



Lodi Amateur Radio Club

newsletter for

January 2021



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CLUB MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

*Mark your calendar
and join us on Zoom:*

Thursday, January 7th
6:30 PM

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

Special meeting program:

“ALL ABOUT OUR NETS”

**Tips & Techniques for
Effective Net Operations**
by Lodi ARC Net Manager N6TCE



Welcome to our Wednesday night nets:

- **Simplex net:** 147.090 (simplex) 6:30 pm
- **Club net:** 147.090 (repeater, PL 114.8) 7:00 pm
- **10 meter net:** 28.400 (USB) 8:00 pm

UP, UP, AND...GONE



If you solved the quiz in the December newsletter (page 8) concerning that mysterious little contraption held in one hand, you now know that it's the entire payload for WB6TOU's most recent *pico balloon* project. What's a pico balloon? Think *really small* (like picofarad); not so much the balloon itself but the payload—yes, it's a GPS receiver, computer, environmental monitor (temperature and altitude), a power supply, and two ham radio transmitters and their antennas; all of it in Dave's left hand.

The short explanation for that is this: the pico balloon, as applied to amateur radio, is a tiny package containing the above essential components, lifted by a sofa-sized balloon to a carefully calculated altitude where it catches natural wind currents and proceeds on a predictable excursion around the world. It's tracked via [APRS](#) on 2 meters and [WSPR](#) on 20 meters (the ham radio connection), allowing anyone with Internet access to follow its globe-spanning progress—if everything works.

It did rather well with Dave's first launch last March, aptly dubbed "Skylarc" by KI6YYT. (**Sky + Lodi Amateur Radio Club**). Skylarc made it all the way around the earth, then abruptly came down over British Columbia after a 2 week tour—Dave actually watched it descend via real-time altitude read-outs from APRS. Talk about mixed emotions!

By November, Dave had an improved version ready to launch, *Skylarc2*. The big day came on November 21st, in the field next to KM6LIA's vineyard. In addition to Dave and Craig, KN6CTQ, N6NFB, WB6BET, KI6YYT, and KG7OR were on hand to lend support, or at least witness whatever might happen. As the digital clock ticked past 0900, Skip released the balloon and it very slowly began to rise, trailing its complex payload from a super thin wire that doubled as half of the 20 meter antenna (the other half dangled below the payload). All seemed to go well as Skylarc2 dramatically gained altitude at a snail's pace. Finally, the package turned toward the east and disappeared on its quest for a safe and solitary altitude, well above migrating birds, air traffic, and most of the weather, around 40,000 feet.



November 21st: WB6TOU readies *Skylarc2* for launch while N6NFB and Skip's grandson look on. Dave has half of the 20 meter dipole in his right hand.

The news was good for the first half hour, with APRS data steadily showing the balloon's rising track toward the east—until it suddenly went silent. Dave's assumption was that the balloon had lost lift

and come down in a vineyard close to the launch point. The guys spent some time searching through the vines along the known track, but it didn't take long to realize how futile that was. Aware that catastrophic failure upon launch was an expected hazard, Dave reluctantly assumed that Skylarc2 had been lost, and it was time to move on. Months of preparation and anticipation seemed gone.



Skip prepares to release the "lifting body," the special balloon filled to a carefully calculated volume of hydrogen. WB6BET and KN6CTQ observe in the background.

