



President's Corner

—By Robert KA5WSS

It's been a busy time with VOMARC as of late. We just wrapped up the latest edition of the VOMARC Hamfest. Darrel (WD6BOR) will have lots more details later in this edition but in a nutshell it exceeded our 2021 efforts and feedback has been generally positive.

Our next big venture will be [Field Day](#) on June 25th. With our new tower trailer (more on that in this or a future issue) set up should be easier and we'll have a more capable antenna system.

You can get a feel for the club's previous Field Day and other social events via the three VOMARC videos that we just had digitized. These had come to us from Jim Hill's (K6UUW) house after he passed away. They provide a glimpse into the nature of club activities from the 1980's to the turn of the 21st century.

[Video interview with W6AJF](#) - The W6AJF callsign should sound familiar. It was held by Frank Jones, one of the founders of the club. In this video Frank is interviewed in 1985 by Herb Sullivan (K6QXB). They discuss his life in radio.

[Emergency Communications Van](#) - Did you know VOMARC had access to emergency communications vans in the past? Two separate vans in the 1980's had Amateur Radio onboard, some of the first emergency communications vans in the Bay Area.

[VOMARC Get Togethers](#) - Home movie like footage of several club events. It includes a picnic at a Glen Ellen winery in 1994, Christmas Parties in 1987 & 1988, Field Day at Camp Via in 1994 & 2001 and Field Day at the Police station in 2003.

If you have some additional information to add to the video descriptions please send them to me and I'll get that updated.

NEXT MEETING

Wed, May 18, 2022, 7:30pm

Zoom meeting room info will be emailed later.

Topic: **Slow Scan TV in the 21st Century**

Presenter: **Randy Hall AA6RH**

Minutes of the April 20 Meeting

Members: KA5WSS (Robert), WD6BOR (Darrel), W1EJ (Ed), KG6QNT (Eileen), W8EWL (John), N7TSQ (Joe), N6LY (Elizabeth), K6YD (Kevin), NJ6E (Stan), KD6FIL (Dave), KB6CLV (Simon)

Guest Speakers: Rob (KC6TYD)

BUSINESS AND OFFICER REPORTS

Adopt meeting minutes as published in the newsletter? Motion made and seconded to approve as written.

OFFICER REPORTS

Newsletter Editor - Eileen, KG6QNT- No Report

ACS Lead - Moe, KI6JNU – not present- There is a unit leader meeting on Monday, April 25.

VE Liaison - Elizabeth, N6LY

Upcoming sessions: Apr. 23rd (Hamfest), Jul. 30th and Oct. 29th.

Can sign up to 10 at Hamfest, four signed up so far

Need to update web page with fee info (Robert)

Radio Officer - Mike, WB6TMH – not present

Weekly Net Control

This month - Dave, KD6FIL

Next month - Ed, W1EJ

Trustee - Darrel, WD6BOR

Tower Trailer update - anyone want the old tower trailer? If not, might offer to VOMCOM since they had used it in the past. New trailer will be set up at the Hamfest.

Hamfest - Apr. 23rd. Job assignment list has filled up a bit better. Two more needed on the second breakfast shift. Club station will be operational. 9:00 AM is the best time for Elizabeth's KSVY interview.

Secretary/Treasurer – Dave, KD6FIL

Bank balance - >\$5000 - payments from Jim's equipment, but need to pay for tower trailer expenses.

Vice President - Ed, W1EJ

President - Robert, KA5WSS

Legacy box for VOMARC VHS tapes. Recordings received. We'll make them available on YouTube.

OTHER BUSINESS

Amateur Radio books for libraries. Robert reached out to our ARRL SM to find out whether library sets are still a thing.

Announcements

Next month's meeting topic: Slow Scan TV in the 21st Century - Randy AA6RH

Mystery Box drawing - postponed until in-person meetings are possible and we can be sure COVID-19 is not one of the contents. Jack, K6ZMF, has it for now.

Meeting Topic - Parachute Mobile - Rob KC6TYD

—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL

VE Liaison News

—By Elizabeth N6LY, VOMARC VE Liaison

We had our second test session of the year, at the VOMARC yearly Hamfest, held on April 23.

Four candidates tested. Two for Technician Class, 1 upgrade to General, and 1 upgrade to Extra Class. I am happy to say that everyone passed the test they signed up for.

Congratulations to all.

The FCC implemented their new fee schedule on April 19, so the two that passed their Technician test, were required to pay an additional fee to the FCC, in order to get their Call Sign.

Unfortunately, the change in procedure wasn't easily implemented and it took, until today, May 11, for them to receive their new call signs and to become official Ham Radio Operators.

I always appreciate the help of our VE's, Sanford-N7PIB, Barbara-K6WHY, and Kevin-K6YD. I couldn't do it without them. Thank you very much for all your help, in running the VE Exams.

