

LARK NEWS April 2022



Livermore Amateur Radio Klub LARK is an ARRL affiliated club dedicated to Public Service Volunteer Emergency Communications.

Meetings are once a month on the 3rd Saturday 9:30AM

NEW VENUE: City of Livermore Meeting Hall
1016 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore CA 94550

Available live via zoom by invitation only. Visitors Welcome

Editor: Roberto Sadkowski K6KM



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President's Message

I want to take this time to thank Ian for coordinating the Membership Poll that was completed in December. The board received very valuable information for us to act on in the next year and thank you for your input.

I wanted to let you know that the Events Chairperson (me) is following the upcoming events for 2022, and I have an update: the following events will be happening, the Cinderella Bike Ride on Saturday, April 9th. Make sure to sign up on the LARK website for these events for which LARK supports. I encourage you to participate in the monthly Technical Sessions/Meetings that will be on different topics and promising it will be very interesting. Make sure to watch for the schedule of the dates and topics coming out in the Newsletter. I wanted to thank Ron AD6KV and VE Team for continuing to provide a way for hams to get their testing completed.

Ian W6TCP continues to work on enhancing the repeaters for use by all of us so please report any issues to Ian by email.

The annual LARK elections will happen at the April meeting. If you are interested on serving as an officer or board member, please contact me by email. I encourage you to check in with the LARK Monday, Wednesday (10.10 Windfarms Net), and Thursday night nets, held every week. There are other nets available, and they can be found on the LARK website



It is good experience getting on the air. I want to thank Ed Diemer for coordinating the weekly nets. By participating in the nets, you'll hear what is going on in our Ham community, and you'll make sure that *you* can be heard. I'm looking forward to hearing you on the nets and seeing you attending the virtual club meetings. We are working with the City of Livermore, and we are going to start In-Person meetings at the Livermore City Meeting Hall in the Mendenhall Room starting Saturday, April 16th. Our monthly meetings will still have the virtual component so members who can't attend the meetings in person can still be part of the meeting and see the presentations. Wishing you all a very happy and healthy 2022 and please stay safe.

KG6GEM
(kg6wiu1@comcast.net)

Notes from the Editor

What a great month this has been for LARK! Two major public events filling out the pages of this, your Newsletter. Lots of contributions from LARK Members. Add to that the great news of In-Person meetings coming up! Can't wait to say Hi! to fellow Larkers. Some I haven't seen in years.

Don't forget to wear your badge. Nobody might be able to recognize you after all this time.

The bands are getting hotter and hotter. 15m now is performing better than 20m and 12m/10m have daily activity not only on FT8 but on other modes. Just QSO'd Angola on 12m CW.

Weather is still holding great for outdoor activities. If you suffer, like many others, from local "noise" (neighbor's RFI), portable operation can be your answer. You don't have to be a hiker or a mountaineer to enjoy the outdoors. A good old fashioned POTA or WWFF can bring Ham happiness to anyone. Besides you get to breathe fresh air and enjoy all the allergies that mother nature can bring to us.

Your Editor is traveling to Xenia,



Ohio to cover Hamvention. Yes, LARK will be covered there and a report will appear in the Newsletter. In the process, yours truly will try to set a record SOTA activations in the great State of Ohio. Yes, Ohio has many peaks. You might not see them, but they are there. The activation zone is 84 feet vertical from the peak. For some peaks, the activation zone covers half of the County. But enough of that...

Friedrichshafen was in the cards too but with the current sad state of events in Europe it won't happen.

Stay active and see you on the bands! *Roberto K6KM*

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

LARK VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 15, 2022

Meeting called to order at 1900

Attendees:

**George KG6GEM
Simon KM6TCM
Roger KK6RD
Nate N8MOR
Venkatesh KM6TAB**

Absent:

**Paul NK8F
Bernie NJ6W
Joe K6ATM**

Officer and Board Member Reports:

There were no officer reports

Old Business:

Repeaters:

While there were no unscheduled shutdown events for AD6KV/R during the month the recent system changes will automatically initiate a restart should it occur. The only minor issue was some QRM affecting WA6ODP/R.

Tech Meetings:

Ed Morales, MDARC president will talk about SDR adapters at 3/19 general meeting, whether or not he will be able to do a followup session at the 3/26 tech meeting is not known. If not, Chris W6CJQ might talk about hotspots.

Activities:

Activities chairman Simon KM6TCM, reported that other commitments are preventing him from devoting time to this task. George KG6GEM will endeavor to recruit help.

Events:

George KG6GEM reported on the status of events. The Cinderella Bicycle Ride on April 9 is going ahead, additional volunteers are needed. The Devil Mountain Double Century (DMD) bicycle race status is unknown, but if it occurs it will probably be on April 30. John Street WB6ETY is the point of contact for the DMD event. The May events, Devil Mountain Race and Mt. Hamilton Classic Bicycle Race, have been canceled. The annual Pacificon Hamfest/Convention is still expected to occur in October.

While the number of events is still smaller than usual, it is expected their frequency will return normal over the next 12 to 18 months.

Membership Drive:

Var KM6TAB reported that paid up membership for 2022 is currently 145, while 70 members have let their memberships lapse. Var is starting another round of reminder emails and phone calls.

Annual Elections:

A list of candidates for officer and board positions will be presented at the 3/19 general meeting.

New Meeting Location:

The logistics of using LARK's meeting location in the City of Livermore's new public Meeting Hall were discussed. It is expected that the 4/16 general meeting will be held there.

LARK Bylaws Review:

Some minor editorial corrections to the updated LARK bylaws were reviewed and approved by the board after it was determined that they introduced no substantive changes to the version approved in the 2/19 general meeting.

New Business

_____ Member News:

A Memorial service for Christine Gathers N6RBI SK will be held on 24 March at Cedar Grove in Livermore. A comfort gift from LARK to her family was arranged by David KG6WIR.

Mike Haas AD6TA had a Living Liver Donor Transplant and is now recovering at home.

Monthly Meeting Minutes

LARK GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
19 MARCH 2022

Meeting called to order at 0935

Presentation:

Ed Morales KJ6KYT gave an introduction to the use of software defined radio (SDR) dongles and how he has used them to create a band scope (panadapter) for use with his HF, VHF and UHF radios.

In Person Meeting Announcement:

George KG6GEM announced that the April meeting of LARK will be held at the City of Livermore Meeting Hall. Members will be able to attend in person or using Zoom. The presentation will be an informal show-and-tell session for members to display and talk about some of their projects.

Jerry N5KA has volunteered to setup a talk-in station to help guide members to the meeting.

Details about the new meeting venue—directions, parking, etc.—will be published in the LARK newsletter.

Reports:

Treasurer Bernie NJ6W reported that there has not been much activity in our bank account, but noted that a significant number of members have allowed their memberships to lapse.

George KG6GEM reported for activities chairman Simon KM6TCM, that the presentation topic for the March technical session has not yet been determined.

Events chairman George KG6GEM, reported successful support of the Livermore Half marathon race. He needs additional volunteers for the upcoming Cinderella Bicycle Ride scheduled for 9 April 2022.

Membership chairman Venkatesh KM6TAB, announced that he is currently emailing those people whose memberships have lapsed and will follow up with telephone calls. The current paid membership is 146 which down by 70 from last year, 2021.