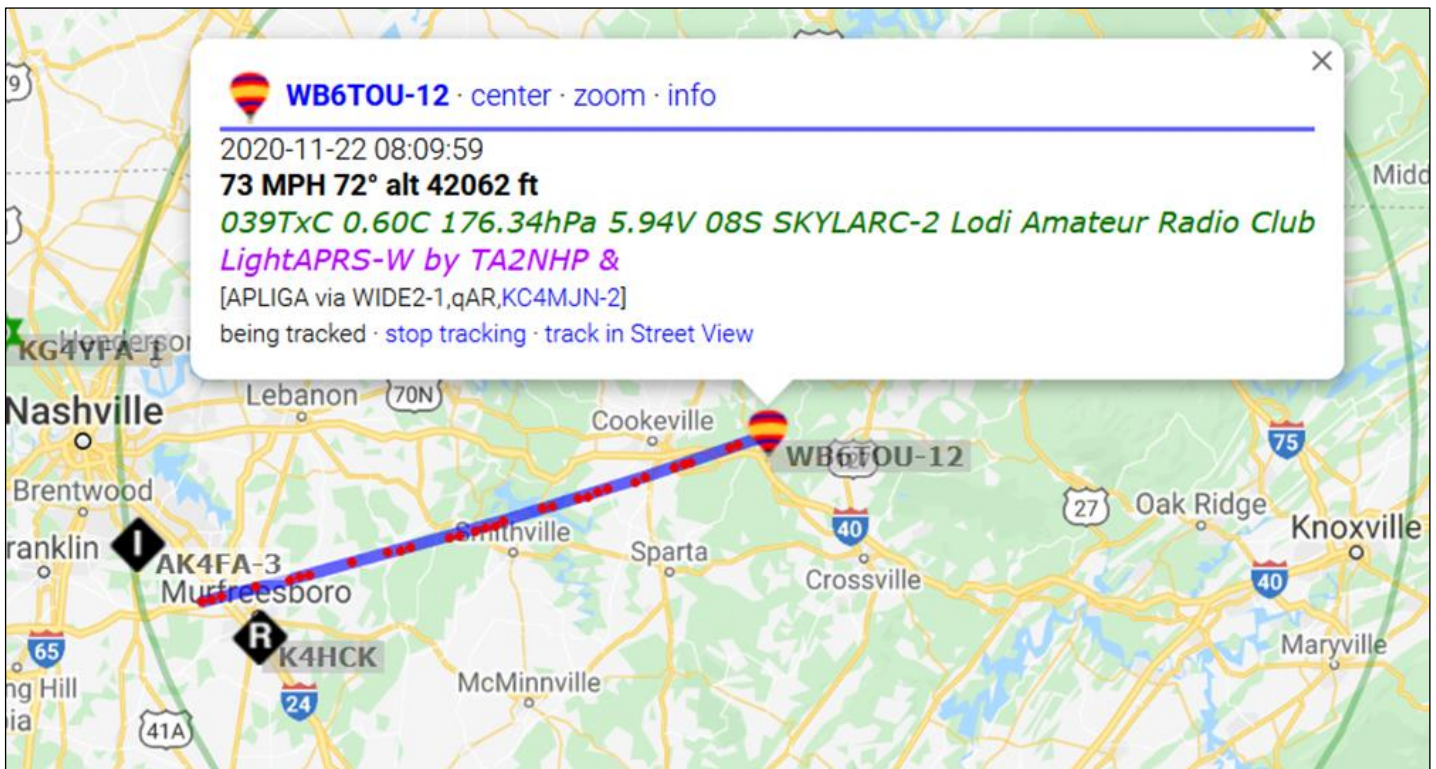


The moment of launch: Skylarc2 slowly begins to rise. The tiny payload can be seen at the center of the 20 meter dipole.

At least, that's how it appeared for the rest of the day. The two transmitters only function when sunlight hits the solar panels, but there was plenty of it on Saturday, November 21st. If Skylarc2 was still flying, it wasn't talking. Dave decided to routinely keep checking APRS and WSPR in the highly unlikely event that (a) his wayward handiwork was still up there somewhere, and (b) it could magically get its voice back. Neither was a good bet as the sun went down on Saturday.

Sunday morning brought a huge surprise. Dave shouted it out via email, "*it's alive! IT'S ALIVE*," with an obvious nod to *Frankenstein*. As suggested above, Skylarc2 had magically turned itself on with morning sunlight after it had crossed most of the continent overnight. APRS spotted it a little east of Nashville, Tennessee around 10:00 am Central time, and tracked it nicely for the next few hours as it

sped northeast at more than 70 m.p.h. Then, just like Saturday, contact was mysteriously lost shortly past noon after being tracked through the eastern tip of Virginia and into West Virginia. Again, it was completely unexpected—there was still good sunlight in that region for several more hours.

