

**Valley of the Moon**  
**Amateur Radio**  
**Club**  
**WIRELESS**




## FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL...

First, many thanks to the folks that have decided to serve as VOMARC officers. Robert KA5WSS, VP; Dave KDD6FIL, Secretary; EILEEN KG6QNT, Treasurer; MIKE WB6TMH, radio officer and KEN N6KM, CLUB TRUSTEE.

And many, many thanks to Frank and Scott for their stint as officers.

We, also want to offer our good thoughts to Mike and Scott for their loses in the October fire.

Robert has done a great job on getting our yearly calendar formed. Check out our website.

This year should be lots of fun. One of the most wanted country is Bouvet Island. It should get activated around the 23rd of this month. This is the year to chase grid squares. Just work a station and load your log to LOTW once a month. You can use VHF/UHF as long as you don't use a repeater. As usual, our club will host the only Hamfest north of S.F., participate in Field Day and put out N6P at Pt. Reyes Lighthouse. Also, one month devoted to a club picnic and another for our Xmas party. Remember our club breakfast on the 1st Sat. of each month.

One of the ways to rack up those grid squares is to get on FT8, a new digital mode that has very good sensitivity and fairly fast QSO times. I just worked South Africa on 40 meters the other night.

I want to emphasize that this club is for all members. If there is an activity or meeting topic you would like, let one of the officers know. Please come to the meetings. We will raffle off a ARRL Handbook, worth about \$50.00, at the next meeting.

Let's have a fun packed year.

—Jim K6UUW

### **VOMARC minutes, 11/15/2017**

The meeting was called to order by acting president Jim Hill, K6UUW, at 7:30 p.m. at the Sonoma EOC.

The members present were: (I don't have the sign-in sheet.)

The October minutes were approved as published in the November newsletter.

**Nominations for officers** resulted in the following member nomination:

President: Jim Hill, K6UUW

Vice President: Robert Barron, KA5WSS

Secretary: Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL

Treasurer: Eileen Adams, KG6QNT

There being no other nominations, the officers were elected from the candidates nominated by a unanimous vote of the members present.

Ken McTaggart, N6KM has agreed to continue as club station trustee for W6AJF.

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT, has agreed to continue as newsletter editor and membership chair.

Acting President Hill thanked all the officers for volunteering to serve VOMARC for 2018.

Jim Hill, K6UUW, gave a report on the Pacificon convention held in October in San Ramone.

**The program was discussion of the recent wildfires.** The general discussion covered the members' experiences during the fire, the lack of notification and information on the fire's progress, and the fact that the Sonoma Valley emergency services didn't seem to know how to utilize ACS as a valuable resource.

Alan Young, K6KLL, reported that KSVY was a timely and accurate source of information on the fire during the emergency.

Darrel Jones, WD6BOR, reported that the Sonoma Disaster Council is no longer active and that we might need to plan emergency response possibilities ourselves.

Ed Jacobson, W1EJ, activated ACS and staffed the shelter in Petaluma. Sam McIntosh, W5LTP, staffed the shelter at Sonoma Valley High School.

Members Scott Wellington, KJ6QIQ, and Mike Miller, WB6TMH, and their families lost their homes in the fire.

**The VOMARC Christmas party** will be Wednesday, December 6 at 6:00 p.m. at Mary's Pizza Shack in Boyes Springs.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

—Submitted by: Darrel WD6BOR

## NEXT MEETING

Wed, January 17, 2018, 7:30pm

City of Sonoma EOC,

Sonoma Police Department

### Topic: Software Defined Radios

VOMARC has a copy of the latest ARRL Handbook that will be raffled off at the January meeting.

Members or guests need to be present to win. Thanks to the League for offering this prize!

## Meeting Topic Ideas

We want your feedback on the types of meeting topics that you'd like to see at future VOMARC meetings. A simple voting page has been set up where you can give an up arrow for things you're interested in seeing and you can even place a down arrow for those you do not want to see. Let your voice be heard!

<http://updown.co/-KzzNDbDqgcvkxpUrudt>

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

## VOMARC Calendar

We now have a VOMARC Google Calendar with all VOMARC and related events available for use. If you have a Google account you can use this URL to add the VOMARC calendar to your own so that meeting dates and other events automatically show up on the calendar, whether it's on your desktop or even your Android smartphone. Just click on the "Add a friend's calendar" button on the left side of the calendar screen, select "From URL" in the drop down list and then paste this into the field:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/1vbps70c4pbv1ffvgth9460q4o%40group.calendar.google.com/private-8cf09579edd172aceda3cbab938ec58b/basic.ics>

No need to mark your own calendar to remember future events - they'll show up on your calendar automatically!