Old Business:

The minutes of the 19 February 2022 meeting, were approved as published.

There were no technical interest groups reports. Ron AD6KV noted that the while activities had ceased because of COVID 19 restrictions, they can be restarted if there is enough interest.

VE administered test sessions are still being held Ron AD6KV reported, with the next session scheduled for 26 March 2022. This will be held in Ron's driveway has been done during the pandemic, but barring reimplementation of COVID 19 restrictions, the test sessions will be held following the general meetings in the meeting hall. As in the past, a two week lead time is needed to schedule a test session.

A report from repeater chairman Ian W6TCP was given by George KG6GEM. The operation of our two repeaters, AD6KV/R and WA6ODP were stable over the previous month.

LARK Elections will be held at the 16 April 2022 meeting. George KG6GEM presented the current slate of candidates and solicited nominations from the members.

New Business:

Operating: some members reported that good propagation conditions resulted in DX contacts as far as Australia with QRP and low power stations.

There were no Klutz award nominations, however George KG6GEM announced that he has several previously awarded Klutz certificates that he hopes to deliver at the next LARK meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1100.

Attendance:

Members:41, Visitors: 1

LARK Officer's Nomination List

2022

LARK Officer and Board Nominations

President	George	KG6GEM
Vice President	Chris	W6CJQ
Secretary	Ryan	W6RAM
Treasure	Bernie	NJ6W
Board:		
-	Roger (PP)	KK6RD
-	Nate	N8MOR
-	David	KG6WIR
Activities	Jerry	N5KA

LARKNOMINATIONS/gem/2022

New LARK In-Person Meeting Location



The LARK board is very happy to announce that LARK will be meeting In-Person again starting with the April monthly meeting on April 16th at 9:30am.

Our meeting location has changed to the new Livermore City Meeting Hall building at 1016 South Livermore Ave., Livermore, CA.

The location, and parking is best described as at the Livermore City Hall location. There is ample Handicapped and regular parking.

As guests of the City of Livermore, there are a few rules we must follow while meeting in the new facility and they are as follows:

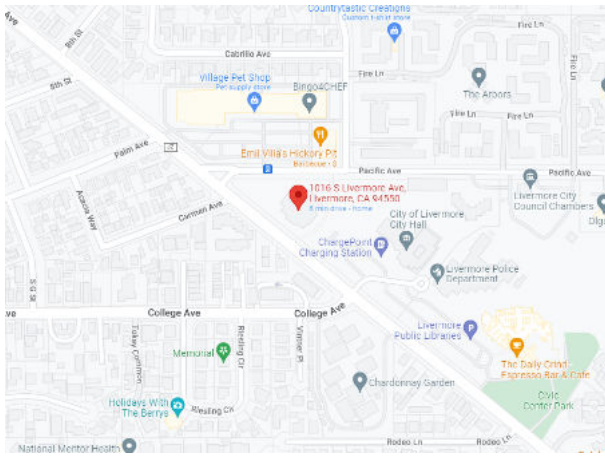
- 1.) No food or drink in the meeting room. Food and drink must remain in the foyer or outside.**
- 2.) Any items you bring to sell or give away must stay in the foyer along the wall in the designated area and if the item(s) are not sold or taken you must take them home with you and not leave them there.**
- 3.) Masks: At this time, they are not required for the meeting; however, it is a personal choice if you want to wear them. However, we are required to follow**

county guidelines for Covid protocol that will be in effect as of the date of the meeting.

The meetings will start at 9:30am and will also be offered on Zoom for members and guests who cannot attend in person.

Look forward to seeing you at the meetings.

George KG6GEM

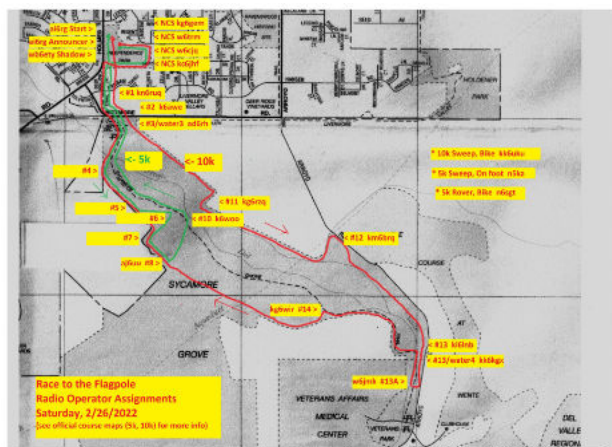


Race to the Flagpole - John WB6ETY

2022 Race to the Flagpole

Event History:

On Saturday, 2/26/22 LARK supported the 11th annual Race to the Flagpole. This annual wintertime event started out as a fall event; during its first eight years the event was always on the Saturday of Veteran's Day Weekend. Bad air quality in November of 2018 caused that event to be postponed to 1/26/19. The January date worked well in 2019 so the 2020 event was again on the last Saturday of January. COVID forced the cancellation of the 2021 Race to the Flagpole. Because of COVID, this year's event was postponed from the last Saturday of January to the last Saturday of February.



The first RttFP was in November of 2010, held without LARK's help. It was a one mile run/walk on 2nd St, 3rd St, J St, and O St in downtown Livermore, starting and finishing at Carnegie Park. The same format was used in 2011, but this time with LARK's help. In 2012 the event moved to the present location, using the Livermore bike trail system and the trails in Sycamore Grove Park, while

starting and finishing at Independence Park. For five years (2012-2016), the event included a 5K, 10K, 1/2 Marathon, and one mile Fun Run. The 1/2 Marathon was dropped in 2017.



The format of the event has now been the same for four years, it begins and ends near the flag pole at Independence Park in Livermore and runs through scenic Sycamore Grove Park and on the connecting bike path. Events include a 5K, a 10K and a one mile "Fun Run".

The RttFP is hosted by the Livermore Granada Boosters Club with proceeds supporting their scholarship fund. Scholarships are awarded to scholar athletes at Livermore High School and Granada High School.

LARK has provided communications for this event since 2011. Five radio amateurs supported the 2011 event, twenty radio amateurs helped in 2022.

This year:

The Event:

The event was successful; there were no reported injuries - the EMT vehicle remained parked at Independence Park the entire time. It was a nice day after it warmed a bit, much warmer than earlier in the week!



There were 232 runners/walkers this year (71 in the 10K, 117 in the 5K, 44 in the one mile), less than the 2020 turnout of about 450. Mike Nagel (Race Director) said that such a decrease is typical for recent similar events. The 10K started at 0845, the 5K started at 0900. All the 10K and 5K runners were done by 1012 hours. The one mile "Fun Run" started at 1015 and finished at 1031 hours; that's when Net Control closed and released the repeater back to regular operation. LARK didn't help with the Fun Run.

For results, please see: <https://www.livermoregranadaboosters.org/events/>

To see race results, click on “SEE 2022’s RACE TO THE FLAGPOLE RESULTS”. To see pictures, click on “RACE GALLERY”.

