



FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL...

This week was a huge disappointment for the DX community as we learned that the highly anticipated expedition to Bouvet Island had to be aborted due to high seas, strong winds and engine trouble. As I write this the team is on their way to Cape Town, South Africa for rest and repairs. Bouvet is number two on the wanted list. The future of this trip is unknown. This was a very expensive endeavor so if you feel generous, go to their website. <https://www.bouvetdx.org/> and make a donation or you can buy a souvenir from their store.

The club hosted a VE session on Jan. 27th. We had two candidates, one drove all the way from San Jose and passed his Extra. The other candidate was from Napa and earned his Tech license. Thanks for San, Alan, and Ken for assisting.

There has been some changes in the ARRL leadership. Bob Vallio, our long time Pacific Division Director has been promoted to ARRL Second Vice President. Tim Tiemstra, K6JAT, will move into Bob's spot. The new Vice Director is Kristen McIntyre, K6WX. She is an

Apple employee and president of the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association.

The participation in the Wednesday night VOMARC net is getting a little sparse, so I encourage all members to check in. If you are new to the hobby, let me know and we can walk you through it.

For all the contesters, the ARRL International DX Contest, CW will be on the weekend of Feb. 17.

Our program for Feb. will be Emergency Communications.

See you at the next meeting on the 21st.

—73, Jim, K6UUW

NEXT MEETING

Wed, February 21, 2018, 7:30pm
City of Sonoma EOC,
Sonoma Police Department

Topic: Emergency Communications
Presenter: Kel MacDonald, N6KEL, the ACS Central County Unit Leader

Minutes, January 17, 2018

Called to order at 19:30 by Newly Elected Supreme President K6UUW, thank you very much!

KD6FIL (Dave), KG6QNT (Eileen), WA6CRB (Dan), WD6BOR (Darrel), AK6RF, (Matt), KA2QOQ

(Declan), KG6N (Frank), NJ6E (Stan), W1EJ (Ed), KM6FEY (Carol), KF6FZM (Dick), KJ6ZMV (Wendy), KI6TPK (Kevin), N6TVN (Carl), KJ6QIQ (Scott), K5WSS (Robert), N7PIB (San), K6KLL (Alan).

Introductions.

Thank you to the previous officers who escaped.

Gift from the Christmas party was presented to Scott, KJ6QIQ.

New to confirm that the newsletter is being sent to the ARRL Officers:

Bob Vallio, w6rgg@arrl.org

Jim Tiemstra, k6jat@arrl.org

Bill Hillendahl, kh6gju@arrl.org

Motion was made, seconded and approved to donate \$100 to the California Historical Radio Society.

Minutes approved and accepted as written.

Vice President: Report from the ARRL Meeting:

AB1725 makes it illegal to use a handheld radio in a moving vehicle. A mounted radio is okay to use.

FCC is cutting funding and there is no longer a San Francisco Field Office.

QST Magazine has changed. It is smaller format to be easier to print on a standard size.

Other Items:

Need Net Control for 2018.

Looking at adding a link to the website for meeting topics

There is a Google Calendar for the club.

There will be a drawing at the end of the meeting for an ARRL Handbook.

Secretary: Working on Hamfest Paperwork.

Treasurer's report: We have \$2919.07 plus more dues are being turned in.

ACS: There is a leadership meeting on Monday, January 22 to review wildfire activations.

The next Level One Training is scheduled for April 7.

ACS is looking for new members.

New Business:

There is a new year long contest from the ARRL to contact Grid Squares

There is a VHF contest on January 20-21.

N6P options for activating lighthouses in August. Point Arena is an option.

Sawmill Enduro is coming in April on Cow Mountain, East of Ukiah. See the SCRA Calendar for signups (Sonoma County Radio Amateurs).

Hamfest: Need to work on Publicity. Update the Flyer. This is Ed's farewell tour in the Kitchen!!!

Meeting Adjourned at 19:58

Presentation: A Video-K5SDR and Software Defined Radio.

—Submitted by: KD6FIL

Canadian Radio Amateur Finds Resurrected NASA Satellite

When he's not on ham radio, Scott Tilley, VA7LF, an amateur astronomer, hunts spy satellites. Using an S-band radio from his home in Roberts Creek, British Columbia, Tilley routinely scans the skies for radio signals from classified objects orbiting Earth, according to a [recent article](#) on Spaceweather.com. Earlier this month, he saw the signature of IMAGE (Imager for Magnetopause-to-Aurora Global Exploration), a NASA spacecraft believed to have died in December 2005. The [discovery](#) has delighted space scientists.

