



Lodi Amateur Radio Club

newsletter for

September 2020



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>>> Important
message from
club president
K6ZZD: see p. 6.

CLUB MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Mark your calendar and join us on Zoom:

THURSDAY, SEPT. 3rd, 6:30 PM

To join the meeting, [CLICK HERE](#)
between 6:15 and 6:30 pm.

Special program:

"The Delta A.R.C., 1955-1985"

How and why a small local club became the
foundation for VHF activity in our area.



QST, QST, QST, all radio amateurs:

Mark your calendar and join our Wednesday night nets:

- Simplex net: 147.09 MHz 6:30 pm
- Club net: 147.09 repeater (PL 114.8) 7:00 pm
- 10 meter net: 28.400 MHz USB 8:00 PM

More about Zoom

HOW TO ZOOM: If you previously participated in a Zoom session, you have the app already installed—on September 3rd, just click the link on page 1 starting at about 6:15 pm. If you’ve never “zoomed” before, you’ll be prompted to download and install the app, which is fast and free.



If that “click here” link on page 1 doesn’t work for any reason, try clicking the following URL, or copy and paste it into your browser:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7642652231?pwd=MkVyVjVEQm1TcjVBUFVtK3lyOWV2QT09>

Additional log-in data if needed:

Meeting ID: 764 265 2231 Passcode: LODIARC (case sensitive)

One tap mobile: +16699009128,,7642652231#,,,,,0#,,4202205# US (San Jose).

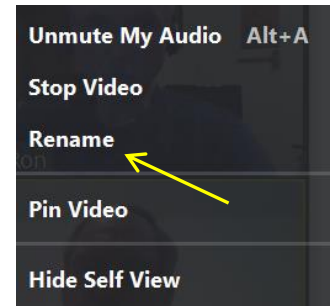
Or dial by your location: +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose) Passcode: 4202205

(Note: club members will also receive these instructions by email prior to the meeting.)

Please note: when using Zoom....



1. When you’re not speaking, be sure to mute your transmit audio to keep your background noise from causing QRM for everyone on the conference. To see the mute/unmute control, move your pointer to the upper right corner of your thumbnail image—the button will appear.
2. And, if necessary, edit your on-screen name so everyone knows who you are. Just click the



“3 dots” button at the upper right, then *Rename*. For our ham radio meetings, make it your first name and call sign, like **Dave K6XYZ**. Avoid long names because anything more than about 14 characters will word-wrap off screen and no one will see it. (*Mute* and *Rename* functions on phones or other devices may be different.)

Okay, so I got my license—now what?

The Volunteer Examiner system plus the exam question pools make it relatively easy to get a ham license: study the questions and answers, take a short multiple-choice test on them, and soon thereafter you are a certified amateur radio operator. Okay, so then what?

The VE team headed by Bob, N6TCE has tried to answer that for successful candidates at their test sessions. The next two pages are a document that Bob emails to new hams along with their call sign notification. It gives the beginner a helpful list of practical guidance on how to get started and especially how to get help. Note the strong emphasis on connecting with a local club; possibly the most important first step.

Okay, so I got a ham license. Now what?



The volunteer examiners who administered your test all hope that you will become an active and successful amateur radio operator. Just follow these simple steps to get started and make it happen:

1. **Get a radio**, learn to use it and to participate in local on-the-air activities. (See next page.)

2. **Become familiar with helpful online resources**. Start here: www.arrl.org

3. **Most important: connect with a local ham radio club**. Attend a club meeting (in person or possibly online) and get acquainted with the members, including new licensees like you.



Here are some good choices for ham radio clubs in our area. Check their websites for information about club meetings, repeaters, on-the-air activities, and who to contact:

- Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club www.W6SF.org
- Lodi Amateur Radio Club <https://Lodiarc.org>
- Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association: www.Saraclub.net
- Calaveras Amateur Radio Society: Calaverasars.org/web/

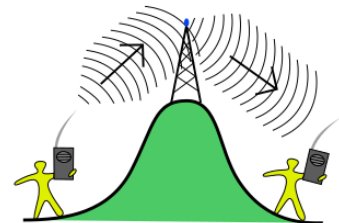


4. **Connect with a helper**: The following experienced hams have volunteered to assist new licensees with one-on-one help with any matter concerning the radio clubs, your license, your radio, or on-the-air operations. Call, text, or email the volunteer closest to your area, or any of them, when you need assistance or information:

Paul Engelman, N6KZW	Stockton	209-477-6893	n6kzw@sbcglobal.net
Peter Hine, K6PH	Stockton	209-957-4905*	k6ph@arrr.net
Bob Officer, N6TCE	Tracy	209-914-2684	n6tce@arrr.net
Ron Russell, KG7OR	Lodi	209-712-6200	kg7or@arrr.net
Jim Seiferling, WB6BET	Rio Vista	707-374-5963*	wb6bet@arrr.net
Mike Dugger, K6AAN	Valley Springs	209-981-1467	sjdep97@gmail.com

*no text

5. **Learn about our local repeaters**. The above radio clubs operate VHF and UHF repeaters, generally installed at high elevations and only workable via a line-of-site radio path, very much like the commercial two-way radio services used by emergency agencies and businesses. Ask your volunteer helper (above) to explain the basics of repeater frequencies, techniques, and procedures, then join us on the air!



For technical details on all local repeaters: www.cevol.org/frequency/plan.html

On that page, download and review the "CEV Plan" in your choice of PDF or Excel format. The chart shows club affiliation, frequencies, control tones, usage, location, and more.



6. **Your first radio.** A new ham's first radio is most often an FM handheld transceiver (HT). Models are widely available new and used from ham radio suppliers like those listed below. Prices range anywhere from under \$50 to several hundred dollars. *Important:* before you buy anything, get guidance from your local radio club members or from one of the volunteer helpers shown on page 1. It's all too easy to spend your money on a really bad choice.

You may be able to get a radio at little or no cost through your radio club. The Lodi A.R.C., for example, can loan a full-feature HT to any of its members upon earning their first license. Whatever you get, you can expect to need help in programming it for the local repeaters. Once again, your local radio club is the best resource for that. It will include members who are well experienced with just about any HT or other radio you're likely to find. It's yet another reason to join and maintain close ties with the ham radio club of your choice.

7. **Ham radio equipment and supplies.** Here are some reliable online resources for buying amateur radio equipment. While these are the major suppliers, there are many others; use your search engine to find them or check magazine ads. *Caution:* as always, the buyer needs to be wary when ordering online. Again, before making a purchase on your own, ask within your radio club or one of the volunteer helpers about any supplier, radio, or other deal that looks good. You need to be confident that anything you buy will actually meet your expectations.

Gigaparts

www.gigaparts.com

DX Engineering

www.dxengineering.com

Ham Radio Outlet ("HRO")*

www.hamradio.com

*HRO has a walk-in store in Oakland.

8. **Your first on-the-air experience.**



New or recently licensed hams, this is for you. Mark your calendar and check in on the *Technical Net*, each Monday evening starting at 7:00 pm on the Stockton-Delta club's repeater system. The net's primary purpose is to provide on-the-air experience for new hams like you, and to help you get familiar with ham radio technology, operations, equipment, and procedures.

The "Tech Net" is your perfect opportunity to learn a lot about the hobby and to overcome any reluctance you might have to push that transmit button on your radio the first time. When the net control station invites check-ins from new hams, just press your push-to-talk button and clearly state your call sign, your name, and your city or other location.

The club's repeater frequencies are 147.165 and 442.250 mHz, with a CTCSS tone ("PL tone") of 107.2 Hz. We hope to hear you soon on a Monday night Tech Net.

9. **Summary for your success:**

1. Join a local club.
2. Connect with one or more of the volunteer helpers on page 1.
3. Get a radio, and get help in using it and programming the local repeater frequencies.
4. Get on-the-air experience on the Monday night Tech Net.