Radio Information:

The Net Control Station (NCS) operators met in the cold at Independence Park at 0630 hours to set up. Rand, W6TRM, brought the San Ramon Valley Fire



Protection District’s CS-131 communications van, to be our Net Control



Station on wheels. George, KG6GEM; Chris, W6CJQ; and Rand, W6TRM ran the voice NCS. Keith, KC6JHF, set up an RF-only APRS monitoring station at the NCS, using a vertical collinear gain antenna on a 15 foot mast. His station worked well, with the event APRS log showing that nearly all packets from the LARK APRS trackers (carried by our sweep and rover Hams) were directly received at the NCS.

At 0715 hours we all gathered at Independence Park, next to the CS-131. We had a brief meeting to check-in, discuss our plans and assignments, and perform radio checks to ensure we all were accessing our primary repeater, the W6SRR Sunol Ridge repeater (backups were the AD6KV repeater, the WA6ODP repeater and our local simplex frequency). We had time to pick up a cup of coffee and bagel (provided by the Boosters!) before dispersing to our assignments.

Most assignments were in Livermore's Sycamore Grove Park, so for many of us, that required driving to the park, parking in the parking lot (either on Wetmore Rd or on Arroyo Rd), and then walking to an assignment. The longest walk was about 1.25 miles. The NCS called roll before the first race started, with everyone checking in successfully.

The 10K and 5K routes are mostly exclusive in Sycamore Grove Park. The 10K, being longer, extends much farther south in the park, far enough for repeater coverage to be compromised a bit. To compensate for potentially marginal HT performance, several 10K support Hams packed in more than an HT. Alan, KM6BRQ, after pulling a wagon along a dirt road for 20 minutes, set up an antenna on a mast at Station12 (see picture). Alan reports his HT/rubber duck worked well on the primary repeater, but his antenna/mast may have been needed if we used our backup frequencies.



Larry, KI6LNB, set up a magmount antenna on a pizza pan on a short mast at Station13. Larry also reports no issues using just his HT/rubber duck on the primary frequency. John, W6JMK, set up his 50W portable station/mast/antenna at Station13A, the 10K “turnaround”. John’s assignment was the closest to being an “RF hole”, so his antenna was needed for reliable communications. He did verify that 5 watts of RF was plenty (see picture). John also mentioned that a couple of runners failed to make a U-turn at the “turnaround”, running farther than

needed before realizing their mistake. After that, John moved a bit so he could call back anyone else overshooting the “turnaround”.

All the 5K assignments were HT compatible so no antennas on masts were needed. But in classic Ham fashion, David, K6WOO, brought along his portable 50W station/mast/antenna with table and chair to Station10. He relates that it was “overkill”, but it provided some valuable field testing that has prompted some minor modifications before its next use (see picture)! At one 5K trail intersection, a few runners ended up off-course; Bill, N6SGT, and Jerry, N5KA, did some redirecting there. At Station3, at the Sycamore Grove Park Wetmore Rd entrance, Jeff, AD6RH, and Dan, K6AWE, stepped in to do some traffic control.

Special thanks to the sweep and rover operators (Mark, KK6UKU, 10K Sweep Bike; Jerry, N5KA, 5K Sweep (on foot); and Bill, N6SGT, 5K Rover Bike) for keeping track of the last runners in the 5K and 10K runs. They all carried LARK APRS trackers; WA6ODP-13 for 5K Rover, WA6ODP-10 for 5K Sweep, and WA6ODP-15 for 10K Sweep. It is valuable for the NCS to know where the “last” runners are at all times. “Last runner” locations were relayed to the public address announcer several times during the morning so the crowd at Independence Park was kept up-to-date.

Ideas for 2023:

1. Station 11, which is released very early, could then move to Station 3, where additional support can be helpful.
2. Consider adding a 10K bicycle rover.
3. Improve ergonomics of the APRS station at the NCS to improve exchange of information with the voice operators.
4. Work with the event organizer to reduce instances of runner confusion at several trail intersections

&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&

Thanks to all the volunteer radio operators who provided this public service to the Livermore Granada Boosters; here’s the list:

George, kg6gem	NCS (voice) in CS-131	Independence Park
Chris, w6cjq	NCS (voice) in CS-131	Independence Park
Rand, w6trm	NCS (voice) in CS-131	Independence Park
Keith, kc6jhf	NCS (APRS) in CS-131	Independence Park
Peter, ai6rg	Announcer liaison, Start Line	Independence Park
John, wb6ety	Shadow (of race director)	Independence Park
Greg, kn6ruq	Station 1	Hansen Rd crossing
Dan, k6awe	Station 2	Wetmore Rd crossing
Jeff, ad6rh	Station 3 (5K/10K Split)	Sycamore Grove
Park entrance at	Wetmore Rd	
Bill, aj6uu	Station 8 (5K turn, 10K pass thru)	Sycamore Grove Park
David, k6woo	Station 10 (5K turn)	Sycamore Grove Park
Jim, kg6rzq	Station 11 (10K)	Sycamore Grove Park
Alan, km6brq	Station 12 (10K)	Sycamore Grove Park
Larry, ki6lnb	Station 13 (10K turn at bridge)	Sycamore Grove Park
Terry, kk6kgx	Station 13 (10K turn at bridge)	Sycamore Grove Park
John, w6jmk	Station 13A (10K turnaround)	Sycamore Grove Park
David, kg6wir	Station 14 (10K turn)	Sycamore Grove Park
Bill, n6sgt	5K Rover (bicycle) (5K)	
Jerry, n5ka	5K Sweep (on foot) (5K)	
Mark, kk6uku	10K Sweep (bicycle) (10K)	

73,
John, wb6ety
3/20/22



All the yellow neon are LARK volunteers doing a radio check with net control in the CS131 mobile command.



***Pictures by Greg
Kiyoi KN6RUQ***

“It was fun to participate and the station I was at was close to the start/end. I had a very nice couple from the Booster Club working traffic control. They knew everyone so made it more exciting. The radio comms was nice as I could tell them when the races started and where runners were. So, they appreciated that.

Greg KN6RUQ

LARK Livermore Half Marathon Report

And Thank You

This event was held on Sunday, March 6, 2022, in Livermore. Net Control was located on South J Street between 1st & 2nd Streets. The Start/Finish line was not too far away. The Half Marathon was a race that went from downtown Livermore to Sycamore Park to Holdener Park and back through Robertson Park to return to downtown Livermore. Ham radio operators provided communications (emergency and regular) for the event needs. LARK provided a bike Sweep for the event. There were approximately 1,350 runners for this event.

I want to thank the following volunteers for giving up their Sunday morning for this event:

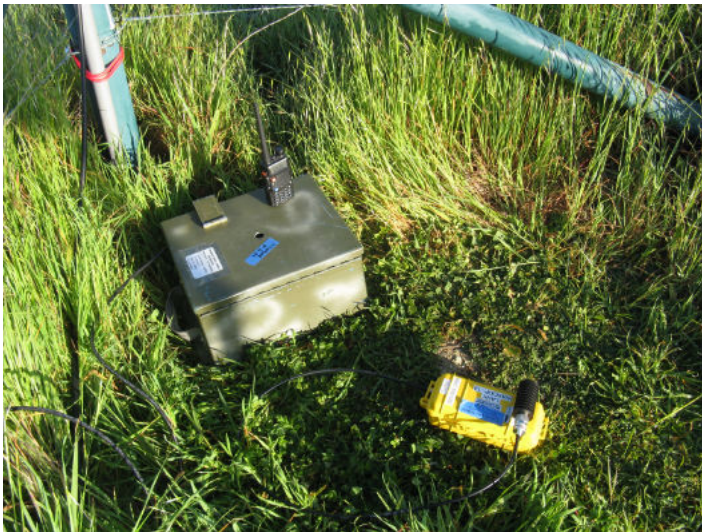
Jerry N5KA, John W6JMK, Peter AI6RG, Larry KI6LNB, Alan KM6BRQ, Jeff AD6RH, Ryan W6RAM, David K6WOO, Bill AJ6UU, Bill N6SGT, Brian KF6ONF, Rich KN6HSR, Mark KK6UNU, Jim KG6RZQ, David KG6WIR, Bernie NJ6W, Tony KF6JS, and John WB6ETY

Thanks to all the volunteers for putting up with changes that occurred for this event.

