



From Over the Hill

—By Ed W1EJ

As I wrote last month, it is Hamfest season. Our hamfest is one of the longest running ham events in the Bay Area. It is now a tradition, not only for us club members, but for a lot of amateurs all around Northern California. They come to buy and sell ham gear, socialize with old friends or make new ones, and of course to enjoy a wonderful pancake breakfast at a very reasonable price. Sorry for the brag but I have been doing breakfast for about twenty-five years so maybe I'm entitled. Anyway, the hamfest is fun for many, hard work for some, adds a little to our treasury, and makes a deposit in our fond memory banks.

The meeting topic for this month, of course, is all about hamfest. I'm sure Darrel will have the job list ready for sign-ups so come to the meeting and grab the easy job slots before they are all gone, if not you may get stuck in the kitchen with a mean boss. We will also have a Zoom option for those of you unable to attend in person; however, there will not be a Zoom option for the hamfest, you must attend in person.

The meeting will be at the Sonoma Police Station EOC Room, 175 1st Street West in Sonoma on Wednesday April 17th at 7:30PM.

NEXT MEETING

Wed, **April 17, 2024** at 7:30 PM
Meeting Room of the Sonoma Police Department, 176 First St W, Sonoma
Topic: **Preparation for Hamfest**

Minutes of - March 21, 2024 Meeting

ATTENDANCE: MEMBERS ONLINE: KG6QNT (Eileen), N7PIB (Sanford), KM6SJG (Jim), K6GSM (Mark), KA5WSS (Robert), N7TSQ (Joe), KE6HID (Andrew), Galaxy Tablet

IN PERSON: W1EJ (Ed), KB6CLV (Simon), KI6DHG (Rachel), KD6FIL (Dave), W8EWL (John), NJ6E (Stan), KF6FZN (Dick), N6TTV (Carl), WD6BOR (Darrel)

GUEST: ONLINE: N6IYY (Brian, Presenter), K6SID (Howard)

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 1930

Adopt meeting minutes as published in newsletter? Motion made and seconded- Minutes approved as written.

OFFICER REPORTS

NEWSLETTER- Eileen, KG6QNT- Send you your newsletter items. Pictures are great. Be sure to include a caption for the photo.

ACS – Moe, KI6JNU- KD6FIL Reporting: There is an ACS level one training scheduled for April 6. Contact KI6MSP if you are interested in taking the training. There is a quarterly radio test on April 8 and a Leadership Meeting online on April 22.

VE LIASON- Elizabeth, N6LY. Absent The next test session will be at the Hamfest on April 27.

RADIO OFFICER- Mike, WB6TMH- Absent

TRUSTEE- Darrel, WD6BOR- The volunteer sign up sheet for the hamfest will be posted on the website soon.

SECRETARY/TREASURER- Dave, KD6FIL- \$3,593.70 in the bank.

VICE PRESIDENT- VACANT (no call)

PRESIDENT- Ed, W1EJ- We need new people to take the VOMARC Wednesday Night net control.

OLD BUSINESS- Future Meetings? Hamfest is coming up on April 27. Need help with advertising.

NEW BUSINESS: The Sonoma County Radio Amateurs (SCRA) is listing upcoming public service events that are looking for ham volunteers. On March 30 there is the Fish Rock Bike Ride out of Booneville. On April 13 is the Levi's Gran Fondo Bike Ride and on May 4 is the Wine Country Century Bike Ride.

MEETING TOPIC- How Many Engineers does it take to change a light bulb by Brian, N6IYY.