If you don't have a Google account you can still see the events in calendar format on your browser with this URL:

[https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=1vbps70c4pbv1ffvgth9460q4o%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America%2FLos Angeles](https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=1vbps70c4pbv1ffvgth9460q4o%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America%2FLos+Angeles)

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

## VE Session

Ready to upgrade your license? A VE Session will be held on Saturday, January 27 at 10:00 AM at the Sonoma Police Department. Contact Jim, K6UUW ([jhill@vom.com](mailto:jhill@vom.com)) for more info or visit the VOMARC website (<http://vomarc.org/vesessions.html>).

Also contact Jim if you'd like to help out with future VE sessions. Here's a chance to do your part to get news Hams licensed and progress existing Amateurs farther into the hobby.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

## Transition To Digital

The transition to all things digital from analog continues. Norway became the first country in the world to turn off all national analog FM broadcasting, having transitioned to DAB (Digital Audio Broadcasting) throughout the country.

According to authorities, DAB offers better audio quality, more channels and lower cost. Smaller local stations not part of the national network continue to use analog FM.

<https://www.thelocal.no/20171213/norway-becomes-first-country-to-switch-off-fm-radio>

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

## International Grid Chase 2018

Liked the year-long NPOTA event in 2016? The ARRL has a new year-long event to help spur interest in getting active on the air. Throughout 2018 Amateurs can use any Amateur band (other than 60M) and any mode to work stations in as many maidenhead grid squares as possible. All contacts counting toward the challenge must be submitted through Logbook of the World.

<http://www.arrl.org/international-grid-chase-2018>

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

## Thousands Getting Their Grids On!

*And they're off!* New Year's Day January 1 (UTC) marked the opening day for the ARRL International Grid Chase 2018 ([IGC](#)). Among those hitting their grids running was newly minted General-class operator Katie Thompsen, KI7HCX, of Mt. Vernon, Washington, who used the occasion to embark on the Chase *and* to get on HF for the first time using her own call sign. The 11-year-old comes from a ham radio family. Her dad, Todd, is W7TAO, while her older brothers are Mason, K7MWT, 15 -- who upgraded to Amateur Extra at the examination session where his sister upgraded to General -- and Tanner, K7TMT, 13.

The objective of the year-long event is to work stations in as many different Maidenhead grid squares as possible, and then upload your logs to [LoTW](#).

( From ARRL newsletter)

—Submitted by Jim K6UUW

## Why Ham Radio Fans Want to Spend Next Summer on an Island Full of Bird Poop

An article by the non-Ham press about the crazy things we do.

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/baker-island-ham-radio-expedition-2018>

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

## Large Donations Making Bouvet 3Y0Z DXpedition a Reality; Team Eager to Get Under Way

The [3Y0Z Bouvet Island DXpedition](#) team announced in late December that it had reached "yet another milestone" in its quest to activate Bouvet Island, the second most-wanted DXCC entity (behind the Democratic Republic of North Korea), in January and February. A dependency of Norway, Bouvet is a subantarctic island in the South Atlantic.

This major DXpedition could get under way as early as January 23 or 24, and the crack team of operators hopes to spend 14 to 16 days on Bouvet, depending on weather and other factors. Bouvet has not been activated for about a decade. The DXpedition said it would transfer nearly \$500,000 to DAP, the Chilean company that owns and operates the M/V *Betanzos* and the helicopters that will provide transportation. That single outlay points up the extraordinary expense of mounting a DXpedition such as this.

(From ARRL newsletter)

—Submitted by Jim K6UUW

### NIFTY WEB SITE

Check out this web site. <http://www.g4ifb.com/index.html>

—Submitted by Jim K6UUW

### THE VOMARC WIRELESS

#### VOLUME 22 EDITION 1

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, Training Officer, President Emeritus

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Webmistress, Editor

*"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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:Eileen@vom.com)

—OR—

#### Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

C/O Sonoma Police Department

175 First Street West

Sonoma, CA 95476

Sonoma, CA 95476

# NJ6E Antenna Remodel

—Submitted by Stan NJ6E

## BEFORE



This before-and-after photo set shows recent work at the QTH of Stan NJ6E to add a 23 cm Yagi antenna for amateur TV. Thanks to Dave KD6FIL for all of his help on what turned out to be a half-day project.

For additional information, check out NJ6E's presentation on Digital Amateur Television, scheduled for the March 21 club meeting.

## AFTER



—Photos submitted by Dave KD6FIL who assures that No damage or injury occurred during the event!

**2018 ACS  
Net Control Assignments**

	Name	Call
JANUARY	MOE	KI6JNU
FEBRUARY	JIM	KJ6UUW
MARCH	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
APRIL	JIM	K6UUW
MAY	DICK	KF6FZM
JUNE	MOE	KI6JNU
JULY	KEN	N6KN
AUGUST	GILL	KJ6EIG
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	FK6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

**2018 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		
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE JANUARY 17, 2016, 7:30PM,  
CITY OF SONOMA EOC, SONOMA POLICE DEPARTMENT, 175 1<sup>ST</sup> ST W, SONOMA, 95476  
SEE YOU THERE.**

## VOMARC MEMBERSHIP 2018

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](http://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 1<sup>st</sup> St West, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC**.