George Moorehead KG6GEM

Ham Coordinator





I helped with the Livermore Half Marathon on Sunday, 3/6/22.

My job was setting up an aprs digipeater at Holdener Park to support tracking the bike sweep. Bike sweep was Mark, kk6uku, carrying the LARK tracker, wa6odp-15. Arnold, kq6di, generously let LARK use his portable digipeater for this event.

Thanks,

**John
WB6ETY**

Pictures by John WB6ETY





Run tents line First Street in Downtown Livermore



George KG6GEM and Jerry N5KA working Net Control

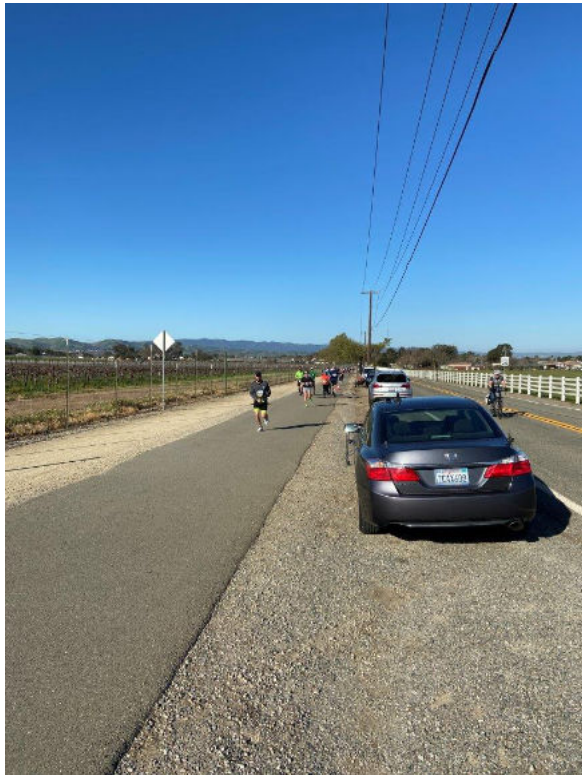
*Pictures by
Rayan Mahoney
W6RAM*

**Falck Ambulance, Livermore
Police and Net control Tent**





Pictures of Water Station #10



***Pictures by Jeff
Lillard AD6RH***



“It was another successful event! I had fun passing out water to the huge number of runners. The temperature was just right.” Jeff AD6RH



Pictures of Water Station #2



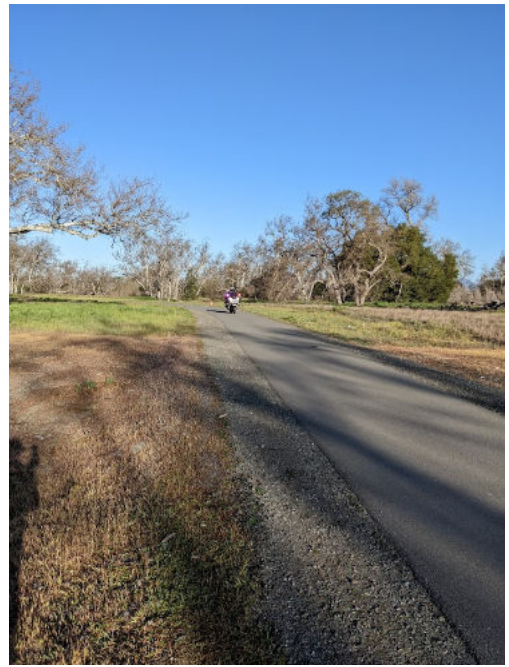
Pictures by John W6JMK



Today was my first day ever volunteering for an amateur radio event. As a new member to LARK, this was a great experience for me (and my wife who came with me even though she is not licensed). We both enjoyed the beautiful day and opportunity to help out in the community. We were at the mile 8 water station at Arroyo and Wetmore. Everything went smoothly, and I only managed to miss a call from Net Control once. Anyway, looking forward to working the Cinderella in April!

Brian Ackley KF6ONF

Pictures by Brian KF6ONF



Pictures by Bill Hoover AJ6UU

LARK Community Services

Cinderella Bicycle Classic Saturday, April 9, 2022

The Cinderella Classic, Challenge and Short rides are 65/100/35-mile recreational bicycle ride (not a race) for women & girls only. Males do not ride the Cinderella; they do the organization, support, rest stops and SAGs for the Cinderella's. This event provides the opportunity for all hams of any experience to provide support from different assignments. The assignments are Stationary, SAGs, and Shuttles. Most assignments can be done with a HT. We encourage you to volunteer for this very worthwhile public service event. LARK has supported this event for many years.

Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Touring Club

Amateur Radio coordinator: George Moorehead, KG6GEM kg6wui1@comcast.net

Sign Up online here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0844AEAD28A6FA7-cinderella1>

April Meeting Program NEEDS YOU!

The April meeting program will be a Show-N-Tell. This means YOU can show us the new Gizmo you got, or made, or tell us about the exciting contact you made with Null Island. Your hints and tricks do not need to be complex, just unique. For example, a few years ago Dick H. showed us that an empty 12G shotgun shell can be used as a cap to protect UHF connectors. Simple, cheap, and keeps mud out of connectors.

We've all had two years to improve our shacks and antennas, organize and sort, get new helpful thingamajigs, and operate. Tell us about it.

Presentations need to be less than 10 minutes, and we have a limited amount of time, so there is a limit to the number of presenters. Please sign up with Arnold Harding KQ6DI, activities@livermoreark.org. Let me know what you have to present and an approximate time.

Arnold Harding, KQ6DI

Let's have some HamFun! By Tony KF6JS

Ham Antenna Word Search

Find the words listed below in the puzzle. All words relate to Ham Radio Antennas. Words can go in any direction and can share letters as they cross over each other.

