



From Over the Hill

—By Ed W1EJ

The first Hamfest of the year in Loomis, CA was fun and well attended. Darrel and I enjoyed selling some of our own stuff, and some of VOM-ARC's treasures. My goal was to sell more than I bought, and I accomplished that by a sixty to one margin. The Sierra Foothills ARC does a great job using over fifty volunteers, that would be about ninety percent of our club if we could get that many for ours. As you may know, we are having our Hamfest on April 26th. Darrel (WD6BOR) recently emailed a link to the job list, the last time I checked there were about fifteen empty slots. So, sign up online or be prepared for arm-twisting at the upcoming meeting on April 16th. The meeting topic, of course, will be about the Hamfest,

Before the Loomis event I went to the website of SFARC <https://www.w6ek.com> to print a flyer and while I was there I browsed the site to see what else they are up to. I discovered that they have a monthly fox hunt. They have a well-established process for all aspects of the hunt including roles, responsibilities and guidelines, and they even have loaner gear. Vice President Don (KO6DXF) previously suggested that we have a foxhunt as an activity for an upcoming meeting

and that is the plan for May. There should be enough daylight after the business meeting to have a local hunt near the EOC.

In addition to the hunt, we will have a discussion beforehand about setting up a monthly foxhunt for only the club at first, then inviting others in the future. To that end I am seeking a volunteer "FOXHUNT COORDINATOR" to write up a procedure to get us started. The SFARC information would be great to emulate. Some of the members have built the offset attenuator kits that Don ordered, and Stan (NJ6E) has kindly printed some cases. Let's get them built and ready for the hunt at the Hamfest, for the May meeting/hunt, and perhaps we can do one during Field Day when we aren't operating.

The April VOMARC Club meeting will be held at the Sonoma PD EOC room and on Zoom. The meeting topic; Hamfest of course.

NEXT MEETING

Wed, April 16, 2025 at 7:30 PM,
City of Sonoma Police Dept Training Room,
175 First Str West, Sonoma,
or on Zoom
Topic: **Preparing for Hamfest.**

Minutes March 19, 2025

Online Meeting

—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL

ATTENDANCE: MEMBERS ONLINE: W1EJ (Ed), KD6FIL (Dave), KO6DXF (Don), W6XDX (John), KA5WSS (Robert), K0SQ (Kevin), N6LY (Liz), K6ZGN (Richard), KE6HID (Andrew), KB6CLV (Simon) N7TSQ (Joe), WD6BOR (Darrel), NJ6E (Stan)

Adopt meeting minutes as published in newsletter? Minutes adopted with no changes.

OFFICER REPORTS

NEWSLETTER, Eileen, KG6QNT-Absent- Keep sending newsletter items!

ACS – Moe, KI6JNU-Absent- KD6FIL Reporting-March 31 is a County Holiday and there will be no net. There is a quarterly radio test scheduled for April 14 at the EOCs/ICPs. June 1 there is a Wildfire and Earthquake symposium at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds.

VE LIASON- Elizabeth, N6LY-Next VE session is at the Hamfest on April 26. Looking for any VE's that are interested in assisting with upcoming testing.

RADIO OFFICER- Mike, WB6TMH – Absent

TRUSTEE- Darrel, WD6BOR- Has not been eliminated in the purge, but nothing at this time to discuss.

SECRETARY/TREASURER- Dave, KD6FIL- \$3348.64 in the bank and approximately \$1000 in PayPal account. Club is selling a Collins S-Line radio set and amplifier donated by W5LTP (SK) (Sold - Thank you WD6BOR) and a 4 Element SteppIR donated by K6UUW (SK).

VICE PRESIDENT- Don, KO6DXF- Has patches and cards available for the Hamfest.

PRESIDENT- Ed, W1EJ- Thank you to W6MOM for her donation to the club. It is appreciated. SCRA has a Group Buy for the Ed Fong Antennas with a 15% discount. April 5 is the cut off date for orders. Let Ed know if you are interested.

OLD BUSINESS

Mission Statement-On hold until the next in person meeting

DMR Repeater- Location- Need to talk with KD6POC about possibilities.

HAMFEST PLANNING- Need about 15 dozen eggs. With increased cost of breakfast items, a donation jar will be placed at the counter to help defray some of the increase. Need an inventory of what is in stock in the locker (Dave). Leland, N6GEE has volunteered to run the club station. Darrel will put out a sign up list

NEW BUSINESS - None

MEETING TOPIC- Using NanoVNA Saver Software

https://nanovna.com/?page_id=90

N6TTV has the Mystery Box until the next in person Meeting

VE Liaison News

—By Elizabeth N6LY

Are any certified AE VE's interested in helping out with our test sessions this year? If so, please let me know. I am looking for one regular VE to help out at upcoming VE sessions. If you can make it to all or most of the sessions, please let me know. I also could use a back-up, in case one of our regulars isn't available.

I have immediate need for another VE during our testing session in April, during our HAMFest, as that is one of our busiest testing sessions and one of our regulars can't make it.

Summit Adventures with Ed and Dave

Point Reyes, W6/NC-542 and Point Reyes Hill, W6/CC-071

—By Dave KD6FIL

W1EJ and I set out on another summit adventure on Sunday, March 9. As opposed to our previous outings, we had a very civilized schedule, with a departure time of 9 AM from Petaluma. It's about an hour drive to the Point Reyes Lighthouse parking lot and then a short walk up to Point Reyes, elevation 612 feet. So, the radio operations got underway at about 10:30 AM.

The bands were not overly kind to me. I struggled to make 6 contacts on FT8 with 5 watts. I was operating on 20 meters. Ed started on 40 meters, then moved to 30m and eventually ended on 10 meters and made about 16 contacts on CW.

After the struggle on Point Reyes, we loaded up and drove to Point Reyes Hill, elevation 1336 feet, on Mt Vision Road. The summit is right next to an FAA beacon facility (though I did not notice any additional noise on the bands). We parked at the gate and hiked about ½ mile to the summit. The gate is actually in the activation zone for those rainy-day activations. There is a bench at the summit with a



spectacular view to Point Reyes and Drakes Estero. It was definitely worth a walk. I struggled to make 7 contacts in an hour splitting between 20m and 10m. Ed racked up another 16 contacts on CW on 15m and 20m CW.

It was a spectacular day. The sun came out at the end of our activation and the views were stunning. Ed made 2 summit-to-summit contacts and 2 park-to-park contacts, as we were operating in the Point Reyes National Seashore, Park US-0651.

The only crisis on the trip happened when we stopped for lunch at a deli in Point Reyes Station and they didn't serve beer! The sign outside said they did, but when we asked, they said no. To solve that problem, we loaded back into the car and drove to the Block in Petaluma. They had lots of beer to choose from and good BBQ sandwiches. It was another successful adventure for Ed and Dave!



KD6FIL Operating at Point Reyes



Dear NCDXF Contributor,

The **NCDXF Spring 2025** Newsletter is now available.

Please use this link to access all NCDXF Newsletters, including this new issue:

<https://ncdxf.org/pages/newsletter.html>

Scroll down the page and look for 2025 and click on the box for **Spring**.

Or download it using this direct link:

<https://ncdxf.org/newsletters/2025-SPRING.pdf>

Articles included in this issue are:

S9Z — My First DXpedition by Angus Alexander, KJ7KOJ

From the President’s desk by Kevin Rowett, K6TD

3D2Y – Rotuma Island by Gregg Marco, W6IZT

NCDXF Director Profile

C21MM — Nauru: Activating the ‘Pleasant Island’
by Werner Hasemann, DJ9KH_

50 Years Ago: A Blast From the Past

9L5A — Sierra Leone 2024 by Patrick Bittiger, F2DX

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https://ncdxf.org/pages/join_renew.html

—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL



Old radio looking for a home

We have an old radio receiver and just trying to find someone that might be interested in it. It’s an Emerson tank receiver from WW II. It powers up but have no idea how to work it. It could make a cool display piece. If you have any one they might be interested feel free to email back. Thanks for your time.

—Matt Keller mkeller51@live.com



REPAIRING THE DX-88

—By Ed WiEJ

I acquired a Hy-Gain DX-88 vertical antenna about thirty years ago, it covers 80 through 10 meters including the WARC bands. I have had it mounted on a pole for many years then ground mounted for the last ten. It has been taken down several times for cleaning and retuning in that time and it has worked very well until about a year ago. Operation became erratic with SWR shifting from good to so-so to awful. I checked the coax which tested good, but I replaced it anyway because it was old. I took the antenna down, a pain, cleaned and tightened connections, reinstalled it and it worked for a while then it started acting up again especially when it was windy. A test with an ohmmeter from the SO-239 connector to the antenna tubing of the base unit showed poor or no continuity when I would move the antenna. Before starting to work on it again I decided to order a tilt mounting unit to make it easier to do tuning, repair, or cleaning. The unit arrived in a few days but I put off working on it for six months.

A few weeks ago, I finally got back to the project. I took the antenna down again and installed the tilt unit. I disassembled the base unit and found the problem.



The broken ring is how the screw from the antenna tube makes contact with the rod in the center. That rod is con-

nected to the SO-239 center pin by a short length of braid. I guess that explains the intermittent contact. I decided to try MFJ/HyGain to see if a replacement part was available. I knew that might be difficult with their shutdown, but they are still selling remaining inventory. After several tries I got connected to Tom the HyGain support man. He had that part and another insulator I needed for the upper bracket of the

base unit. Fifty bucks or so on the credit card with shipping and I was in business; or so I thought.

When the parts arrived, I sadly discovered that the new one did not have the connecting ring on the top of the insulator. A call back to Tom did not help, they had no more of the part with or without the ring. Back to the drawing board.

After a lot of head scratching, I finally figured out what I should have done in the first place. I drilled a hole through the insulator, removed the braid, inserted a wire through the new hole, soldered it to the center pin of the SO-239, put a lug on the other end and used a screw to attach it to the antenna tube.



I reinstalled the antenna, much easier with the new mount, and tried it out. Success! No more issues with the SWR going from good to awful when the wind blows. The SWR is below 2/1 on all bands but I may retune the 20- and 15-meter bands that are right

at 2/1. That should be easy; tilt, tune, untilt, test, and done. It seems to perform about the same as my end fed wire with maybe an S unit more noise. Sometimes it receives a little better on the higher bands.

Hey, maybe I can get another thirty years out of this antenna, who knows.



Ham Humor

—Submitted by Darrell WD6BOR

Yep, it's a Ham Radio.



FIRST HAMFEST OF 2025 IN THE AREA— LOOMIS



DARREL, WD6BOR, MANNING THE TABLE.

—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

VOLUME 29 EDITION 4

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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Darrel Jones, WD6BOR—Vice President

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Moe Llanes, KI6JNU – ACS Unit Leader

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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	WIEJ
OCTOBER	JOHN	W8EWL
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP 2025

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.

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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**.