



Lodi Amateur Radio Club

newsletter for

February 2021



Featured in this issue:

	<u>PAGE</u>		<u>PAGE</u>
Club meeting (Zoom) February 4th	1-2	Now hear this!	7-8
FCC license tests February 6th	2	Radios available for loan	9
Net operations overview	3	Swap Meet	10-11
For the new ham (<i>new feature</i>)	4	Line Feed (editor's notes)	12
Why I became a ham, chapter 3	5	About the Lodi A.R.C.	17
The voyage of Skylarc3	6, 13-16	The Last Word	17

CLUB MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

*Mark your calendar
and join us on Zoom:*

**Thursday, February 4th
6:30 PM**

To join the meeting via Zoom,
see the instructions on page 2.

Special meeting program:



Antenna Tuners

What they are, how they work,
and why you probably need one

By our Technical Director, W6SXA



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

ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS FOR OUR CLUB MEETING ON FEBRUARY 4th:

Bob Officer is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Bob Officer's Zoom Meeting

Time: Feb 4, 2021 6:00 PM Pacific Time

(Editor's note: meeting starts at 6:30 pm – sign in any time before)

Join Zoom Meeting:

Click this URL or
copy and paste it
into your browser.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7642652231?pwd=MkVyVjVEQm1TcjVBUFEVtK3lyOWV2QT09>

Meeting ID: 764 265 2231

Passcode: LODIARC

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,7642652231#,,,,*4202205# US (San Jose)

+13462487799,,7642652231#,,,,*4202205# US (Houston)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

Meeting ID: 764 265 2231

Passcode: 4202205

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7642652231?pwd=MkVyVjVEQm1TcjVBUFEVtK3lyOWV2QT09>

Don't QRM the meeting!



**Remember to mute your
audio except when you are
speaking to the group.**

HAM LICENSE TESTS FEBRUARY 6th

The Stockton-Delta club is planning its next VE test session for Saturday, Feb. 6th, 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>. You can also expect an update from N6TCE on the Stockton-Delta net next Monday at 8:00 pm and on our Wednesday night net on February 3rd, 7:00 pm.

Advance registration is required, seating is limited, and the familiar coronavirus measures will be required—wear your mask. Also, you need to bring your email ID and your FRN. Don't have an FRN? See our Dec. newsletter, page 5: <https://lodiarc.org/newsletter/2020-12-newsletter.pdf>.

NET OPERATIONS

The word “net” as we use it is short for “network,” which in ham radio parlance means an arranged meeting of multiple operators on the air, using a specified frequency and mode, for a stated purpose and usually under the direction of a net control station (NCS). The types and purpose of nets can vary greatly, and that was the subject of our Zoom meeting in January, hosted by our Net Operations director, N6TCE. Bob gave us a good overview the various kinds of nets and what they’re intended to accomplish, along with pointers for proper participation in each type. They include:



- **FORMAL NETS:** Typically used for message handling as well as other specific purposes. Messages delivered outside of the amateur community would be written on a [radiogram form](#). A formal net is always a “directed net,” meaning all contacts go through the NCS—vital for maintaining order among multiple operators.
- **INFORMAL NETS:** Generally less structured than a formal net. An informal net can be a “roundtable” instead of a directed net, with minimal supervision by an NCS. Those are quite common on HF.
- **SPECIAL INTEREST NETS:** For communication and information relating to a specific area of interest. Examples include our Wednesday simplex net, the Monday night *Tech Net* for new hams and technical discussion, and the Friday night *Space Net* for all things astronomical.
- **EMCOM NETS:** Emergency Communications. Called up as needed in the event of a widespread emergency situation. Involvement with the Red Cross or federal/state/local agencies can be expected, with communications coordinated and managed within the Incident Command System (ICS). Emcom nets are routinely scheduled for practice and training.
- **SPECIAL EVENT NETS:** Typically established to provide communications support for circumstances involving a large body of the general public. A prime example in our area are the various organized bike rides along rural roads, where hams provide major assistance to ensure rider safety.

Bob emphasized certain key requirements for net operators:

1. Keep your transmissions short.
2. Observe the practices and protocols of a directed net.
3. If assigned a tactical call sign in a special event, remember to also identify with your FCC call sign when required, i.e., at the end of an exchange with the NCS.

Bob would like to see additional Lodi club members volunteer for the NCS role on our Wednesday night club net. The learning curve is gentle, and there’s nothing difficult about it—all you really need is willingness to help out. Talk it over with Bob on the radio, or send him an email: N6TCE@arrl.net.



FOR THE NEW HAM

(NEW REGULAR FEATURE)

Here's a new regular column in our newsletter exclusively for recently licensed hams—those who got their first ticket within the past couple of years or so. Each issue will cover one or two basic topics that the old-timers all too often assume everyone fully understands. That's frequently not the case, and if no one bothers to explain exactly what they're talking about, you may never know. Worse, you may guess wrong. We'll try hard to fix that for you, starting now.

To help the cause, any recently licensed ham who would like an explanation on an unfamiliar element of ham radio operations or procedures is invited to let us know at any time. Send an email inquiry to LodiHams@gmail.com, or simply speak up on the radio. You'll get a direct response, plus it also may show up here in a future newsletter—if you need something explained, someone else needs it too.

To start it off, there is no end of ham radio terms, slang, and jargon that we use literally all the time, some of which can seem downright mysterious. Why do we use so many cryptic terms, both with speech as well as in print? It mainly gets back to the earliest days of radio when the only mode was CW, and saying a lot with very few characters was a necessity. That list can go on indefinitely, so we'll include some of it in every issue, like this random assortment:

- 59** (Also "5 by 9") Your signal is perfectly readable and very strong; no static or noise.
- 73** Used as a friendly *good-bye*, *so long*, or *see you later*, mainly at the end of a contact.
- FB** Fine Business. Used for *good*, *well done*, *nice goin'*, *congratulations*, etc.
- QRM** Interference, as from two or more stations transmitting at once on the same frequency.
- QSO** (Pronounced "cue-so," or simply "Q") An on-the-air contact via ham radio.
- QST** Calling all radio amateurs. A general announcement or callup for any and all hams.
- SK** Silent Key. A deceased ham.
- TNX** Thanks
- YL** Young Lady—a female ham of any age. (XYL = a ham's wife, not necessarily a ham.)
- ZED** Alternate pronunciation of the letter "Z," as in "Q-R-Zed." More about that next month.

Finally, new hams are urged to mark your calendar and check in on the "Tech Net," each Monday evening starting at 1900 hours (7:00 pm) on the Stockton-Delta repeater, 147.165 MHz (PL 107.2). The net's primary purpose is to give new operators some on-the-air experience and to provide guidance in learning about ham radio technology, operations, and procedures—like we do here.

The Tech Net is your perfect opportunity to become familiar with amateur radio basics and to overcome any reluctance you might have about actually getting on the air. When the net control station invites check-ins from new hams, just press your push-to-talk button and state your call sign, your name, and your city or other location.

Note that the 147.165 repeater is located at Fiddletown, about 35 miles northeast of Lodi, which can be a stretch if you're using an HT with its own antenna. It works, but you may have to change your location in the home, or maybe even go outside to get an adequate signal into the repeater. It's a good reason to upgrade to a base station antenna or radio. More about that in a future issue.

WHY I BECAME A HAM: K6WEL

The first two chapters of this series focused on a couple of old hands, K6ZZD in December and N6ZW in January. This month we're shifting the focus to one of our newest members, John Welsh, who was initially licensed as KN6JEU just last July. He followed the vanity call sign procedure in our October newsletter to pick up K6WEL, a play on his last name.

John, who works professionally in media production and presentation caught an interest in radio early on, thanks to a crystal set. It took a while to turn that interest into a ham ticket, but he's now one of the more active and successful operators among our newest licensees.



I've been involved in both the creative and technical sides of music and media production for decades. My fascination with electronics and radios started when, as a kid, I built one of those basic AM crystal radios with the little earpiece.

My next adventure came when my dad gave me his old Zenith clock radio. I was excited, and immediately dissected it to see how it worked. The glowing tubes and the rich sound of that 5" speaker—I was hooked! Of course, I had to add wire to the speaker so I could put it under my pillow at night and listen to the local AM rock music station. Then, I got my first set of cheap walkie-talkies from the toy store. That was one of my favorite childhood toys. The range was lousy, but having a handheld means of talking with a play buddy without wires was the coolest thing ever!

From there my fascination with high quality music reproduction only grew. Looking back, I was a junior audiophile in the making, and ultimately developed a deep appreciation for classic audio equipment, something I can talk about for hours. I've designed numerous audio systems and speakers, and those passions grew to include home theater systems.

I was led to ham radio out of an interest in emergency preparedness, in the context of

natural disasters; itself an outgrowth of some personal occurrences involving floods and earthquakes. Several years ago I created a media presentation for the California OES that chronicled the northern California emergency response community's experiences following the Loma Prieta earthquake of 1989—their collective response and lessons learned. It was a fascinating project and I learned a lot from it. Then, more recently, I started getting interested in the practical aspects of radio within the context of "grid down" communications failures, which motivated me toward of amateur radio.

It has been a great experience so far. Admittedly, I kind of glaze over during the nets when experienced operators talk about various contests on various bands and all that because I'm not there yet. For now, I'm just trying to learn the basics and become a competent operator, something that's been helped in large part thanks to several members of the LARC, and I am grateful for that help. I may get into contesting at some point to help grow my skills, but with a busy work schedule and an active extended family, time constraints are my biggest challenge.

All that said, I'm learning more by the week, and look forward to growing in this hobby, while helping with club efforts as I'm able. Perhaps someday I'll be able to pass along any knowledge I've gained to others, as many continue to pass along to me.

THE VOYAGE OF SKYLARC3

You read in last month's newsletter of the successful launch and flight of WB6TOU's second radio-equipped balloon, *Skylarc2*. That one had a good tour around most of the planet despite a nagging power supply issue. Hoping for a similar successful launch and better technical performance, Dave and a host of helpers gathered in KM6LIA's field off Davis Road on Sunday, January 10th for the takeoff of his new and improved *Skylarc3*.

Those hopes seemed to be dashed right at the moment of launch. N6NFB released the balloon, expecting it to drift upward in the calm air like Dave's previous two efforts. Instead, a quick breeze caught it as it left Skip's hand, sending it bouncing horizontally across a field of emerging garlic bulbs, with the fragile payload striking several of them before the balloon managed to gain a little lift and slowly start to rise. (The garlic collisions prompted Dave to remark, "well, that stinks!")

But all was well. The payload promptly began reporting via WSPR and APRS, and *Skylarc3* was on its way down the San Joaquin Valley, gradually ascending to its planned altitude of 40,000 feet. By the time sundown had turned off its solar-powered transmitter, the balloon had passed by Merced and Yosemite.

The news was very good on Monday morning as sunlight brought the WSPR transmitter to life over northern Mexico. The balloon gradually turned northeast, crossing into Texas and continuing eastward over the southern U.S. By late Tuesday it had reached the Atlantic Ocean off Virginia, and Thursday found it approaching the coast of north Africa. For the next several days it proceeded smartly across Africa, the Mediterranean, the Middle East, China, and Japan before starting its 3-day successful span of the Pacific. After a 12-day ride, *Skylarc3* returned to the U.S. over the coast of Oregon on January 22nd, but gamely continued on, its balloon and complex electronics apparently ready for another world tour.

A Lodi News-Sentinel reporter and cameraman were on scene for the launch, which became a front page feature in the January 12th issue of the paper. If you haven't seen it, a .pdf copy can be sent to you via email. Send your request to: LodiHams@gmail.com.

For additional launch photos and selected APRS and WSPR screens showing the balloon's track, scroll down to pages 13-16.



Skylarc3 rises above KM6LIA's field on January 10th. The red arrow points to the payload, trailing below at the center of the 20 meter dipole.

NOW HEAR THIS!

News & announcements from your Board of Directors

From the club president, Barry K6ZZD:



We often complain that the HF bands are dead. You might believe that until you tune in on a contest weekend. The often wall-to-wall activity will give you the opportunity to practice your ham radio skills and to work toward your personal radio goals. One of my goals for 2021 is to renew my Worked All States (WAS) on as many bands as possible.

Full disclosure: I am not an expert contester. I have never submitted a log except for local contests, but I have learned to use contests to my advantage. I recently spent some time working the North American QSO Party (NAQP), both CW and phone. I cherry-picked the stations that I responded to. I was listening for new states on new bands. For example, after NAQP I now have Tennessee on 15m, 20m and 40m in my log.

If you are new to HF, don't be intimidated by the contest rules. If you choose not to submit an official log, the only thing you need to know is the exchange—what do you say to the station that you contact? During the NAQP the exchange was name and state. An exchange could be:

A station calls: "KN5ABC CQ contest."

I would reply with my call sign: "K6ZZD"

The station recognizes my call and replies: "K6ZZD, this is Ted in Mississippi"

I reply: "Thank you. This is Barry in California."

Some of the exchange is often abbreviated. If you are nervous about jumping in, just listen for a while. The nature of the exchange will become clear. Most stations will be very forgiving of your mistakes and will be more than happy to talk to you. After all, they earn points for every successful contact. Don't get discouraged. It may take you several calls before you are recognized.

No matter what your personal goals, when you participate in contests you learn how to get the most from your radio and how to be a successful operator. Listen for the complete contest roundup that Jim, WB6BET, provides every Wednesday night on the net, and then go for it.

* * * * *

From the Net Operations Committee, Bob N6TCE:



Thanks to all who participated in our *Reindeer Roundup* 2 meter simplex contest in December. Listening to our operators in the ARRL January VHF contest suggests that the early warmup provided by the local simplex contest worked very well for you.

How the contest proceeds in the future requires some input from the participants. Is the one hour time frame too long or too short? What else should be changed, if anything? Please let me know.

(N6TCE continued on next page)

Pass the word to your ham friends and contacts about these contests—the more operators we get, the more fun it becomes. Also, please note that the 2 meter sprint contests are not a function of the Stockton-Delta nor the Lodi A.R.C. The sponsor is the *Shirley L Rose Contest and DX Club*. Shirl, AA6K (SK) was an active member of many clubs and groups, and an advocate for participation in special events and contests. The club's call sign is AD6KU, which Shirl had when he was an Advanced Class licensee.

Here are the official Reindeer Roundup results:

Class B (6 to 49 watts)

K6DGQ: 14
KN6CTQ 13
N6LHL: 12
N6KOG 12
KN6STN: 11
KE6RMN: 4

Class C (50 watts & up)

N6GKJ: 16
N6KZW: 16
K6ZZD: 15
KG7OR: 14
AL7PS: 14
WB6BET: 14
N6NFB: 13
WB6YLK: 13

Check Log

N6TCE: 14

Notes:

1. Logs were not received from a few active operators.
2. No logs received for Class A (5 watts).

Concerning our Wednesday night net, I'd like to ask everyone to please be certain that you are setting a good example for our many newer operators. One thing in particular: when you finish your report on the net, end it with "back to net control" followed by your call sign. Tagging your transmission with your call sign is not only an FCC requirement, but it's an additional signal that you've completed your exchange with the NCS (net control station), who needs to be certain of that in order to maintain order on the net.

Finally, I'm asking all net participants for suggestions on what we can do to improve it. Yes, it's nominally a Lodi A.R.C. net, but you don't need to be a club member to be a net member. Everyone is welcome; you only need your ham license. So, please let me hear from you—what can we do to make it better? Send in your thoughts to me via N6TCE@arll.net.

The Wednesday night NCS schedule for the remainder of the first quarter is as follows. These assignments are always subject to change upon request when necessary:

FEB

03 K6AAN
10 WB6BET*
17 K6ZZD
24 N6TCE

MAR

03 K6AAN
10 WB6BET*
17 K6ZZD
24 N6TCE
31 K6AAN

*Shared with KI6YYT

I want to thank all of our NCS operators for doing an excellent job since I took the position of net director. Thanks also to Ron, N6GJK for the great net foundation that he built.

73 from Bob, N6TCE

(Now Hear This continued on next page)

* * * * *

From the club secretary, Jim WB6BET:



Last year I missed the January RTTY roundup, so I decided not to miss it this year. That was a great choice. I worked 123 stations and started the year off right with 39 states for the weekend contest. I worked 25 states in the first 6 hours. Since this contest counts for two categories, RTTY and Mixed Modes, I'm off to a flying start for my personal Worked All States challenge.

You may think I have a "big gun" station, but it's far from it. I'm a "little pistol." The transceiver is a Kenwood TS-480HX, running 200 watts. The 20-10 meter antenna is a Force 12 Sigma 5 vertical loaded dipole, with the bottom of the "Tee" bar 15 feet off the ground. The actual antenna is only about 8 feet long. The 40 meter antenna is a quarter wave vertical, made from a B'n'M Blackwidow 20 foot crappie fishing pole plus PVC pipe to get it 32 feet long. It has just a single elevated $\frac{1}{4}$ wave horizontal counterpoise and a match box at the feed point junction. The base is about 20 feet off the ground. Anyone can put something similar up, even in a HOA neighborhood.

The next contests in January were the North American QSO Party, CW version on the 9th, followed by the SSB version, on the 16th, and finally the CQ 160 meter contest, on the 30th. I bagged 38 states on the CW contest and 24 states on the SSB contest. We also did the VHF contest as a rover and made 63 contacts. It was a busy month, but what else is there to do in our lockdown state.

More for the new ham:

NEED A RADIO TO GET ON HF? BORROW IT!

If you're relatively new to ham radio and would like to get on HF but don't know how to get started, or you don't have the resources to get a lot of HF equipment right away, here's an option: *borrow it from the club*. We have a Yaesu FT-100 and two Yaesu FT-450D transceivers, each with an a.c. power supply, that will get you on the 10-meter Technician band plus the rest of HF as soon as you upgrade your license. All you need is a suitable antenna (not expensive), and you can get plenty of help from club members in choosing and installing your antenna. Certain conditions apply, but nothing difficult—you mainly just need to be a current member of the club.



YAESU FT-450D

We also have 2-meter HT radios available for loan. For details, see the [September 2020](#) issue of the newsletter, page 5. Those are Motorola HT-1000 handhelds with charger, and pre-programmed for the local repeaters. They provide a great opportunity for a new ham to get started on the air, or for any member who could make use of a 2 meter HT for any purpose. For information on borrowing any of these radios, send us an email message or just ask one of the board members (see page 17).



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 11 for PayPal instructions. For more info or to place an order, contact Ron, KG7OR, 209-712-6200, KG7OR@arri.net.



- Icom IC-PS15 20 amp transformer power supply, \$100 or best offer. (Excellent choice for use with any VHF/UHF mobile transceiver.) 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.



R390A

- 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 o.b.o. For details and owner reviews [click here](#). Dave, N6LHL, 209-477-8866, N6LHL2@gmail.com.

- K6YK still has his Kenwood TS-2000 for sale 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 make an offer. John, K6YK, 209-462-7391. K6YK@juno.com



- "BHI Noise Away," [Model ANEM MkII](#). (Note: revised URL in link.) \$100 OBO. Jim, WB6BET, 209-625-5771, jes@riverdeltawireless.com
- Wanted: Kenwood TS-480HX, 200-watts. Jim, WB6BET (above).

- Icom VHF/UHF receiver, model R7000, AM/FM/SSB. For 25-1000 & 1025-2000 mHz, with manual. —————> The seller says "it works like new." \$300 o.b.o. Bruce, AH0U, 925-623-4388, bruce@croskey.org



• *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.
- Lightning protectors.
- 25-watt dummy load with PL-259.
- Two mast mounted remote pre-amps for 144 and 220 mHz.
- Various Icom and Kenwood transceiver microphones
- And more, too much to list. What do you need?

Note: 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!*

How to pay your 2021 dues

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.

LINE FEED



That old **R390A** military receiver listed in the *Swap Meet* section by W6UHQ brings back strong memories. The 7th Fleet flagship had about a dozen of them

when I was aboard in the 1960s—an amazing rig; made by Collins, or by others under a Collins license—state of the art for its time. Would be a terrific restoration project if you have room for it (it's big and heavy). Check it out on Youtube....A hearty welcome goes out to *five* new members who joined us in January:

- AH0U, Bruce, Pittsburg
- KN6IWF, Gigi, Lodi
- W6QJM, Ron, Lodi
- KN6KKZ, Vince, Lone
- KS7TU, Stu, Anacortes, WA

Stu is ex-WA6BTK, whom you might remember from our program last year about the old Delta Amateur Radio Club. Stu and I were among the original members of that pioneering VHF club back in the day....Our five new members took good advantage of the “two for one” sale announced in the January newsletter: new members have their dues paid up through the end of the *following* year, so those guys & gal are good thru the end of 2022. Heck of a deal! (If you're not a member yet yourself, there's still time)....The Internet obviously has a lot of useful and interesting amateur radio resources; far too many to list in one place. But for a site that makes a very good attempt at exactly that, head over to AC6V.com. AC6V was Rod

Dinkins (SK in 2008) who assembled one of the most all-inclusive ham and electronics hobbyist sites you can imagine. There is truly something for everybody there, old timer and newby alike. Plan on spending a good deal of time browsing through the subjects; it's a *really big* collection. The site is sustained by Rod's son Jeff who obtained his dad's old call sign....Mobile operators, *beware!* The 2017 law in California that prohibits using handheld cell phones while you're driving was *supposed* to exclude vehicle-mounted transceivers with wired microphones. That's how the CHP interprets it in a May 2017 policy statement. But other police agencies don't always agree—one of our club members got a \$125 ticket from the local p.d. in Alameda County last year while using his mobile radio, and citing the CHP statement didn't help....Finally, we have a great quote from WB6TOU, commenting about the projected path of Skylarc3 as it reached the coast of north Africa: “Looks like we might pass over Casablanca.



Here's lookin' at you, kid.” (Good one, Dave.)Members comments about this newsletter, the club, or anything else regarding ham radio are always welcome and will be included in future issues. You saw a lot of those in our November issue, after the October 2-meter Sprint contest. Email your reports, praises, gripes, and opinions to: LodiHams@gmail.com.until next time, 73 DE KG7OR.

Image credits in this issue:

p. 1, 17 Lodi grapes graphic: lodi.gov
p. 1 Net operator: <https://me.me>
p. 3 Net control talker: pjstar.com
p. 7 N6TCE: W6SF.org
p. 9 WB6BET: WB6BET

p. 4 New ham: gloucestercountyarcs.weebly.com
p. 9 FT-450D: qrznw.com
p. 10 R390A: rigreference.com
p. 10 NoiseAway: dxengineering.com
p. 10 Icom R7000: radiomuseum.org

p. 12 Teletype: reddit.com
p. 12 *Casablanca*: media.com
p. 17 The Last Word:
theproudparents.com
All others: KG7OR

The Voyage of Skylarc3

(continued from page 6)

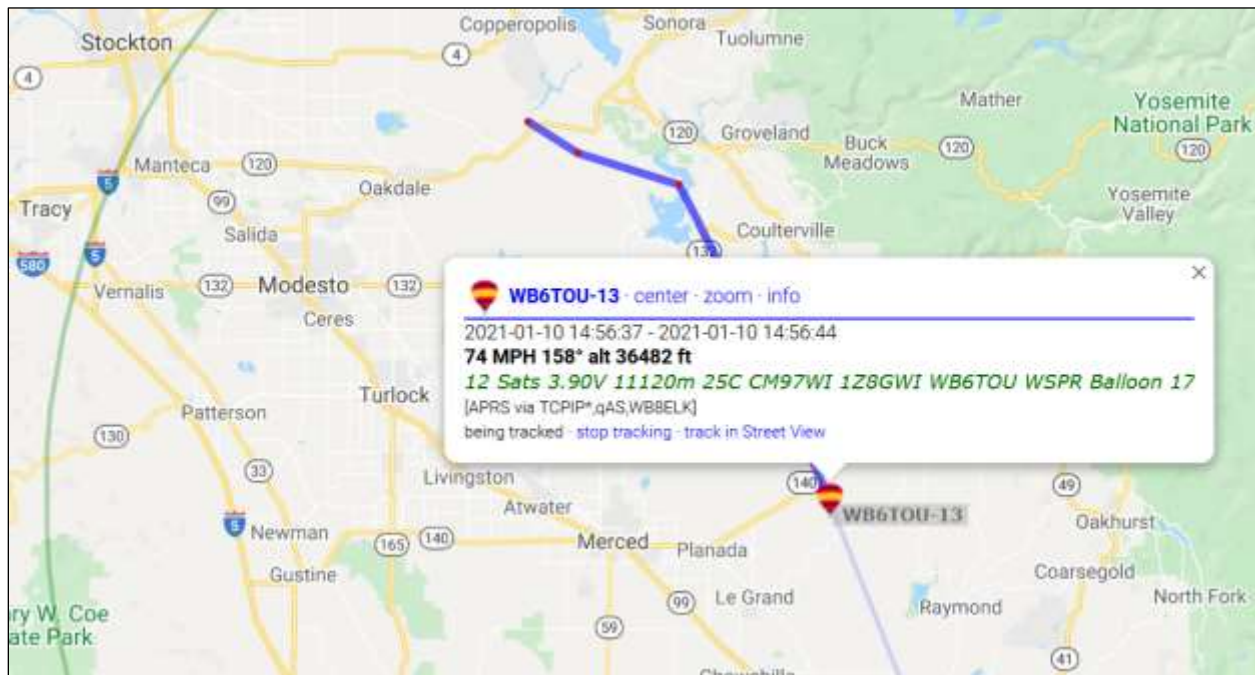


The moment of launch, Sunday, January 10th, 12 noon. Skip, N6NFB prepares to release the balloon while Dave, WB6TOU pays out the 20 meter antenna and holds the payload assembly. Mark, W6SXA steadies a length of PVC pipe intended as a vertical measurement frame of reference for the video camera, which failed to work—the only actual failure on launch day.