Simplex for the Yaesu FT-2900 and FT-2980



Since we operate our Wednesday night simplex net on a normal repeater frequency, making a memory channel for it in many modern radios brings a special challenge—you have to manually bypass the radio's automatic repeater shift in order to force simplex operation on a repeater frequency. That can be complex, as we saw with the Yaesu FT-65 in the August newsletter. Fortunately, doing it in Yaesu's mobile and base station transceivers tends to be easier. Here's the procedure for the 75 watt FT-2900 and the 80-watt FT-2980, and it's the same in both models:

1. If necessary, tap the MW D/MR key to enter the VFO mode ("VFO" appears at the lower right).
2. Dial the repeater output frequency. *Hint:* if making a large frequency change (1 MHz or more), tap SET Mhz to change 1 MHz with each click of the dial knob.
3. The automatic repeater shift symbol will be displayed (+ or -). Note which symbol is present; you will need it in step #7.
4. Press and hold SET Mhz, then dial menu #43, "RPT."
5. Tap SET Mhz, then dial SIMP for simplex. Press and hold SET Mhz to exit the repeater menu. "VFO" and the repeater output frequency are displayed, less the automatic shift symbol.
6. Press and hold MW D/MR to dial the desired new memory number, then tap MW D/MR to select it. You are returned to the VFO mode, showing your selected frequency per step #5.
7. While in VFO mode, repeat steps #4 & 5 to reset the original automatic repeater shift (+ or -) for that frequency.
8. Tap MW D/MR to confirm your new memory number, frequency, and no repeater shift.



Want a Motorola HT-1000?

The Motorola HT-1000s are a series of excellent industrial-grade handheld transceivers designed for the 150 and 450 MHz land mobile services, which makes them adaptable for 2 meters or 70 cm., depending on the model. Thanks to Mike, K6AAN, the club has acquired two of them that are ready to use now on local 2-meter repeaters. If you're a member of the Lodi club who has earned your first ham license very recently and you don't have a transceiver yet, you can borrow one of our HT-1000s and immediately get started with a great radio. It's a fine opportunity to acquire some important on-the-air experience. You can expect to be contacted with full details shortly after you pass your test. Meanwhile, if anyone else would like to have your own HT-1000 with charger and a new battery, just [contact Mike](#) for purchase information, and it's a very good deal.



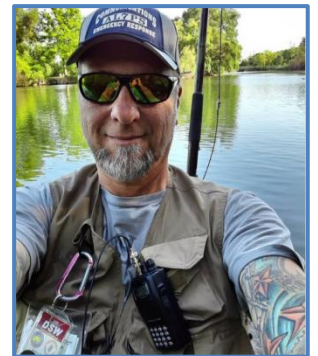
Field Day is possibly the premier annual event in ham radio, where we demonstrate our ability to communicate under “field” conditions, detached from commercial power and other conveniences that may be denied during an emergency. That ability lies at the heart of the FCC’s justification for granting our licenses; without it there is no ham radio. Of course, gathering together in field (or any) conditions these days is a poor choice, so we did it individually and pooled our experiences for a slideshow presentation conducted by N6TCE during our monthly club meeting via Zoom on August 6th.

It was interesting to see the wide variety of activities undertaken by various members, from those who operated their home stations, to some in their yards, and at least one who went “all in” and headed for the hills for a traditional off-the-grid Field Day expedition. Kenny Green, AL7PS, got the nod for the most interesting and impressive (and slightly strange) set of experiences, including a couple of odd visitors, one of which was considering Kenny for lunch. Kenny turned out to be more than the mountain lion could chew.

For a short Facebook video clip showing Kenny’s Field Day setup, [CLICK HERE](#).

Other members reported on their success (or lack thereof) on the air using a wide variety of setups on multiple bands including satellite ops. Success levels ran the gamut of possibilities, from just one contact on 6 meters to HF QSOs all over the U.S. and Canada. In summary, we enjoyed a decent measure of success and interesting experiences despite the circumstances.

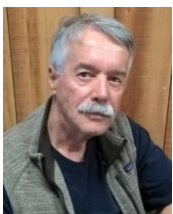
Members contributing to the presentation: Jim WB6BET, Bob K6DGQ, Ron KG7OR, Kenny AL7PS, Mark W6SXA, Bob N6TEC, Emilia KI6YYT, Mike N6ZW, Barry K6ZZD.



Kenny, AL7PS

From the club president

Barry Marson, K6ZZD



The board has tried to provide monthly presentations that are entertaining and informative. We offer our thanks to members who have stepped up in the past. We especially thank Jim, WB6BET, who has coordinated these programs since forever. Jim is ready to hand off that responsibility to someone else. To that end, the board will be creating a committee that will oversee the presentations for the monthly meetings. According to the bylaws, the chairman of that committee will serve as a nonvoting member of the board. We hope that this move will facilitate discussion and generate new ideas. We need a volunteer who is willing to chair that committee. In addition to that, we know that you have expertise that you can share. Or perhaps you are new to radio and would like to know more about a ham radio topic. We ask you to submit ideas based upon your areas of interest. We will provide any assistance that you need to prepare a presentation. Volunteers can reply to me: dbmarson@comcast.net.

Happy Trails, Barry K6ZZD

Ham Swap Meet



Welcome to our first attempt at a virtual ham swap meet. If you have any item of ham radio-related equipment that you'd like to sell or trade, or if there is something you'd like to get, [send the info](#) and we'll list it here. Be sure to include your name, call sign (if any), and email or phone number. Here we go....

- Looking for an Elecraft MH3 microphone. I can trade a new Heil HMMY (for Yaesu) mic. that has 2 elements, one full range and one for DX, with the AD-100 adapter for the Yaesu FT-100 and -100D. If interested in the Heil and you don't have the Elecraft to trade, contact me and we'll work something out. Mike, N6ZW, N6ZW@comcast.net.
- 2 Carolina windoms, new with the line isolator and balun. All you need is the 10 foot section of RG8X between the balun and choke. Each is \$55, much cheaper than online. Mike, N6ZW (see above).
- Kenwood TS-2000 with mic., power cord, manual. 160M - 10M plus 6 & 2 meters and 70 cm, all mode. Picture on my [QRZ page](#). \$700 or reasonable best offer. John, K6YK, 209-462-7391. K6YK@juno.com
- Two Bird wattmeter 50 watt slugs: #50D, 200-500 mHz and #50E 400-1000 Mhz,. \$50 each including shipping or meet and deliver locally. John, K6YK (see above).
- Book, *ON4UN's Low-Band DXing* – comprehensive antenna design reference for 160-80-40 meters. Used, nearly-new condition. For the Amazon listing, [click here](#). Lists for \$38.35 plus tax, asking \$10 o.b.o. Ron, KG7OR, 209-712-6200 cell/text, or KG7OR@arrrl.net.
- If you have a Windows 10 computer of any configuration (laptop, tower, all-in-one) that you hate and are ready to send off at almost any price, I may be a taker: Ron, KG7OR (see above).

(continued on page 10)

2 Meter Simplex Survey

Here are the replies received to the 2 meter simplex survey, sent on August 8th. Club members were asked what radio they use or potentially could use on our Wednesday night simplex net, which requires programming a memory channel for simplex operation on a normal repeater frequency. Note that your responses cited 25 different radios, with only three of them getting more than a single tally.

RADIO	1	2	3	TOTAL
ALINCO DR-590	K6YK			1
BTECH UV-50X2	KN6CTQ			1
ICOM IC-208H	N6NFB			1
ICOM IC-2300H	WB6TOU			1
ICOM IC-2720	K6YK			1
KNWD TM-281A	W6UHQ	KN6HNN	K6AAN	3
KNWD TM-733	AE6SE			1
KNWD TM-D710A	WB6YLK			1
KNWD TM-V71A	N6KZW	N6LHL		2
KNWD TS-790A	W6RPM			1
KNWD TS-2000	W6UHQ			1
QYT KT8900	KN6CTQ			1
YAESU FT-3DR	KN6HNN			1
YAESU FT-60	K6AAN			1
YAESU FT-736R	KB6LFM			1
YAESU FT-857D	W6UHQ			1
YAESU FT-897D	WB6BET			1
YAESU FT-991A	K6DGQ	KN6JKC		2
YAESU FT-2800	N6TCE			1
YAESU FT-2900	K6DGQ			1
YAESU FT-2980	KG7OR			1
YAESU FT-5100	N6ZW			1
YAESU FT-8800	N6TCE			1
YAESU VX-5	N6ZW			1
YAESU VX-7R	N6NFB			1
25				

Thanks to the following operators who responded to the survey: K6AAN, WB6BET, KN6CTQ, K6DGQ, KN6HNN, KN6JKC, N6KZW, KB6LFM, N6LHL, N6NFB, W6RPM, AE6SE, N6TCE, WB6TOU, W6UHQ, K6YK, WB6YLK, N6ZW.