Our next test session will be on Saturday, July 30 at our normal location at the Sonoma Police Station EOC. Testing will begin at 10:00 AM and advanced reservations are required. Please

email me, if you are interested in upgrading or joining the hobby. All information can be found on our website.

Hope to hear you on the radio.

Inverted L Antennas

I recently put up two inverted L antennas at right angles in my backyard. When the weather is pleasant it is enjoyable to operate outside. It also allows me to experiment with many wire antennas and make sure my batteries are good and my kit includes everything necessary.

These two are 55 ft and 83 ft long and about 32 ft high and use a small 9:1 unun from QRP guys. The 9:1 is for non resonant lengths like 41 ft, 55 ft, and 83 ft. I usually put up the longest wire possible and then adjust based on how the antenna loads and signal reports from the Reverse Beacon Network. I have also tried resonant end fed antennas of 130, 66, and 35 ft length using a 49:1 unun. My current favorite is the non resonant 41 ft EF. The antenna tuner in my Elecraft radios will load this on 80-10, but it is best on 30-10.

While visiting southern California I used my 41 ft taped inside a long glass window wall on the 2nd story. My transceiver is an Elecraft K-2 running 15 w. This is full on stealth mode. Later in the 1900Z CWT I made 12 contacts including 2 friends in Hawaii which is easier than working the east coast of the U.S. Later, I worked Nick, VK9DX, Norfolk Island, on 28008 khz.

This is a great time for QRP and L.P. radio with simple wire antennas. The high bands are really coming alive.

—Submitted by Carl, N6TTV.

Online Ham Bootcamp

Are you, or do you know someone, who would be interested in some training to learn the skills needed to build your first station and get on the air? The Nashua Area Radio Society is hosting a

Ham Bootcamp on Saturday, May 14th via Zoom from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM Eastern time.

<https://www.n1fd.org/ham-bootcamp/>



—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Misc

- Notes from the April and May VOMARC Board meetings are available online.
- Rob Fenn (KC6TYD) presented on Parachute Mobile during the April meeting. You can find info on future missions at their site. You can also check out a chart of the many systems and frequencies they use when they jump.
- Sanford (N7PIB) has worked at least 2,238 parks as part of the Parks on the Air (POTA) program. Speaking of which, we will be posting POTA numbers for club members in the June issue of the VOMARC newsletter. We have callsigns for a few of the more active park activators and hunters but please send us a note if you are interested in being in the list so we don't miss you. We'll base numbers off of what we read from the POTA website.
- Mike (WB6TMH) had his final inspection on his new home. He also recently installed a 2 band J Pole to allow him to more easily check in VOMARC nets.
- Hams in Germany have set a new world record on 134 GHz with a QSO that covered 98 miles.

- The Chinese space station will have an Amateur Radio payload that will include digipeater and FM repeater options. Yet another satellite that you can use with your HT as you learned in March's main topic of discussion!

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Hamfest Report

—Submitted by Darrel WD6BOR, Photos by Robert KA5WSS

Things finally seemed to be getting back to normal. We had a great hamfest, with a great turnout and many great volunteers making it all happen.

My first of many thank you's goes to Ed W1EJ for making the breakfast run so smoothly once again. He had a stellar crew, with some hams I hadn't met before. First shift had Andrew KE6HID, our own famous chef Joe N7TSQ, Wendy KJ6ZMV, who showed up early and stayed late helping the whole time, Bret WB6OWT and Lori Ajax, who helped everywhere, from setting up the club swap tables, to serving breakfasts to the sellers in the parking lot swap area, and Barb K6WHY who braved the traffic in from Concord to do a shift in the kitchen and then help with the VE exam.

Second shift added Sabine KM6FPZ, Allen KM6QJC and Luis WA6LM, with Dave KD6FIL and Jack K6ZMF coming in for clean-up.

The breakfast was our big money-maker this year, with 68 full and 9 partial breakfasts served, with additional coffee sales pushing the total up. Ed's blueberry pancakes and Joe's delicious eggs brought rave reviews from everyone.



The club's tower trailer got its first official use at Hamfest 2022.



Randy (AA6RH) operating the station.

Another big thanks goes to Elizabeth N6LY who again ran the VE session smoothly and professionally, all with a big smile. She reported that everyone passed the exam they came for, and some even took the higher class exam just to try it out. She had Kevin K6YD, Barb K6WHY and San N7PIB in to provide the test-takers with the opportunity to either become a ham or upgrade to a higher license class.

The set-up and take-down crew were John W8EWL, Allen KM6QJC, Wendy KJ6ZMV, Dave KD6FIL and Jack K6ZMF. Robert KA5WSS jumped in to register the swap tables, which collected \$310 for the club, run for eggs when the kitchen supplies got low, and did anything and everything else that needed doing.

Dan WA6CRB and John W8EWL covered the registration table, sold the breakfast tickets and drew the door prize tickets. We had \$25 and \$50

gift certificates from the ARRL, a \$100 gift certificate from Alpha Antennas and six ham books from K4IA.

