



FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL

I started thinking about our club callsign and the previous owner. In case you didn't know, it was the call sign of Frank Jones. Frank lived in Sonoma on Denmark street. He had a large lot, so he had a lot of room for antennas. He mainly was an author and experimenter. Just about everything in his shack was built by him, even test equipment. His main interest was VHF/UHF transmitters and receivers. He was on the cutting edge of the latest circuits and semiconductors.

I remember, Ken and I used to visit him when we were high school students. His wife would always warn us not to stay too long, as Frank was frail. Yet he was able to climb towers well into his 80's.

His experimentation started while a student at UC Berkeley. I have a folder of articles written by him all the way back to 1924. He also wrote under a pen name, Francis Churchill. He wrote handbooks for hams and published many articles for CQ magazine.

During WW2, he developed communication systems for the military.

There is a tape of an interview with Frank located in the EOC radio room, if anyone would like to look at it.

NEXT MEETING

Wed, February 20, 2019, 7:30pm

City of Sonoma Police Department

Topic: Local/National Issues Affecting Hams

Presenter: Bill Hillendahl (KH6GJV)
SF Section Manager

I still get inquiries about where we got the call sign from hams in the bay area that used to get on the air with Frank.

I am sure there are members who also have stories about Frank. Send your remembrances to me or Eileen for future publication in our newsletter.

I have the club Wednesday night net for the month of Feb. Will try to remember.

Our speaker for this month will be SF Section leader, Bill Hillendahl. We will be hosting Bill for dinner at the Black Bear diner at 5:30pm if you would like to join.

73, Jim K6UUW

PS

As of Jan16th, sunspots were batting zero and counting. The solar flux from now through March is around 70. This adds up to very little in the way of good DX propagation. So the rise in FT-8 continues.

Minutes, January 16, 2019

Present: WD6BOR (Darrel), KG6QNT (Eileen), KD6FIL (Dave), K6UUW (Jim), KA5WSS (Robert), W1EJ (Ed), N6TVN (Carl), NJ6E (Stan), WB6TMH (Mike), KV6X (Dan), AK6RF (Matt), KF6FZM (Dick), K6VFR (John), KM6SJR (Elizabeth), KI6TPK (Kevin).

Meeting called to order at 7:40pm.

President announcements

VOMARC Net Control set for the year.

The High School could use some electronics parts for projects. A motion was made, seconded and approved to spend a maximum of \$100/year for electronic parts for the high school.

Mystery Box – original was stolen from a member's vehicle (Someone got quite a surprise when they opened it). WD6BOR will create a new box.

VICE PRESIDENT

VE Session is January 26.

Benicia has a Ham radio Cram Session on February 2.

Send shack photos to Robert.

Looking for topics for meetings.

TREASURER

The balance is \$3,543.80. Received \$40 in dues this evening.

Dues increase: MMS to increase dues to \$20 per year for a person and \$25 per year for a family. Motion passed.

SECRETARY

Taxes are due by May 15.

Hamfest Paperwork has been submitted.

OLD BUSINESS

Christmas Party – Service left a lot to be desired.

- Looking for possible alternatives – Depot, RoundTable
- Will bring this back at the next meeting

NEW BUSINESS

Nothing discussed

PROGRAM

WSPR, Weak Signal Propagation Report

—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL

January Meeting



Club members watch Robert Robinett, AI6VN, present information on the historic radio station KPH (located at Point Reyes National Seashore) and its use of the WSPR (Weak Signal Propagation Reporter) Network at the January 2019 meeting.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Court Rules Excessive Antenna Application Fees Violated Reasonable Accommodation

Long-pending Amateur Radio antenna litigation that ARRL helped to fund has finally borne fruit. The Supreme Court of the State of New York, Appellate Division: Second Judicial Department has ruled in the case of Myles Landstein, N2EHG, that the Town of LaGrange, New York, not only overstepped its state-granted authority by

assessing excessive fees, but violated the limited federal preemption [PRB-1](#) in the process. PRB-1 requires municipalities and states to "reasonably" accommodate Amateur Radio antennas and to apply the "minimum practicable regulation" in handling Amateur Radio antenna applications. The ruling is slated to be published as a case decision. Landstein, who lives in the Bronx, had wanted to erect a 70-foot antenna support structure for a multioperator station in the Hamlet of Lagrangeville; the Town of LaGrange has a 35-foot height limit.

