



# RADIO-ACTIVE!

June 19, 2023, Volume 2, Issue 6



## Why Your Son Should Learn Radio...

This month we are celebrating fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the influence of fathers in society. In 1908, a church sponsored the nation's first event explicitly in honor of fathers, a Sunday sermon, in memory of the 362 men who had died in the previous December's explosions at a coal mine in West Virginia, but it was a one-time commemoration and not an annual holiday.

The next year, Sonora Smart Dodd, one of six children raised by a widower, tried to establish an official equivalent to Mother's Day for male parents. She went to local churches, the YMCA, shopkeepers and government officials to drum up support for her idea, and she was successful: Washington State celebrated the nation's first statewide Father's Day on June 19, 1910. The campaign to celebrate the nation's fathers did not meet with the same enthusiasm as Mother's day. Slowly, the holiday spread. In 1916, President Wilson honored the day by using telegraph signals to unfurl a flag in Spokane when he pressed a button in Washington, D.C.

In 2022, Tecsun Radios Australia published a blog, in the spirit of Father's Day reflecting on an article published in April 1935 edition of an electronics magazine. Tecsun Radios Australia is a family-owned and operated Australian business that has established itself as the premier dedicated communications radio provider servicing Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific region. Interestingly, the 1935 letter article is written by John T. Frye, a ham opera-

tor, who has been mentoring Jack, a schoolboy. The young boy's father does not understand this sudden indoor isolated hobby and indeed has an aversion to the activity, but the author explains just how useful it is for the boy to be engaged in amateur radio. Many of the points remain valid today and can be applied to all persons in ham radio.

His first point centered around the fact that it is not too costly. Back then in 1935 the author says "In the first place, let us take the matter of cost. You say that it will cost too much. Do you know that my first radio station, including both transmitter and receiver, was built for less than five dollars? Yet, with that little station, I consistently talked with other amateurs a thousand miles away! Surely, you do not consider five dollars an exorbitant price to pay for a year's entertainment and instruction."

His next point with bolded letters is "**Ham Radio Keeps a boy at home**". He starts by reminding the intended reader (Jacks dad) that when your boy is home he is under your influence and watchful eye. Whereas you don't know what might influence Jack without supervision. In his words: "There are too many boys who regard the family home as merely a sort of refueling and rest station!. Where kids come home to eat, have a rest and go out again. Instead such a hobby will keep your son home. The fact that evenings are the best times for radio operations is most advantageous that your boy is at home with this hobby most evenings, rather than out after dark frequenting pool halls and hanging around on the streets!

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## Why Your Son Should Learn Radio—continued

Whereas you don't know what might influence Jack without supervision. In his words: "There are too many boys who regard the family home as merely a sort of refueling and rest station!. Where kids come home to eat, have a rest and go out again. Instead such a hobby will keep your son home. The fact that evenings are the best times for radio operations is most advantageous that your boy is at home with this hobby most evenings, rather than out after dark frequenting pool halls and hanging around on the streets!

**Teaches Responsibility** is the next heading. "Amateur radio is a good teacher" The amateur must be licensed by the Federal Government, and therefore needs to observe and abide by rules laid out by these regulators of radio. In addition "traffic handling" is a great lesson in itself, as it requires the radio amateur to keep schedules and pass messages requiring punctuality, precision and accuracy.

He follows by saying: 'One of the first things that Jack will learn is that he must use his head and his hands if he is going to do anything in the amateur radio game. Of the fifty thousand amateurs in the United States, no two of them are confronted with exactly the same problems. Radio, (as does any modern science), demands the ability to reason clearly and logically. The building of a receiver, the ironing out of the "bugs" in a transmitter, and the erection of a good antenna are literally "hotbeds" of problems in radio theory. These problems must be met and conquered by a combination of theoretical knowledge and clean, sharp reasoning!

Once the problems of theory are

solved, the amateur is confronted by new problems of actual construction. He knows that his station will have to undergo the most exacting scrutiny at the hands of fellow amateurs, and he wishes to make it as neat, as convenient, and as efficient as it lies in his power to make it. In other words, his skill as a workman is "challenged", and I could take you on a tour of amateur stations that would convince you how marvelously some amateurs meet this challenge!"

