

Spurious Emissions

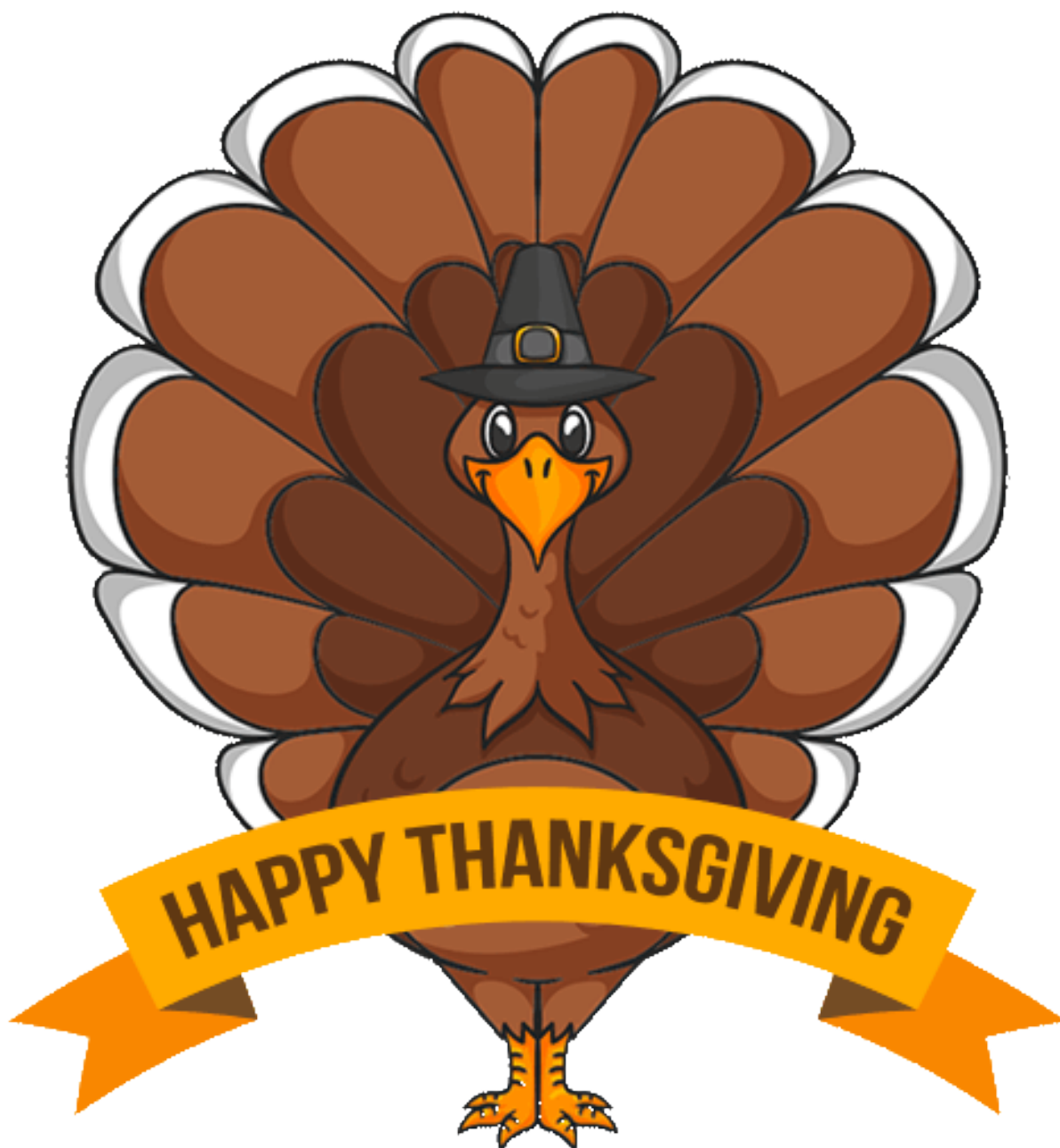


The Newsletter of the South Bay Amateur Radio Society



Volume 8 Number 4

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1957

2020

**SOUTH BAY
AMATEUR RADIO
SOCIETY
(SOBARS)**

K6QM

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SOBARS is an ARRL-affiliated ham radio club with members from San Diego, National City, La Mesa, Chula Vista, Bonita, Imperial Beach, and San Ysidro, California.