(From Jan. 16 ARRL newsletter)

—Submitted by Jim K6UUW

Amateur Radio Applications Piling Up Due To Government Shutdown

During the recent government shutdown Amateur Radio licensing action had ground to a halt. The ARRL VEC estimated there were over 1,600 applications for new licenses or upgrades waiting to be processed when the shutdown was still in effect. Even with government employees back at work there is still a backlog to process.

Those upgrading to a new license class should be able to continue operating with their new privileges with the use of the Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) received at the time of their test. Newly licensed Amateurs are forced to wait until the backlog of applications are processed.

Hams whose licenses are set to expire are particularly vulnerable to appearances of operating illegally. Though a license renewal can still be entered on the FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS) there's no guarantee any records will be updated with the new expiration date prior to the license expiring.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-radio-applications-piling-up-as-partial-government-shutdown-continues>

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

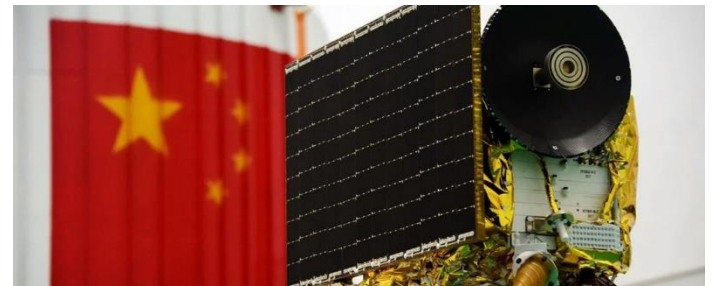
China To Launch Two Amateur Radio Satellites in April

Two new Chinese satellites with Amateur Radio payloads are planned for an April 5 launch, CAMSAT has reported.

CAS-7A will carry H/T (21/29 MHz) and H/U (21/435 MHz) mode linear transponders, V/U linear and V/U FM transponders, a UHF CW telemetry beacon, UHF AX.25 4.8k/9.6k baud GMSK telemetry, and 3-centimeter AX.25 1 Mbps GMSK image data transmission for an onboard camera.

CAS-7B is described as a 500-millimeter sphere spacecraft weighing 3 kilograms. It will carry a V/U transponder and a UHF CW telemetry beacon.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/china-to-launch-two-amateur-radio-satellites-in-april>



—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

ARRL Launching Podcast For New Radio Amateurs

For those just getting started on their Amateur Radio journey, ARRL is launching a new podcast aimed at answering your questions, providing support and encouragement for newcomers to get the most out of the hobby. The podcast, "So Now What?," will launch on Thursday, March 7,

and new episodes will be posted every other Thursday, alternating new-episode weeks with the "ARRL The Doctor is In" podcast Co-hosting "So Now What?" will be ARRL Communications Content Producer Michelle Patnode, W3MVP, and ARRL Station Manager



Joe Carcia, NJ1Q. Presented as a lively conversation, with Patnode representing newer hams and Carcia the veteran operators, the podcast will

explore questions that newer hams may have and the issues that keep participants from staying active in the hobby. Some episodes will feature guests to answer questions on specific topic areas.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-launching-new-podcast-g geared-toward-new-radio-amateurs>

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

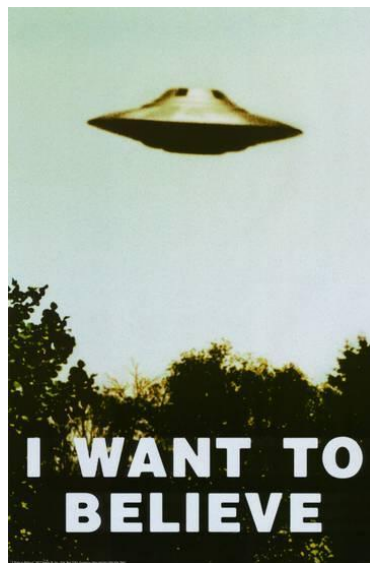
Mysterious Radio Signals Detected In Space