There are several more points in this article, the next is the boldly headlined **Short-Wave Radio Creates "Objective!"** Amateur Radio provides a challenge, a concrete objective to work towards. There is nothing more beneficial than working towards and achieving a goal. He followed this by explaining: "it teaches him to expend the fruits of his labors wisely and carefully. I know a particular case of a boy who refused to work at any of the tasks that are usually conditional to supplying a boy with "pocket money." Distributing newspapers, running errands, selling magazines, and all other suggestions left him unenthusiastic. Then he became interested in "radio"! At once, his character underwent a marvelous change. He threw off his lethargy and became one of the most "industrious" boys in the town."

The next point our author makes is that **"radio answers our desire to travel"**

*"Amateur radio furnishes a safe outlet for this desire; flinging messages across thousands of miles of spaces, chatting with fellow amateurs in the far corners of the earth, sending the spoken word into faraway homes, exploring the mysteries of the ultra-short waves, all of these*



*things spell thrilling adventure to the youth of today. Why that is the factor that makes the hobby so fascinating to the boys from seven to seventy. They are given a chance to do things which they never did before; they are permitted to talk to people whom they will never see. Amateur radio has given them a key to a "magic world" of modern science, and they revel in their esoteric delights."*

**Amateur Radio is an Urge to Greater Scholastic Endeavors** is the next point of the article. This is in response to the fathers concerns that this hobby is a distraction from his school and study. Our author explains that radio is actually a science that requires a high level of mathematics that goes beyond simple multiplication and subtraction.

*"Jack will soon find himself up against formulae that will require a more than superficial acquaintance with the higher branches of mathematics. A knowledge of physics is nearly indispensable for the radio amateur. Light and sound are so closely related to electricity that a knowledge of the principles of all three should be in the mental quiver of the conscientious amateur. Chemistry, too, will prove to be a basic science for this new hobby. You have only to point out these facts to Jack and you will find him viewing these subjects with an entirely new interest. Encourage him to approach his hobby from a scientific angle. Make him desire to know*

## Why Your Son Should Learn Radio—continued

*the why as soon as he has learned the how. Let him learn the thrill of being able to forecast exactly how his apparatus will function even before he assembles the parts.”*

Further to this point, the author emphasizes that while the world is being opened up to young Jack through radio, he will in turn become more interested in news and events of the world, broadening his desire to learn and be more worldly. So in fact this hobby will not make him an introvert who shies away from study, chances are it will be the exact opposite.

**The next point is quite amusing and titled No Danger of Son Becoming Radio “Nut”** This point is in response to Jack’s dad saying he wants Jack to stop this hobby before he becomes a “radio nut”. Our author starts by saying, *I know what you mean, I have seen that individual, and I know what a bore he is.* He then reassures him that based on his knowledge of the boy, the boy’s passion for outdoor sports, his talents in athletics, and the fact that Jack and his dad regularly go on fishing and hunting trips shows that the boy has a well balanced life and interests. In addition, the boy has a fantastic group of friends and an active social scene. He asks Jack’s dad, with all these extracurricular activities, do you fear Jack is unbalanced? If anything, simply because he is so active the hobby will be a good grounding factor. His opinion is that *“the hobby will really balance up his life. At the present time, there is too strong an accent on the lazy, careless seeking entertainment. Nothing the boy does builds toward a definite achievement by which he can measure his progress. This new hobby will inject a note of*

*serious study and painstaking construction into his present butterfly existence. His completed station will be something that he can show to his friends with that pleasant glow of pride which arises from a knowledge of work well done.”*

This next one point is a warning, and he titles it **Dangers of Discouraging a Boy’s Scientific Interest.** He warns that he himself would not like to be the person that is responsible for discouraging the boy away from science. He wonders, where might this interest take him in the world and mentions Edison’s interest in chemistry, Ford’s interest in machinery, and Marconi’s interest in radio, which were all, at one time, hobbies.

*“Perhaps this boyish liking for radio may be a signpost of the lad’s destiny. At least, it betokens a mental alertness, a healthy desire for knowledge on the part of Jack that I should welcome with the greatest happiness if I were his father. Give me a boy who asks questions, who experiments, and who takes a keen interest in his hobby. That boy has the foundation for a successful life. He is awake, and his brain “absorbs knowledge as a sponge does water”! I know some boys who go through life with a dull apathetic attitude that is entirely devoid of enthusiasm. Nothing stirs them; nothing arouses their interest. They have only scorn for others who become excited over a hobby. Would you prefer that Jack be one of those fellows?”*

The final point the author tells the dad that from his observations of Jack that this hobby will only have a positive influence on his life and skills. He mentions that this letter comes from a place of compassion

and honesty. That his son has picked up a hobby that will grow with him from a young man to an old man, forever learning, experimenting and feeling that sense of achievement and connection. In his opinion, you couldn’t ask for a better hobby to have throughout life.

*“From a simple knowledge of fundamental principles, the amateur can climb upward until he has mastered the intricacies of technical theory. From there, he can set forth, intrepidly into the unexplored reaches of its various fields. Radio is new enough that it holds forth unparalleled opportunities for the radio experimenter.*

*Ultra-short waves, television, power transmission, and pathological application are but a few of the many fields that beckon the experimenter”*

The letter ends with..... There you are! My argument is complete! The decision is now in your hands. Will you permit that boy of yours to go ahead with his hobby?

Continue on to read the operator spotlights to see if any of these points can be seen in their adventure into ham radio.



## Equipment available to loan

Santa Cruz Communications Support have two kits available for loaning to allow ham operators participate in a deployment when they have limited equipment. One kit is for a vehicle deployment and includes Mobile dual-band radio Icom IC-2730, mag mount antenna, battery and kneeboard. The other kit is for stationary outdoor deployments and includes the vehicle kit with additional supplies of a tripod antenna, lighting, and pop-up.

## New Technician class?

Do you have family, neighbors or friends interested in getting their ham radio license and want a class? We are taking sign-ups from people interested to assist in planning. Please share this link to those interested: <https://rebrand.ly/hamclass>

# Volunteer / Training Opportunities

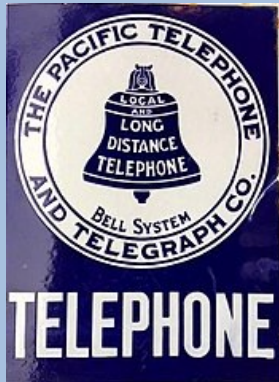
Here are some volunteer opportunities for the next three months.

- ▶ July 4: Aptos Parade
- ▶ July 10-15: Perimeter Monitoring for Active Shooter First Responder Training,
- ▶ July 29: Santa Cruz Mountain Challenge Bike Ride
- ▶ August 12-13: AUXCOMM Training
- ▶ August 20: Race Through the Redwoods foot race in Felton
- ▶ September 13—17: Santa Cruz County Fair
- ▶ September 24: Santa Cruz Triathlon



Look for emails for sign-ups and additional details for each of these events.

## Operator's Spotlight—Mike, W6MLB



Mike, W6MLB grew up in a military family and has lived 'all over'. At least eight locations by the time he was 16 years old. Surprisingly, he noted he did not meet any Ham radio operators in all these locations. Mike is married and has two sons and three young grandchildren. He and his wife are excitedly awaiting the arrival of the fourth grandchild, a granddaughter, around July 4th. Thanksgiving was a family favorite gathering — first hosted by Mike's parents and then taken over by Mike and his wife until the recent empty nesting syndrome with his sons moving away. Now Mike finds as much time as possible to go visit his sons and invoke Grandpa duties.

Mechanics has always been of interest for Mike. He went to Reseda Jr College (a neighborhood in the San Fernando Valley region of Los Angeles, California) for mechanics and always loved tinkering with cars. However, he states he is now too old to crawl under and get back out of a car. Mike worked in the same location, same crew and bosses for 35 years. It was as a telecom technician with various phone companies (via mergers and acquisitions). He started with Pacific Telephone and Telegraph and ended with AT&T. All he had to do was drive different colored vans. It is noted that his job pretty much went away as it went from Telecom to Datacom roles.

Ham radio was always of interest for Mike, starting in the 1960's, but license was delayed until CW was no longer a required element. He first obtained his technician license as KN6DBY in August of 2019 and has progressed to his general and his vanity call of W6MLB. He tells the story of his vanity call being his initials but we all know him as 'major league baseball'. One aspect of the ham radio hobby Mike really likes is working the "birds", otherwise known as amateur radio satellites. This includes contacting the International Space Station. An HT and Yagi antenna with a bit of patience awaiting a good pass of a satellite is what is needed.

Mike joined ARES for it was happening, helping and radio. What's not to like? He does want to help on more projects this year. Mike also participates with other aspects of the hobby. He is a member of the Santa Cruz County Amateur Radio Club and is its secretary for this year.



## Operator's Spotlight—Alex, AJ6QY



Alex, AJ6QY grew up Rochester, Michigan. After spending his childhood and early youth in the northeast (Michigan and New York) he made the transition to the west coast. He is married to Erica and they have two adult children. Alex states his children are quite capable young adults and offer a few favorite moments. At age 19, his daughter called to tell she got a flat tire on highway 17 and made it to a shoulder, got out and fixed it herself and went on to her way. Another was when Alex was skiing an extreme steep run with his son. Alex got to the bottom thinking he had crushed it and had a good amount of time to catch his breath and wait for his son to catch up, only to find him right there behind him. His favorite outdoor activities include windsurfing, skiing, hiking, and gardening. Other activities include playing music, drawing, painting and woodworking.

Alex has his Bachelors of Science in Electrical Engineering from Michigan Technological University. He started out doing system modeling at IBM labs in New York and San Jose, which led to a move to a permanent move to the West Coast post graduation where he eventually landed at a small computer storage interface company called Adaptec, Inc. in Milpitas in their marketing applications group. He was fortunate to help solve several important product problems at a critical time when the business was just starting to accelerate and grow. It gave him the chance to work as a design engineer doing low level machine coding, chip design, board design and eventually moved on to management, and even worked for a while in technical sales. It was a fantastic foundation for later starting his own business. A co-worker and Alex would often met at lunch and toss around ideas for products and companies, and on one occasion a long time friend joined them to talk about his wish that there was a way to use a cordless phone hands-free. He used a Plantronics phone at his desk, but had a busy job where he wanted to be able to walk around the buildings he managed and talk on the phone at the same time. That was the genesis of Clearvox, a headset company that the three founded. After a couple false starts, they sold their headsets and cellular phone adapters at Fry's Electronics, Sharper Image, cellular stores, and finally landed a contract to supply the Clearvox products to Motorola under their brand. In the end they sold Clearvox to Plantronics and Alex transitioned to raising the kids. After the break Alex returned as a technical draftsman and consultant, helping design/build contractors create power and lighting systems that meet California's stringent energy codes, quality lighting design, and building code & safety requirements.

Living in the mountains of Bonny Doon, where the internet and phone is tenuous combined with the CZU fire chaos led Alex to obtain his Ham radio amateur extra license in November of 2020. His favorite activities include staffing events, fairs and races. He joined ARES to be well practiced in emergency communications and is proud to have provided information to neighbors in need during this Winter's storms when they experienced long power and communications outages. Like many other ham radio enthusiasts, Alex has many different pieces of equipment to support the hobby. They are tools to get the job done.

## Hours Corner

In February operators logged 896 volunteer hours. Keep up all the great work and thank you for volunteering. Those who enter hours are eligible for the month drawing of a fabulous prize. Please remember to enter your hours on the form on <https://xczcomm.com/index.php/hours-reporting/>

## And the winner is...

We collect volunteer hours from our membership for the following reasons:

- ▶ On-going training by ARES volunteers demonstrates to county public safety managers that our members will be ready when called upon.
- ▶ Some state and federal grants require matching funds from local government. Documented volunteer hours may fulfill this requirement.
- ▶ We track member participation as a measure of ARES readiness.

Any hours one spends operating or upgrading their station counts, as does participation in our meetings, nets, exercises, and deployments.

The winner of the monthly drawing has a choice from these fine prizes:

**Congratulations to last month's winner** to Roger, KG6AVC. Roger is consistently submitting his hours.



## NETS on the move!

A recent membership survey about the ARES nets identified 'not having enough available time' as the largest barrier to participating in the various NETS of the week.

So the following schedule will be adapted, effective June 29th:

- ▶ **SLV Net - 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month**
- ▶ **Coastal Net- 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month**
- ▶ **NO NETS ON THE 5th Wednesday or Thursday of a month**

The Net Calendar can be found here: <https://xczcomm.com/index.php/calendar-of-nets/>. Email reminders are also sent on the day of the net.