OFFICERS

President: John Wright, K6CPO
president@sobars.org

Vice-President: Danny Lamb
AI6JN

vp@sobars.org

Secretary/Treasurer:

Fred Curtis, KI6GRO

secretary_treasurer@sobars.org

Call-Sign Trustee:

Jim Beckman, N6RSL

Emergency Coordinator:

Ramon Dueñas, KJ6QQK

Property Trustee:

Louie Vignapiano, KI6SRR

SOBARS meetings are held at the Chula Vista Fire Station 4, 850 Paseo Ranchero, Chula Vista, CA 91910

See the website for dates & times.

Club Repeaters:

146.085 (+) PL: 100.0

448.340 (-) PL: 100.0

Yaesu System Fusion®

CLUB NETS

Club nets are held every Tuesday evening on the following bands:

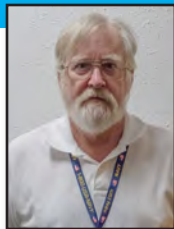
1830: (PT) 448.340 (-) PL 100.0

223.840 (-) PL 107.2

1900: (PT) 146.085 (+) PL 100.0

1930: (PT) 28.480 USB

7.240 LSB



From The President's Shack

By John Wright, K6CPO

The year is rapidly drawing to a close. October is already upon us and brings with it another fire season. Already there have been a couple of devastating wildfires in Southern California. Thankfully, San Diego County has dodged the bullet so far. This doesn't mean we should let our guard down. Fire season is just getting started and we can never know when San Diego County might be affected. Keep your batteries charged and your radios close at hand.

This brings me to the recent controversy regarding amateur radio's place in emergency communications in the State of California. Reading through popular media, one would think the state wants nothing more to do with us.

Because of one poorly-worded letter sent by a minor functionary in Cal Fire's property division to one repeater owner in Northern California, several agenda-driven websites have taken it to mean the state thinks amateur radio no longer has any place in emergency communications. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

Reprinted elsewhere in this issue is a statement by the ARRL regarding the situation.

In other news, we have been advised we are going to be unable to meet at Chula Vista Fire Station Number 4 for the first six months of 2020. The Chula Vista Fire Department is running a large

Fire Academy commencing January 6, 2020 and continuing for 20 weeks. Fire Chief Jim Geering has decreed that outside groups will be unable to use Classrooms 1 and 2 during the period of the academy.

We are currently pursuing alternate locations and the membership will be advised when and where we will be meeting when the alternate location is finalized.

Coming up in December are our two usual events. We have secured permission to hold our annual potluck meeting in one of the classrooms at Fire Station 4. Check the SOBARS website for further information.

Also coming up is the K6SJA Memorial Ham Of The Year award. Nominations must be submitted by the close of business at the November meeting and the award will be made at the December meeting. If nomination guidelines and forms are needed, contact Fred Curtis, KI6GRO, SOBARS Secretary-Treasurer.

The ARRL has announced the publication of a new magazine beginning in January, 2020. *On The Air*, to be published bi-monthly, will offer new and beginner-to-intermediate-level radio amateurs a fresh approach to exploring radio communication. The full announcement is published elsewhere in this issue. ✈

Report Causes Concern and Confusion in California's Amateur Radio Ranks

Reprinted by Permission, ARRL Website 10/15/2019

By all credible and reliable accounts, the State of California has not turned its back on Amateur Radio as an emergency communication resource nor have established repeater owners been asked to remove their equipment from state-owned sites unless they pay sizeable fees. The California controversy, inflamed by a viral YouTube video, stemmed from a California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) communication telling a repeater owner or group that Amateur Radio equipment would have to be removed from a state-owned site or "vault" if the owner(s) determined the cost was too great to proceed with a formal application to keep it there.

"I do understand and appreciate all of the service you have provided in the past," CAL FIRE's Lorina Pisi, told the unknown repeater owner(s) or group(s) last month. "However, with constantly changing technological advances, there is no longer the same benefit to State as previously provided. Therefore, the Department no longer financially supports HAM operators [sic] radios or tenancy. If you desire to enter into a formal agreement to operate and maintain said equipment, you must complete and submit attached collocation application along with fee as outlined on page one of application. There is cost associated with getting an agreement in place."

It's not clear to whom Pisi's memo was addressed, since any name or names were redacted from the version of the memo that is being circulated. ARRL reached out to Pisi this week but has not heard back.