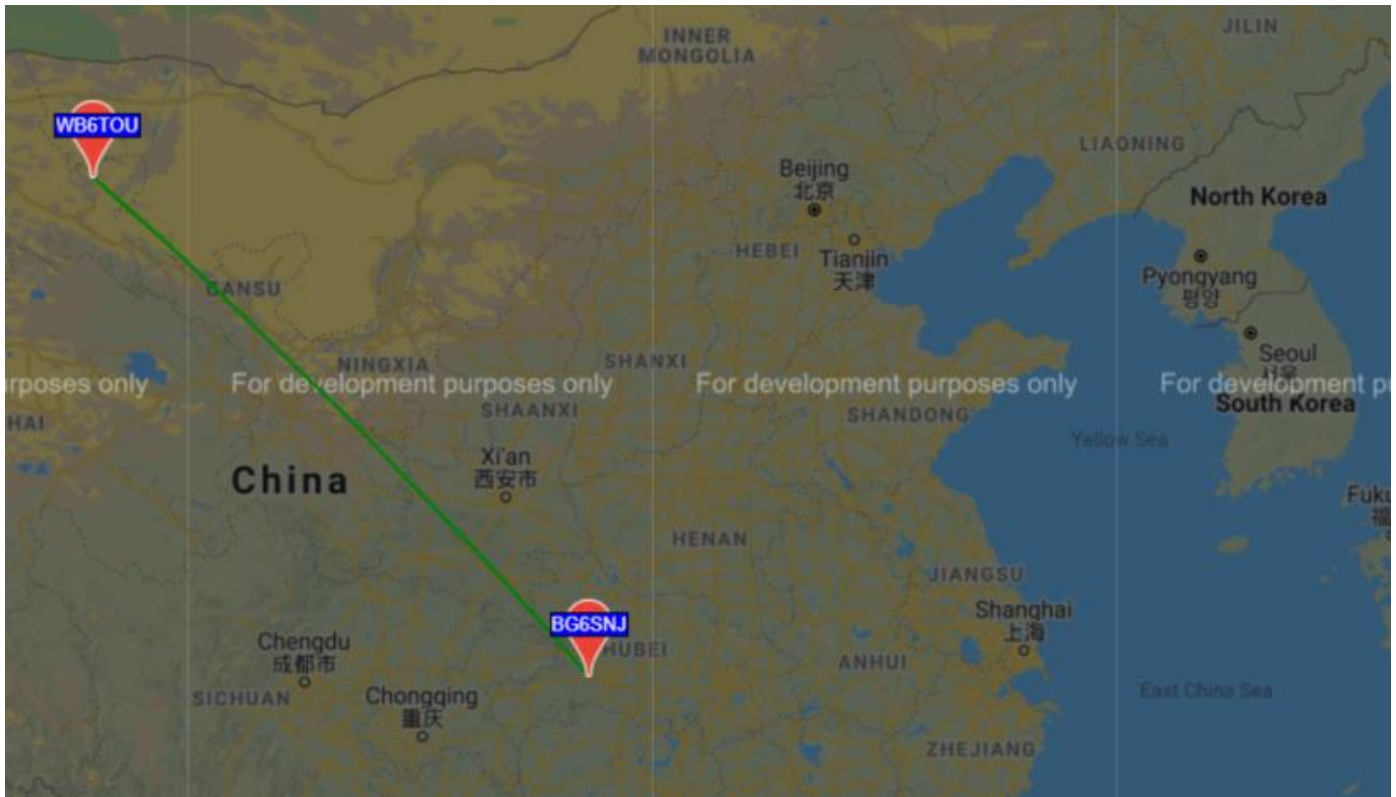


The actual APRS spot on Sunday morning Nov 22, showing Skylarc2 (“WB6TOU-12”) east of Nashville, heading northeast at 73 MPH at an altitude of 42,062 feet above sea level. The data string below that gives the atmospheric pressure and the voltage being generated by the solar panels: 5.94 volts. The clock at the top is reading Pacific time, the time zone at the launch point.

Nothing was seen on Monday, but by that time the balloon would’ve been over the Atlantic. WSPR gave the next good news on Tuesday, November 24th, with a spot off the coast of Portugal—the on-again, off-again power supply was apparently on again for another brief spell. That repeated on Wednesday with a good APRS catch off the southwest tip of England, then another on Thursday over northern Germany. Each time it was the same pattern: Skylarc2 would be on the air for only a short period, much less than should’ve been possible by the hours of daylight where it was. Dave spent a good deal of brainpower trying to fathom why that was happening, but with the errant power supply several thousand miles

beyond his reach, he could do little more than guess.

Then, nearly two days of nothing. Like on the day of the launch, Dave began to speculate that the balloon had come down over eastern Europe or Siberia, but the next big surprise came late on Saturday the 28th: Skylarc2 had been spotted over north-central China (Inner Mongolia) by the WSPR station of Chinese ham BG6SNJ (see next page). That was followed the next day by a very brief APRS catch off the coast Hokkaido, Japan’s northern island, as the balloon headed out over the Pacific—it was on the last and most challenging leg of its around-the-world trek.



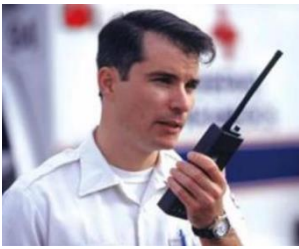
At about 9:00 pm (Pacific) on Saturday, November 28th, BG6SNJ spotted Skylarc2 (“WB6TOU”) over north-central China via WSPR, as shown by this screenshot.

As a side interest, Dave noted that the path from central China to Hokkaido almost certainly took Skylarc2 across part of North Korea. He thought it would’ve been interesting if they’d shot it down—he and the Lodi A.R.C. would’ve made the network news!

After passing Japan, there was little expectation of any further spots for a few days until the balloon got close to some part of North America. But as a few days became many, it became clear that Skylarc2 either hadn’t survived the Pacific, or its finicky power supply had turned itself off permanently and it’s still up there somewhere, eight miles over almost anywhere on the planet, dutifully proceeding on its assigned journey in lonely silence.



EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS: CALLING 911



The program for our December meeting featured an interesting and valuable presentation by ex-911 dispatcher NZ6Q on how hams can properly interact with a 911 operator while providing communications during an emergency. John related a number of anecdotes from his experience that illustrated how someone who is untrained and unprepared can make the situation worse instead of better when using ham radio to report or assist with an emergency situation. Here are John's key points to help the ham do it right:

1. If you're on an accident scene, first and most important, know where you are. Don't get it wrong when describing your location to the dispatcher: the road or highway number, near-by landmarks, the nearest intersection, and your direction and approximate distance from those things. Think it through and get the details correct and firm in your mind before describing the location.
2. If you are communicating with 911 by radio, explain that immediately so the dispatcher will understand that he/she must allow for transmit-receive transitions when talking with you. Dispatchers always want full information as rapidly as possible, and they won't understand the limitations of a radio link unless you explain it up front.
3. Make sure you can be heard. If you're talking through a repeater and barely making it with your HT and rubber duck, that will only compound your difficulties in interacting with a dispatch operator or with another ham who is relaying for you. If you have a mobile rig with more power and more antenna in your vehicle, use that even if it's some distance from the scene. Clear information sent from a distance is far better than garble and static at the incident site.
4. Keep your transmissions *short*. Long-winded reports by radio with more detail than is immediately needed will deny the dispatcher an opportunity to ask you something important. Always make brief transmissions, with information that's only essential at the moment.
5. Avoid opinion or conjecture. If you don't know something to be a fact, don't say it. Example of what not to say: "The car is in the ditch—I think the driver is dead, and his wife is hurt pretty bad." Better: "The car is in the ditch; there are two occupants with major injuries."
6. And finally, don't panic. Again, the dispatcher needs clear, concise, and timely information, which you cannot provide if you allow the drama of the situation to interfere with your ability to adhere to the foregoing important principles.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

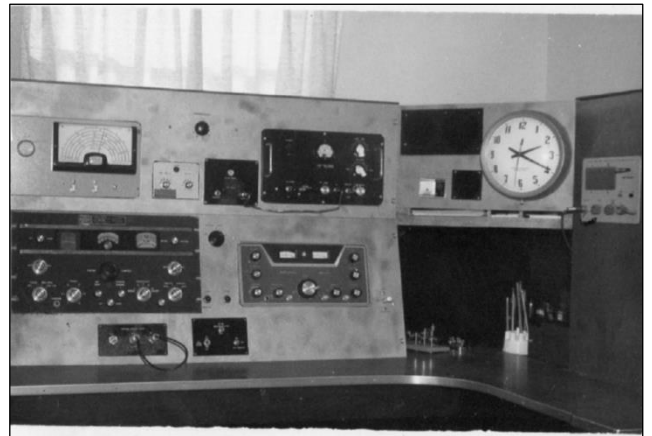
Dues payments for the new year are now due and payable: \$20 for individuals or \$25 for a family membership. Thanks very much to the 54% of our members who have already paid in advance. For the rest, please see page 14 for our payment procedures, and be sure to check the notice on page 11 concerning a special credit for your 2021 renewal.

WHY I BECAME A HAM: N6ZW

In the last newsletter, club prez K6ZZD gave us his personal story on how he was led to ham radio. Barry invited other members to send in their own similar stories, in the expectation that everyone has one that's at least as interesting as his if not more so. For the next installment then, here's the tale of former club president Mike Zane, N6ZW. We'll continue this series in future newsletters with personal accounts like this one, and it doesn't matter whether you've had decades of experience or just a few months. Send the details to LodiHams@gmail.com and let us know how and why you got here.

In the 1940s the family moved from L.A. to Lodi, then to Marysville. There I got involved building crystal radios with a neighbor kid in the 5th or 6th grade. By the 10th grade the same kid had a Novice license, so I went to his house one day, knocked on his front door, and his mom said he was in his "shack." That kind of threw me, figuring he was in some sort lean-to, but it was a room in the back of the garage. I watched him making a CW contact and asked him what it was all about. He told me about ham radio and that our shop teacher Mr. McLaughlin ("Mac," W6MLU) got him started. I contacted Mac, who loaned me an ARRL handbook and a key with a buzzer. I practiced that for several months, then told Mac I was ready for the novice test. He sent for it and gave me the 5 word per minute Morse test, which I flunked, being stuck at receiving 2-3 w.p.m. (I could send much faster!)

It is now 1955 and I had joined the California National Guard in Yuba City. The company commander was a ham and he helped me with the code—I retested and passed, becoming KN6URI. It is now December 1955, the time of a historic northern California flood. The Guard was activated—at the armory we grabbed our comm gear and weapons and got on the roof. About 30 minutes later a 20 ft. wall of water came down the street, went in the front door and out the back, taking out all the cars in the parking lot. The Navy took us off the roof and over to Marysville where we spent a few nights passing messages with the



Mike's shack in the late 1960s



Mike's shack today. He says it's fine, no cleanup needed.

state Office of Emergency Services and the California National Guard HQ.