U E L E S J V U Y N J Q R V L J A Q U F Q P D S L U S L B B
X J M D C O L C O A X A Y D I I L K N U E O L R D M I Y E Y
M F Y C X N M G N I D A O L A X D I C F U O P G B V H A Y A
Q B C S P E A O C I M D L K T O X R N B P L G O W E M W T X
I Z L N L V G T A B W A M Y N L L V L E R B F K O I E C G K
S M S O Y Z O T C R G C O X A I I E R L R A H L I L X M C Q
V H P Q A F I E P U J B O V F N T L E U F L T U D R L Z B S
U I V F O O Y O D E D T D I N E O T C C O U D X N Q T F B L
D T O H N A H N D C T N Z T L A A X F S N N E G A R E V E B
E S K A Q Q A U I N Q X I G D A O H B G Y A H Z B Y Q X O I
L K Z L R B S S P A Y Q O I V O C D P N M A T L B E V D K A
O Z J F D W E W O N N Y N G Q O S G U M Z A G S A X R X H O
P C L A F R O R L O O G E C N A T C A E R Z Z I I D V H E F
I X O M H D U W E S U F P G J Q Y X Y Q U D C Z Z S D Q L Z
D R O Q J V K L I E W N O F Y Z Z F K E J B C J B G E E M V
B Y V U A F C P D R C I D B F Y E Y M M U D O P E N A R R B
Q K M P R I C N L G E P F R Q G T V M Z I E B E P P D P K T
X O D O T B A D G M C L P C Y K H E V E F E E D E R E U O W
E B B R E B E U E C N A D E P M I R C P Z W D X R M T P G T
C B E Q I T W E A T H E R P R O O F I P J J H E V X R H J F
N V Z T R K U P S P L E F P Y W U M T C Q J R N L I E P C M
G U L E V N O L X B V T S G E B V Z E S P A R K T V V N G C
A U V M Z R A H R W D N P I Q Q O W N L Q V O S G Y N I U E
M N D N E E C V C I R F F Y C A L Z G E G V J F I S I T N A
I S T P T S A B I R J O P Q P J E L A S I L C R W C U N I Y
P E O E F H A X L U Y N X X F P F L M T K T D E E F G W E N
S L K H N S L I O C U D V T P E Z V M N X M W B W P U E X D
S K R Z E N O D D I U M R M E K Y S M C H D F O Z J K S O U
F T U P I B A T G N J P O F J P O L E M O N D H B J H N Q Y
U R H L X P A B V K R M U O U K E Z Q Q Z F G G W M U N H Y

Words To Find:

ANTENNA	DIPOLE	INDUCTANCE	OPEN WIRE	SWR
BALUN BEAM	DOUBLET	INVERTED L	PL	TOP LOADING
BEVERAGE	DUMMY LOAD	INVERTED V	RADIATION	TRI BAND
BOWTIE	FANTAIL	JPOLE LADDER	REACTANCE	VERTICLE
DIPOLE	DIPOLE	LINE LOADING	RESISTANCE	WEATHERPROOF
BROADBAND	FEEDER LINE	COILS LOOP	RESONANCE	YAGI
COAX	HALF SLOPER	MAGNETIC	SLOPER	ZEPP
COIL	IMPEDANCE	MULTIBAND	SPARK GAP	ZEPP FEED

Helping Blind Hams - Gary NA6O

There are a lot of hams who are blind or with very limited sight but they manage to have a great time on the radio. They're organized, and participate in many events. There's a contesting group that uses the name BRAILLE during NAQP CW contests, and there's a groups.io group called *blindhams* with quite a few members. The reason I got involved with all of this is because I had a good friend whom some of you might remember: Summer Hartzfeld, VE5SDH. Summer was blind from birth and only got started in ham radio later in her adult life, but quickly took to CW and became a highly skilled operator. She was a member of CWops and also FOC.

In 2018, I designed and built a few special semiautomatic keys (bugs) that were made entirely of wood, called WoodBugs, and Summer got serial number 1. I even put her callsign on it in Braille. Summer used it regularly on the air and called it "finger candy." Sadly, she passed away from cancer in 2019. Her key was returned to me but I quickly found another worthy recipient: Dave, W4CI. Dave is also blind, is another FOC member, and had actually met Summer. And he, too, is a very skilled bug driver. So that was a match made in heaven. We've even had a number of WoodBug to WoodBug QSOs over the years.



Dave, W4CI, the capable owner of WoodBug S/N 1.

Recently it came to pass that I had a spare radio, a very nice Kenwood TS-590S. It turns out that this is not only the best transceiver value but it's also the most handicapped-accessible radio on the market. Kenwood offers the Voice Guide System module (VGS-1) that also works in the TS-570. With that installed, the rig can announce key presses, frequency, S-meter readings, and all sorts of useful information. It's a cleanly-integrated solution, very nicely designed and easy to use as is the rest of the radio. Nearly every blind ham I've run into owns this rig.



Tom, KF4YEY, trying out his new TS-590S. He can operate it with his eyes closed :-)
Photo by W4CI. Yes, blind people take photographs!

Since the radio was excess to my needs, I got a hold of Dave and asked him to find a worthy blind ham to whom I might donate the rig. He initially contacted *Handi Hams* (handiham.org, part of the Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute) but they weren't able to locate a someone with the appropriate needs. Luckily, Dave knew of a fellow not far from his QTH in Florida: Tom Moore, KF4YEY. Tom is fully blind and a good CW op. But like many blind folks, he doesn't have a ton of money to spend on radio gear, so we agreed that this was a good match. I shipped the radio off to Dave, and he helped Tom get it set up. After getting it connected to his laptop, Tom was on the air with it right away and says he's having a great time.

I plan to stay involved as an advocate for blind hams everywhere. The important lesson here is that there are many hams, maybe new or unfortunate, handicapped or not, who can benefit from your excess equipment, your help, and your encouragement. That's real ham spirit in action.

Worked All Brazil Award: Rob K6KM

Do you need a challenge? You think getting Delaware for WAS was difficult? Think again. For some reason I started trying to complete the “Work all Brazil” award from LABRE (the equivalent of ARRL in Brazil). There are 26 States in Brazil plus the Federal District of Brasilia (Capital). I started almost 3



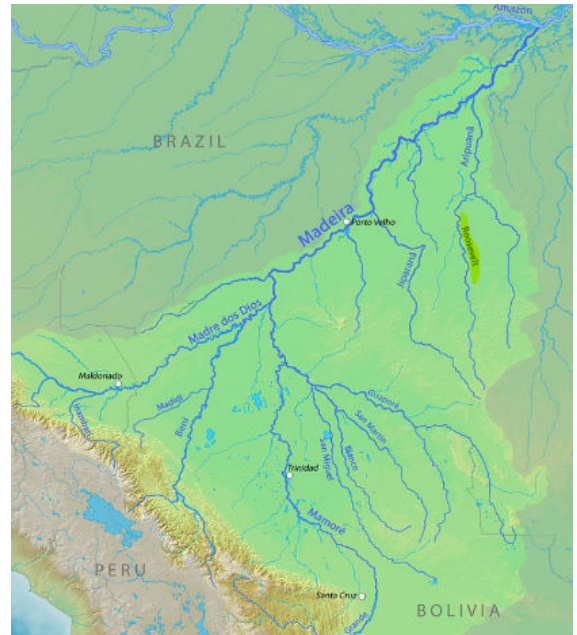
years ago at the bottom of cycle 24. Granted, FT8 helps a lot and propagation to Brazil from the US West Coast is not bad at all. However, once you pass the highly populated areas of PY1, PY2 and the southern



