WHEN IT MATTERS MOST



DISCOVER THE POWER OF AREDN



DATE:

**TUESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 8TH**



TIME:

1800 HRS (6:00 PM)



LOCATION:

**EAST BAKERSFIELD
VETERANS HALL**

2101 Ridge Rd.,
Bakersfield, CA 93308



PRESENTER:

DANIEL KM6TFY

AREDN Setup & Demo

WHAT IS AREDN?

AREDN (Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network) is a radio-based mesh network built by amateurs for real-world communication when other systems are down.

JOIN US TO:



SEE A LIVE AREDN DEMO

Watch real-time mesh networking in action.



LEARN ABOUT THE AREDN SETUP

Daniel KM6TFY will showcase the hardware, software, and configuration.



ASK QUESTIONS & GET INVOLVED

Discover how you can be part of a stronger, more resilient communications network.



CONNECT
LOCALLY



COMMUNICATE
SECURELY



BE PREPARED
TOGETHER

ALL RADIO OPERATORS, TECHS, AND INTERESTED COMMUNITY MEMBERS WELCOME!

WKC ARES Meeting - September 8th, 1800hrs

Hello everyone,

Western Kern County ARES will be hosting an **AREDN Meeting & Live Demo** on **Tuesday, September 8th at 1800 hrs (6:00 PM)** at the **East Bakersfield Veterans Hall, 2101 Ridge Rd., Bakersfield, CA 93308**. **Daniel, KM6TFY**, will be showing off our current AREDN setup and giving a live demonstration of the network in operation.

AREDN, or the **Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network**, allows amateur radio operators to create high-speed, radio-based mesh networks that can support local communications and services independent of normal internet infrastructure.

During the meeting, we'll take a look at the equipment and configuration being used, demonstrate AREDN connectivity in real time, and discuss ways the network can be expanded and used for emergency communications throughout our area.

Whether you're already experimenting with AREDN, have been curious about mesh networking, or are simply looking for another way to expand your emergency communications capabilities, we'd love to have you join us. Please feel free to share the attached flyer with anyone who may be interested.

Tuesday, September 8th
1800 hrs / 6:00 PM
East Bakersfield Veterans Hall
2101 Ridge Rd., Bakersfield, CA 93308
73,



