Lodi Amateur Radio Club

newsletter for

July 2021

Featured in this issue:

CLUB MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Mark your calendar:

Thursday, July 1st, 6:30 PM in-person at RICHMAID!

(Details on page 2)

Program: "Field Day Review"

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**

THE RESUMPTION OF IN-PERSON CLUB MEETINGS

Vice president Mike, K6AAN, announces that he has arranged for our first in-person club meeting in well over a year at our familiar former venue, the private meeting room at **Richmaid Restaurant, 100 S. Cherokee Lane, Lodi, (Cherokee at Oak St.).** For new members who may not have experienced our past meetings there, the usual drill to is arrive around 5:30 pm for an hour of optional restaurant dining if desired (excellent food at Richmaid), socializing, and a spirited raffle with nifty prizes. The formal club meeting starts at 6:30 pm. By all means, if you're new the club, make a point to join us for a really good time.

Richmaid requests that radio club members park in the south parking lot if it's not full—only park in the north lot if there's no space on the south side. Parking is also possible on Oak Street. Check Google Maps if you need any clarification.

Please note: as this is being written, it's not totally clear what procedures for minimizing virus exposure will be required—masks, vaccination, restricted seating, whatever. Be sure to monitor the Wednesday night net on June 30th at 7:00 pm for any last-minute instructions.

See you on Thursday, July 1st at Richmaid!

2-METER *SPRING SPRINT* CONTEST RESULTS

Here are the full results of the one hour simplex contest on May 15th, as reported by the contest sponsor from submitted logs.

Category	Station	QSOs		
A (5 watts)	K6AAN	13		
	K6ZZD	10		
B (6-49 watts)	K6DGQ	11		
	N6TCE	8		
C (50+ watts)	WB6BET	13		
	N6LHL	9		
D (2 ops, 1 new ham)	K6IWF	12 (with KG7OR)		
Other*	K6YK	8	W6DFM	4
	KG7OR	7	KF6SML	4
	AL7PS	6	N6GKJ	3
	WA6OSX	5	KN6CTQ	1

*Log not received, data from submitted logs

SPRING SPRINT CONTEST RESULTS, continued

COMMENTARY:

K6IWF at the KG7OR portable site in Amador County. Gigi's OM Mark observes on the side.

K6IWF: Having had my license less than a year, it was definitely a learning experience, but if the goal was to encourage a newbie ham operator to get into contesting, then *mission accomplished!*

The contest was great fun and I can't wait to do it again. The only disappointment was that more stations weren't participating—I had "collected" everyone who was active in the contest before the first half hour was up. Thankfully, N6GKJ jumped in toward the end and gave contestants the thrill of a very late-in-the-hour contact.

Many thanks to whoever came up with the "D" category of pairing a newer ham with an Elmer to encourage participation. It really helped to have KG7OR log and remind me when to QSY or QRZ while I was learning how to use the scan function on his radio, trying to catch the call signs of unfamiliar operators, and remembering what to say and when to say it.

I feel much more comfortable with the process now, especially after watching how Ron handled pileups when he decided (last-minute) to jump in and work the C category with his own call sign. Thank you for making this such an enjoyable experience. I hope more people will consider taking part in the next sprint contest—"the more the merrier" definitely applies!

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WB6BET: After the Mobile Roundup it was off to breakfast at Black Bear, then to a new location for the sprint contest. For a one hour contest I felt it wasn't worth a long drive to an optimum higher altitude site. The distance vs. altitude was not worth the drive. Some people asked me on the air where I was, but all I would tell them was that I was about 10 miles east of Lodi. The signal reports were good. I've spent many hours with both an online topographic map and Google map up at the same time, to find optimum VHF operating locations in northern California. Most optimum sites have locked gates at the bottom of the hill/mountain or they are on private property. Trying to find optimum sites with public road access is the big challenge. I don't let anyone know where they are, so we don't go to them and find another ham is already there. I'm a bit protective after all the time I've spent finding these locations.

