



## LODI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

For June 2022

### Club Meeting June 2nd

The Lodi Amateur Radio Club meeting will be Thursday, June 2nd, 2022 6:30 PM at Casa Flores Restaurant 400 E Kettleman Ln, Lodi CA.

The meeting starts promptly at 6:30. If you plan to eat dinner then arrive early as usual. We do plan to have a raffle so bring your piggy banks!!

COVID 19 Procedures: Mask is optional, your choice.

If you are uncomfortable attending a group function, please stay home. Don't put unnecessary stress on yourself.

We will attempt to have the tables in the banquet room arranged as tables of 6 persons each, with the tables spaced apart.

Post meeting notes will be sent, via email, to all club members.

### Now Hear This!

K6AAN, Mike Dugger, Club President

President's Corner

The month of June is going to be a busy one for our club starting with Museum Day on June 18 at the San Joaquin Co. Museum. Micke Grove is the location for the museum and we will have a large grassy area with pop up shelters, tables for equipment, and grid power. This event coincides with ARRL Kids Day and a Parachute Mobile mission. This should bring a wealth of operating opportunities and a good chance for us to showcase our club capabilities as well as the amateur radio service. We plan to have several different types of radios operating, possibly a live video feed from Parachute Mobile, and plenty of time to get some kids on the radio. We have received a very generous contribution of Retevis FRS radios to use as raffle prizes for the kid's courtesy of Paula K6WDC.

Our next meeting is on June 2, Thursday. Arrangements have been made with Casa Flores to have our room available at 1700 hrs. This gives those who would like to come a little early, get their meals ordered etc. a chance to do so. We will start the meeting at 1830 hrs. With a briefing on the Museum Day special event by Bob K6DGQ. There will be a further discussion on Field Day, which runs from June 25 to June 26. We have a location to conduct, we just need to plan exactly what we would like to set up out there. If you plan on participating in the club's field day event, this will be an important meeting for you! There will be a good-sized raffle at the end of the meeting with some very nice prizes lined up. Hope to see many of you at these upcoming club events.

73 and stay safe!

Mike

K6AAN

KN6STN, Stan Trevena Club Secretary

APRS and Emergency Communications

The first radio that I purchased after passing my Technician's license two years ago was a Yaesu FT-3DR. This is a feature-rich HT that supports APRS packet communications and GPS. I am retired and I spend a lot of my time outdoors. I find this radio to be very useful when hiking in areas without cell phone coverage.

Last year I started volunteering for ENFIA (Eldorado National Forest Interpretive Association, <https://enfia.org>) as a docent at the Carson Pass Information Station on Highway 88 just east of Caples Lake. This station literally sits on the Pacific Crest Trail (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/pct/>). We open the station each year on Memorial Day weekend and close it at the end of September. We provide wilderness permits, camping permits, fire permits, hiking trail information for the Carson Pass area, and have a small retail shop for books, maps, clothing, and Carson Pass-related merchandise.

While working at the station, if enough volunteers are working, one person should be out on the trails during the day to help people with questions and other needs. There is no cell phone service for most of the Carson Pass area. I've always had a rule of not hiking alone in wilderness areas. My wife was worried when I started volunteering at Carson Pass that I would be out hiking alone without a way to contact anyone in case of an emergency. This is where APRS can be beneficial. APRS allows for SMS communications with any cell phone and can also be configured to beacon your GPS coordinates at set intervals online.

There are a number of trails in the Carson Pass area (<https://tahoetrailguide.com/hikingwinnemucca-lake/>). One of the most popular trails is from the station out to Winnemucca Lake and on up to Round Top Lake. The Carson Pass Station has a weather station and digipeater that connects to a tower in South Lake Tahoe. The antenna on the station will relay APRS packets at the start of the trail. Once you get out beyond Frog Lake APRS is relayed by a tower in Kyburz for most of the trail up to Round Top Lake. I am hopeful that this tower survived the Caldor Fire last summer. Because of the fires last summer, I did not get to test out the PCT north of the station via the Meiss Meadow Trail. I suspect APRS there will be relayed by tower(s) in the Tahoe Basin while in this area of Carson Pass (I'll know in the next month after the snow melts from this trail).

When you set up your HT to beacon your GPS coordinates, services like APRS.fi (<https://aprs.fi/doc/guide/guide.html>) will track up to your last 24 hours of beacons with a bread crumb trail on Google maps (<https://aprs.fi>). This can be used in many different ways, especially when you are out hiking solo in the wilderness and someone wants to keep track of you. In an emergency, your last known GPS coordinates can be communicated to emergency and rescue teams if something goes wrong.

For more immediate communications, APRS can be used to send text messages via SMS to a cell phone. It works in the reverse direction as well, from a cell phone using SMS to the APRS enabled radio (<https://smsgte.org/ug-sending-messages/>). With little to no cell service in Carson Pass, I will frequently use this to communicate with my wife while out hiking solo. I've discussed this technique with many PCT through hikers at the station. Because not all of the PCT is covered by APRS, they prefer using a dedicated emergency GPS device like the Garmin In-Reach Mini (<https://www.garmin.com/en-US/p/592606/>) that can communicate from anywhere on the

trail from Mexico to Canada. Unlike APRS, there is a monthly fee for these emergency GPS communication devices.

APRS is not as reliable and does not have the coverage of cell phone service or a dedicated GPS emergency device. But if you check the APRS coverage in outdoor areas where you may be hiking or enjoying the outdoors, it can be a technology that you can use to add some safety and communications to your adventures. And this technology is not limited to hiking. Many people use APRS in their vehicles (mobile radios and HT's) while traveling in areas that do not have cell coverage. You can check <https://aprs.fi> to see what kind of digipeaters are located in areas you want to travel through.

APRS can be a complementary emergency communication technology to cell phones while traveling in a vehicle, hiking, or camping in remote areas. And the best part is, you may already have a radio that supports this packet communication and GPS technology.

73, Stan...

N6NFP, Skip Chraft Club Treasurer

#### NEW MEMBERS, CHECK YOUR EXPIRATION DATE

Here's a reminder for our members who have joined since January 1, 2021: don't forget that as a first-time new member, your dues are paid up through December 31st of the following year. For example, if you joined at any time in 2021, you're good until the end of 2022. Your next payment is due on 1/1/2023.

This is an obvious benefit for first-time members, plus it keeps the bookkeeping simple for the treasurer: all dues are on a calendar-year renewal basis. It's a win-win for both new members and those who have to keep track of things.

The hard part for some is remembering that you have the benefit. It's rather normal for the treasurer to receive a dues renewal payment that isn't due, i.e. from a new member who joined early in 2021 and thinks he has to renew in 2022. His payment shows up, and now the treasurer has to deal with the over payment.

So please remember, a new member's first renewal payment is due at the end of the year following the year in which you join. This information is found on your receipt when you make your initial dues payment. It's also on the new member application form, in our Bylaws, and it has been stated numerous times in our newsletters.

If any member has a questions concerning the club's dues, the treasurer is at your service. Just send an email inquiry to [LodiHams@gmail.com](mailto:LodiHams@gmail.com).

#### HOW TO PAY YOUR DUES OR OTHER PAYMENTS VIA PAYPAL

Dues are \$20 single, \$25 family.

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PayPal payments

1. Log into your PayPal account.
2. Click the blue "Send" button.
3. In the 'Send money' field, enter: LodiHams@gmail.com
4. Click the blue "Send to" button with the envelope graphic.
5. Enter your dollar amount. (It will replace "\$0.00")
6. Important: in the "Add a note field", enter an explanation of what you're paying for plus your name and call sign (if any). See note below.
7. On the next screen, note "Paying for an item or service." Don't change it, or you may be charged a transaction fee.
8. Follow the prompts to complete your payment.

Note: please do not skip step #6.

Without it, the only information we get about the source or reason for your payment is the email ID that sent it, and that's not enough.

Payments can also be mailed to N6GKJ Ron at:  
1418 Bordeaux Dr, Lodi, CA 95242  
Make checks out to: Lodi Amateur Radio Club

#### ARRL Membership

There is a distinct advantage to our club in having a majority of our members as American Radio Relay League members. If you're not thoroughly familiar with the ARRL follow this link - <https://www.arrl.org>

For now, you can help the club a great deal by letting us know whether you are a current ARRL member. Please send an email message to [LodiHams@gmail.com](mailto:LodiHams@gmail.com) with your call sign if you are a member so that we can note it on our roster. If you have a family membership in the league, include the name/call sign of your family members who are covered by your ARRL family membership.

Thank you in advance for responding to this request.

73, Skip

N6GKJ, Ron Simpson, Club Technical Director:

2022 Field Day Event: June 25-25 2022

Field Day will NOT be held at our normal FD location. We are using an alternate location due to our preferred location is not available this year. We will be operating from 744 W Peltier Road. There will be instructions and a map on how to get there on the club website. This coming meeting we will discuss the final details for this years event. Craig Thompson is graciously hosting this even for us at another ranch location. Hope to see you there!!

## Changes to WB6ASU Repeater System

As some of you have noticed, the repeater system although working is not quite up to par. There are still some issues yet to be resolved. We have developed an issue with the time clock giving the wrong time. It could be as simple as a power spike glitching the clock board. The next trip to the repeater site will be to look into this and implement a fix. We still have more work to do up there. New antenna to be installed and duplexer alignments for VHF and UHF.

I am still putting together the 900 MHz repeater for Bear Mtn. There is a slot in the cabinet already set aside for it

We appreciate your patience with our issues.

## Technical update to our Packet Radio Network

As some of might be aware, the LODI03 Packet Node has failed after many years of operation. Since BEAR03 is working very well, Tom WA6OSX has decided to pull that gear and replace it with something more useful. We have installed an APRS UIDIGI in its place on 144.39 MHz. This new node will operate using the WIDE1-1 mode. This is a full digipeater.

Those of who play with APRS should appreciate this fill-in node.

Tom Daley, WA6OSX is continuing to test the packet node on Bear Mtn. We have determined that the 2M repeater TX is causing an issue with RX performance in the packet transceiver. We will be installing a filter to help mitigate the issue.

As of Sunday, March 27, 2022, the packet radio transceiver at Bear Mtn. was replaced and a battery backup system was installed. All is working great and back to normal.

As of Saturday, February 12, 2022 we now have 145.03 MHz operational on Bear Mtn. This node is labeled as bear03.

As of Friday Nov, 26 2021 the packet node frequency on Gopher Ridge has been changed to 145.07 MHz, the reason for the change is in keeping with the statewide plan to keep emergency communications on 145.07 MHz. Secondarily this frequency is not as busy as 145.03 MHz.

Sites and Frequencies for the N6SJV Packet Network:

Lodi - 144.39 MHz n6sjv-1 APRS Digi

Gopher Ridge - 145.07 MHz GOPHER (Statewide Emergency) Bear Mtn.

145.03 MHz bear03

There will be a WinLink2000 Server tied to 145.03 MHz for San Joaquin County.

The location of this server is still TBD

N6TCE, Bob Officer, Club Net Director Lodi

ARC Net Director Corner

This is the Net Roster for the next three months. Net Ops please take note:

June

July

August

6/1 – KN6STN  
6/8 – N6TCE  
6/15 – K6AAN  
6/22 – KK6ES

7/6 – KN6STN  
7/13 – N6TCE  
7/20 – K6AAN  
7/27 – KK6ES

8/3 – N6TCE  
8/10 – K6AAN  
8/17 – KK6ES  
8/24 - KN6STN  
8/31 – N6TCE

Hello Net and Lodi Amateur Radio Club Members!

As we are coming to the beginning of June, It is time to assess the year because we are close to half way through.

The numbers are lagging behind last year? Summer is usually lighter than the winter, spring and fall months. Clubs grow depending on how well the nets and other events are attended.

The leading metric is net attendance. Our Club announcements come 1<sup>st</sup>. It is best place to find out what is happening. Jim, WB6BET(SK), used to do announcements of contests and special event stations. I am calling for someone to step up and take up that torch. The report can be as extensive and short as you want.

We are getting lots of interest outside our area. That is a good thing. It means our club and the repeater users are open and welcoming. Keep up the good work.

Nets and Club memberships are interlocked in so many ways. When you find a robust club sponsored net and you are more likely to find a large and active Club.

Thank you all for checking into the net each week.

Bob Officer, N6TCE  
Net Director

N6TCE, Bob Officer,  
San Joaquin Co. ARRL Emergency Coordinator

## News and the Ground Truth

Hello all we are slowly growing ARES into a group with can be a useful tool for our Local and State Emergency Managers.

May and June have seen a change in the San Joaquin County's OES Office. I am looking forward to working with New Director of Emergency Operations (Tiffany Heyer).

Most of the SJCARES members have received copies of the FEMA Region 4 and 6 Exercise dealing with a Cyber-attack on communications infrastructure. I have taken that plan and I am currently in the process of scaling it from a multi-regional exercise to a county wide exercise using a standardized report form that will be sent via RF (VHF). This will be used to create a map of observed outages. This type of reporting is called "Ground Truth". More and more agencies are looking for these "Ground Truth" reports. Our exercise may take place in November.

October will see the Great California Shakeout exercise as a “Ground Truth” report for the United States Geological Service, especially if you take the time to fill out the 'Did You Feel It’ report. This can be done either on the web or via Winlink.

Even if you are not a member of ARES or any other group, and if there is quake and you feel it please fill out a DYFI report.

Recent bad weather had a low energy tornado sighting. It was called in by Mike, K6AAN. Mike is a registered member of SKYWARN and also a registered and trained reporter to the NWS.

This training is available to anyone from the Nation Weather Service and comes at no cost to you.

These reports represent a valuable “Ground Truth” report to the NWS. Training to be a SKYWARN member can be found here as an on-line class and test.

<https://www.weather.gov/SKYWARN/> and  
<https://www.wrh.noaa.gov/sto/spotter/index.php>

The future also will have the August 25 Delta Regional Exercise. Properly trained Amateur Radio Operators will be used to pass messages from Field Operations to County OES Operation Center and between different counties’ Operation Centers. ARES has been invited to participate in the exercise. I will pass on the information and details when as is published.

Keep in mind the October Great Shake Out. Pencil in the Date October 20<sup>th</sup> on your calendars. The USGS will be looking for ground truth information from the drill.

Remember the goal is to be Amateur Operator that is trained to fill the seat of professional communicator. We all need the standard ICS-100, 700, 200 and 800 certificates. Those are all on-classes. Before any Emergency Manager will allow you to volunteer, you must have those minimum classes. That is so we understand the frame work and standardized language used.

Bob, N6TCE  
ARRL Emergency Coordinator  
San Joaquin County

Why I Became A Ham Dave

Martin

WB6YLK

My Ham Radio Life

I graduated from Burlington Iowa high school in 1961, and after partying out of the first year of Junior College. I entered a 2-year Electronics Technology program that the college started. During

the second year of the school, they had a one-hour class. That class had “voted” to get our Novice Radio License. After completing the class, I took the Amateur Radio exam. I passed the exam and was granted call sign WA0IXB.

My Uncle W0CTQ came up from Kansas City for a visit and brought a “Heathkit Lunchbox 2'er” and helped me set it up and I made either 3 or 4 contacts. But then HE TOOK IT HOME when he left!!

July of that year, I joined the United States Air Force. That put a kibosh on any more “On air” activity. Eventually my license expired and I did nothing with radio for several years.

During my time spent in the service I was trained on the Airborne Early Warning Radar which was the precursor to the AWACS system which is used today.

After my time spent in the service I eventually got hired on at McClellan AFB in 1972 where I was trained on the AN/TPS-43E and later the AN/TPS-75 Search Radars.

I retired finally in June 2000.

In the 70's I got caught up in the CB craze. One night I was at a friend's house playing cards and listening to the CB. When I left, I was rear ended a block from home. I had a CB in the truck and tried to call my friend to come help. I was then told by some

“CB traffic cop” to take my problem to channel 9 and he did all he could do to interfere with my call for assistance.

When I finally got home I took the CB out of my truck and tossed it on a shelf in the garage. At that point I made an effort to find a code class.

My friend's son and I joined a code class taught by Armin Noble (who owned “World Radio”).

I did take and pass the Amateur Radio exam and was granted the call sign WB6YLK.

Everybody in the class got along great. At the time North Hills Radio Club was the biggest ham club in the area. Unfortunately, it was in the North area. Since everybody in our class lived in the South area, we eventually formed the “River City ARCS” in July of 1976.

I had a Tech license for a long time and when they changed the Part 97 rules about code requirements and license reclassification, I was grandfathered into the General Class License.

I enjoy working the Clarksburg Fun Run, and the CIM run and some of the other public events in the area. I do HF when I can and enjoy working 10 meters when the band is open.

73, Dave

Share your story with us, if you are willing to write a few paragraphs about why you became a ham radio operator and what you would like to achieve, we would be happy to hear your story. Please submit your story to [n6gkj1@gmail.com](mailto:n6gkj1@gmail.com) no later than the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month!!

Club Nets Wednesday

2M Simplex net: 147.090 MHz (simplex) 6:30 pm

2M Club net: 147.090 MHz (repeater, PL 114.8) 7:00 pm

Mark Your Calendar



## January

- 1 - Straight Key Night
- 2 - Kids Day
  - 2-3 - RTTY Roundup
  - 6 - Lodi ARC Club Meeting
- 16-18 - January VHF Contest

## February

- 3 - Lodi ARC Club Meeting
- 5 - Lodi ARC VHF Packet Discussion
- 8-12 - School Club Roundup
- 20-21 - International DX – CW

## March

- 3 – Lodi ARC Club Meeting
- 5 – Lodi ARC VHF Packet Discussion Continuation
- 6/7 - International DX– Phone April
- 7 – Lodi ARC Club Meeting
- 16 – ARES Packet Day
- 18 – Rookie Round Up Phone

## May

- 5 – Lodi ARC Club Meeting
- 15 – Lodi ARC VHF Packet Discussion Continuation
- 22 – Lodi ARC Mobile round-up

## June

- 1 – Lodi ARC Club Meeting
- 12-14 – June VHF Contest
- 18 – Museum Day at Micke Grove
- 26-27 - 2022 ARRL Field Day

## 2022 Year at a Glance (minus state QSO parties)

- 1/1 - Straight Key Night
- 1/2 - Kids Day
- 1/2-3 - RTTY Roundup
- 1/16-18 - January VHF Contest
  
- 2/8-12 - School Club Roundup
- 2/20-21 - International DX – CW
  
- 3/6-7 - International DX– Phone 4/18 –  
Rookie Roundup Phone
  
- 6/12-14 - June VHF 6/19 -  
Kids Day
- 6/26-27 - Field Day
  
- 7/10-11 - IARU HF World Championship
  
- 8/7-8 - 222MHz and Up Distance Contest
- 8/21-22 - 10 GHZ & up Round 1 (contest) 8/22 -  
Rookie Roundup – RTTY

9/11-13 – September VHF Sweepstakes  
9/18-19 – 10 GHz & up Round 2 (contest)

10/18-22 – School Club Round Up  
10/23-24 – EME 2.3GHz and up contest

11/6-8 - Nov. Sweepstakes – CW  
11/20-22 - Nov. Sweepstakes – Phone  
11/20-21 - EME - 50 to 1296 MHz Contest

12/3-5 – 160 Meter Contest  
12/11-12 - 10 Meter Contest  
12/19 – Rookie Round up CW Contest  
12/18-19 – EME 50 -1296 Contest

### Lodi ARC Virtual Swap Space

The following items are from the Estate of Jim Seiferling. These items are for sale. All interested parties will have to make contact via the listed email address only.

DO NOT CONTACT Emilia directly, She has asked to not be involved in this process

Elecraft KX3 - \$1500

Used Elecraft KX3 in excellent condition. Bought from Elecraft fully assembled.

Includes:

[KXFL3 Roofing Dual Bandwidth Filter for SSB/CW/DATA](#)

[KXAT3 Internal, Wide-Range 20-W Automatic Antenna Tuner](#)

[KXBC3 NiMH Charger](#) (w/ fairly new Panasonic eneloop BK-3MCCA 1900 mAh rechargeable batteries)

[KX3-2M Internal 2-Meter Module](#) (I installed this)

MH3 Microphone

KXUSB-a cable

12V power cable

Operating Manual

Extra Items Included:

Low Rider stand by SOTA beams

KX3 Nifty Mini-Manual

Book: The Elecraft KX3- Portable by Fred Cady KE7X Contact

Ron Simpson, N6GKJ [n6gkj1@gmail.com](mailto:n6gkj1@gmail.com) for information

YAESU FT-817D - \$350 **NEW Listing!**

Includes mic, power cable and a carry case

Contact Ron Simpson, [n6gkj1@gmail.com](mailto:n6gkj1@gmail.com) for information

Kenwood TS-480HX (200w) - \$750 **SOLD** Includes  
control head and radio chassis  
Power Cable remote  
mount kit  
2 microphones, AUX Speaker, Operation Manual

Contact Ron Simpson, [n6gkj1@gmail.com](mailto:n6gkj1@gmail.com) for information

YAESU FT-857D - \$600 **SOLD**  
Includes mic, power cable and a carry case

Contact Ron Simpson, [n6gkj1@gmail.com](mailto:n6gkj1@gmail.com) for information

Kenwood TS-480SAT - \$600 **SOLD**  
Includes control head and radio chassis  
remote mount kit brand new microphone with  
adaptor cable

Contact Ron Simpson, [n6gkj1@gmail.com](mailto:n6gkj1@gmail.com) for information

Kenwood TM281 - \$150 **SOLD**  
Includes power cable and bracket, no microphone

Contact Ron Simpson, [n6gkj1@gmail.com](mailto:n6gkj1@gmail.com) for information

Kenwood TS-430 - \$250 **SOLD** Includes  
mic and power cable

Contact Ron Simpson, [n6gkj1@gmail.com](mailto:n6gkj1@gmail.com) for information

Bioenno Based Battery Box with N8XJK Super Booster - \$575 obo  
This battery box kit was used by Jim very successfully without fail or disappointment.  
To build this same system would cost \$750 or more. Includes brand new battery charger. This is a  
good value!

Contact Ron Simpson, [n6gkj1@gmail.com](mailto:n6gkj1@gmail.com) for information

The above items are used and in known good working order.

High Power HF Amplifier – Make reasonable offer

The Amplifier is: Ameritron, AL1200, covers 160-15M, with an easy convert to 10M.  
Factory wire for 220-240V. Runs a very cool 1200 watts output, 1/2 hour 1500 Watts. Driving  
power approx.. 100 w for FULL output. Weighs 77 lbs, 18 1/2X 17 X 10.

Date of purchase 8-12-91.

Was used from purchase date until approx. 2005, approx. 3 hours a week during that time. Has been sitting idle in shack since. I no longer need high power.

New AL-1200's from MFJ (Ameritron) are approx. \$5,999.95.

I also have the QSK-5 (new) but haven't installed it.

If anyone is interested, they will have to make an offer, until I can find what used ones are going for.

Contact Mike Zane, [n6zw@comcast.net](mailto:n6zw@comcast.net)

Great Radios at reasonable pricing!

Icom IC-211 2 Meter All mode. \$100

Astron RS-35 M. Power supply. \$80

Kenwood TS700SP 2 Meter All mode and external VFO. \$150

Icom IC 735 HF All mode. \$200

Contact Fred Coe. [wb6asu@icloud.com](mailto:wb6asu@icloud.com)

FREE Stuff!!! - Dennis W6UHQ

50' Tower (rotor still attached. No idea what kind).

2 beam antennas (basket cases) probably a 2 element 10M (maybe 15M) and a tribander of some sort.

Oscilloscope Tektronix 434

Oscilloscope SOAR MS-60500

Oscilloscope CM-212/USM-144 (Military)

Audio Oscillator, Model LAJ-1 (Military)

Receiver, R390A/URR, Collins (Military)

Hickok tube test of some sort, may have 2 of these.

I acquired most of this stuff free, so I am going to make it free to first come first serve.

The tower is in 5 10' sections. No other hardware included with it.

I am particularly keen on finding a person who is interested in the R390A/URR, The R390A was the premier receiver when I was in the Navy aboard ship during the Viet Nam debacle. This radio was working.... but it has been years since it was powered up. I was thinking that it would be a good donation to the USS Lucid. It's a handsome rack mount radio, Navy gray.

I hate to say it, but if I can't find homes for these fine old boat anchors, they are going to the E-waste facility on Keifer. I will be yanking the knobs off them..

Sad fate for some of this stuff!