Laramie Uhles
N6CUL
Western Kern County ARES - AEC for Operations

661-381-3935 | N6CUL@outlook.com

Next POTA Event



September 26th at 0800
at the Tule Elk State
Reserve, California

8653 Station Rd.
Buttonwillow, Ca. 93206

Jeff Reed KO6IRD
Jeff@w6lie.org 661-448-9866

**Coming
Fall Of
2027**

**POTA
CAMP**

Central Coast Amateur Radio Group Hamfest & Swap Meet

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

09/19/2026

Start Date: 09/19/2026

End Date: 09/19/2026

Location: Oak Park Christian Church

386 N. Oak Park Blvd.

Grover Beach, CA 93433

Website: <http://www.ccarg.com>

Sponsor: Central Coast Amateur Radio Group

Type: ARRL Hamfest

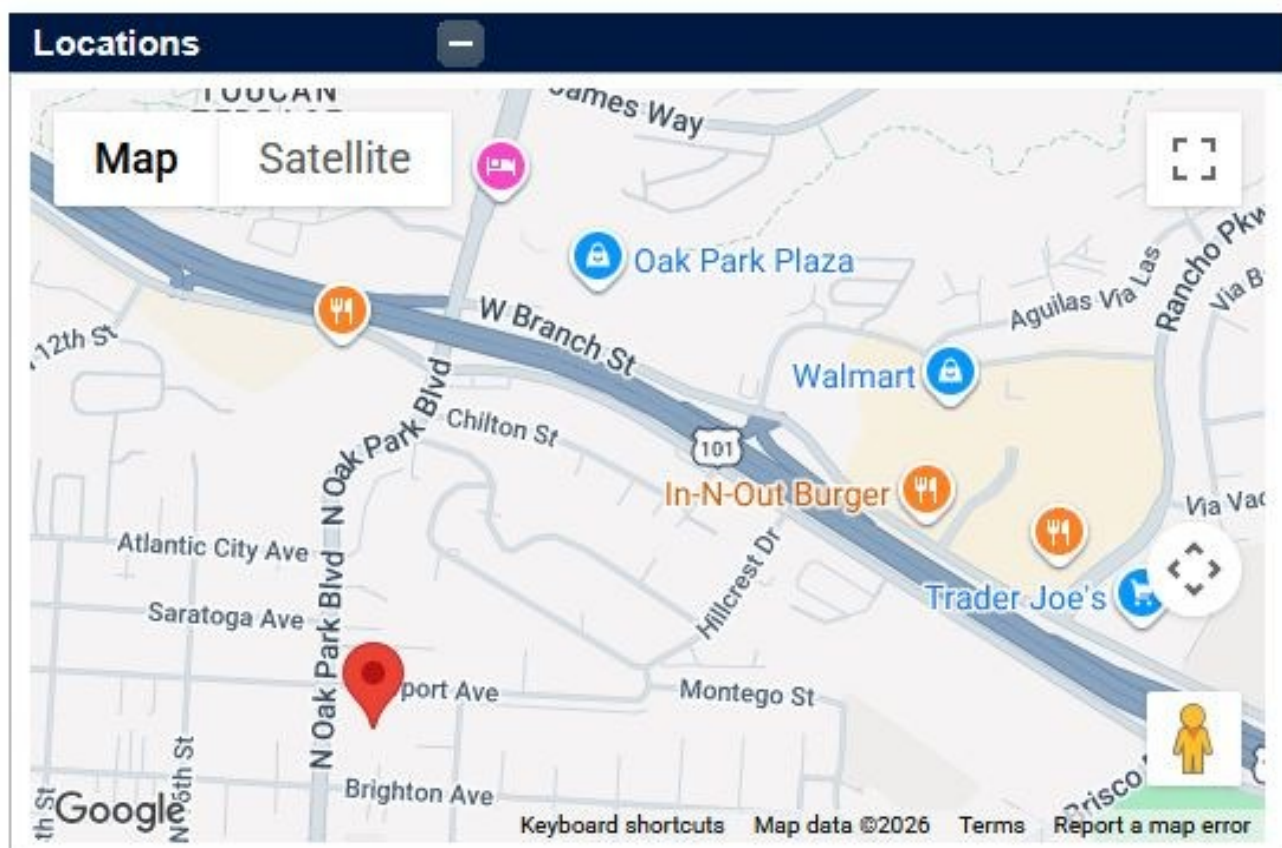
Talk-In: W6WJ UHF Club Repeater 444.700 +5, PL 127.3 Hz

Public Contact: David Qualls , K6AYK - CCARG Repeater W6WJ

PO Box 110 Grover Beach, CA 93483

Phone: 805-354-1558

Email: W6WJ.CCARG@gmail.com



=== Your ARRL Hamfest/Convention Application ===

ARRL Division: Southwestern

Event Type: Regular Hamfest

Event Name: Central Coast Amateur Radio Group Hamfest & Swap meet

Event Date: September 19, 2026

Event Time: 0800 to 3:30pm local PST

Event City: Grover Beach

Event State: CA

Event Sponsor(s): ARRL

Event Facility: Oak Park Christian Church

Event Facility Address: 386 N Oak Park Blvd

Special Features of Event: F, H, R, T, OTHER

Other Features (optional): Swap meet Sellers Space \$25.00 donation

Exams being given: NO Exams

Talk-In Freq: W6WJ UHF Club Repeater 444.700 +5, PL 127.3 Hz

Advance admission fee: Buyers Free

At-door admission fee: \$25.00 per Selling Space, or Tail Gate Selling.

Table fee: \$5.00 per Table; 2 max per space; Bring your own.

Event Web URL: <http://www.ccarg.com>

Public contact name: David Qualls

Public contact call sign: K6AYK - CCARG Repeater W6WJ

Public contact address: PO Box 110 Grover Beach, CA 93483

Public contact phone: 805 354-1558

Public contact fax:

Public contact email: W6WJ.CCARG@gmail.com

Chairman name: Marc Levy

Chairman call sign: K6ZAP

Chairman address: PO Box 110 Grover Beach, CA 93483

Chairman phone (day): 805 354-1558

Chairman phone (eve): 805 354-1558

Chairman email: w6wj@ccarg.com

Funds available: 3,000

Funding source(s): CCARG Clubs Treasury

Anticipated attendance: 250

Profit disposition: To Fund the club for new community projects

Form submitter name: David Qualls

Form submitter call sign: K6AYK

Form submitter email: Teslaboy6@gmail.com

To: Board of Directors, KCCVARC

From Jeffery Reed, KO6IRD

Subject: Resume, Second Vice President Position

Dear Club Members,

I am proud to announce that I am running for 2nd Vice President of the Kern County Central Valley Amateur Radio Club. As a current Director and POTA organizer, I have had the opportunity to work closely with many of you, listen to your concerns, and see firsthand what makes this club strong.