After two months as a Novice, I took the Technician test at the FCC in San Francisco, then the Conditional General test at Ft. Benning, Georgia, where the Guard had sent me to a 12-week radio repair school with the Army. I transferred to the regular Army and went to Morse Intercept and Direction Finding school—and that's another long story.

73 from Mike, N6ZW



JANUARY ARRL VHF CONTEST

Okay, now that you've had plenty of contest experience on 2-meter simplex, thanks to the two events in October and December, it's time to get serious with your new-found skill and put it to practice on the first of three annual VHF contests, starting on Saturday, January 16th at 1100 PST. Get on 2 meter FM simplex just like you did on our sprint contests and work as many stations as you can. Include the other VHF/UHF bands and modes if your radios and antennas are capable.

For all the details, see the article in the December issue of QST, page 65, and be sure to open and read the full contest rules on the ARRL website: [click here](#).

NOW HEAR THIS!

News & announcements from your board of directors

From the club president, Barry K6ZZD:



To paraphrase an old joke:
A young couple was understandably worried when their first child refused to speak. Years went by and not a word. One morning the now 8-year-old spoke, "there are lumps in the oatmeal." The parents were ecstatic, asking, "why have you never spoken before?" The child replied, "Everything has been fine up until now."

Sometimes the board members feel like the worried parents. We want to hear from you before there are lumps in your ham radio experience. To be honest, we didn't get much feedback even when we were meeting face to face, but now that we are Zooming it is even harder to get the input that we need.

In our board meetings we share ideas and make plans that we hope are in the best interest of the club. We do our best to come up with informative programs and to provide activities to keep the membership involved. Unless we hear from you, we have no way of knowing if we are getting it right. So, we need

opinions, questions, and suggestions.

For example, here are some that questions you might respond to:

- Do you have any radio-related skills that would be of interest to members?
- Are you willing to do a presentation at a meeting based upon your interests?
- If you are not interested in presenting, do you have any ideas for presentation topics?
- Are you interested in learning more about a specific aspect of ham radio? If so, what are the topics?
- Do you have any ideas for activities that we can do given our current circumstances?
- Feel free to answer any or all of the questions or add your own questions and comments to the list.

It's hard for me to believe that "everything has been fine up until now". Please help keep the club healthy. Send us your thoughts to:

LodiHams@gmail.com.

* * * * *

From the Net Operations Committee, Bob N6TCE:



I hope everyone had a happy holiday season. This is our state of the net report. By mid-November 2020 we surpassed the total number of check-ins during the entire previous year on our Wednesday night 7:00 pm net. Thirty-plus check-ins has become normal, and I predict we'll get to 40 sometime this year.

I give an abundance of credit to our Net Control Station (NCS) operators—thank you all! The newsletter is an easy way to announce your NCS dates for the first two months of the new year, and they are:

JAN

06 N6TCE
13 K6AAN
20 WB6BET*
27 K6ZZD

FEB

03 K6AAN
10 WB6BET*
17 K6ZZD
24 N6TCE

*shared with KI6YYT

Wow! The biggest surprise of 2020 was the 2 Meter simplex net at 6:30 pm Wednesday. Kudos to Ron, N6GKJ for his work in organizing the net and serving as the primary NCS. The use of relay stations was demonstrated a few weeks ago when I had the NCS duty and couldn't be heard by everyone checking in. Thanks to effective relay practices, the net was successful despite my disadvantage. Well done to everyone who was on board for that one, and thanks to all of you for your participation on our nets.

The 10 meter net at 8:00 pm Wednesday needs an alternate NCS, preferably someone in the Lodi area for the best possible coverage. Eric, KD6MOO has done a great job of keeping that net going but he can't be there every week because of work and other obligations. If anyone reading this is willing to give it a try, please contact me: N6TCE@arrl.net.

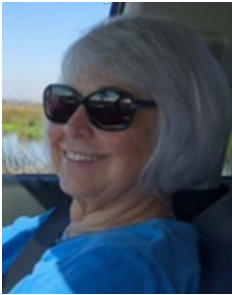
Regarding the *Reindeer Roundup* 2-meter simplex sprint contest on December 19th: so far I have received 12 logs out of the 20+ participants. I hope a fun time was had by all. This small contest was good practice for the January VHF contest (see page 8). With your *Reindeer Roundup* experience, plus the first sprint contest in October, you should do well in that event.

The *Reindeer Roundup* logs show 158 confirmed contacts. I have designed what I hope to be a nice certificate for the top finishers in each of the three power categories.