Scientists have detected a number of Fast Radio Burst (FRB) signals from space but have yet to determine why they occur. Deciphering the phenomena is made more difficult by the fact that they rarely repeat. Recently researchers have identified a repeating FRB, which has helpfully been labeled FRB

180814.J0422+73. Frequencies detected are not clearly reported in most mainstream articles but may be somewhere between 1.4 and 8 GHz.

As for theories about what's causing them, there are several. A neutron star with a strong and rapidly spinning magnetic field, two neutron

stars merging together or, if you are so inclined, some form of alien spaceship.



<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-46811618>

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

ARRL Board of Directors Issues Statement on Amateur Radio Parity Act

At its annual meeting January 18 - 19, the ARRL Board of Directors decided that the organization needs to "review, re-examine, and reappraise ARRL's regulatory and legislative policy with regard to private land use restrictions."

In order to effectively undertake such a review, the Board adopted a resolution to withdraw its December 18 [Petition for Rule Making](#) to the FCC, which sought to amend the Part 97 Amateur Service rules to incorporate the provisions of the Amateur Radio Parity Act ([ARPA](#)), without prejudice to refiling. The resolution also is asking members of Congress who had refiled legislation to enact the Amateur Radio Parity Act (ARPA) to refrain from seeking to advance that legislation pending further input from ARRL.

Board members noted that ARRL has been pursuing adoption of the ARPA for the past

several years, and that objective has not yet been achieved. While everyone understands that getting Congressional approval on any matter can be a lengthy process, the difficulties getting the ARPA approved has been a source of frustration to the organization and its members. A majority of the Board now believes that there is a need to reassess the organization's approach to this issue.

(for more, go to the ARRL newsletter dated Jan. 24.)

—Submitted by Jim K6UUW

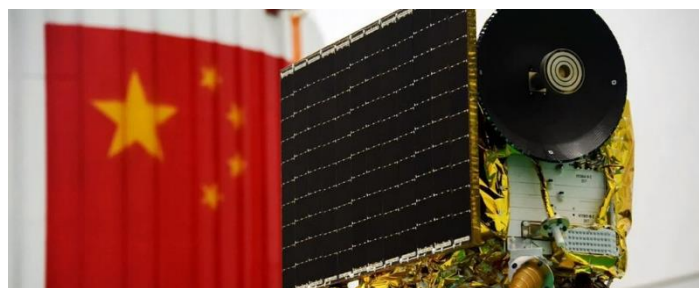
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—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

VOLUME 23 EDITION 2

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF

Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Jim Hill K6UUW – President

Robert Barron KA5WSS – Vice President

Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL – Secretary

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Moe Llanes, KI6JNU – ACS Unit Leader

Sanford Smith, N7PIB – VE Liaison

Jim Hill K6UUW – Elmer Coordinator

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

CLUB MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of each month at the City of Sonoma Police Department EOC 175 1st St West. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

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.

ACS holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

PACKET STATION INFO: The VOMARC packet station is off the air until further notice.

CLUB BREAKFASTS are held on the first Saturday of each month at Black Bear Restaurant, 201 W Napa St, #34 (Marketplace Shopping Center), Sonoma. The fun starts at 08:30 local.

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

**2019 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	FK6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

**2019 VOMARC
Net Control Assignments**

	Name	Call
JANUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH	MOE	KI6JNU
APRIL	DAVE	KD6FIL
MAY	ED	W1EJ
JUNE	FRANK	KG6N
JULY	MOE	KI6JNU
AUGUST	CARL	N6TVN
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE THE FEBRUARY 20, 2019, 7:30PM

AT THE CITY OF SONOMA EOC, CITY OF SONOMA POLICE DEPARTMENT, 175 FIRST ST W, SONOMA

SEE YOU THERE.

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP 2019

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**.