Unfortunately it appears that there were only about 14 people participating in the Sprint. I think by about 30 minutes into the contest, we had worked everyone that was there. I hope we will have better participation for future Sprints. Twenty or more people would be great.

Emilia's theory is that the simplex net has encouraged people to improve their equipment, i.e. antennas. This equipment improvement has increased the range people were able to achieve resulting in many similar scores. The simplex net routinely has 25+ check-ins. Where were all of them?

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SPRING SPRINT CONTEST RESULTS, commentary continued

K6ZZD: I did not travel to any exotic locations this time, but I was pleased with what I could do with 5 watts and my Diamond x300 vertical. I could work everyone that I could hear. Some elevation and my log periodic would have given me better ears. As we all know, "it's all about the antenna".

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WA6OSX: Always fun, thanks.

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(More Spring Sprint commentary in the *Line Feed* column, page 12.)

NEW 6-METER NET

In the 1950s and -60s, the Delta Amateur Radio Club was very active in San Joaquin County and surrounding areas, operating almost exclusively on 50.4 mHz AM. The reasons for that and for the Delta club itself were the subject of our meeting program last September, and you can find a version of it today on the Stockton-Delta club website: click here.

AM is largely an anachronism now, but 6 meters still offers a lot of potential. Recently, a few of our members discussed the possibility of resurrecting the Delta club's enthusiasm for the band by starting a new simplex net. Our net director, N6TCE proposed testing the concept by meeting on 50.135 mHz on Saturday, June 19th at 12:00 noon, to see how well we could connect on USB voice, with everyone generally using modest antennas.

The test went very well, with one exception (details below). Usable voice contact was made among eight of our members in Stockton, Lodi, Galt, and Valley Springs, with signal strengths ranging from "*weak and barely readable*" to a "*solid five-nine*." One factor that helps: a horizontal antenna, as explained in our June newsletter. For a review, click here and see page 3.

The successful eight operators on June 19th were:

K6TVT Stockton	KG7OR Lodi	W6MRM Galt
N6KZW Stockton	K6AAN Valley Springs	K6DGQ Galt
N6GKJ Lodi	KE5JTS Woodbridge	

There would've been nine, but N6TCE's antenna decided to come down during the previous evening. Even so, Bob was still able to hear all 8 stations in Tracy with his multiband wire laying across the shrubbery. He's looking forward to the S-unit improvement that should come next time with better antenna supports.

The new 6 meter net will continue on **Saturday, July 3rd,** at **12:00 noon** and on subsequent Saturdays when there are no conflicting events. If you have a radio capable of SSB on six, get some type of horizontal antenna in the air and give it a try!

FOR THE NEW HAM: SIGNAL REPORTS

The new 21st-century ham is often mystified by some of the jargon and terms heard on the air. Old-timers tend to use slang and operating signals during voice contacts when plain language would be just as effective. Unfortunately, entrenched habits die hard—the reality is that you're going to continue to hear those terms on the bands indefinitely, regardless whether they're considered proper by someone's definition. Therefore, newcomers will do well to recognize and even start using familiar ham jargon themselves.

For part 6 in this series, we'll focus on the **RST** signal reporting system: ***R****eadability*, ***S****trength*, and ***T****one*. You hear it used frequently when someone asks for a radio check or signal report, and gets something like "*You're five-nine*" in response. It's based on a system devised in 1934 as a standard for reporting three factors in a received signal: whether the transmission is intelligible (R), the strength of the incoming RF signal (S), and the purity of the CW note (T). When used on voice, "T" doesn't apply so the report is reduced to just two factors, R and S.

The following table defines the values for each of the factors. For example, the "five-nine" voice signal cited above was heard to be "perfectly readable" and its RF strength was "extremely strong." Also, S-9 is often stated as "*full quieting*," meaning that the incoming RF signal voltage is strong enough to suppress (quiet) all received static or other outside noise plus the thermal hash generated in your receiver.