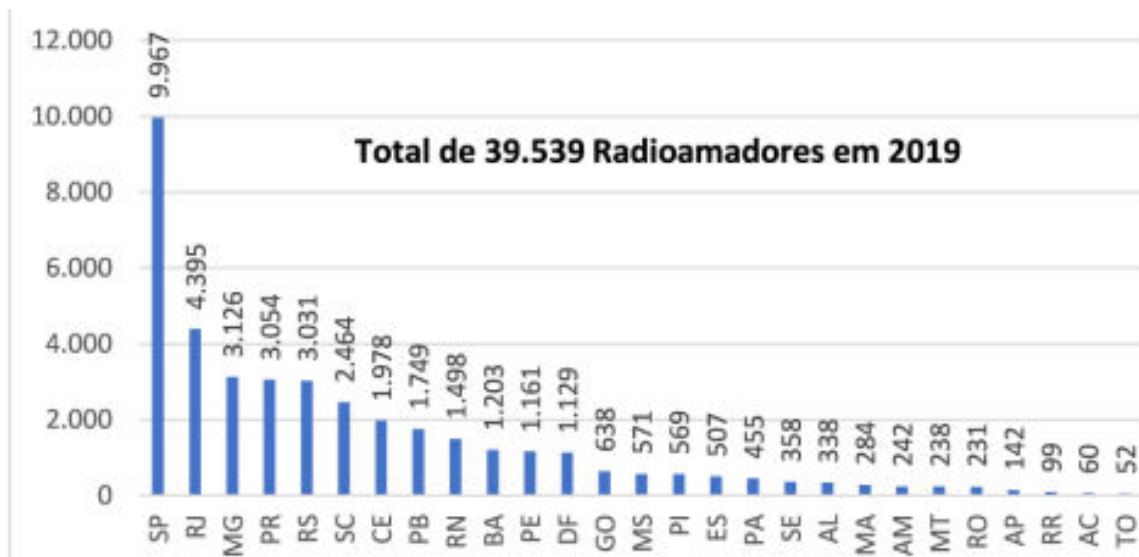
coastal States the game changes. You have the low density populated areas of the Northwest where in some cases, Ham population is counted in double digits such in Tocantins, Acre and Roraima. From those double digits you can guess many don't operate, some do 2m HT and a few would take on the HF bands. My last States were Amazonia, Roraima and Rondonia. Rondonia is well known in the US because Theodore Roosevelt went there on an expedition to discover new lands. In the process he almost died of fever and other ailments. That river was later name after

Roosevelt.

In the last few months several things happen that helped my luck. First, the sun woke up and the upper bands became more active. It is a well known fact that South American Ham Stations have an inclination for the upper bands. 10m in particular is very popular. This allowed me to increase the reach of stations operating in Brasil. Second, when I was on my last few States, my friend Fabio: PU2KLM who lives in the State of Sao Paulo, alerted me via Whatsapp that Helio, PV8AL (Roraima) was active on SSB on 20m and was having a big US pile up. Helio has probably the only big station in that remote northern State bordering with



Venezuela. His towers project



Number of Hams in Brazil per State 2019 Source: Anatel

above the tree canopy. I immediately connected to Gary NA6O and Ian's W6TCP remote Station: W6SRR and pointed the antenna south. On my first call: Kilowatt 6 Kilowatt Mexico, I heard "who's the Mexico". We chatted a few minutes in Portuguese but he was pressed to go back to his

pile-up. I had achieve my last State. The nightmare only started. LABRE accepted verification via LOTW and eQSL or direct. My last 2 states to verify: Amazonia, and Roraima only verified direct. I was not willing to wait months for a card to come in the mail and then having to deal with sending to LABRE. I worked too long and hard to play that game. I reached to LABRE and asked if they would be willing to receive an email confirmation from them. After all, what can be more verified than from the direct Station involved. They graciously agreed. I started communicating with both stations and after some QRZ logbook upload, and some nagging, the emails went to LABRE. Great sense of achievement! Hope this inspires somebody in our Klub to seek a similar challenge.
Roberto K6KM

Brazil	890
Argentina	36
Unites States	21
Portugal	18
Russia	17
Germany	13
Spain	12
Paraguay	8
United Kingdom	7
Ukraine	7
Italy	6
Uruguay	4
Venezuela	4
Check Republic	4
Canada	3
Chile	3
Japan	3
France	2
Costa Rica	1
Dominican Rep.	1
Cuba	1
Peru	1
Switzerland	1

Number of WAB Awards issued by Country since 1934 (Total to date 1062)

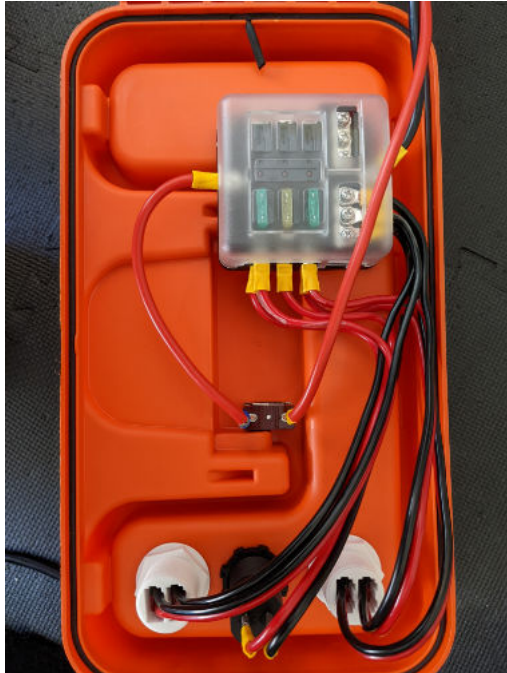
(Approximate numbers) Source: LABRE

My Improved Go-Box - David K6WOO

I'd already thrown a basic VHF/UHF setup in a backpack & dragged it up to Vollmer Peak (pictured in the 2022-02 newsletter, sitting naked on a tree stump), but volunteering with the 5K & half marathon gave me an excuse to improve my setup.

Rather than lugging a bare battery around, I ordered a marine dry box and a few fittings: a fusebox, panel-mounted USB A + C power, and one of those toggle switches with the flip-up covers. I got a coworker to 3d print panel-mount sockets for Anderson Powerpoles.

An hour of drilling, cutting, and crimping later... Voila! Two pairs of powerpoles, USB to charge my phone + HT, and a master

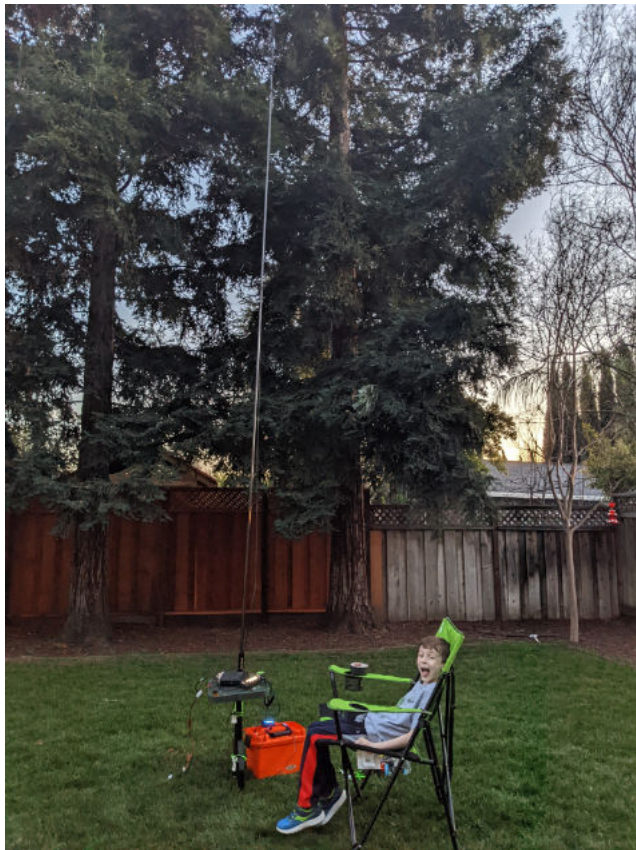




switch that automatically disconnects the battery when I pick it up; the box's handle closes the safety cover.