Lastly, the parachute mobile presentation by Rob, KC6TYD during our November Zoom meeting was skillfully edited by K6WEL and can be viewed on Vimeo at: <https://vimeo.com/488307471>

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From the immediate past president, Emilia KI6YYT:



Jim and I recently assisted the widow of a Silent Key to clear out her garage. We returned home with a truck and trailer full of miscellaneous radio items (see page 13). They are now stored at our home plus those of WB6ASU and KG7OR. If you can use any of them, you are asked to consider a donation of the item's perceived value. Such a donation would assist the club with expenses since we haven't been able to do any raffles at club meetings for nearly a year. Any donations may be made in the same fashion as for paying membership dues.

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From the club secretary, Jim WB6BET:



Introducing your 2021 WAS Challenge. The concept for this idea came from our late member Shirley Rose, AA6K. Every year he would start over on the 340 DX entities and see how many he could work in a calendar year. He's on the ARRL honor roll list with 335 worked.

I started a challenge for myself last year that seemed less daunting: WAS (worked all states), and got it done via mixed modes by mid-year. I then decided to raise the challenge by doing it in individual modes; SSB, CW, and RTTY. As of December 22nd I had 49 states each on CW and SSB, missing only Kentucky on both. I'll be doing the Challenge again in 2021, starting with a big effort on the January RTTY Roundup.

For those with a Technician license, don't feel left out. You could set your Challenge by using satellites, meteor scatter, tropospheric scatter, and even moon bounce. Also don't forget about the four ARRL VHF contests each year. Anyone can do those contests with just a handheld transceiver. You also have voice privileges on 10 meters (28.3-28.5 MHz) and you can do CW on 80, 40, and 15. Can't copy CW well, or at all? Not required; you can send and receive with software; you just need to learn to recognize your own call sign and how to send the exchange required for a particular contest, like a signal report and your state in the December 10-meter contest.

Are you up for a challenge for 2021?

TWO FOR ONE SALE!

To all you non-members who read this newsletter, thank you for your interest. If you've thought that you might join the club someday, *now is definitely the time!* New members have their initial dues payment extended though the end of the following calendar year, so if you join this month, you're good through 12/31/**2022**—two years for the price of one! It doesn't get better in any other month, so head to our website at LodiARC.org, click the "Join" tab at the upper right, and follow the easy instructions. Questions? [Click here](#).

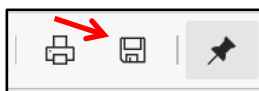


A LITTLE PAYBACK FROM CORONAVIRUS

As announced in last month's newsletter, the board has decided to offer our members an optional credit to partially offset the loss of certain club benefits in 2020 because of virus restrictions—things your dues are normally spent on but didn't happen, like Field Day, the Christmas dinner, and major raffle prizes.

Each 2020 member who has paid or will pay dues for 2021 earns a \$10.00 credit that can be used for certain future club expenses. And in response to feedback received from several of you, there is a provision for donating the credit back to the club if you wish. Here are the details:

1. The credit is given to all members who paid dues for 2020 and have already paid or will pay their dues for 2021. That includes new members whose initial dues payment for 2020 was extended through 2021.
2. The payment for 2021 must be received by the cutoff date for continuous membership as stated in the bylaws: March 31, 2021.
3. Your credit is automatic upon paying dues for 2021; there is no separate notification. The email receipt for your '21 dues payment is confirmation that you have the credit.
4. You may apply your credit to:
 - The purchase of club T-shirts or baseball caps.
 - The purchase of other club-owned items as authorized by the board.
 - Registration or meal costs for special activities as authorized by the board.
 - Your membership renewal for 2022.
5. To spend the credit, be certain that (a) you got a receipt for paying 2021 dues per #3 above, and (b) you're paying for an expense listed in #4. Then, just include "**\$10 CREDIT**" in the *Add a Note* field if paying by PayPal, or enclose a similar note if paying by check, money order, or cash. (The treasurer can confirm or resend your 2021 dues receipt upon request.)
6. Any unused credit expires on March 31, 2022. Note that if you prefer to donate your credit back to the club, simply do nothing—it will happen automatically upon expiration.



EDGE

DOWNLOAD THE NEWSLETTER



CHROME

You may want to download the newsletter each month instead of simply reading it on the website. The website okay if you have a reliable high-speed Internet service that rarely fails, but you will generally find that reading it offline is much better. Just open the newsletter as usual, then click the *Download* button in your browser—a copy will be deposited in "Downloads" in your computer (Windows 7 or 10), where the Internet can't slow it down, freeze it, or make it vanish. The exact download button depends on your browser; *Edge* and *Chrome* are shown above.



HAM SWAP MEET

Welcome to the Lodi A.R.C. virtual swap meet. If you have any item of radio-related equipment that you'd like to buy, sell, trade, find, or even give away, [send the info](#) and we'll list it here. Include your name, call sign, email, and phone number. Be sure to check out the free items—the price is right!



• Lodi A.R.C. baseball caps and T-shirts. Caps \$15.00, shirts \$10.00. Prices are subject to change and are limited to stock on hand, although new orders can be filled quickly. Specify shirt size, S - XXXL. Pay by PayPal, check, money order, or cash (exact change only for cash). See page 14 for PayPal instructions. For more info or to place an order, contact Ron, KG7OR, 209-712-6200, KG7OR@arrl.net.



Here's a package deal for amateur satellite fans:



IC-275A



IC-475H

- Icom 275A 25-watt 2-meter all-mode transceiver
 - Icom 475H 75-watt 70cm all-mode transceiver
 - Icom CT-16 satellite interface unit.
- Includes manuals and microphones for the transceivers.
\$750 o.b.o. for all three. Bruce, AH0U, 925-623-4388,
For more info or to make an offer: bruce@croskey.org

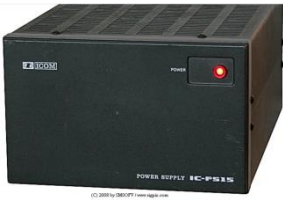


CT-16



R-7000

- Icom VHF/UHF/SHF receiver, model R7000, AM/FM/SSB. For 25-1000 & 1025-2000 mHz, with manual. \$300 o.b.o. Bruce, AH0U (see above).
- (Ed. note: Bruce says all four of his listed items “work like new.”)



- Icom IC-PS15 20 amp transformer power supply, \$100. (Excellent choice for use with any VHF/UHF mobile.)
- Also, upscale HAL keyer paddle, \$100. Dave, WB6TOU, 209-368-5878, devoit1944@gmail.com.



- R-390A/URR military tube-type receiver by Collins, 0.5-32 mHz. For info, [click here](#). Not working, but restorable. Contact me for details. Dennis, W6UHQ, 916-622-5814, demerit@comcast.net.
- Wanted: vintage regenerative receiver, Knight-Kit, Heathkit, or similar. Dennis, W6UHQ (above).
- Alpha-Delta #DX-EE antenna, 40-20-15-10 meters. Lists for \$160 new, yours for \$40.00. For details and owner reviews [click here](#). Dave, N6LHL, 209-477-8866, N6LHL2@gmail.com.



- Kenwood TS-2000 with microphone, power cord, & manual. All mode; HF, VHF, UHF. Dual receive, 100 watts on 160 meters thru 2 meters, 50 watts on 70 cm., built-in antenna tuner. \$700 or reasonable offer. John, K6YK, 209-462-7391. K6YK@juno.com

- Wanted: Kenwood TS-480HX, 200-watts. Jim, WB6BET, 209-625-5771, WB6BET@arrl.net.
- "BHI Noise Away," [Model ANEM MkII](#). (Note: revised URL in link.) \$100 OBO. WB6BET (above).
- *Free* – many high-quality antennas and accessories received from the Silent Key estate of Guy Corynen, WD6G in LaFayette. Contact WB6BET or KG7OR for info on any of the following:
 - Two 2-meter [M² model 2M12](#) 12-element yagis, very large, 14.9 dbi gain, 19.5 ft. boom.
 - VHF mobile whips.
 - Coaxial adaptors: SO-239, N, BNC, various configurations. (Adaptors only, no connectors.)
 - Lightning protectors.
 - 25-watt dummy load with PL-259.
 - Misc. Icom accessory components.
 - Various Icom and Kenwood transceiver microphones.
 - Apple computer microphone (new).
 - Kenwood MJ-88 microphone plug adapter cable, RJ-45 to 8-pin.
 - Two mast mounted remote pre-amps for 144 and 220 mHz. (Those should go to someone who's very serious on doing weak signal work; CW, SSB, digital.)

Note: as mentioned by KI6YYT on page 10, this very large assortment of free ham gear, all high quality and some of very high value, was acquired, transported, and stored on behalf of the club through the volunteer efforts of a small number of its members. A free-will donation to the club in exchange for anything you receive is optional but will be sincerely appreciated. Tnx in advance!

Dues Payment Instructions

Your dues or other club expenses can easily be paid via PayPal. The PayPal procedure follows below, and please be sure that you don't skip step **#7** in the instructions. That's required to properly identify who the payment is from and what it's for. (It's not always obvious.)

Otherwise, payments can be sent to the treasurer via postal mail:

Lodi Amateur Radio Club
2839 Bristol Lane
Lodi, CA 95242-9661

Make a check or money order payable to "Lodi ARC."
All payments are acknowledged by an email receipt.