R = READABILITY
1 -- Unreadable
2 -- Barely readable, occasional words distinguishable
3 -- Readable with considerable difficulty
4 -- Readable with practically no difficulty
5 -- Perfectly readable

S = SIGNAL STRENGTH
1 -- Faint signals, barely perceptible
2 -- Very weak signals
3 -- Weak signals
4 -- Fair signals
5 -- Fairly good signals
6 -- Good signals
7 -- Moderately strong signals
8 -- Strong signals
9 -- Extremely strong signals

T = TONE
1 -- Sixty cycle a.c. or less, rough and broad
2 -- Very rough a.c. , very harsh and broad
3 -- Rough a.c. tone, not filtered
4 -- Rough note, some trace of filtering
5 -- Strongly ripple-modulated
6 -- Filtered tone, trace of ripple modulation
7 -- Near pure tone, trace of ripple
8 -- Near perfect tone, trace of modulation
9 -- Perfect tone, no trace of modulation

(above chart adapted from: www.hamuniverse.com)

There are also applicable Q-signals for readability and RF signal strength, **QRK** and **QSA** respectively. QRK has found its way into common ham usage in signal reports. Someone might ask for a radio check and get the response: "*you're Q5*," meaning QRK-5, "excellent

intelligibility." That's pretty much the same as "perfectly readable" in the RST system, so the two mean the same thing. Unfortunately, the signal strength values that go with QSA don't track with the above "S" values in the RST system. QSA only goes to 5, which doesn't work well in ham radio. You may hear someone give a "*five by five*" report on another radio service, meaning QRK-5 and QSA-5, but that's not a good practice on the amateur bands.

Receiver S-meters are typically denoted 1 – 9 which nominally relates to the "S" values in the above chart. The S-meter will also show signals greater than S-9, calibrated in dB. If you hear a signal report saying that someone is coming in "*thirty over*," that means the S-meter is showing a signal level that's 30 dB stronger than S-9.

You may also hear a signal report, usually on VHF/UHF, to the effect that the incoming signal is hitting "*all the bars*." Small handheld or mobile transceivers will typically have a simple digital scale for signal strength, with a number of small rectangular bars that light up sequentially with stronger signals. The Yaesu FT-7900, for example, can give you 1 to 9 bars, which the operator can interpret as S-1 to S-9. In such radios, there usually is no way to indicate signal strength above S-9, so "*all the bars*" can mean S-9 or anything above it.

Most of the time, though, you'll hear signal reports given in the 5-9 system shown above, especially on HF.

Remember that "readability" and "signal strength" are two unrelated parameters. "R" means whether you can make out everything the other operator is saying. "S" means signal strength, regardless how well you understand what you hear. For example, it's very normal for someone to be perfectly readable although their RF power is quite weak. If you can fully understand what's being said despite a weak incoming signal accompanied by a lot of white noise, a report of "*you're about five-three*" would be entirely normal. Conversely, if someone's radio is badly undermodulated while putting out a strong RF signal, you might give a signal report of "*three-nine*"—you have a hard time hearing what's being said even though the other operator's RF carrier is strong enough for full quieting in your receiver.

For more on ham jargon, see part 1 in this series in our February newsletter, page 4.

FIELD TRIP TO H.R.O. SACRAMENTO, JULY 31st

From Mike, K6AAN, June 17th: a club field trip to Ham Radio Outlet, 4813 Auburn Blvd., Sacramento is planned for Saturday, July 31, 2021. Meet up at the Flying J parking lot, 14652 Thornton Road at 0900. [Flag City, Highway 12 at I-5] Talk-in will be on the Lodi repeater system. Carpool/caravan talk-around frequency will be 146.52 mHz. A trip to the new toy store and a nice lunch afterward are the plans for this trip. Please contact K6AAN via email if you are planning on going. We will try to give HRO and possibly the lunch spot a heads-up beforehand of how many people we are bringing. (Masks, etc. may or may not be required at HRO or the lunch location. Be sure to monitor our nets in July for the latest updates.)