A collection of cables, adapters, and spare fuses pad it out inside, and I still have three fuse slots for later expansion.



Two nights before the Race to the Flagpole, I did a dry run operating net control for the Thursday tech net from my backyard. My table stakes into the ground, and a 35 foot fishing rod hoisting a ladderline j-pole into the air. I've also since bought a gooseneck to hold the radio's head unit up at a more usable angle.

Pictured: one of the chuckleheads you sometimes hear after a net prattling at Grandpa, AJ6UU.

A Fun HAM Clock Project - Julian WB6BDD

Over the years I've had many different types of clocks in the ham shack, from small LCD battery operated ones, to round wall clocks and the clock on my logging computer. I've always wanted to have one of those wall clocks that show the map of the world, the sun position, satellite orbits and various propagation information. There is a real nice one called Geochron Boardroom; you may have seen it advertised in the Ham Radio Outlet catalog or QST. Nice large screen, but for a large cost of over \$3k. They also have one where you provide your own monitor for several hundred dollars. Way out of my budget for a fancy clock!

I'm sure many of you have already seen this clock project, but for the person new to the hobby and even you old timers who haven't; this might be of interest and a neat way to dress up the ham shack. A while back I stumbled on a DIY clock project called the "The HamClock". There are many articles and YouTube videos on putting one of these together. The HamClock was originally published in the QST back in an October 2017 issue. In the article, the author uses a Adafruit Feather HUZDAH with the ESP8266 Wi-Fi. This makes for a nice small footprint; especially if you decide to use something like a 5 or 7-inch screen. You can also run this on a raspberry pi or probably any Linux OS for that matter, and it's very easy to load and configure.



I have several raspberry pi's laying around and I chose to use an older 2012 Pi P1. Although it's kind of over kill for just time keeping, the Pi has built-in HDMI and a network connector, making the job quick and easy, plus with the I/O of the Raspberry, you can add temperature, humidity and pressure sensors that can be displayed on the clock screen.

I used an older 21 inch monitor I had lying around with a HDMI input. To minimize the clutter, I decided to mount the Raspberry Pi on the back of the monitor. I took a small .062" aluminum plate and mounted it on the VESA mount, using the mounting holes that were available. I bought a clear plastic case on Amazon for the Raspberry Pi and mounted it to the plate. Figure 1 shows the mounted Raspberry Pi

Figure 1

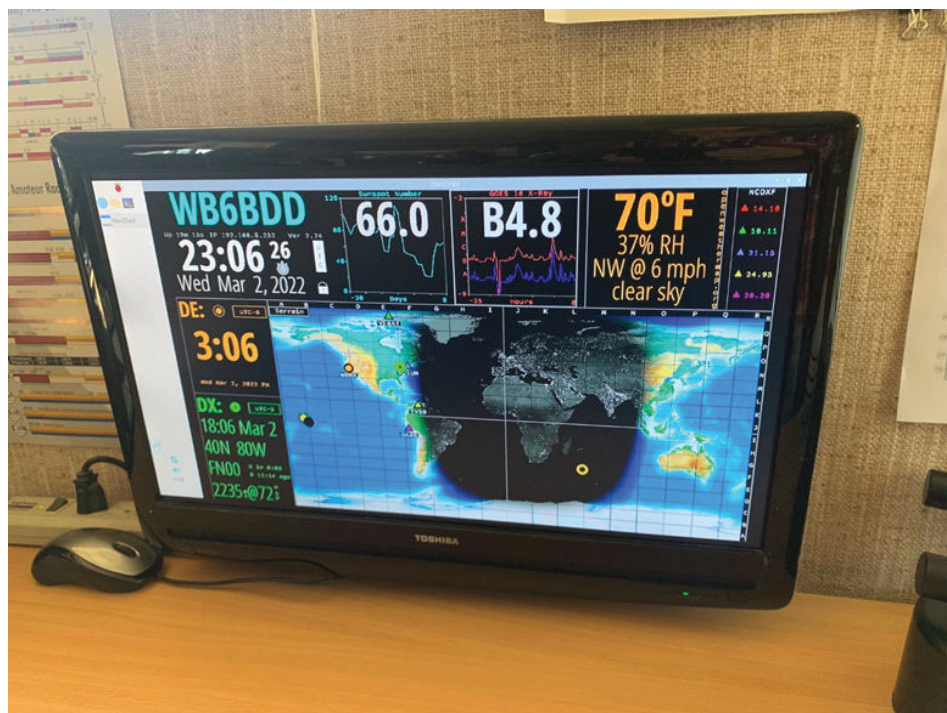


Figure 2

Figure 2 shows the finished project in the ham shack. The monitor is mounted to the wall and makes for a clean installation. There are many configuration options that you can setup to customize to your liking. For example, you can display UTC, Local and DX time in various ways (analog and a couple of digital arrangements). There are many options for displaying solar flux, sunspots, Xray and planetary index. And if you are into satellites, there is a huge list of birds you can have tracked on the screen. For a complete explanation of installation and features, go to the link below.

I hope this inspires some of you to make one of these.

73's, Julian WB6BDD

Here's the link to Ham Clock: <https://www.clearskyinstitute.com/ham/HamClock/>

If you are interested in loading HamClock on your PC as a windowed environment check this out:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UcPCv9tHGKk>

From the LARK CAVE

All funds go to the LARK club.

Prices are for LARK club members only.

Non club member prices are X2. This month's special is a group of heavy hitters. Here are four Astron power supplies.

ASTRON RS 20M 20 Amp peak, 16 amps continuous, with meters. Ebay price \$95. LARK Special \$20

ASTRON RS 35 A 35 Amp peak, 25 amps continuous. Adjustable voltage. No meters. Amazon price \$257. HRO price \$224.95 LARK Special \$30

ASTRON 35 M 35 Amp peak, 25 amps continuous. With meters. A similar unit with Anderson power pole connectors is sold by DX Engineering for \$248. This unit does not have the PP connectors. LARK Special \$35

ASTRON RS 70M 70 Amp peak, 57 amp continuous. Ebay price new \$449 With meters. A brute! LARK Super Special \$45

Contact Rich Combs at KN6HSR@arrl.net for details and purchase.--

KN6HSR 145.350 PI 100 -600



April 2022

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 JIDX CW Contest	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 LARK Monthly Meeting	17
18	19	20	21 LARK HAM Breakfast	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

LARK MON. NIGHT NET ON: 147.120 MHZ + offset,
PL 100 AD6KV.

Every Monday 7 PM local time.

Visitors welcome to join in.