—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL

On The Air

- **Sanford (N7PIB)** has worked at least 3,551 Parks as part of the [Parks on the Air](#) (POTA) program.
- **Carl (N6TTV)** worked the T32EU DXpedition in Kiribati on a few bands. He also nabbed A8OK in Liberia on 20M and 40M.
- **Ed (W1EJ)** got his KH1 transceiver mostly back in working order.
- **Carl (N6TTV)** dusted off his microphone and made a good number of contacts in the [CQ WPX Phone Contest](#). John (W8EWL) and Joe (N7TSQ) also made a few contacts and dialed around the bands. Robert (KA5WSS) made 162 QSOs.
- **Robert (KA5WSS)** made 157 QSOs in the [Solar Eclipse QSO Party](#). This contest was designed to feed data to researchers who will use it to study the eclipse's effect on the ionosphere.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Misc

Don't forget to sign up for a [Hamfest](#) job on our [online job list](#).

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Another Successful Hamfest in Loomis!

The hamfest in Loomis on March 16 was a great success. The weather was good. Lots of sellers. And plenty of deals to be found. Everyone came home with something!



The crew and the purchases. WB6TMH, NJ6E and W1EJ.

—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL

More From Loomis

(A tale of wow and woe)

In the January newsletter I wrote about my acquisition of Elecraft radios for SOTA and POTA use; the KX3, KX2, and then the KH1. What I didn't mention was that I originally had a KX1 that I built from a kit. It was the basic unit, only 20 and 40 meters, no tuner or paddles. I used it for a couple of years but after I got the KX3 it got relegated to the closet. One day I saw a post on the Elecraft reflector by another ham desperate to buy a KX1; so, I broke down and sold it.

Now that I have a KX3, KX2, and a KH1, I kept regretting having sold the KX1. I wanted to have a complete set. I started looking at KX1s for sale in the last year or so and was surprised at the prices. A fully loaded KX1 with tuner, paddles,

and 80/30 meters added was selling for over \$500. I wanted a KX1 but not that bad.

Fast forward to the Loomis hamfest in March. I had only made it halfway around the circuit when Dave (KD6FIL) saw me and asked if I had seen the KX1 for sale! He led me to that seller, and it was still there, priced at only \$75! I didn't even ask if works, the answer is usually yes anyway; I bought it. At breakfast I found it had paddles and tuner but not the 80/30 module. I connected the battery and it turned on. Wow. Even without the added bands it would be worth about \$400 in KX cult circles, if it works.

The next day, at home, I tried it out and it worked. I made a couple of contacts and was happy. I checked the Elecraft site and found that even though the KX1 is discontinued they still sell the 80/30 kit; so, I ordered one. I began checking out the radio to see what was involved in installing the new module and that's when the "woe" started. Operation was erratic on receive and the display would come and go. The PIC chip that runs it all didn't seat in the socket very well. I straightened the pins and cleaned them and also resoldered the socket. That stabilized the display, but the receiver is still not receiving.

For now I had to put it aside for lack of time and energy to work on it. I am fairly sure I can get it working ; but if not, I can recoup my investment by selling the 80/30 kit, tuner module, paddles ,

and the unit itself, probably for a good profit; however, I would much prefer a working KX1 for my collection. To be continued.

—Submitted by Ed W1EJ



Fish Rock Bike Ride, March 30, 2024

The Fish Rock Gravel Bike Ride was held on March 30, 2024. The ride started in Booneville and went to the coast at Point Arena on Mountain House Road and returned to Booneville on Fish Rock Road. The ride is just over 71 miles and is on paved and gravel roads in Mendocino County. It is really steep and beautiful country. The communications was done on the CARLA repeater system on the 70 CM band. The CARLA repeater system is amazing and covers a large portion of California. Check out the system at <https://www.carlaradio.net/thesystem/>. I was stationed at Aid Station One, 15 miles out of Booneville on Mountain House Road.



Aid Station 1 on Mountain House Road.

—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL

VE Liaison News

—By Elizabeth N6LY

Our next testing session will be in Conjunction with our HAM Fest on Saturday, April 27.

Come on out and get your license or upgrade and check out some good deals on Radio and antenna equipment.

Don't forget to energize before the test with a pancake breakfast.

Sponsor: Valley of the Moon ARC

When: Saturday, April 27

Time: 10:00 AM

Reservations required.