Want to be Net Control? All operators are welcome. Contact Roberta, AJ6KN, Santa Cruz County ARES Net Coordinator at [AJ6KN@slvares.org](mailto:AJ6KN@slvares.org)

## Resources

- Website: <https://xczcomm.com/>
- Reporting volunteer hours: <https://xczcomm.com/index.php/hours-reporting/>
- Upcoming events: <https://xczcomm.com/index.php/calendar-of-events/>
- Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ARES-of-Santa-Cruz-County-Ca-296232310799866>
- Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/431308973875528>
- PIO Articles: <https://arrlsantaclaravalley.org/news/> or <https://xczcomm.com/index.php/news/>
- XCZ Comm You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHZH8TUSgh4SqHTPXSWolPA>
- Submitting deployment documents: **send in PDF form to** [EOC.ARES@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:EOC.ARES@santacruzcounty.us) and your appropriate EC (Bob: [KO6XX@slvares.org](mailto:KO6XX@slvares.org))
- Submitting personal information such as DSW application, personal data update, education certificates: email [K6PDL@ARRL.net](mailto:K6PDL@ARRL.net), [KM6SV@SLVARES.org](mailto:KM6SV@SLVARES.org), and [EOC.ARES@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:EOC.ARES@santacruzcounty.us),

## Photo reminders

Next time you participate in a radio related activity, take a picture or two of yourself, your friends, your equipment, or your environment (preferably a combination of these factors) and send it to [KM6RMN@SLVARES.org](mailto:KM6RMN@SLVARES.org) and [KN6IAB@SLVARES.org](mailto:KN6IAB@SLVARES.org).

With your permission, Allison will use the material to make creative Facebook posts. Extra points for natural action poses, equipment still-life, or well-framed presentations. Even a funny or awkward moment is useful. If your shots involve other people, try to get permission or identifying information so Allison can make sure it is all right to use their appearance in her posts.



## Reminders

- ▶ AECs submit articles for newsletter by the Sunday before the meeting to [KM6GURE@slvares.org](mailto:KM6GURE@slvares.org)
- ▶ Net Control sign-ups will be taken during the monthly meeting. Everyone is encouraged to take this on this role.

## Why we have a size limit to Photo Attachments in Winlink

Roberta, AJ6KN, Santa Cruz County ARES Net Coordinator

As most of you know by now, many of us are using a program called Winlink Global Radio Email to practice sending messages, using templates and sending photo attachments by radio. While we allow the use of Telnet and RadioMail, there are some limitations on these, since they would not be useable in the event of power and internet outages. It's easy to forget the radio challenges when you become accustomed to using Telnet or RadioMail.

For my little weekly Winlink net, I designate a particular template for the week and also encourage photos to be attached. I have limited the size to 10 kb in the past, which is quite small, but you are able to make out the image. Last week I allowed a change to 100 kb, and this week I found out why that is NOT a good idea!

I received a 100 kb photo attached to a template, and decided to use regular 1200 baud VHF Packet to download it. It didn't happen. I went and ate my lunch, came back for 2nds and saw that after 30 min Winlink disconnected and did not download the message. I switched to 9600 baud and tried again. It took 14 minutes but I did get the message and photo.

In the event of a real emergency, this would really "clog up the pipes" for Winlink message passing. Templates take extra bytes (plain text message uses the least resources but lacks the ease of sending info by template) and a large photo really hogs the bytes.

Also, we won't always have access to 9600 baud or Vara FM, which are much faster to download than VHF Packet. Using a digipeater (or HF) slows things down even further, but it may be the only way to reach out of our area for help. So, we need to use the minimum bytes to get the message out.

That said, I am moving my photo limit back to 10 kb, having learned (or re-learned) a valuable reason why I limited it in the first place!

If you are interested in "playing Winlink" with us, please join the group at <https://groups.io/g/sccareswlnet>



### Answers

- |                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. XCZCOMM       | 6. Engineer           |
| 2. Amateur extra | 7. Telecom            |
| 3. Satellite     | 8. Father             |
| 4. Template      | 9. Mountain Challenge |
| 5. Broadcastify  | 10. NARCC             |
|                  | 11. Short-wave        |



## Org. Positions

- DEC  
John / N6QX, jfgerhardt@gmail.com
- Assistant DEC  
Gary / K6PDL, K6PDL@arrl.net
- Assistant DEC and Deputy EC  
Karen / KM6SV, KM6SV@slvares.org
- Operations and Events  
Dan / N6RJX, N6RJX@slvares.org
- Webmaster  
Nate / KM6THA, KM6THA@gmail.com
- Administration  
Dawn / KM6RME, KM6RME@slvares.org
- Safety Officer  
Stephen / KM6NEP, KM6NEP@slvares.org
- Public Information officer  
Allison / KM6RMN, KM6RMN@slvares.org
- Net Manager  
Roberta / AJ6KN, AJ6KN@slvares.org
- EC Loma Prieta  
vacant
- EC Coastal and SLV  
vacant
- AEC-Antenna Specialist  
vacant
- AEC-CERT Liaison  
Liz / W6LTS, W6LTS@slvares.org
- AEC-Coastal  
vacant
- AEC-Education Coordinator  
Bill / AJ6CQ, wtyler@gmail.com
- AEC-Logistics  
{temp vacant}
- AEC- Meeting Trainer  
Jim / N6EWP, N6EWP@arrl.net
- AEC-MRC Liaison  
John / KN6DCA, drjohnrx54@gmail.com
- AEC-New Member Liaison  
Alex / AJ6QY, AJ6QY@slvares.org
- AEC-Packet Radio /Digital  
Sebastian / KK6FBF, Sebastian@steinhauer.info  
Ryan / K16UAP, K16UAP@gmail.com
- AEC-Photographer  
Lisa / KN6IAB, KN6IAB@slvares.org
- AEC-Scribe  
JoMarie / KM6URE,  
KM6URE@slvares.org

## South County Repeaters Update

**CORRALITOS 146.700 K6RMW/C**

**WAS KJ6FFP/C**

This repeater is currently fully operational as a stand alone repeater located at 650' elevation in the Meadow Ridge area of Corralitos, The system is on full 100% off grid solar power and is using a Yaesu DR-1X repeater. It is NARCC coordinated.

**WATSONVILLE 147.000 K6RMW**

The original K6RMW VHF repeater, is still located on the top of Watsonville Hospital (WCH). It is on hospital 24/7 generator backup power and is a stand alone repeater.

**WATSONVILLE 443.050 K6RMW**

This UHF repeater is also co located on top of WCH and is running on slightly reduced output power because of a damaged power amp stage in the main repeater. It is presently operating on a Yaesu DR-1X in a modified mode to allow for no-ID during its linking function.

This repeater is normally a stand alone repeater as is its VHF pair. However it is presently acting as a link booster between Watsonville and Santa Cruz to allow for linking between 147.945 and 146.790. The link will be returned to a "simplex" 420 operation as soon as WCH staff create the coax access port in the roof top radio vault. There is presently no room for extra coax runs.

**WATSONVILLE 147.945 K6RMW/W**

**WAS KJ6FFP/W**

This repeater presently resides at my home location on Arthur Road in Watsonville. It is fully operational with the same VHF coverage pattern as it had at the Fire Station II at the Airport. It is operating with automatic UPS backup power availability. It is presently linked through the 443.050 K6RMW UHF repeater, to the 146.790 K6BJ VHF repeater.

This repeater will be moving to WCH as soon as the required coax access port installed at WCH. The parts are reported on order and WCH staff will install it as soon as they arrive. Once located on WCH, the link will be returned to the original 420 simplex path.

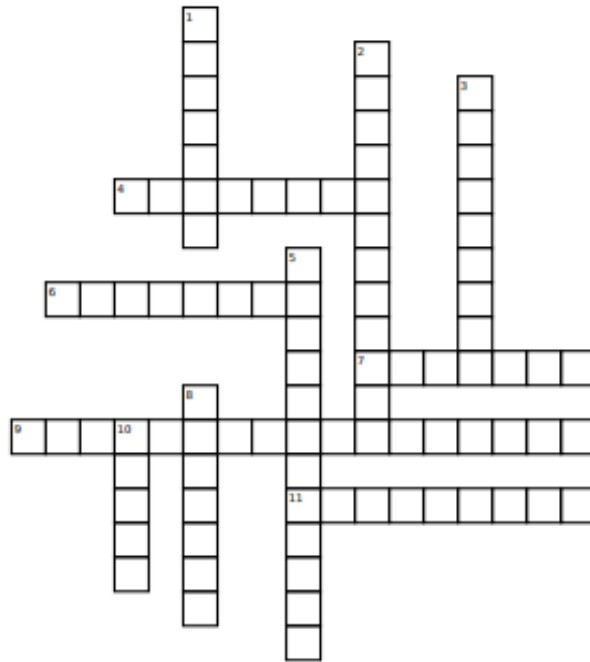
NARCC has cleared coordination for the new WCH location and has coordinated the Link 420 frequency as well.

### WHAT IS NARCC?

The Northern Amateur Relay Council of California, Inc. (NARCC) is the Amateur Radio coordinating organization for the 10 meter band and higher in Northern California.

In cooperation with the FCC, ARRL, and the support of the hams in northern California, NARCC performs the repeater coordination function for the region. NARCC's region extends from California's coast to the Nevada border and from Tehachapi in the south to the Oregon border in the north. All amateurs with repeaters in the region are urged to file for Coordination and maintain their station data with NARCC.

## Ham Puzzling



### Down:

1. The website for the Santa Cruz County ARES organization
2. The highest license class for Ham radio
3. Man-made equipment that orbits around the earth or the moon
5. Largest source of public safety, aircraft, rail and marine radio live audio streams.
8. A founder of a family
10. Northern Amateur Relay Council of California

### Across:

4. A model or a guide for producing something
6. A person who uses scientific knowledge to solve practical problems
7. Systems used in transmitting messages over a distance electronically
9. The July bike ride starting at Cabrillo College
11. A radio wave with a wavelength less than 100 meters (a frequency greater than 3 megahertz)

Answers on page

## Santa Cruz County ARES Purpose

- The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment with their local ARES leadership for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes
- We are not fire fighters or police or sheriff's officers. We are volunteers who care about our communities by using our emergency communication skills.
- Before volunteering in an emergency we first take care of ourselves, our family, and our home.
- We value the every member's contributions, irrespective of license class, years of experience, or the price tag of equipment.

## Ham Radio's Motto

"When all else fails – ham radio works". That is because, when all the normal communication systems stop working, Ham Radio is still in operation, helping people, conveying messages, and sometimes, even saving lives.

## Found on the Web

Allison, KM6RMN, Public Information Officer

**Radioreference.com:** This month I offer another combined information lookup, forum, and service site. Like last month's sites, it offers articles, services, and some statistics handy for research and quick lookups. It claims to have hundreds of thousands of subscribers who contribute to its databases, forums, wiki, and live audio streaming services. The site's focus is anything to do with radio communication. In addition to amateur radio it covers public safety, aircraft, rail, and marine radio; trunk systems; and other FCC related subjects. Most of the site's features are free, but premium users can gain access to advanced features such as audio broadcast archives, customizable lists, and communications data downloads for around \$30 a year.

When you land on their home page the main section shows latest related news posts and active forum threads. Sidebars feature statistics, a classified ad-of-the-day, and recent updates to their database.

The top menu bar is packed, and just about every page you land on has additional menus and shortcuts to other sections of the site.

Navigation is a little unfocused, so beware. New users can get lost because the menus are not consistent from page to page, but with practice they'll get the hang of it.

**Database** offers two destinations. *Frequency database* is a handy tool to drill down to stat-lists in any area of the country. A user can just look for "In My Area," or can pick a state, zoom in on a county or metropolitan area, and find stats on just about any frequency that is reserved or designated.

*Amateur radio database* arrives at the best callsign lookup tool I've found so far. Why is it the best? Because it's accessible three ways. You can choose to look by callsign, last name, or zip code.

**Live Audio** takes you to another website called Broadcastify.com, a spinoff service that claims to be the world's largest source of public safety, aircraft, rail, and marine radio live audio streams. This



could be useful for keeping tabs on CHP or NOAA while you're running a net in a storm or event.

**Forums** stays on the website, but it lands you on a whole new floor with a new set of nested menus. Some of it pertains to the forum threads, and some pull you back to various parts of the main website. Click around to explore all the features, regional discussions, and find a great new ham shack picture gallery.

When you're in the forum section, you can also search threads by keywords.

**Wiki** enters an interactive section that describes itself as an open reference source that any user can edit. It invites anyone to contribute and has a quick guide to editing pages at the bottom. To access specific information there's a search bar.

**Classifieds** is just about what you think it is. Users can view ads as posted or find ad categories through an index sidebar.

**Submit Info** allows members to upload information to make the database more complete. I noticed that the WB6ECE repeater was missing from the local listings, so I would go through this to provide the webmaster with all the needed information to correct the omission.

**About** has the usual information a site is expected to provide: the site description, team, premium services, and what looks to be an interesting blog.

The top of the page has a **Facebook** icon, so I checked it out. It looks like their posts are infrequent (the last one dated April 7) but the things that are posted are interesting. No harm in following their page to get an occasional tidbit in your feed.

There is a mobile app associated with this site as well. I haven't explored it yet. If any of you do download it, drop me a line and tell me how you like it.

<https://www.radioreference.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/radioreference>