Net Control Operator Schedules

Monday Night Net Control Operator Schedule

April

DAY	OP	NAME
04	AD6KV	Ron
11	EOC	
18	AE6D	Ed
25	N5KA	Jerry

May

DAY	OP	NAME
2	WB6ETY	John
9	EOC	
16	WB6AEA	Jon
23	AD6KV	Ron
30	AE6D	Ed

June

DAY	OP	NAME
6	N5KA	Jerry
13	EOC	
20	WB6ETY	John
27	WB6AEA	Jon

EVERYONE is invited to check in to the net. Please contact AE6D ae6d@sbcglobal.net if you need more information or would like to become a Net Control Operator. After the net please call Ed AE6D with the AC/DC statistics or send him the information by email.

Thursday Night Net Control Operator Schedule

4/7/2022	Thursday	Jerry/N5KA	Nate/N8MOR	Study Night: General Exam
4/14/2022	Thursday	Peter/AI6RG	Rich/KN6HSR	Easy Tech Discussion:
4/21/2022	Thursday	Nate/N8MOR	David/K6WOO	General Discussion:
4/28/2022	Thursday	Rich/KN6HSR	Jerry/N5KA	Advanced Tech Discussion
5/5/2022	Thursday	David/K6WOO	Peter/AI6RG	New Comer, General Discussion:
5/12/2022	Thursday	Jerry/N5KA	Nate/N8MOR	Study Night: General Exam
5/19/2022	Thursday	Peter/AI6RG	Rich/KN6HSR	Easy Tech Discussion:
5/26/2022	Thursday	Nate/N8MOR	David/K6WOO	General Discussion
6/2/2022	Thursday	Rich/KN6HSR	Jerry/N5KA	Advanced Tech Discussion
6/9/2022	Thursday	David/K6WOO	Peter/AI6RG	New Comer, General Discussion:
6/16/2022	Thursday	Jerry/N5KA	Nate/N8MOR	Study Night: General Exam
6/23/2022	Thursday	Peter/AI6RG	Rich/KN6HSR	Easy Tech Discussion:
6/30/2022	Thursday	Nate/N8MOR	David/K6WOO	General Discussion:

Regularly Scheduled Nets

LARK/LIVERMORE NET	Every MON.	1900 local 147.120+	PL 100
RACES Net 7pm	Every MON.		
Windfarms 10-10 NET	Every WED.	1930 local 28.485	USB
LARK TECH NET	Every THURS.	1930 local 147.120+	PL 100
LLNL Retiree Net	Every FRI 8:30 am	0830 local	7.2630 LSB
SWOT	Every Sun. & Tues.	2000 LOCAL	144.250 USB
THE NOON TIME NET	EVERY DAY	1200-1400 LOCAL	7.2685 LSB & 3970 LSB
RV RADIO NET	MON-FRI	0800-0930 LOCAL	7.2685 LSB

LARK CONTACTS 2022

**LARK—LIVERMORE AMATEUR RADIO KLUB P.O. BOX 3190,
LIVERMORE, CA 94550-3190. Web: <http://www.livermoreARK.org>.
E-mail list: livermoreark@groups.io**

GET YOUR HAM LICENSE OR UPGRADE. LARK conducts all levels of license testing (upon request) at the Livermore City Council Chambers following club meetings (3rd Sat. each month). Contact Ron Kane, AD6KV (AD6KV at arrl.net) 2 weeks in advance.

OFFICE	CONTACT	CALL	E-mail	Phone
President & Events	George Moorehead	KG6GEM	KG6WIU1@COMCAST.NET	(925) 516-2676
Vice President	Paul Amala	NK8F	NK8F@arrl.net	(925) 236-0357 (text only)
Secretary (Acting)	Paul Amala	NK8F	NK8F@arrl.net	(925) 236-0357 (text only)
Treasurer	Bernie Bernstein	NJ6W	nj6w@xemaps.com	(925) 858-4608
Board (PP)	Roger Deming	KK6RD	rogerdeming@yahoo.com	(925) 484-1285
Board	Joe Velasquez	K6ATM	joe@velasquez.com	(925) 784-0628
Board	Nate Moore	N8MOR	nate@nateandamy.org	(925) 577-4916
Activities	Simon Booth	KM6TCM	KM6TCM@arrl.net	(917) 463-9714
Repeater Chair	Ian Parker	W6TCP	w6tcpian@gmail.com	
Web Site	Arnold Harding	KQ6DI		
Newsletter Editor	Roberto Sadkowski	K6KM	rsadkowski@gmail.com	
Membership	Venkatesh Varadha (Var)	KM6TAB	svvenkatesh2786@outlook.com	(925) 961-7703
Net Coordinator	Ed Diemer	AE6D	ae6d@arrl.net	
RFI	Gary Johnson	NA6O	gwj@me.com	
T-Hunts	Rich Harrington	KN6FW		
Swap n Shop	Richard Combs	KN6HSR	KN6HSR@arrl.net	



Facebook—<http://www.facebook.com/LivermoreARK>
Twitter link : <https://twitter.com/LivermoreARK>



Special interests: Mesh Networking. Dave KK6DF <http://mesh.sushisoft.com> . <https://www.youtube.com/user/fanninsushi/videos>. View: AREDN!<http://www.aredn.org>. **CERT NEWS:** Tracy Hein CERT contact. Email: thein@lpfire.org or (925) 454 -2317 https://community.fema.gov/Register/Register_Program_View?id=a0xt000000mAuZAAE

Meetings 3rd Wednesdays. Remillard RM 3333 Busch Rd. Pleasanton.

LARK Membership Form



LARK LIVERMORE AMATEUR RADIO KLUB.

P.O. BOX 3190, LIVERMORE, CA 94551-3190

An ARRL Affiliated Club

LARK MEMBERSHIP FORM - Print, fill out, mail in with check.

Circle all that apply: New / Renewing / Family **Today's Date:** _____

NAME: _____

CALL SIGN: _____

ARRL MEMBER? Yes / No

Address: _____

PHONE: () -

UNLISTED? ___YES ___NO

Enter your E-mail here and stay connected: _____ LARK NEWS featuring upcoming club events and articles is available monthly via email. <http://www.livermoreark.org/> Access the current and back issues on our website.

ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBERS (At the same mailing address, only \$2. membership per person)

NAME	_____
PHONE	_____
EMAIL	_____
AARL MEMBER	_____

ANNUAL DUES # _____ **PRIMARY (\$20.00)** **ADDITIONAL MEMBERS #** _____ **(\$2.00 each)**

TOTAL: \$ MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: LARK. Thank You.

Membership is \$20.00. per calendar year starting on Jan 1 through Dec. 31. To complete membership by mail: print and fill out this form, include a check payable to LARK, and mail to: LARK Membership Chairman, P.O. Box 3190, Livermore, CA, 94551-3190. Please be sure your complete mailing address, e-mail, and call sign are on your check. Questions? Contact the Membership Team via email: membership@livermoreark.org You may also complete membership application and payment by: Bringing this form filled out and pay by cash or check to either the Membership Chairman or Treasurer at any general meeting. Or: pay with a credit card or PayPal account on the Club's membership page: <http://livermoreark.org/membership/membership.html>.
Thank you and welcome aboard from LARK and the Membership Team.

Ham Antenna Word Search

Ham Antenna Word Search Solution:

