



NEWSLETTER

March 2024

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NOW HEAR THIS!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

KD6SUN, Kristen Dugger

Greetings all!

It's hard to believe that we are already heading into March. We had our first successful event of the year, Winter Field Day in January. We had a great turnout and many of our members enjoyed a day of HAM radio out at the Hogan Observation Point, as well as a great meal at the local Chinese restaurant. Our calendar continues to fill up as some of our members participate in the Pedaling Paths event with the Stockton Delta Amateur Radio Club on February 24th. We will also be having our first field trip of the year on March 2, 2024. Our field trip will take us up to Sacramento on an outing to Ham Radio Outlet where we can check out the latest radios and gear. Once we have worked up an appetite shopping and looking at all the new goodies, we will be heading down the street to have a meal at Cricket's Country Kitchen.

Our friends over at the World of Wonders Science Museum have invited us to set up a table at their Birthday Celebration event on March 3rd, 2024. This is a wonderful opportunity to share HAM radio and share our club with the community.

The Board has also started preparations for Field Day, I know that it sounds like it is far off, but June will be here before we know it. I look forward to seeing everyone out at the upcoming events and at our next club meeting at Casa Flores on March 7, 2024.

73,

Kristen Dugger
LARC Club President



FROM THE NET DIRECTOR

N6TCE, Bob Officer

The 1st two months of the year show a small increase in check-ins. We are still looking for a few people to be Net Control Stations for both nets. Being net control is something every Amateur operator should be able to do.

The following people have set up and offered their services.

March 2024	<i>3/6 N6DT</i>	<i>3/13 N6TCE</i>	<i>3/20 K6AAN</i>	<i>3/27 KZ6DAV</i>	-
April 2024	<i>4/3 N6DT</i>	<i>4/10 N6TCE</i>	<i>4/17 K6AAN</i>	<i>4/24 KK6ES</i>	-
May 2024	<i>5/1 N6DT</i>	<i>5/8 K6AAN</i>	<i>5/15 KZ6DAV</i>	<i>5/22 KK6ES</i>	<i>5/29 N6TCE</i>

Be sure and set an alert/reminder on your cell phone to remind you of the net!

See you all on the air!

Bob, N6TCE
N6TCE@arrl.net

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY ARES

N6TCE, Bob Officer

Hello, all.

ARES is becoming more important with every government study and report.

Recently the Cellular phone business had a major outage. This included the failure of First Net, the backbone of emergency response nationwide, after the four major exercises last year; One in FEMA Regions 4 and 6, Southern California's REDSKIES exercise, the follow-up Great Shake-Out earthquake drill and the Army Mars ComEx23 message drill.

FEMA has reiterated again that Amateur Radio Operators are the fallback communications, and all agencies should undertake planning to utilize properly trained Amateur Operators.

Right now, most agencies' minimum requirement is the ARES Practical Taskbook, and at least level two. Level one is a basic skill set plus your amateur license. Level 2 includes ICS 100 and 700 on-line classes. Level 3 has ICS Classes 200 and 800. Additional courses like NWS's SKYWARN and ARES own EC-001 class.

So, what does ARES do locally? The structure behind every public service net operated in this and most other counties follow the ICS Tactical net protocols. The established framework allows rapid deployment and ability to fit the need large or small.

Recently, the Pedaling Path to Independence bike ride took place. It had a designated IC, Net Control, and Positions on a map with Tactical Call Signs.



The Tuesday before, after the ARES monthly Zoom meeting a quick exercise (lesson) for new hams was held on the 147.090 repeater. It was a quickly done training session on the use of tactical call signs, and an example of Standards of Operations. This helped prepare the new Amateurs Operators to be part of the support team of radio operators. This training exercise went so well we are planning on having at least one more before the Delta Century bike ride. This slightly expanded exercise will be both scripted (like a tabletop or other exercise), and with surprise interjected messages which will be an event which requires a response that is unrehearsed.

We will be talking more about this at the Club meeting in March and during the Tuesday night ARES net which is at 1900 on the Lodi, 147.090 MHz repeater. After member check-ins, feel free to check in -- all are welcome.

Josh Johnson, ARRL's EmComm Director is again asking for reports from the Section Emergency Coordinators on Form 4 reports. ARRL's IT department had someone create an online Form 2 which the ECs fill out. It gets the data on number of members, nets, drills, and hours of each of these activities take place. This data automatically populates the Section EC's Form 4 Report. San Joaquin Valley section is lucky we have one EC for every county, and two for Kern which is split off because of the mountains. I will have produced the Form 2 for San Joaquin County by the 2nd day of the month. I will pass around copies at the club meeting. I want everyone to know their hours count at every event, net and exercise.

Bob, N6TCE

San Joaquin County's ARRL Emergency Coordinator

MEMBERS CORNER

SAIPAN CALLING

By Bob Schuldheisz, K6DGQ

The incident of Saipan Calling happened while I was stationed on the USS Colahan DD-658 in 1962. I was a 2nd class Radioman and a watch section supervisor. The ship had received orders for deployment to WESPAC (Western Pacific). This is in the region of Guam, the Philippine Islands and Japan. The Colahan departed Long Beach on February 2, 1962 with stops scheduled at Hawaii and Midway before arriving at Subic Bay in the Philippine Islands.

On the night before we were scheduled to arrive at Guam, Ken, RM3 and I had the Mid Watch (2400 -0800), We had been busy handling CW logistic and tactical traffic concerning our arrival at Guam. We completed all the traffic by 0300 and I was having trouble staying awake. I started tuning the RBB receiver at my operating position on the HF bands, hoping to hear some Amateur Radio signals to pass the time.

I tuned across a signal I recognized as a LORAN A signal (Long Range Navigation). I Knew the CIC (Combat Information Center) had the LORAN A receivers. I called them and asked if there were any LORAN A stations near us. They told me that the Coast Guard station on the Island of Saipan transmitted LORAN A and they were about 350 miles Northwest of the ship.

I have watched several documentaries about WW2 battles in the Pacific. The battle for Saipan Island had been a very difficult battle. The Colahan had not been at Saipan, but she had been involved in many other battles from Guam through to the Philippine Islands and Japan. The last duty the Colahan was assigned before going home, was as Tokyo Harbor entrance control vessel until October 8, 1945.

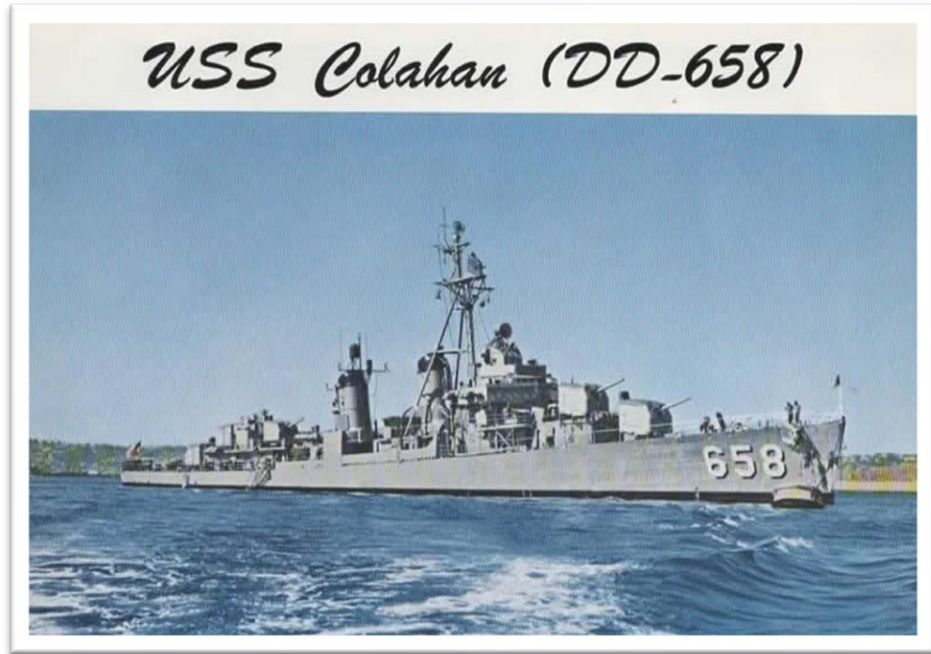
It may have been the hour and lack of sleep, (a chronic condition on a ship like the Colahan) but I started to have a kind of kinship with the Radiomen of 20 years ago and what it must have like in this Radio Room during those battles. As is looked around the Radio Room I realized we still had a lot of the communication equipment that was used during those battles. The receiver I was using, the key I had just used sending all that traffic, had been used by the Radiomen to keep communications functioning through the terrier of those battles and other operations.

The Colahan was returning to the waters where she had fought in all of those battles. We were arriving in peace time and were not expecting to be attacked. This was not a museum ship, but a fully armed warship that could fight if necessary and we were to bring the ship back to where she had earned many decorations.

I felt a new sense of pride for being part of this this deployment. This all happened because I heard Saipan calling.

Foot note about LORAN A:

Loran-A used two frequency bands, at 1.85 and 1.95 MHz. These same frequencies were used by radio amateurs, in the amateur radio 160-meter band,[1] and amateur operators were under strict rules to operate at reduced power levels to avoid interference; Depending on their location and distance to the shore, U.S. operators were limited to maximums of 200 to 500 watts during the day and 50 to 200 watts at night.



NETS & MEETINGS



WEDNESDAY NIGHT NETS

We have two nets, weekly on Wednesday nights:

- 6:30 PM – **Simplex Net**, 147.090 (No offset, No PL)
- 7:00 PM – **Weekly Club Net**, 147.090 (+600 kHz offset, PL is 114.8 Hz)

CLUB MEETING

Our club meetings are held the first Thursday of each month starting at 6:30 PM, located 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.

Lodi Amateur Radio Club
1030 S. Hutchins St., Ste. 4-127
Lodi, CA 95240-5251

LodiHams@gmail.com
lodiarc.org

QST!

N6GKJ ALLSTAR NODE NOTES

Q: *What is an Allstar Node?*

A: An Allstar Node is comprised of a small computer, a sound card and a VHF or UHF Amateur Radio mobile radio. The node is assigned an ID Code.

When the node is configured and powered up, it is plugged into the Internet via Wi-Fi or Ethernet. The node software automatically logs into the Allstar server and reports its status. By using the programming commands built into Allstar, we can connect our node to another node. This node connection allows us to talk over a short range or vast distances. Some nodes are tied together into larger networks.

Each week we hold a net on our repeater frequency. Our repeater covers a vast area of Northern California. Many times, we lose power in Northern California; So, we implemented a new Simplex Net to get our users used to simplex operations. We operate this net on our repeater output frequency. All net members know that when a power outage occurs, we switch over to simplex to carry out net operations.

But there is a catch. Our repeater covers such a large area that our far-out net attendees cannot get to net control even via relays.

As a result, we constructed two nodes 27936 and 27946.

- Node 27946 is tied to a radio on a frequency of 147.090 MHz for simplex operation.
- Node 27936 is tied to a radio on a frequency of 444.250 MHz for repeater operation.

Q: *What does it cost to get on an Allstar Node?*

A: That depends on the way you choose to get on. For this discussion we will focus on the "Free and Cheap" ways to get on our Allstar Nodes.

Now we can have those far-out net attendees check-in using any number of available tools. These tools include:

- **IAXRPT** - is a Windows based application that allows a ham operator to connect to our nodes (free)
- **DVSwitch** - is an Android based application that allows a ham operator to connect to our nodes (free)
- **RepeaterPhone** - is an Apple iOS application that allows a ham operator to connect to our nodes (not free)

For this discussion, we will focus on IAXRPT and DVSwitch. Normally when we use these tools we already have an Allstar Node in our shack we can connect with. Because Allstar is new to our group, most of our members do not have an Allstar Node. We have opened up our 27946 and 27936 nodes **to the members of our club** who want to use these tools to make that connection.

To setup IAXRPT click: <https://n6gkj.lodiarc.org/allstar/iaxrpt.htm> to install and configure IAXRPT.

To setup DVSwitch click: <https://n6gkj.lodiarc.org/allstar/dvswitch.htm> to install and configure DVSwitch.

If you have questions regarding the nodes, you can find information in the link below to my Allstar page and contact me at n6gkj1@gmail.com. I made some changes to the network recently; I have moved the Node Gateway into a cloud server. Since then, make sure you change the settings on your phone app. See my Allstar page for the changes, or by [clicking here](#).

I am assigning everyone an ID number, vs a Callsign. The system was really designed for a number. When people ask for a password, I will assign an ID number they can put in their app.

Ron Simpson
N6GKJ

FOR SALE

VIRTUAL SWAP MEET

- **Yaesu FT-991a Package – \$1,200.00**

This package contains the Yaesu FT-991a, along with the FC-40 Tuner, MD-90 Desk Mic and an extra control cable! New prices for each item normally go for:

Radio: \$1299.95

FC-40 tuner: \$329.99

MD90 desk Mic: \$174.95

Xtra Control cable: \$69.99

For a total of: \$1872.99

I am selling this package for **\$1200.00**. Thanks, and Happy New Year!

Contact Dave Lichtenhan for further, dlich2263@icloud.com

- **ACER 19-inch VGA Monitor – Proceeds will be Donated to the Club**

With power and VGA cables, manual and disk. Used maybe 25 hours as a test monitor for upgrading computers. It has a VGA input but will work with HDMI computer output with a VGA to HDMI cable. This was tested and works fine. Proceeds will be donated to the Club.

Contact Mike Zane for further, n6zw@comcast.net

- **EFHW/Random Wire Antennas Information – Available to Borrow**

I have compiled a bunch of info on EFHW and random wire antennas, plus info on how to wind a line choke. Put all into a binder for anyone that wants to borrow it. Articles can be copied if needed, just put originals back in correct order.

Contact Mike Zane, n6zw@comcast.net

- **Ameritron, AL1200 – Make reasonable offer**

High Power HF Amplifier 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. 100w for FULL output. Weighs 77 lbs., 18 1/2X 17 X 10. Date of purchase 8-12-91. Was used approx. 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, make an offer, until Mike can find what used ones are going for.

Contact Mike Zane, n6zw@comcast.net

Interested in posting something for sale here?

*Please send your request to LodiHams@gmail.com to be considered for the next newsletter, no later than the 25th of the month. **Please ensure** to include your contact information to go along for the sale item!*