(Photo by WB6BET)



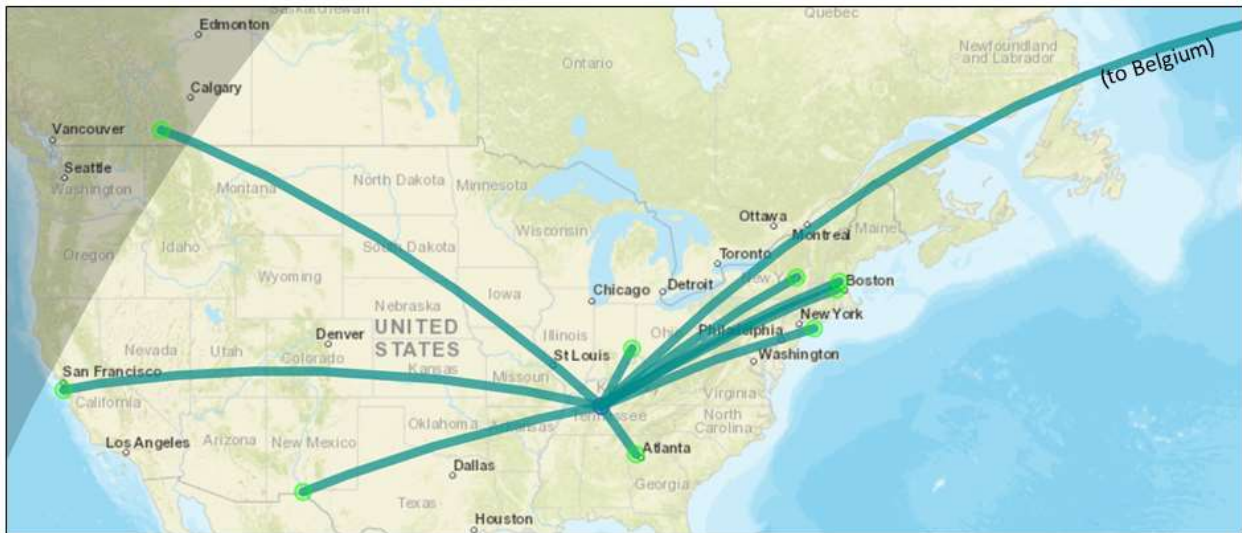
Skip releases the balloon, and a sudden breeze pushes it downward and across this field of young garlic bulbs. The payload assembly bounced across them several times before the balloon finally began to rise.



Skylarc3 only transmits on WSPR (long range, 20 meters), but the system creates equivalent APRS screens like this one, showing the local map plus the balloon's speed, azimuth direction in degrees, altitude, and the time of the data capture (Pacific time, the zone at the launch point). This shot shows Skylarc3 east of Merced on Sunday afternoon, about 3 hours after the bumpy takeoff.



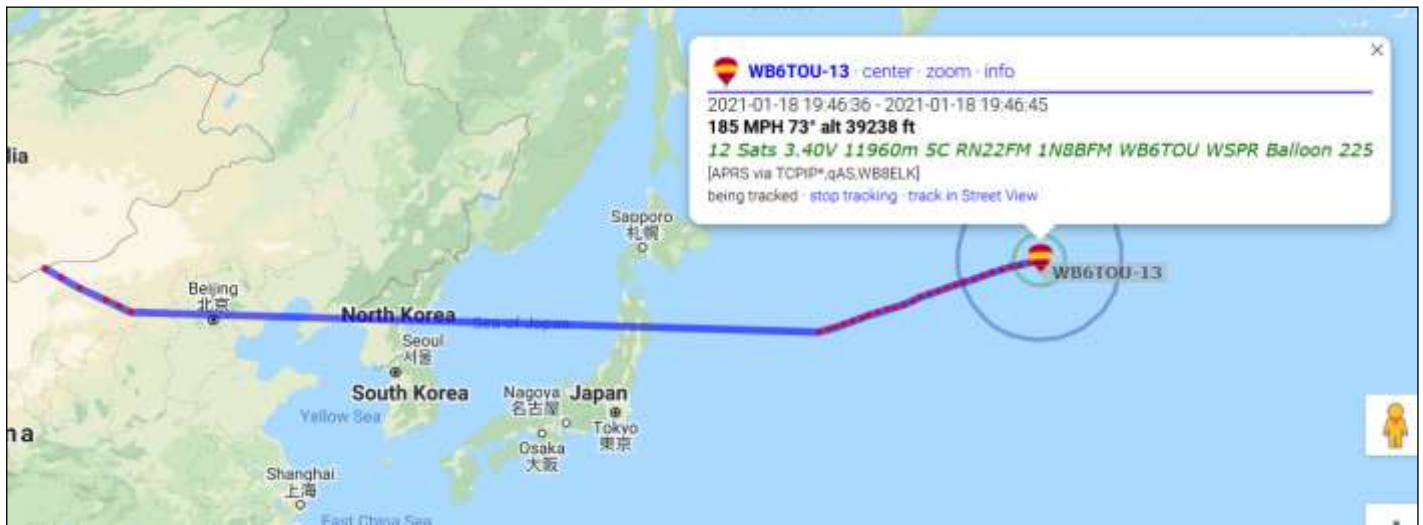
Skylarc3 first appeared in northern Mexico on Monday. The red dots on its track indicate positions where it was heard by WSPR. The balloon has turned northeast and is about to cross into Texas and continue its trek through the southern United States.



