



K6QLF

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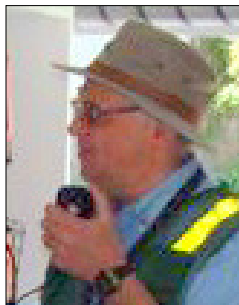
APRIL, 2010

Amateur Radio Club of Alameda

President's Message

This is the annual Field Day edition!, Field Day for ARCA has grown and last year was our best yet! For those that don't know, Field Day is a national event with Radio Clubs and individual radio operators getting on the air to participate.

The general objective is to show how well prepared we can be to get an effective radio station on the air and test our emergency communications capability.



ARCA's President, David **KI6AWR**

That is selling it very short however. Some people consider it as a contest, others an opportunity to display Amateur Radio to the general public and some look at it as a social event. What category do we fall into?, well we go for the works!

Field Day for ARCA is a demonstration of our emergency capability, an opportunity to develop our HF communications skills, show off Amateur Radio to the public and top that off a great social event.

Last year was great, this year may better yet. The good planning we put together for last year is the starting point for this years event, and additionally there is reason to be more optimistic about HF propagation.

This may be the weakest sun spot cycle in a long time, but it isn't a complete dud, check it out one day for new signs of life.

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ARCA/ARES Update

Sandy Lavine, **KO6JF**, ARES
City of Alameda Emergency Coordinator

Training

Over thirty people attended the two Alameda ARES training sessions held in March. Attendees also included ARES ECs from other cities in our section. We reviewed lessons learned from our participation in the January Red Cross exercise and exchanged many new ideas on improving our procedures. Thanks to all who attended.

April Exercise

An Alameda ARES exercise with CERT is scheduled for Saturday April 24, 2010. Please put this on your

calendar.

The primary purpose of this exercise will be to test:

1. Running and operating Resource and Tactical Nets
2. Passing messages
3. The proper use of tactical call signs and FCC ID.

You don't have to be a member of ARCA or ARES to participate in this exercise. You just need basic emergency communications knowledge and an HT. If you can't make it physically to one of the

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Alameda's Weekly Disaster Preparedness Net

Each Thursday at 1900 444.575 MHz plus (PL 88.5)

- April 1: Sandy **KO6JF**
- April 8: David **KI6AWR**
- April 15: Doug **KI6BZT**
- April 22: Michael John

KF6YRG

- April 29: Bruce **KI6CYT**
- May 6: Joe **KC6ZZT**
- May 13: Sam **KJ6AF**
- May 20: Ruth **KI6TYZ**
- May 27: Ron **KF6LSY**
- June 3: Howard **K6SID**

Upcoming Meetings at 431 Stardust Place on Alameda Pt.

- April. 5th - Shop Night
- April. 23rd - Monthly Mtg.
- May 3rd - Shop Night
- All meetings at 7:00 pm

Gadzooks, Everyone. No Ice Cream Today

by Joe Springer **KC6ZZT**,
ARCA Secretary

We're lucky in ARCA to have use of the CERT MDUs for Field Day. There's another club that uses a mobile trailer for on-location operating. Maybe it's something we can aspire to. Site is in German, but the pictures are enough to tell the story: http://www.darc.de/distrikte/f/49/cq_contest_2009/index.htm

Here's a fascinating story of a ham making a weather balloon, rigging it with a camera, GPS, and a 2 meter transceiver, sending it aloft, and tracking it: <http://vpizza.org/~jmeehan/balloon/>

If you want to know which GPS units will work above 60,000 feet altitude for your balloon, you can check this site: <http://showcase.netins.net/web/wallio/GPSrcvrsvs60kft.htm>

Maybe you are interested in tracking the weather from the

comfort of your shack. You can receive satellite images of the earth. For some good info, see <http://www.wxtoimg.com/> and <http://www.phys.unsw.edu.au/%7Eemap/weather/notes/buildyourown/>

More weather. You can receive faxes broadcast on HF by the Coast Guard for NOAA. Start here for more info: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/marine/radiofax.htm>

Of course, the place to start for information about amateur satellites is <http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/index.php>

Made that DX contact! Then what? For me, I begin to wonder... how far is that place? Here's handy website that can tell the distance between any two places on Earth: <http://www.indo.com/distance/>

Here's an incredible collections of old QSL cards. More than 24,000! Check it out: <http://oldqslcards.com/>

Microphones ahoy. The pin-out information for just about any ham microphone is available at: <http://www.qsl.net/g4wpw/date.html>

Ever think of putting a 40M mag loop antenna on the roof of your vehicle? See the K6HPX's picture on [QRZ.com](http://www.qrz.com) or at <http://www.standpipe.com/w2bri/loopbuilders1.htm>

How about a 80M magnetic loop antenna 12ft x 12ft six inches off the ground: <http://www.standpipe.com/w2bri/80meter.htm>

Until next time, good DX to all!

The K7RA Solar Update

Even though this bulletin may arrive a little early (due to the Good Friday holiday on April 2) jokesters are still too late for sneaking any first of April pranks into this bulletin. No matter when you read it, this bulletin is dated April 2 for good reason. Your bulletin editor serves as a solid wall against nonsense. Do not think of us as humorless, for your editor has enjoyed perpetrating many elaborate pranks, japes, and stunts, but never on April 1 (because that might give it away) and never in this Bulletin (standing on principle).

Also, we prefer to be perpetrators rather than recipients.

The solar report in Thursday's ARRL Letter attempted to correct some slightly faulty data regarding sunspot group numbers and their dates of emergence, but the result was more wrong than what it was attempting to correct. All of it is my fault. Now we see the problems, which included not looking back far enough to find the dates that regions emerged, and forgetting that the date of our source is the day after the

date the data was gathered. The summaries are available for all to check at <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftpme/nu/forecasts/SRS.html>.

Sunspot group 1056 emerged earlier than reported, back on March 17, and was gone on March 24. The area it covered (all areas are in units of one-millionth of the solar hemisphere) on March 17-23 was 20, 50, 10, 30, 70, 50 and 5.

On March 23 new sunspot group 1057

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Order Your 2010 ARRL Field Day T-shirts Early

2010 Field Day T-Shirts--

\$12.95/ea. **Coming Soon!**

Soft, high quality cotton. Deep Marine (unisex sizes).

Imprint on back with "Amateur Radio...Goodwill, Service, Fun!"

- Small #0021-S
- Medium #0021-M
- Large #0021-L
- X-Large #0021-XL
- 2X-Large #0021-2XL
- 3X-Large #0021-3XL
- 4X-Large #0021-4XL
- 3X-Large #0021-3XL
- 4X-Large #0021-4XL



If you are considering buying an official 2010 ARRL Field Day t-shirt, you might want to put your order in now as opposed to later because they usually run out of many sizes the closer Field Day gets.

This is a one time ARCA Team offer as the t-shirts will be ordered so that we have them by the next meeting which is

April 23rd. Please send a check for \$14.95 (includes \$2.00 for shipping and tax) along with the size you want to Bruce Gillis, 38 Purcell Drive, Alameda, CA 94502.

Orders need to be in by Monday, April 12th

If you have any questions you can call or email to 337-9320/ b_gillis@sbcglobal.net.

ARCA/ARES Update

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exercise sites, you are welcome to participate by contacting the Resource Net.

ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level I Online Course Registration .

Registration remains open for this course through Sunday, April 25, 2010. The course session begins on Friday, May 7, 2010.

New Tech Class

ARCA/ORCA is hosting a Technician Class at 431 Stardust Pl., beginning Wed., April 7th at 6:30 p.m. The class is in four parts over a two week period and is free of charge. More details? contact David:
Email - ki6awr@arrl.net

The K7RA Solar Update

(continued from page 2)

appeared, and through March 31 the area it covered was 5, 240, 400, 320, 380, 410, 290, 260 and 250. It is still with us.

On March 25 a small group, 1058 appeared, and only lasted two days. The area it covered was just 1 and 5. On March 27, group 1058 became a "plage without spots". What is a plage? In this context, not a beach at a seaside resort, but a bright region in the solar chromosphere, in this case minus any spots.

March 27, group 1059 emerged, and through March 31 the size was 120, 100, 150, 130, and 70. 1059 never became as large as 1057.

Average daily sunspot numbers for the week were up over 4 points to 28.9, and average daily

solar flux changed from 84.2 to 84.9. The renewed sunspot activity seems constant and steady. We have new 3-month moving averages of daily sunspot numbers through the end of March, which is centered on February, and the number has increased a few points from last time. The 3-month moving average of daily sunspot numbers centered on July 2009 through February 2010 was 4, 4, 4.6, 7.1, 10.2, 15.2, 22.4 and 25.7. The rate of increase has slackened, but it steadily moves higher.

Last week we reported that the trailing 50-day moving average of daily sunspot numbers for the prior week was 27.34, 28.18 for the end of last week. This week, ending on March 31, the trailing 50 day average is 26.8.

Courtesy of ARRL.org

ARRL In Action: What Have We Been Up to Lately?

The ARRL and the American Red Cross [signed a new Memorandum of Understanding](#) that provides a "broad framework for cooperation" between the two organizations.

The League's Executive Committee [released its agenda](#) prior to its March meeting where it [examined](#) the FCC's proposed vanity call sign changes, as well as legislative and regulatory issues.

FCC News: The FCC [released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making \(NPRM\)](#) proposing to amend the Commission's Amateur Radio Service rules "with respect to Amateur Radio operations during government-sponsored emergency preparedness and disaster readiness drills and tests." The FCC also [issued an NPRM](#) to eliminate spread spectrum APC requirement, reduce spread spectrum power limit and clean up portions of Part 97.

Legislative Issues: Following the Senate's lead, Representative Jerry McNerny (D-CA-11), [introduced HR 4809](#) -- the *FCC Commissioners' Technical Resource Enhancement Act* -- in the House of Representatives; the bill seeks to provide greater technical resources to FCC Commissioners. The ARRL [requested support of S 1755](#) -- *The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009* -- that unanimously passed the US Senate, sent to the US House

of Representatives for consideration and now sits in the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko reported that the Contest Branch received more logs from the ARRL International DX Contests (CW and SSB combined) than ever before. Plaques and certificates for the 2009 DX CW and SSB contests have been sent out. Sweepstakes pins and mugs are currently being processed.

The ARRL [announced](#) that the International Amateur Radio Region 2 conference -- held later this year in El Salvador -- will review the existing Region 2 band plan, consider input from the amateur community and make recommendations to the ARRL Board for submission to IARU Region 2.

ARRL Chief Technology Officer Brennan Price, N4QX, worked on comments for an NTIA proposal to make 495-505 kHz exclusive to the maritime mobile service (thus precluding Amateur Radio operations in that band), and another regarding Amateur Radio concerns to be addressed at the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Hyderabad, May 24-June 4) and the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (Guadalajara, October 4-22). ARRL Technical Relations Specialist Jon Siverling, WB3ERA, attended the CITEL

assembly in Mexico City. Both Price and Siverling continue to work on preparations for WRC-12.

The ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology [completed its first session](#) designed specifically for teachers in the Tucson (Arizona) Unified School District.

The winners of the ARRL's Second Homebrew Challenge were [announced](#). The challenge: To build a linear amplifier designed to boost the 5 W, 40 meter output from the transceivers from the First Homebrew Challenge up to the 50 W level.

The ARRL Lab sent out letters regarding noises generated by power lines in New York and West Virginia and an electric fence. They referred a power line noise case in Missouri to the FCC.

The ARRL's 500 kHz Experiment Coordinator Fritz Raab, W1FR, [reported](#) that activity on the experimental band is on the rise, both in the US and around the world.

ARRL Field and Regulatory Correspondent Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG, received reports of jamming conditions on 75 meters and information regarding a bootlegged call.

Compiled by S. Khrystyne Keane,
K1SFA
ARRL News Editor
news@arrl.org
April 01, 2010

ARRL Continuing Education Online Course Registration

Registration remains open through **Sunday, April 25, 2010**, for these [online course sessions](#) beginning on **Friday, May 7, 2010**: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level I; Antenna Modeling; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Propagation; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics.

Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student ac-

tivities and quizzes. 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 feed-

back. 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.

For more information or to register for any of these courses, visit the Continuing Education Program [page](#) or [contact](#) the Continuing Education Program Coordinator.

Courtesy of ARRL.org

President's Message *(continued from page 1)*

Field Day for ARCA this year will be a one day event, on Saturday 26th June 2010 – mark your calendar (This is an easy date for me to remember as my very first ARCA Field Day was coincident with the birth of my very first grandchild!)

We will once again be at Crown Beach, which was great last year. Thanks to Bruce, KI6CYT, the arrangements have already been made, so now the planning continues.

The logistics team will be getting the MDUs into place as soon as the park opens and then set up can begin. One of the MDUs will be set up for voice and digital communications and the other will be our CW station. One change from last years is that this year each MDU will have a captain who will manage

the set up and operations so we smoothly get into operational status and keep the radios fully occupied. There is an opportunity here for new operators to have fun getting on HF, and learn from the experienced operators who will be honing their skills.

Will we have a tri-band beam this year? —well that all depends upon how much help we can get in set up. It will be well worth while, so if you want more fun, please sign up for setup!

How can you participate? Firstly, if you can be there, then you can help with set up or operating or playing a part in making fabulous barbecue later in the day. If you can't make an all day event of it, don't worry, come along when you can. If you only have time to drop in for a little while in then please do that, and certainly plan

on coming to the barbecue.

If you aren't going to be able to make it at all that day, then there are things that need to be done prior to the event. It is really satisfying to be a part of making such a great event so think about taking part in the planning.

Our planning process will soon start in earnest. In addition to set up and operations we have publicity to take care of, a menu to plan, and maybe some new events to start working on (any videographers in our midst?) If you have any ideas you would like us to consider then please let me know.

At the beginning I mentioned that we want this to be a lot of different things, but above all let's make it fun!

73 David, **KI6AWR**

ARCA

Next Meeting: April 23, 2010

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.

Oakland Radio Communications Assoc. meets at
9:00 am at Fire Station #1, 17th @ MLK Way

EB Weekly Nets

- Thursdays Alameda Emergency Preparedness
7:00 PM 444.575 MHz plus PL 88.5
- 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
- Sunday VHF NTS Net
7:30 PM 145.110 (-) PL82.5

ARCA Officers

- | | | |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| President: | David Haycock | KI6AWR |
| Vice Pres.: | Mike Piper | KD6AOK |
| Secretary: | Joe Springer | KC6ZZT |
| Treasurer: | Bruce Gillis | KI6CYT |

Ex-Officio Directors:

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

ARRL Pacific Division Officers:

- Director: Bob Vallio **W6RGG** - w6rgg@arrl.org
Vice Director: Jim Tiemstra **K6JAT** -
k6jat@aol.com
East Bay Section Manager: James Latham **AF6AQ**
af6aq@arrl.org
<http://www.eastbaysectionarrl.org/>

The ARCA Newsletter is published monthly. 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 April 28th to Bruce **KI6CYT**, b_gillis@sbcglobal.net. Thanks again!

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