Contact: Elizabeth Morris-Mowrey (N6LY)

Email: n6ly.emm@gmail.com

Location: First Congregational Church of Sonoma

252 West Spain Street, Sonoma CA 95476

This is a testing session only, we don't offer classes or cram sessions.

If you are testing for a new license, you will be required to pay a \$35 fee to the FCC, in addition to the fee below. Once you pass the test, the FCC will send you an email with a link to pay the fee. You will need to send in payment in order to receive your license and call sign.

This does not apply to upgrades.

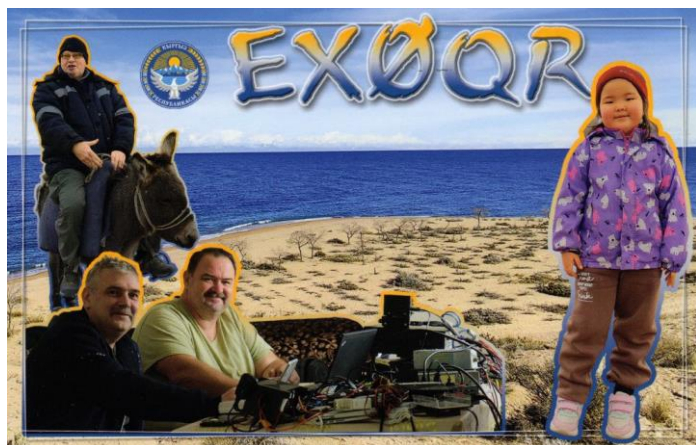
Candidate Requirements:

- A photo identification or (2) non-photo ID's
- FCC Registration Number
- Original and a photocopy of your current license (if licensed)
- Any original valid CSCEs and a photocopy of each
- Exam fee is \$15.00, Under 18 is \$5.00

QSL Card Inbox



You don't hear Andorra on the air that much. I've only made contact with two different stations from the country in all of my years of operating. This QSL card from C37NL confirms a 40M contact using SSB.



I made contact with two stations in Kyrgyzstan in the 1990s. But I never obtained confirmation, a [bad habit which had cost me dearly in the past](#). So I was happy to make an FT8 QSO with EX0QR on 30M. And this time I made sure to get this QSL as soon as I could.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

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A PUBLICATION OF VOMARC, THE VALLEY OF THE MOON
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF

Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

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Elizabeth Morris-Mowrey, N6LY – VE Liaison

Darrel Jones, WD6BOR – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Editor

Robert Barron, KA5WSS – Webmeister

"Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC."—S. Marler

WEB PAGE: <http://www.vomarc.org/>

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

Breakfast Nets are held every Tuesday and Saturday morning at 7:30 AM on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

Eileen@vom.com

—Or—

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

C/O Sonoma Police Department

175 First Street West

Sonoma, CA 95476

ACS

NET CONTROL ASSIGNMENTS

	Name	Call
JANUARY	MOE	KI6JNU
FEBRUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
MARCH	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
APRIL	JIM	K6UUW
MAY	DICK	KF6FZM
JUNE	MOE	KI6JNU
JULY		
AUGUST	BILL	KJ6EIG
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

VOMARC

NET CONTROL ASSIGNMENTS

	Name	Call
JANUARY	ROBERT	KA5WSS
FEBRUARY	DARREL	WD6BOR
MARCH	MOE	KI6JNU
APRIL	DAVE	KD6FIL
MAY	ED	W1EJ
JUNE	FRANK	KG6N
JULY	ED	W1EJ
AUGUST	CARL	N6TTV
SEPTEMBER	ED	W1EJ
OCTOBER	JOHN	W8EWL
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP 2024

Membership Dues: \$15/year individual; \$5/year family member at same address.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC Membership: Complimentary with Class—Date: _____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen:

Dues may be mailed to VOMARC in care of the Sonoma Police Department, 175 1st St West, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC**.