Line Feed



Welcome to *Line Feed*, where you get to read the editor's short comments on this and that in each issue. If that hasn't caused you to stop reading, here's a challenge: what exactly does "line feed" mean with regard to electronic communications? Everyone who sends me the right answer will get a salute in the next issue, and the picture here is a great clue....To start, does our new newsletter need a snappy name, like those of some other clubs? Years ago we had a newsletter called *Ground Wave*. Use that name again, or do you have a better idea? All suggestions welcome....Don't forget our 10-meter net, each Wednesday at 8:00 pm on 28.4 mHz USB. If you have a current ham license of any class (even Novice), you can check in. All you need is an HF radio and some kind of vertical 10 meter antenna. It's a very good opportunity for new hams to get some experience

on HF....Speaking of new hams, one of the best ways to learn and get comfortable with on-the-air procedures is to check in on the Monday night *Technical Net* at 7:00 pm on the Stockton-Delta repeater, 147.165 mHz (PL 107.2). Helping new hams learn the basics is a primary focus of the net, so don't be shy. If you're not a newbie yourself but you know someone who is, please pass the word....Thanks to everyone who responded to my survey about radios used on our Wednesday night simplex net. I thought we'd continue explaining in the newsletter how to get the most commonly used models to work simplex on a repeater frequency, like in the August issue plus this one. *Hah!* I got 19 replies, including mine, and even that small sampling is using *25 different radios!* See the list on the previous page. So, we'll modify that idea a little (okay, a lot) and invite anyone needing help programming a radio for our simplex net to just let us know, and help will be forthcoming....Until next time, 73 DE KG7OR.



ABOUT THE LODI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Web: <https://lodiarc.org>

Email: LodiHams@gmail.com



The Lodi A.R.C. is an association of licensed amateur radio operators and others interested in amateur radio. We are formed in order to provide volunteer radio communication services during emergency situations and public activities, to render assistance by radio to visitors and travelers, and to aid our members in the practice of amateur radio, including public service, education, technical advancement, and recreation. Club meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month commencing at 6:30 pm. Meetings are currently conducted online via Zoom until such time as in-person meetings can resume.

Our Board of Directors and key supporters for 2020:

President: **Barry Marson, K6ZZD**

Vice President: **Mike Dugger, K6AAN**

Secretary: **Jim Seiferling, WB6BET**

N6SJV Call Sign Trustee: **Mike Zane, N6ZW**

147.09 Repeater: **Fred Coe, WB6ASU**

Immediate Past President: **Emilia Seiferling, KI6YYT**

Treasurer and Newsletter Editor: **Ron Russell, KG7OR**

Technical Committee: **Mark Cloud, W6SXA**

Media Committee: **Ron Simpson, N6GKJ**

Net Operations Committee: **Bob Officer, N6TCE**

(Ham Swap Meet, continued from page 7)

“BHI Noise Away,” [Model ANEM MkII](#). Contact me for more info. \$100, OBO. Jim, WB6BET, 209-625-5771, jes@riverdeltawireless.com.

International Antenna Company, 40 meter Double Bazooka Shorty, 41 feet long. \$80, OBO. Jim, WB6BET (see above).

Base or mobile radios: Icom IC-208H, Kenwood TM-261, Kenwood TM-281A. All 2 meters plus 440 on the Icom. \$100 each. Dennis, W6UHQ, 916-622-5814, demerit@comcast.net.

Wanted: vintage regenerative receiver, Knight-Kit, Heathkit, etc. Dennis, W6UHQ (see above).

The Last Word



Image credits in this issue:

p. 1 Lodi grapes graphic (partial): lodi.gov
p. 1 Young ham: emcesd.com
p. 1 QST operator: W9REL on QRZ.com
p. 2 Zoom graphic: blog.zoom.us

p. 5 FT-2980: gigaparts.com
p. 6 Field Day graphic: arrl.org
p. 9 RTTY op: libwww.freelibrary.org
p. 10 *Apocalypse Now*: KL4EL via Facebook

p. 6 AL7PS photo: QRZ.com
p. 6 K6ZZD photo: KG7OR
p. 7 Swap meet: W6TRW.com