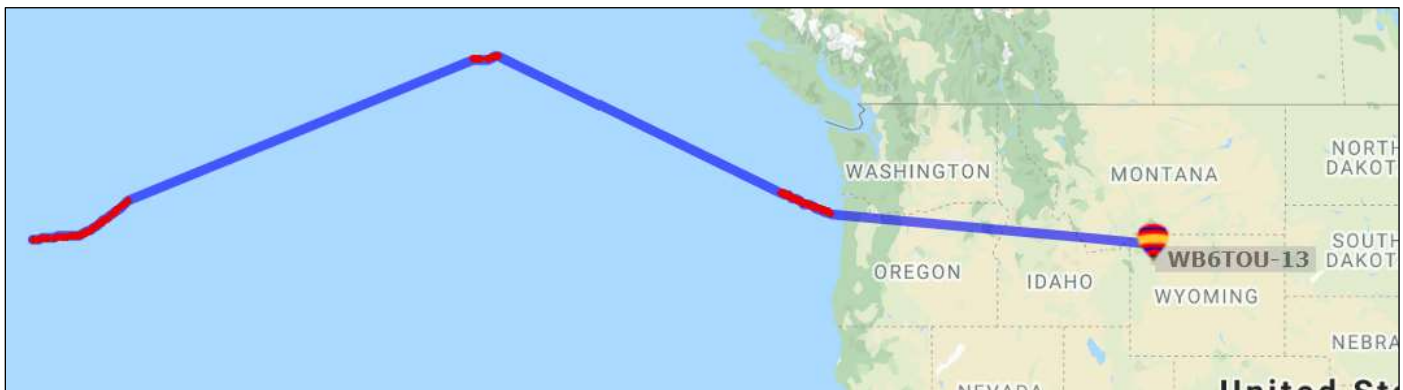
This is a representative WSPR screen, showing the balloon over Tennessee on Tuesday, Jan 12th. The view in this example was limited to just 10 receiver sites for clarity; many more had actually heard it. Here, Skylarc3 is shown as being spotted on 20 meters by 8 stations in the U.S., one in Canada, and one in Europe.



Skylarc3 is about to complete its Atlantic crossing, now a little north of the Canary Islands and approaching the coast of Morocco. Overnight on Thursday, January 14th, it passed over or near Casablanca and continued across north Africa. By Friday afternoon it was heading over the Mediterranean Sea.



By the end of the first week on Sunday, January 17th, Skylarc3 had crossed nearly all of central Asia and was about to enter northern China and Mongolia. The next day took it across China and Japan, after which it began the long trek across the Pacific—where its predecessor, Skylarc2, disappeared.



Finally, after 12 days, Skylarc3 completed its circumnavigation of the earth, crossing the coast of Oregon near Portland. It then continued on another lap around the planet, usually maintaining 70+ m.p.h. and its planned altitude of 40,000 ft. For WB6TOU, the third time was a charm!

You can follow Skylark3's continued progress here: <https://aprs.fi/> Enter WB6TOU-13 in the call sign field, select 24 hours or another desired time span in "Show last" and "Tail length," then click Search.



ABOUT THE LODI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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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. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm via video conference until such time as in-person meetings can resume.

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THE LAST WORD