(from ARRL Newsletter)

—Submitted by Jim K6UUW

Who do you call?

By Wendy Weidenhamer, KJ6ZMV

What did the Willits area need the most with when the fires of the October 2017 made their way to them? Communication. And what was the first group the Sheriff of Mendocino County thought of at that moment? Ham radio operators.

With the power going out or being turned off to avoid possible fires their current communication system, which breaths life from the electric grid, was delegated to stand-by mode. This got the Sheriff to thinking about how important ham radio operators have been in their long illustrious past and how that importance has not changed. He gave a very thoughtful talk during the January 20, 2018 meeting of the Willits Amateur Radio Society. While the WARS members and guests enjoyed pizza, Mendocino County Sheriff, Tom Allman, talked about how the October fires affected them, but also talked about some ideas for integrating ham radio into the current communication system.

One idea was to integrate a ham radio station into local radio stations. Even include some kind of ham station in local schools, government, and hospitals. Sheriff Allman also threw out the idea of a regional communication center that included ham radio operators.

This was a great meeting with over 30 members and guests attending, some from as far as Gualala (from the ABARC--Anchor Bay Amateur Radio Club). The spirit of the ham radio operators was alive and well, the ideas were many, and the pizza was very good.

These ideas from the Sheriff and members were ideas that are just having their beginnings and which encourage creativity and much discussion on how they could be implemented, but it was

an exciting beginning and a well-earned appreciation of all ham radio operators.

Amendment to ARRL DXCC Rules Expands DXCC List

The ARRL Board of Directors approved a motion to amend the DXCC Rules, when it met January 19-20. Section II, Subsection 1 of the DXCC Rules now will include a new Subsection (d): The entity has a separate [IARU member society](#) and is included on the US State Department [Independent States in the World](#).



"The discussion during the Board meeting and the rule change did not address any specific entity," ARRL Radiosport Manager Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, said. "The amendment could allow some additions to the current DXCC List of entities. It's a good thing not only for DXCC, but for all active hams."

Effective on January 21 at 0000 UTC, the Republic of Kosovo (Z6) was added to the DXCC List of current entities, increasing the total number of current DXCC entities to 340. Nothing is retroactive, Fusaro said. A new Logbook of The World (LoTW) *TQSL* configuration file (v.11.4) has been released to accommodate the addition.

Kosovo's IARU member society [SHRAK](#) Headquarters station Z60A now is [active on several bands](#) with multiple guest operators, marking the 10th anniversary of Kosovo's independence in February (from ARRL Newsletter)

—Submitted by Jim K6UUW

Fox-1D Amateur Radio CubeSat Launches Successfully, Now Designated as AO-92

Right on schedule on January 12, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) launched, taking [AMSAT-NA's Fox-1D](#) CubeSat and 30 other satellites on board toward a sun-synchronous orbit. By 27 minutes into the flight, confirmation came that all nanosatellites had been deployed. Fox-1D was in orbit! (

from ARRL Newsletter)

—Submitted by Jim K6UUW

New ARRL Division Director and Vice Director

With the election of longtime director Bob Vallio, W6RGG as second ARRL Vice President there are a couple of new assignments for Pacific Division leadership roles. Existing Vice Director Jim Tiemstra, K6JAT, steps up as Director and Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, fills in the Vice Director spot.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/kristen-mcintyre-k6wx-appointed-arrrl-pacific-division-vice-director>

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

License Classes

The Benicia Amateur Radio Amateur Radio is offering one day cram sessions followed by testing for the Technician or General Class licenses. Upcoming days for this year include May 4 and Oct 5. Their February class was filled up weeks before the event so if you're interested you should sign up for one of the other sessions as soon as possible.

http://beniciaarc.com/wp/?page_id=8

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Fox-1D Amateur Radio CubeSat Launches Successfully, Now Designated as AO-92

<http://www.arrl.org/news/fox-1d-amateur-radio-cubesat-launches-successfully-now-designated-as-ao-92>

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

This New RCA Antenna Is Built In to Your Window Shades

<https://www.cordcuttersnews.com/new-rca-antenna-built-window-shades/>

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Wisconsin FT8 Enthusiast Completes DXCC on New Mode

<http://www.arrl.org/news/wisconsin-ft8-enthusiast-completes-dxcc-on-new-mode>

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

VOLUME 22 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

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – 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 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

Sonoma, CA 95476

**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	N6KM
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 FEBRUARY 21, 2016, 7:30PM,
CITY OF SONOMA EOC, SONOMA POLICE DEPARTMENT, 175 1ST 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.

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**.