WHY I BECAME A HAM
Chapter 8: Dennis Merritt, W6UHQ

Editor's note: Three of the past five members featured in this series have been brand new hams, and that's important—we need to understand how new people are attracted to the hobby. But getting here in the good ol' days was very different from what happens today, so it's nice to include an old-timer story in the mix now and then. Here's a good one from Dennis, W6UHQ, in Herald.

Like so many others, my entry into ham radio was via a crystal set. My father brought home a cigar box with a coil, a tuning capacitor, and an old-fashioned encapsulated diode. A single earphone, and I was good to go. I was fascinated with it. Getting a good ground and something of an antenna was a challenge, as was finding an AM radio station in North Dakota in 1958. But radio opened up to me at the tender age of 10.

My dad, an Air Force sergeant, got orders to Alaska, so we flew up to Anchorage. My radio interest was surpassed by the wonders of Alaska: ice skating, fishing, skiing, midnight sun, noon darkness, and the northern lights. My interest in radio was reborn with the receipt of a 2-transistor shortwave radio kit for Christmas. I was able to get a decent antenna up and receive a lot of strange shortwave signals. My interest keenly piqued, I purchased a Knight Kit Star Roamer, a very fine starter shortwave radio. The dial was incremented with a lot of strange markings, like WWV, MARINE, AMATEUR, RADIO NAVIGATION, etc., things that I didn't understand, but had a roadmap to. By the time I was a teenager, I was hooked on shortwave listening and was looking into ham radio, including a station set up in a hanger on Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage.

In 1965 the good sergeant got orders again, this time to Minnesota, so we drove down to Duluth AFB and eventually got quarters on the Air Force base. There I joined the high school ham club, WA0KVN. With Elmering by Mike, WA0IFO (now KK6YA), I soon got my Novice ticket as WN0OOM. (Try *that* on CW!)

Mike had a Conditional license, with a 40 meter dipole strung under the eves of the apartment building. We were both in the high school band and carried an AM transmitter around with us when we traveled to games as part of the pep band. I'm not sure how successful we were with our AM mobile in my 1957 Mercury, but we had fun. We worked Field Day in 1966 by taking my equipment out on our back porch and stringing up a 200 foot long wire.

My dad retired from the Air Force in 1966 and we moved to Fairfield, California. I attended Armijo High School where there was no ham club, but I did have very cool electronics teacher

in K6OLL, David Warner. In 1967 I went to San Francisco to take the Technician test, and became WB6UHQ.

When I graduated from high school, I was facing the military draft and probable deployment to Vietnam in the Army. I didn't want to go to Vietnam, so I enlisted in the Navy where, amazingly enough, they decided that I should go to radioman school in San Diego! That was a piece of cake. I sat at the front of the class and operated a giant keyboard that caused a big sign to light up according to the key I pressed as the practice CW practice was sent. My only failing in radio school was that I could I couldn't type at all. The Navy taught me how to type, and I learned it the Navy way—the keys had *no* letters! I was typing blind and it turns out that was the best training I ever had.

By then I was copying 24 w.p.m., so I went to the San Diego FCC field office and sat for the General class CW test. I didn't need the theory exam since the Technician and General written test were the same then, so I left there in 1968 with a General class license.

While attending the Navy's radioman school I developed a lifelong love of the Model 28 Teletype machine. I ended up mostly as an RTTY operator in the Navy. The Navy had moved beyond CW into the world of digital communications, even in 1968. The Teletype machines were magical to me. I often would putter around in the shipboard radio spaces listening to the fleet of R390A receivers, patching them into the FSK converter units and the Teletype machines. Back then the wire news services all transmitted their feeds by Teletype in the clear, which is how we got the news at sea. (Of course, I was copying the hams on RTTY as well.)