PAYPAL PROCEDURE:

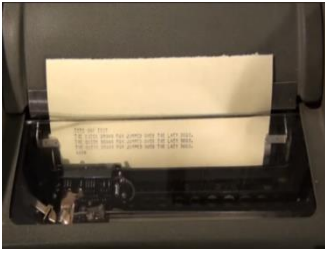
1. Sign into your PayPal account and click the blue "Send" button.
2. In the "Send money" field, enter: r7russ@gmail.com
3. On the next screen, enter the dollar amount.
4. If your PayPal account is set up to draw funds from your linked checking account or an existing PayPal balance, go to step #7.
5. If your payment will draw funds from a linked credit or debit card, notice the field labeled "Sending to a friend." Click "Change" to the right.
6. Click "Paying for an item or service."
7. **Important:** In the "Add a note" field, enter (a) your call sign, and (b) a brief explanation of what you're paying for.
8. Click "Continue."
9. Follow the prompts to complete your payment.

HAMCRAM AND VE TESTS FEBRUARY 8th

The Stockton-Delta club is planning its next HamCram and VE test session for Saturday, Feb. 8th, at the Karl Ross American Legion Post, 2020 Plymouth Road, Stockton. If you or someone you know is a candidate for a new ham license or an upgrade, be sure to check the full details and any late news on <http://www.w6sf.org/hamcram.html>. Advance registration is required, seating is limited, and the familiar coronavirus measures will be required—wear your mask.



LINE FEED



Thanks to WB6TOU, WB6BET, and N6TCE for help in developing Dave's balloon story in this issue. And FYI, he says that that *Skylarc3* is going "on the air"

soon with more sophisticated radio gear....It's likely that just about every ham has an email ID and uses it, which is a good thing because beginning sometime this year the FCC will *require* you to have one if you want to do any business with them, like the five ham license procedures described in the December newsletter. It's all about being fully online and paperless at the Commission. Probably not an issue for anyone reading this, but potential new hams may need a heads-up....FB to "Captain Ron," ex-KN6KHC who followed our vanity call sign instructions in the October newsletter and now goes by W6RMR (his initials)....We've now had a couple of good stories in our new series on "Why I became a ham": K6ZZD last month and N6ZW in this issue. Now, I'd like to see *your* story, and to re-emphasize the point made earlier, you don't need years or decades of experience as a ham, you just need your own story, whatever it might be. Let us know what got *you* here, and it will appear in an upcoming newsletter....Glad to see that some of N6ZW's free goodies, listed for a couple months in the *Swap Meet* section, have gone out the door to

happy new owners—KJ6WNM grabbed a fully working and well-loaded Windows 7 p.c., and K6WEL will be kept busy for a while getting a Honda generator back in commission. Also, WB6NVB (Stockton-Delta club) picked up a long coax run for his tribander plus a mobile antenna, N6KZW and K6WEL nabbed some of the HT microphones listed in the *Swap Meet* section, and N6NFB got a Diamond X500 vertical; all gratis from the WD6G estate (see page 13)....By the way, all that gear from WD6G didn't just magically appear—getting it in the club's hands involved a whole lot of loading, transporting, sorting, and in some cases re-transporting stuff to various QTHs for storage. Hats off to WB6BET and KI6YYT for doing most of it themselves without a lot of help....And speaking of *Swap Meet* ads, I can't believe that K6YK's Kenwood TS-2000 hasn't been snapped up yet. It's a real bargain and even covers 144 & 440 MHz, *all mode*. For a new ham looking to get into HF sooner or later, a rig like that at such a low price should be a no-brainer. Would also be a good choice for amateur satellite comms....Another *Swap Meet* gem that should be gone by now: WB6TOU's Icom power supply. A quality transformer-type supply at that price (read, no switching problems ever) shouldn't be missed if you want to run just about any VHF/UHF mobile transceiver at your base station....Until next time, 73 DE KG7OR.

Image credits in this issue:

p. 1, 16 Lodi grapes graphic: lodi.gov

p. 1 Net operator: <https://me.me>

p. 2 Emcom operator: asmag.com

p. 9 N6TCE: W6SF.org

p. 10 KI6YYT, WB6BET: WB6BET

p. 11 Moneybag: chathamjournal.com

p. 12 *Stuff*: stuff-buy-sell-trade.business.site

p. 12 IC-275A, 475H: Universal Radio

p. 12 Icom CT-16: rigpix.com

p. 12 R-7000: Universal Radio

p. 13 Icom power supply: rigpix.com

p. 13 HAL paddle: telegraphkeys.com

p. 13 TS-2000: rigpix.com

p. 14 Test taker:

hamradiosecrets.com

p. 15 Teletype: reddit.com

p. 16 The Last Word:

73 Magazine, Feb 1961

All others: KG7OR



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THE LAST WORD