I believe our club works best when every member feels heard, respected, and supported. If elected, I want you to know that I will be on your side. I will work hard to represent the membership, support our activities, and help make sure our club continues moving in a positive direction.

My goals as 2nd Vice President are to help make our club more visible in the community and to build stronger relationships with other nonprofit organizations. By working together with groups that share our values, we can create more opportunities, strengthen our public presence, and show the community what our club is all about. I believe our club has a lot to offer, and I want to help make sure more people see the good work we are doing.

My goal is to serve with honesty, dedication, and an open ear. Whether it is helping with events, supporting POTA activities, encouraging new ideas, or standing up for the needs of our members, I am ready to fight for what is best for this club.

I would be honored to have your support and your vote for 2nd Vice President.

Sincerely,
Jeff Reed, KO6IRD

Blow up a nuke in space? What could possibly go wrong? (Hint, an Elmer can tell ya)



Just before eleven on the night of July 8, 1962, the sky over Honolulu turned briefly to day, then settled into something nobody who saw it ever quite forgot.

A slow, rolling aurora, blood red along the horizon, fading up through green and a streaky yellow, bright enough to read a newspaper. Auroras don't usually visit the tropics. About a minute behind the light show, streetlights all over Oahu started winking out in long strings, burglar alarms started going off across the city for no apparent reason, and the microwave link that carried phone calls between Oahu and Kauai dropped cold. Say hello to Starfish Prime, the largest high-altitude nuclear test the United States ever conducted, and one of the most spectacular demonstrations of antenna theory in the history of the planet.

The basic facts are as follows. A Thor missile out of Johnston Atoll, about 900 miles southwest of Hawaii, lifted a 1.4-megaton W49 thermonuclear warhead to an altitude of roughly 250 miles above earth and let it detonate. At that altitude there's essentially no air, so you don't get a fireball in the way you'd see at sea level. What you get is a flood of gamma rays radiating outward in every direction. The gammas plunge down into the upper atmosphere, slam into air molecules around 20 to 40 kilometers up, and Compton-scatter (AKA multipath propagation) kicking electrons free at relativistic speeds. Those electrons run straight into the Earth's magnetic field lines and start spiraling around them across a wide swath of the radio spectrum. With a rise time measured in nanoseconds and a peak ground field of tens of kilovolts per meter spread

over an area larger than several states. That pulse is what we now call E1, the fast component of high-altitude EMP, and on the night of July 8 it washed over the entire Hawaiian island chain.

Now, every ham reading this already knows what happens when you put a strong electric field across a long piece of wire. The wire becomes an antenna, the field induces a current, and the current scales with length. A backyard dipole picks up that pulse just fine. A few miles of high-tension power line picks it up like a freight train. In 1962, Hawaii had a lot of long wire strung up between poles — power distribution, telephone trunks, alarm circuits, the whole electrical backbone of the islands.

All of it was suddenly being driven by an RF source 900 miles away and 250 miles up, and none of it had ever been engineered for the experience. About 300 streetlights on Oahu went dark when their series-loop fuses blew from the induced surge. Burglar alarms triggered from transients they had no way to filter. The Hawaiian Telephone Company's microwave link to Kauai gave up entirely. Considering that the bomb went off the better part of a thousand miles over the horizon, that's a remarkable feat of long-distance coupling.

A few things are worth pulling out of all this. First, Hawaii actually got off easy. The grid in 1962 was largely vacuum-tube and electromechanical, and tubes shrug off transient voltages that would vaporize a modern silicon junction. The same pulse hitting a solid-state grid like we have today would do considerably more than blow some streetlight fuses. Second, the team that ran Starfish was genuinely surprised by how much mischief the EMP made at that range.

Due to their surprise, it's led to most of the hardened military electronics, surge-suppressed grids, and an entire engineering literature on EMP coupling, much of which is just antenna theory we already know dressed up in different units. And third, there's a quiet lesson in there for any of us with a tower in the yard. Whatever wire you put up, the universe also gets to drive. Most of what drives it is benign, the local broadcast station, the occasional thunderstorm, or your neighbor's switching power supply. But on rare nights, a thousand miles away and a hundred miles up, somebody can ring the bell on every conductor in the state at once. Lightning arrestors and a real ground aren't paranoia. They're an acknowledgement that the field is always bigger than your antenna.