At one time I had two model 28 machines at home, but I knew it was only a matter of time before RTTY was computerized. I have been doing RTTY, then in turn, AMTOR, packet, PSK31, MFSK and now FT8/FT4, and loving every inch of it!

I always liked CW but the digital modes have been my mainstay in ham radio. In fact, my CW speed has dropped from 24 w.p.m. in the Navy to maybe 10 w.p.m. if I'm lucky today. I have dabbled in ATV, 10 meter FM, SSTV, HF SSB and AM, and VHF/UHF FM a lot. I even started a Satellite station, but found the complex mix of antennas, transmitters and receivers were too complicated to make work every time, anytime, so I pretty much stay with HF digital modes.

My current station consists of a Kenwood TS-2000 into a Hygain 5BDQ trap doublet up about 15 meters. My backup antenna is a Hy-Gain 18AVT vertical. For HF mobile, I run a Yaesu FT-857D to an old Spider antenna. For VHF/HF I use a combination of a Kenwood TM-281 and an Icom IC-208 to a Diamond X50A or a Cushcraft 4 or 11 element 2 meter beam.

But recently I have to confess that after 55 years of hamming I'm starting to think life is too short for QRP and dipoles, and am looking at a wire beam and an Astron ALS-500M amp.

I wish I had been able to keep all of the equipment I have owned in the past. What an antique collection: Hammurlund HQ-100, Knight R100, Knight T60, Gonset GSB-100, Hallicrafters S40B, Heath DX40, Heath DX35, Heath DX60, Heath HW-101, Heath SB-101, Heath SB1400. Harvey-Wells TBS50, Collins R390, Heath HW202, Heath GR-64.

I'm a lucky fellow too with an understanding XYL who is also licensed, Pamela, KF6ZOY. One son Dustin, KF6ZOX, is also licensed and hopefully two grandsons in the near future.

See you on the air! *—Dennis, W6UHQ*

NOW HEAR THIS!

News & announcements from your Board of Directors

From the Secretary, Jim, WB6BET:

The ham sprit is alive and well. We went up to the ham swap in Minden on June 5th. It was a great one with all ham related equipment; virtually no consumer electronics. I saw a MFJ 300 watt dummy load for $5 and bought it to give to a relatively new general class ham in our club. The older ham questioned that with an old call sign like mine that I didn't already have one. I told him I had a number of nice dummy loads with 20 to 5,000 watt ratings and I was buying it to give to a new ham in our club. He then handed back my $5 and told me to keep the dummy load and pass it along to the new ham with his compliments. The $5 meant nothing to him, but helping a new ham did. This is what ham radio is all about, helping the new guys and gals. If you can do the same, just do it.

From the Treasurer, Ron, KG7OR:

Space is at a premium in this month's newsletter, so I've omitted the usual instructions on how to pay dues and other club expenses, by PayPal or otherwise. But nothing has changed since last month, so just check page 15 of the June newsletter if you need the info.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

July

1	Club meeting, 6:30 pm
20	Board meeting, 6:30 pm
27	SJCARES meeting, 7:30 pm, Zoom
31	HRO-Sac field trip (see page 6)

EVERY WEDNESDAY:
6:30 pm, simplex net, 147.09 mHz
7:00 pm, club net, WB6ASU repeater
8:00 pm, 10 meter net, 28.4 mHz USB

August

5	Club meeting, 6:30 pm
17	Board meeting, 6:30 pm
24	SJCARES meeting, 7:30 pm, Zoom

Area-wide 6 meter net, Saturdays, 12:00 noon, 50.135 mHz USB, except during special events, i.e., the VHF contest Sept. 11th.

September

2	Club meeting, 6:30 pm
11-12	ARRL VHF contest
21	Board meeting, 6:30 pm
28	SJCARES meeting, 7:30 pm, Zoom

ARRL CONTEST CORRAL, JULY
Contests and state QSO parties:
click here

EASY RF EXPOSURE CALCULATOR

Page 13 in our May newsletter provided an online tool for calculating your RF exposure level per the new FCC requirement. Here is the suggested tool:

http://hintlink.com/power_density.htm

The May newsletter article also provided another tool for measuring the loss on your coax between transmitter and antenna. Subtract that loss from your transmitter output power to estimate the power at your antenna input, which is what you need for the above exposure calculator. Here's the coax loss tool:

https://www.qsl.net/co8tw/Coax_Calculator.htm

That original exposure calculator does have a confusion factor: its field for entering your power level asks for "average power at the antenna," followed by a lengthy explanation (scroll down) on how to calculate it. Ignore that and enter the full output power of your radio. If the resulting calculation is within the safe limit, you have no need to worry about average power or coax loss. If you're over the limit, you can then reduce your stated power level via the coax loss and average power calculations.

There is another online RF exposure calculator that you may want to try. It arrives at the same result via a slightly different route, and without any particular confusion factors. It also provides a handy chart giving the needed dBi gain factors for a large number of antenna types; handy if you're not using a commercial antenna with dBi gain stated in its specs. Find it here:

http://www.lakewashingtonhamclub.org/resources/rf-exposure-calculator/

Note that this online tool is referenced indirectly in the July issue of QST, page 24, in the letter from NK9Y. It lists a URL on the ARRL website, but it's wrong—the ".com" at the end, as shown, will get you nowhere. Here's the correct URL:

www.arrl.org/rf-exposure

Scroll down to "RF Exposure Calculator" at the bottom of that ARRL page, and you'll find the above link to the Lake Washington Ham Club online calculator.

Remember that you (1) need to do the calculations for every configuration on which you transmit—base, portable, and mobile, (2) you need to do it again whenever you make a change that could affect RF exposure—power level, antenna, etc., (3) you need to document and save your calculations, and (4) you need to get it done by May 3, 2023. To paraphrase a common TV ad, "don't press your microphone button without it."

SWAP MEET

Welcome to our 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. *Swap Meet* is open to all; you don't need to be a Lodi ARC member.

Lodi A.R.C. baseball caps and T-shirts.
Shirts $10.00* - - - - - - - - - Caps $15.00*
Shirt sizes in stock: 1 medium, 6 large, 1 3XL.
For more info or to place an order: Ron, KG7OR, 209-712-6200 cell or text. **LodiHams@gmail.com.**

*These prices are less than our cost and are limited to stock on hand.

• Heathkit SB-220 KW linear with King 6-mtr conversion and new upgrade boards. **Click here** for info. "925 watts out all day" on Six. $900 o.b.o. Bruce, AH0U, 925-623-4388, **AH0U@arrl.net**

• Yaesu FTM-3200DR 2 meter FM & digital transceiver, 65 watts, with mobile bracket, mic., and power cable. **Click here** for info. $100 o.b.o. Joe, N6NPG, 209-283-4880, **N6NPG@icloud.com**.

• Icom IC-PS15 20 amp transformer power supply, $100 or best offer. (Excellent for the above Yaesu radio, or any VHF/UHF transceiver and most HF transceivers). **Click here** for photo and reviews. Dave, WB6TOU, 209-368-5878, **WB6TOU@arrl.net**.

• *Price reduced*. Kenwood **TS-2000**, all-mode transceiver, 160m – 70cm. Dual receive, 100 watts on 160 meters thru 2 meters, 50 watts on 70cm., built-in antenna tuner. Everything works as expected. $650 or make an offer. **Click here** for ARRL review. John, K6YK, 209-462-7391. **K6YK@arrl.net**.

• Kenwood **TS-430S** HF transceiver, 160-10m, 100 watts. Great HF starter rig. Professionally serviced in 2017. $350. Jim, WB6BET, 209-625-5771, **WB6BET@arrl.net**.

• "BHI Noise Away," **Model ANEM MkII**. receiver noise eliminator. $100 o.b.o. WB6BET (above).

• Dennis, W6UT in Stockton is offering his impressive collection of restored Vibroplex *bugs* (semi automatic CW keys). See the photos and details in the **May Stockton-Delta newsletter**, page 10.

• *Free:* commercial-quality 2 meter J-pole antenna, plus a matching 70 cm J-pole. Free to a new ham who wants to get beyond a simple handheld radio, starting with a good VHF/UHF base station antenna. Mike, N6ZW, **N6ZW@arrl.net**.

• *Free:* HP Deskjet printer, model 845C, in working condition. **Click here** for info. Also a Supermicro Super-370SED motherboard with a Pentium III processor and more. N6ZW (above).

(Swap Meet continued on page 13)

LINE FEED

(Editor's notes)

FB to new Lodi member and new ham Al Hill, **KN6IOK**, who stepped up to lend a hand during the antenna raising party aboard USS *Lucid* on May 29th, in preparation for Museum Ships Weekend, then again on June 12th to bring 'em down. It's great to see our new members take the initiative to get involved, and there's always an opportunity.

FB also to Skip, **N6NFB** plus Jim and Emilia, **WB6BET** and **KI6YYT** for hitting it big in the ARRL's January VHF contest. The three made the pages of QST (July, pp. 78-79) for high Limited Rover score, Pacific Division (Jim & Emilia operating as **WB6HUM**), and Single Operator FM, Pacific Division (Skip). Skip also made the top 40 in the West Coast Region: 3 ARRL divisions plus western Canada. *High 5!*

In case you're wondering why my *Spring Sprint* entry (page 2) is in the "Other" section (log not submitted), KG7OR was already on K6IWF's log as one of the two operators in category D. When the action faded after the first half hour, Gigi urged me to jump in with my own call sign and "stir things up!" Her enthusiasm was infectious and things were indeed slow, so I did. The pileup I caused was a lot of fun!

So much for the fun. Frankly, the contest's results are a bit embarrassing. Yes, there were one or two positive aspects of the event, chiefly the experience afforded to new ham K6IWF, as related by her comments on page 3. But given (1) N6TCE's passion for the contest, (2) its heavy publicity in this and the Stockton-Delta newsletters, (3) our extensive simplex experience in recent months, and (4) the fundamental goal of demonstrating our ability to provide communications under urgent, non-optimal conditions, it's really hard to understand the paucity of participants and especially of submitted contest logs. The Spring Sprint really did deserve far better support than it got. I can't help but think we can and should do a whole lot better next time—otherwise, what exactly are we all doing here, anyway?

Okay, soap box aside. On a much lighter note, thanks to **WB6BET** for submitting this month's entry for *The Last Word* (page 15). Out of the 12 attempts at ham humor seen in this newsletter since its inception last August, that has to be up there with the best of the lot.

Help wanted, part 3: As I write this in late June, the clock is slowly ticking on the need for a small number of our 71 members to shed their reluctance and signal some willingness to help lead the club into 2022 and beyond. Your president, secretary, and treasurer all go out to pasture after December 31st, and the hard fact is that without replacements for all three, *the club itself goes with them!* You may think there's plenty of time for all that, but selecting willing and capable officer candidates certainly cannot be done on the spur of the moment. In reality, the practical deadline will be during our October meeting on 10/7/21. Failing that, it will be time to plan how the club will fold its tent.

On a related note, I regret that this will be the last Lodi ARC newsletter produced by me. As previously explained, I'm experiencing some age-related physical limitations that are making it increasingly difficult to do this sort of thing on a continuing basis. I'm told that we have a pretty good newsletter, so I'd like to have it remembered that way instead of what the half-measures would look like if I were to carry on. Thanks for your support, and I hope someone out there will take up the challenge and continue a newsletter for the club.