After receiving a lengthy communication from attorney Nathan Zelif, K6DPS, of Shingletown, California, citing Pisi's letter, Shasta County Sheriff Tom Bosenko did some asking around of his own. He reported that Jim Price, the Communications Center Operation Officer for the State Office of Emergency Services, explained to him that the matter is not a new one, and the issue of repeater equipment in state radio vaults has been going on for 5 years or longer.

"He said this gets down to a local level, if the local officials feel there is a need to have the ham radio repeaters in vaults in their area," Bosenko told Zelif. "As such,

this gets down to authorization for vault space, clearances and authorization to access equipment in the vaults and contract agreements for the equipment to be in the vaults. The matter of cost and who will bear the cost for contracts and vault space has also been an issue for years."

ARRL officials who have also looked into the situation agree that it's been blown out of proportion by parties with their own agendas.

"The State of California has not made any determination we can find 'that Ham Radio [is] no longer a benefit,'" Pacific Division Director Jim Tiemstra, K6JAT, is quoted on the Sacramento Valley Section website. "What happened is that CAL FIRE has transferred responsibility for its communications sites to its property management department. That department has the task of evaluating each site, its condition, use, and tenants. If a repeater not known to be associated with the emergency management function of a local jurisdiction is found in a CAL FIRE vault, the default action is to move it out or subject it to commercial rental rates."

"Our contact in the California Office of Emergency Services suggests that, if any affected repeater is in any way involved with local emergency or government support activity, they should ask that agency to engage with CAL FIRE concerning the repeater. If the agency makes the case, there is a good chance that the repeater will be unaffected," Tiemstra added.

ARRL Southwestern Division Director Dick Norton, N6AA, has been responding to inquiries with the same message. ✈

Editor's Note:

The SOBARS repeaters and AREDN network infrastructure are in no way effected by this policy. Our hardware is located in a building and tower owned by the City of Chula Vista on property owned by the Sweetwater Authority Water District.

ARRL to Launch New On the Air Magazine in January

Reprinted By Permission, ARRL Website, 10/17/2019

ARRL is launching a new magazine, *On the Air*, in January 2020. To be published on a bimonthly basis, *On the Air* will offer new and beginner-to-intermediate-level radio amateurs a fresh approach to exploring radio communication. Each issue will include advice and insights on topics from the variety of Amateur Radio interests and activities: radio technology, operating, equipment, project building, and emergency communication. The goal of this new magazine is to be a vital resource in helping new and newer radio amateurs get active and involved in radio communications.

“On the Air responds to the brand new and not-so-brand-new radio amateur seeking ideas and answers,” said QST Managing Editor Becky Schoenfeld, W1BXY. Schoenfeld is part of the ARRL staff team that developed the new magazine. The planning included an extensive national-level study of new Amateur Radio licensees, identifying their motivations for getting licensed and their experiences of getting started. A focus group responded positively to a trial sample edition of the magazine.

“Too many new licensees never take the next step,” says Schoenfeld. “We’re excited to introduce a new Amateur Radio magazine for this audience, aimed at getting them active, getting them involved, and getting them on the air.”

The first issue of *On the Air* will be published in January 2020 (January/February issue) and will be introduced as a new ARRL membership benefit. Effective November 1, when eligible US radio amateurs join ARRL or renew their memberships, they will be prompted to select the print magazine of their choice — *On the Air* or QST. Current members receiving the print edition of QST, upon renewal, may choose to continue receiving the monthly print edition of QST or the print edition of the bimonthly *On the Air*.

All ARRL members, including international members, will be able to access digital editions of both QST and *On the Air*. Members who already access QST on the web or from the mobile app will be able to access QST and *On the Air* starting in January. ✈

How To Get “Plugged In” To The Amateur Radio Community

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

This morning, I found this email in my inbox:

Thank you for your website and great content. I passed the Tech and General tests on Saturday, and I will be taking the Extra exam in November. Your “No Nonsense” guides were very helpful.

I do have a question, though. How do I stay current on what’s happening in the ham world? For example the CQ WW SSB contest was this weekend. How do newbies know this kind of thing? How do we find local or regional hamfests and other events?

This is a great question. Like any special interest, it can seem daunting to get plugged in (pun intended) to the community. Here are a few of my suggestions:

Join the ARRL (<http://arrl.org/>)

The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) is really the place to start for information related to amateur radio. QST, the ARRL’s monthly magazine, includes news about upcoming contests and ARRL-sanctioned hamfests. It also reviews new amateur radio products and provides a wealth of technical information.

In addition to QST, the ARRL publishes many email newsletters that members can subscribe to. For example, *Contest Update* is a biweekly newsletter that not only lists upcoming contests, but also includes tips on operating contests. The *ARES E-Letter* is a monthly public service and emergency communications newsletters. There are also email newsletters for ham radio instructors, those interested in DX, legislative matters, and satellite operation.

Join your local club.

While the ARRL will help you keep abreast of amateur radio news and events nationally and internationally, if you want to know what going on in amateur radio in your area, you should join your local club. To find clubs near you, go to <http://www.arrl.org/find-a-club>.

Visit the WA7BNM Contest Calendar (<https://www.contestcalendar.com/>).

This contest calendar has become my go-to resource for any and all contest information. This site provides detailed information about amateur radio contests throughout the world, including their scheduled dates/times, rules summaries, log submission information

and links to the official rules as published by the contest sponsors. Its features include an 8-Day calendar, a 12-Month calendar, and separate calendars for state QSO parties, CW contests, and QRP contests. You can also get a weekly e-mail of contests taking place in an 8-day period (Monday through Monday), as well as a list of contests scheduled for the next week and a list of log submission information for recent contests.

Ham radio blogs.

Blogs are also a good way to keep up with what's going on in amateur radio. I like to think that I do a good job of covering what's going on in amateur radio, but, of course, I can't do it all. That being the case, you might also want read other blogs. Other amateur radio blogs that you might want to check out include:

- The K0NR Radio Site (<http://www.k0nr.com/wordpress/>)
- QRP—When you care to send the very least (<https://w2lj.blogspot.com/>)
- Everything Ham Radio (<https://www.everythinghamradio.com/>)

There are a bunch of other good ones out there. Find the ones you like and subscribe to them, so that you get a notification when new items are posted.

Mailing lists.

Mailing lists are kind of old school, but if you have a special interest, chances are that there is a mailing list for it. For example, I own an Elecraft KX-3, so I subscribe to the Elecraft KX User Group mailing list (<https://groups.io/g/Elecraft-KX/>).

Many amateur radio mailing lists are migrating to the Groups.io. To find a list, just click on the “Find or Create a Group” link at the top of the page. I just did a search for “amateur radio” and found 910 different amateur radio mailing lists.

Podcasts and videocasts.

Podcasts are also another great way to stay up with amateur radio. I'm partial to the ICQ Podcast (<http://icqpodcast.com/>) because I am on the panel once a month. The podcast not only includes a discussion of what's new in amateur radio, but also a feature, which digs a little deeper into a particular topic. Other great podcasts are Ham Radio Workbench (<https://www.hamradioworkbench.com/>), and Linux in the Ham Shack (<https://lhspodcast.info/>). Internet video shows that are worth checking out are Ham Radio 2.0 (<https://www.livefromthehamshack.tv/>), Ham Radio Now (<https://www.hamradionow.tv/home>), and Ham Nation (<https://twit.tv/shows/ham-nation>).

This is by no means an exhaustive list. If you have an amateur radio information resource that you find particularly helpful, please let me know. ✈

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Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the “No Nonsense” amateur radio license study guides (KB6NU.Com/study-guides/), and often appears on the ICQPodcast (icqpodcast.com). When he's not trying to keep up with ham radio, he likes to build stuff and operate CW on the HF bands.



Visitor From Italy

By John Wright, K6CPO

Right before the September meeting, I was contacted by Section Manager Dave Kaltenborn, N8KBC, who stated he had received a communication from an Italian ham in San Diego on business that desired to attend a local meeting while he was here.

I was provided with the hams contact information and proceeded to invite him to our meeting. We were pleased to welcome Adriano Basile, IZ2EAT to our meeting. In addition to being an amateur radio operator, Adriano is also CEO of Flex Radios, Italy.

The presentation scheduled for the evening was a demonstration of the Shark OpenSpot2 hot spot, but the presenter was unable to get the device to connect to the internet on his phone or in the first station. Instead, our visitor volunteered to give an overview of software defined radios and Flex radios.

It was a good presentation and made for a good fill-in on the fly. Thank you, Adriano! ✈



Italian amateur radio operator and CEO of Flex, Italy, Adriano Basile, IZ2EAT giving a presentation on SDR and Flex radios at the September meeting.

Bill Cheney, KG6FTM,