Thomas Trammell KO6JPZ

Radio and Equipment Spotlight

Elecraft AX4 Portable Antenna Review



Elecraft pulled the wraps off a notable addition to its popular portable-antenna lineup this month at Dayton Hamvention: the AX4, a higher-power, longer-whip evolution of the well-known AX1/AX2/AX3 verticals, along with a companion BL3 balun. As reported by Thomas Witherspoon at QRPer (<https://qrper.com/2026/05/elecraft-introduces-the-new-ax4-portable-antenna-bl3-balun/>), the AX4 extends to about eight feet (2.5 m) but collapses down to a backpack-friendly 13 inches, and covers 40 through 10 meters when used with an ATU. Elecraft claims as much as 6 dB of additional signal over its smaller siblings when mounted on a picnic table or tripod — a meaningful jump for anyone who has spent an afternoon trying to coax a 40-meter contact out of an AX1.

The headline news for QRO-leaning portable operators is the new BL3 balun, which is rated for 100 W SSB/CW (50 W on data modes) when paired with the AX4. That brings the AX-line concept squarely into KX3/K4-and-small-amp territory and finally lets POTA and SOTA activators run respectable portable power through a whip that still fits in a side pocket.

The BL3 also addresses one of the most common criticisms of compact verticals: it helps keep RF off the coax shield during higher-power operation, which has historically been a headache with short feedlines and improvised ground systems out in the field.

Initial community reaction has been cautiously enthusiastic. The QRPer write-up describes the AX4 as a "bigger, higher-power evolution of the AX1/AX3 concept — but without giving up the portability that made those antennas so appealing," and coverage at Nerfd.net (<https://www.nerfd.net/2026/05/14/elecraft-introduces-the-new-ax4-portable-antenna-bl3-balun/>) echoes that read. Operators who handled the prototype at Hamvention reported it felt substantially more rigid and refined than the earlier AX whips.

The usual caveats about the AX line still apply, of course — every short loaded vertical is a compromise, and prior threads on the Elecraft groups.io list and reviews on eHam have repeatedly emphasized that the counterpoise wire is not optional; without it, efficiency falls off a cliff. Activators who already understand how to lay out a proper counterpoise (and who tune with a KXAT or external ATU) should view the AX4 as an upgrade rather than a miracle cure for poor soil and bad band conditions.

Elecraft says production is targeted for July 2026, with pricing to be announced closer to shipping; a waitlist is already open on the [Elecraft AX4 product page](#). If you've been running an AX1 or AX3 and wishing for more whip and more watts without giving up the grab-and-go form factor, the AX4 looks well worth a spot on that list.

73 - Stay Radioactive and stay portable!
Thomas Trammell – KO6JPZ



The Weekly Communicator

Published every Thursday by the Kern County- Central Valley Amateur Radio Club, Incorporated. The staff are also members of of the board of directors with Larry Bragg – N7LWB as the editor. The newsletter contact is news@w6lie.org if you have any questions, concerns or filing a story.

Our board of directors' contact is contact@w6lie.org and this contact also goes to our club's webmaster for the <https://www.hamclubonline.com/> .The webmaster for [our https://w6lie.org/](https://w6lie.org/) page is Thomas Trammell thomas@w6lie.org.

For Western Kern ARES, their webpage is <https://wkcares.org/> With Patrick Ponec, Western Kern ARES coordinator.

ClassifiedsIf you would like to sell something or are looking for something, we can post it on the Club's website for you. <https://www.w6lie.org/classifieds>

To All New / Existing Members-

You can order a club badge with your name and call sign from Raymond's Trophy. The badge is \$12.96 with tax (as of 09/29/2025). You can call or stop by Raymond's to place your order.

Raymond's Trophy 300 Chester Ave Bakersfield.Ca. 661-323-4015 <https://www.raymondstrophy.com/> -- You can find a flyer with this information and a picture of the badge, in the Files section of our HamClubOnline.

There's more on the next page.

Membership Dues can now be paid online-

If you have not paid your dues yet. Please visit the Club's website (<https://www.w6lie.org>). There is a link to the instructions on the front of the main webpage. If you think you received the expiring membership email by mistake, please let me know. Send an email to treasurer@w6lie.org and we will make sure it gets corrected.

Classifieds-

If you would like to sell something or are looking for something, we can post it on the Club's website for you. <https://www.w6lie.org/classifieds>

If you have equipment to sell or trade. Email us with the following information.

- Your name & callsign.
- Your contact information (remember this is the world WIDE web, consider what contact info you want to share).
- A brief description of the item.
- A picture of the item.
- How much you want for the item.

Send your request to ads@w6lie.org

If you are looking for something. Email us with the following information.

- Your name and call sign.
- Your contact information (remember this is the world WIDE web, consider what contact info you want to share).
- A brief description of the item that you are looking for.

Send your request to ads@w6lie.org