73 DE KG7OR

NET CONTROL STATIONS, JULY – SEPTEMBER

Wednesday night 7:00 pm net control station (NCS) assignments:

JULY	AUG	SEP
07 K6AAN	04 K6AAN	01 N6TCE
14 WB6BET*	11 WB6BET*	08 K6AAN
21 K6ZZD	18 K6ZZD	15 WB6BET*
28 N6TCE	25 N6TCE	22 K6ZZD
		29 K6IWF

*Shared with KI6YYT

The net is conducted on the WB6ASU repeater near Valley Springs, linked on 147.09 and 444.25 mHz, PL 114.8.

Please note: if you need an early or proxy check-in on the net:

1. Check the newsletter for the assigned NCS on the desired date (schedule above).
2. Send him/her an email, as far in advance as possible, requesting the early check-in.
3. If you don't have that person's email ID, look it up by call sign on QRZ.com.

(Don't send your message to the club via *LodiHams@gmail.com*, which can cause delivery to the NCS to be delayed until it's too late. Instead, send it directly to the scheduled NCS.)

SJCARES

If you're not already a participating member of the San Joaquin County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, please consider joining—ARES membership is one of the best ways for you demonstrate to the community (and, by the way, to the FCC) that your ham license was granted for a valuable purpose: as part of an effectively emergency communications resource when there's a need.

SJCARES meets each Tuesday on the WB6ASU repeater (147.090+, PL 114.8) at 7:30 pm. The meeting on the 4th Tuesday is via Zoom instead of the repeater. To join SJCARES or for more details, see the website: http://www.sjcares.org/.

SWAP MEET, continued from page 11

• 40 ft. aluminum tilt tower, mfg. by Height Tower. Excellent condition—no corrosion. 22-inch base, tapers to 14 inches at the top. With tilt base, adjustment screw, and all hardware. Disassembled and available in Woodbridge. $850. Roger, W6PKB, 209-329-8759, **ragearhart@comcast.net**.

(continued on next page)

SWAP MEET, continued from page 13

- From the Silent Key estate of Jim Grimes, WB6QIT/N6TAS in Woodbridge.

  -- Kenwood 520SE in pristine condition. Designed for SSB and CW modes in the 160 through 10 meter ham bands. Built in power supply. Heavy unit, original box.....$300 or best offer

  -- Bencher Paddle Keyer, black base.....$100

  -- Trac Message Memory Keyer.....$50

  -- Daiwa CN-620B SWR and power meter.....$50

  -- MFJ Model 259B HF/VHF swr analyzer.....$100

  -- Ten-Tec Model 209 50 ohm dummy load, 300w for 30 seconds. $25, or free with other item.

  -- Cushcraft MA6VA 6-Band vertical antenna (working before disassembly, assembly instructions included)....$100

  These are the most significant items left in the estate, however there are many boxes containing all manner of hardware and cable accessories. I have pictures to send to interested parties by request. Wil Johnson, N6JCR, wiljo4@juno.com.

NEW FEATURE ON OUR WEBSITE: *TECH TIPS*

Our media director Ron, N6GKJ announces a new feature on our website: *Tech Tips.* Check it out at the URL below, or just click *Tech Tips* on the tab bar if you're already on the site:

https://lodiarc.org/techtip.php

Here are the current topics to be found on the page, and you will want to check it periodically for new ones. Got a topic suggestion? Send an email to N6GKJ: **click here**.

- RF exposure calculators
- Allstar and software for Allstar
- HF Propagation
- Sporadic-E skip
- MUF (maximum usable frequency)

ABOUT THE LODI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Web: https://lodiarc.org
Email: LodiHams@gmail.com

To become a member: https://lodiarc.org/membership_form.pdf

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THE LAST WORD