



K6QLF



Amateur Radio Club of Alameda Newsletter

Alameda's Weekly Disaster Preparedness Net

Each Thursday at 1900 on
146.880 MHz (PL 77)

Net Control:

May 1: Doug **KI6BZT**

May 8: Bruce **KI6CYT** at FS #4

May 15: Max **KAIMAX**

May 22: Joe **KC6ZZT** at FS #4

May 29: David **KI6AWR**

ARRL Continuing Education Course

ARRL Continuing Education

Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, May 4, 2008, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, May 16, 2008: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 2 (EC-002), Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 3 (EC-003R2), Antenna Modeling (EC-004), HF Digital Communications (EC-005), VHF/UHF -- Life Beyond the Repeater (EC-008), and Radio Frequency Propagation (EC-011). Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes.

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President's Message

Field day this year is June 28th-29th and we have already started planning for it. This might be the earliest yet, but it is a sign of how much interest there is in making this the best event yet.

Many radio amateurs in Alameda, perhaps the majority, face serious compromises when it comes to oper-

ating on the HF bands. On Field Day that isn't a problem, so come along to 431 Stardust Place and have some fun. This isn't just contesting, this also involves the construction of a multi-band communications system complete with a networked logging system. If you are interested in operating here is a great opportunity,

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ARCA Member News

Suzanne **KI6MTT** helped coordinate a CERT Drill for the Fernside area. Muriel **KI6MTI** and Bruce **KI6CYT** offered assistance. Suzanne will be reporting more about the drill in the next newsletter.

ARCA members Michael **KG6DER**, David **KI6AWR** and Bruce **KI6CYT** were VEs (Volunteer Examiners) at the quarterly VE Session sponsored by ORCA, ARCA and EBARC, in Oakland, in April.

ARCA welcomes the following new members:

Craig Fleming **K6CLF**, Concord
Ken Fowler **KO6NO**, Richmond
Jim Latham, **AF6AQ**, Livermore
Matt Madson, **KI6MTH**, Oakland
John Pszenitzki, **KF6HES**, Berkeley
Howard Sidorsky, **K6SID**, Alameda

ARCA Calendar

- May 3rd - MS Walk, Crown Beach (see page 2)
- May 20th - start of four week Tech Class in Richmond (see pg. 3)
- May 23rd - ARCA's Monthly Meeting - 7:00 PM at 431 Stardust Place on Alameda Point
- June 14th - 16th - VHF QSO Party (see page 2)
- June 20th - last Field Day planning meeting - 7:00 PM at 431 Stardust Place on Alameda Point
- June 28th - 29th - Field Day at 431 Stardust Place on Alameda Point
- Due to Field Day, there will be no monthly ARCA meeting in June

Antenna Expert L.B. Cebik, W4RNL (SK)

L. B. Cebik, W4RNL, ARRL Technical Adviser and antenna authority, passed away last week. He was 68. An ARRL Life Member, Cebik was known to many hams for the numerous articles he wrote on antennas and antenna modeling. He had articles published in most of the US ham journals, including QST, QEX, NCJ, CQ, *Communications Quarterly*, *Ham Radio*, 73, *QRP Quarterly*, *Radio-Electronics* and *QRPP*. Larry Wolfgang, WR1B, QEX Editor, called Cebik "probably the most widely published and often read author of Amateur Radio antenna articles ever to write on the subject."



One of Cebik's last articles for QST, "A New Spin on the Big Wheel," appeared in the March 2008 issue. The article, co-written with Bob Cerreto, WA1FXT, looked at a three dipole array for 2 meters. This was a follow-up to their article in the Jan./ Feb. issue of QEX that featured omnidirectional horizontally polarized antennas. Cebik authored the "Antenna Options" column for QEX.

Cebik maintained a Web site <www.cebik.com>, a virtual treasure trove to anyone interested in antennas. Besides a few notes on the history of radio work and other bits that Cebik called "semi-technical oddities," the collection contains information of interest to radio amateurs and professionals interested in antennas, antenna modeling and related subjects, such as antenna tuners and impedance matching. Cebik said that his notes were "geared to helping other radio amateurs and antenna enthusiasts discover what I have managed to uncover over the years -- and then to go well beyond."

Courtesy of ARRL News

June VHF QSO Party

The June VHF QSO Party is a favorite of beginners and seasoned operators alike. Their entry categories are for single operator low-power, high power and portable as well as limited multioperator, multioperator unlimited and rover. These contests allow stations from all parts of North America to be in the running for the top spots.

The contest starts at 1800 UTC, Saturday, June 14th and ends at 0300 UTC, Monday June 16th. This would be a great warm-up for the Field Day.

For more information, check out; <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2008/june-vhf.html>

President's Message

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but if you are not, then there are still many radio related things going on.

For those interested in the technology side of things we will have a variety of antennas (some new approaches this year we hope), different types of operating modes including SSB, FM, SSTV, PSK31 and of course CW!, and we will be demonstrating our ability to get around on the airwaves completely disconnected from the power grid, which includes soaking up some of that great California sunshine and converting it into battery power.

For those interested in the social side of things we are hosting a Field Day barbecue (Saturday 28th), an event not to be missed. Last years event was a real winner, and this year we are planning to outdo that

One thing that I can ensure you – we really do intend to make this a truly enjoyable event for everyone. Whether you are an old hand, or new to the world of amateur radio there are things to see and do and a great sense of community spirit to go with it. Make plans now, and we look forward to seeing you there!

David **KI6AWR**

ARCA Shop Nights

ARCA Shop Nights consist of members bringing in tools, parts, and test equipment, so that they can work on projects together. This gives people a chance to use test equipment they may not own, and provides a chance to learn new skills. Shop Nights are on the first Monday of the month at 7 pm. The next two shop nights are on May 5th and June 2nd, 2008

Alameda's MS Walk

Bob **KE6IUE**

ORCA (often with assistance from ARCA and EBARC) has been providing Ham support to the annual MS Walk to raise money for the MS charity for many years. On Saturday, May 3rd, a resource net will open early in the morning on the 146.88 repeater. This year we'll be mentoring some new Hams and introducing them to public service activity. Our base station will be set up at Crown Beach near the bathhouses. Come by after the meeting and check out our deployment (call first for details), or listen in and follow some of the traffic—tactical nets will be on simplex, frequencies TBD.

CA Hands Free Law - We are Not Out of the Woods Yet!

I noticed a number of bulletins have passed around this link http://www.dmv.ca.gov/cellularphonelaws/dl208_03cell_phone.pdf as proof positive that the hands-free driving law that will go into effect July 1st does not apply to amateur radio. And in fact, when this page first went up on the DMV site, I recall passing it on to you as an indication that the matter was settled. Unfortunately, there has been a turn of events that gives me pause.

At the time the page cited above was put up by the DMV, it was linked from this page <http://www.dmv.ca.gov/cellularphonelaws/> (the link was named something on the order of "FAQs about the new hands-free laws" and if you searched on the DMV site you would find both pages. Sometime subsequent to that, the FAQs were placed directly on page <http://www.dmv.ca.gov/cellularphonelaws/> and the link to the old page http://www.dmv.ca.gov/cellularphonelaws/dl208_03cell_phone.pdf was removed. The text now on the main page says nothing about an exclusion for two-way radio use except for specific exclusion "for those operating a commercial motor truck or truck tractor (excluding pickups), implements of husbandry, farm vehicle or tow truck, to use a two-way radio operated by a "push-to-talk" feature". The page we have seen passed around is **not** linked to or from any other page on the DMV site and it does not show up when you search the DMV site (there is a search tool anchored in the upper right corner of every DMV page). And the text on the published page reads to me like anything with a push-to-talk switch cannot be operated by the driver of a vehicle except for the exclusions for emergency workers, tow truck drivers, commercial truckers, and so forth.

So what happened?

* Did a web developer at the DMV attempt to merge the two pages and inadvertently put the old text on the main page, and leave the old pdf out there for us to find (assuming we know the exact URL)?

— OR —

* Was there an official change of interpretation and the result is this republication of the FAQs on the main page with the example that excluded two-way radios deliberately removed?

We don't know! And so far our attempts to find out have not yielded an answer.

The root of the problem is the law uses the term "wireless telephone" without defining it. This leaves the definition up to the DMV and CHP and eventually to the courts when someone gets cited and starts the process of

challenging it. Changing the law is a 2 to 3 year process, so that's not an immediate remedy. Asking legal authorities such as the State Attorney General for a definition of "wireless telephone" is risky because there is no assurance we would get a favorable definition, and thus might get stuck with the unfavorable one.

We're working the issue with our contacts in Sacramento. In the meantime, I strongly advise against making any statements that the issue is resolved or pointing people to what amounts to an orphan document on the DMV web site. It's too bad, because this was so promising — now we just don't know. Bob and I will update you the minute we hear anything official. And if you happen upon any developments, please share them with all of us.

73,

Andy Oppel, **N6AJO**

Vice Director, Pacific Division

American Radio Relay League (ARRL)

Continuing Education Courses

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Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator ccce@arrl.org.

Courtesy of ARRL News

Education/Training

A reminder ! Our Spring Technician class is now almost finished, but that means we will soon be starting our very first "Getting on the Air" class. This class is intended for anyone who is looking for some practical help in operating that new HT and using repeaters. In conjunction with EBARC and ORCA we have planned a free four week class beginning May 20th at the Alvarado Adult school in Richmond from 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm. It will be a practical "hands-on" class which will cover the basics of programming and operating a dual band VHF/UHF radio as well as simplex and repeater operation. Please email David Haycock, ki6awr@arrl.net for more information.

David **KI6AWR**

ARCA

May Meeting: Friday, May 23rd

**June Meeting: No June Meeting due to Field Day,
Sat. & Sun., June 28th - 29th.**

Monthly EB Radio Club Events

- 4th Friday* Amateur Radio Club of Alameda
7:00 PM, 431 Stardust, Alameda
- 3rd Friday Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club
- 3rd Friday Hayward Radio Club
- 2nd Saturday Electronics Flea Market in Sunnyvale
(closed in winter)
- 2nd Friday East Bay Amateur Radio Club
- 1st Sunday Livermore Swap Meet (closed in winter)
- 1st Saturday ORCA Monthly Meeting - Oakland
- * Some exceptions. See www.arcaham.org for more details

Amateur Radio Club of Alameda meets 7:00 PM at
431 Stardust Place on Alameda Point.

East Bay Amateur Radio Club meets at 7:30 PM at the
Salvation Army, 4600 Appian Way, El Sobrante.

Hayward Radio Club meets at 7:30 PM 1401 West Winton
Ave. in Hayward behind Hayward F.S.#6,
next to the Hayward Air Ntl. Guard Base.

Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club meets at 7:30 PM at
Our Savior Lutheran Church,
1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette.

Oakland Radio Communication Assoc. meets 9:00 AM
at F.S.# 1 at Martin Luther King @ 17th St.,

EB Weekly Nets

- Thursdays Alameda Emergency Preparedness
7:00 PM 146.88 MHz minus PL 77
- Thursdays Oakland ARES/RACES Net
7:30 PM 146.88 MHz minus PL 77
- Wednesdays ACSCCT Net
7:00 PM 147.240 MHz & 442.20 MHz
- Thursdays NALCO ARES/RACES
7:15 PM 440.9 MHz plus PL 131.8
- Mondays EBARC
7:30 PM 10M "Explore Net" 28.425 MHz,
USB
- SundayVHF NTS Net
7:30 PM 145.110 (-) PL82.5

ARCA Officers

- | | | |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| President: | David Haycock | KI6AWR |
| Vice Pres.: | Allen Sweet | KG6HM |
| Secretary: | Joe Springer | KC6ZZT |
| Treasurer: | Bruce Gillis | KI6CYT |

Ex-Officio Directors:

- | | | |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| CERT Liaison: | Fred Blas | KI6BES |
| RACES RO: | Sandy Lavine | KO6JF |

ARRL Pacific Division Officers:

- Bob Vallio **W6RGG** - w6rgg@arrl.org
Vice Director: Andy Oppel **N6AJO** -
n6ajo@arrl.org
East Bay Section Manager: James Latham
AF6AQ - af6aq@arrl.org

**ARCA on the
web:
arcaham.org and
[groups.yahoo.com
/group/arcaham/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/arcaham/)**

The ARCA Newsletter is published every other month. Any articles can be used with attribution. Articles, news and photos submitted make for a more interesting newsletter; thank you!

Please submit materials for the next issue by June 27th to Bruce **KI6CYT**, KI6CYT@arrl.net. Thanks again!