We got the new VOMARC antenna trailer set up with the club's R-7 on top in the swap area. Randy, AA6RH, brought his complete station and made contacts through the morning as an excellent interactive display of ham radio. We will get our next chance to raise the tower during Field Day.

Maybe we can fly our ARRL flag from the top as we make our Field Day contacts.

Mike, WB6TMH, Stan, NJ6E and Carl, N6TTV, covered the club swap table so any of the VOMARC members working on the hamfest could get some of their equipment sold while they were otherwise occupied. They did a brisk business and cleared out a few things for me, for which I am most grateful.

Some of the church people who came by were blown away with all the activity happening in their usually quite and meditative venue. We had a little hitch as the morning developed when the plumbing started backing up, first in the Burlingame Hall restrooms, and then upstream toward the other restroom. Fortunately, one of the church members was present and was able to open another building so the attendees could use the facilities there. They told me that they are looking forward to having us use their facility again next year.

We had the local radios station, KSVY, on hand with their remote broadcasting operation, so hopefully VOMARC was able to get some good publicity throughout Sonoma Valley. Ronnie Joe and Francisco interviewed Elizabeth, Mike, Dean Knight, KI6FFM, and many other hams through the morning.

I just want to thank everyone of the club members who came down and pitched in to make this a wonderful return from the bleak period of the COVID pandemic. It really seemed

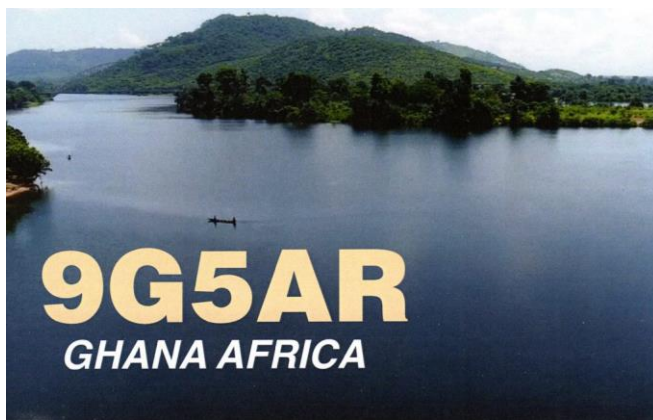
as if we are finally returning to some semblance of normalcy.

We'll have to do this again next year.

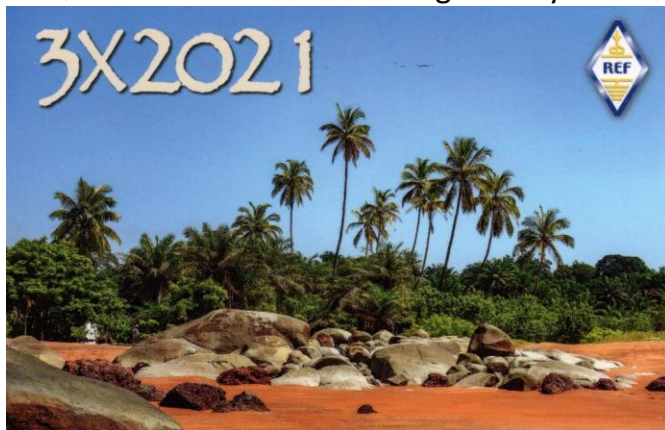


Some of the sellers with bargains to be had.

QSL Card Inbox



9G5AR in Ghana is an All Time New One (ATNO) for me. I made this FT8 QSO on the 20M band. Having learned my lesson about waiting too long to QSL I sent out for this one right away.



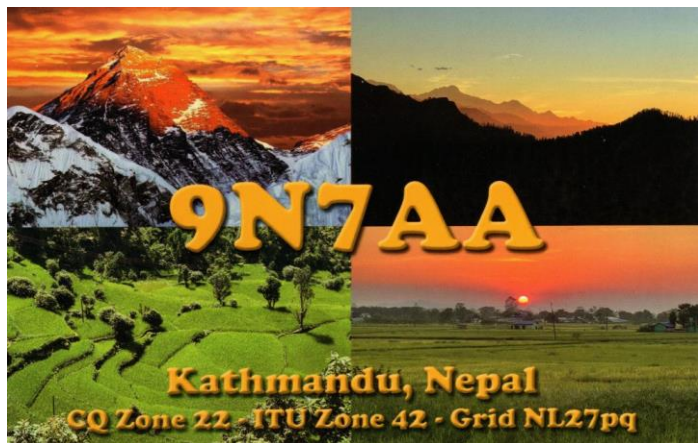
(Continued on next page)

QSL Card Inbox (Continued)

When I first came across this callsign I thought it was a typo. Turns out it was legitimate. I worked 3X2021 using FT4 on both the 15M and 20M bands. It wasn't my first contact with Guinea but I think I only had one prior to these.



I'd worked Bolivian stations before over the years, but this is my first QSL card for a contact with the country. I worked CP6UA on 20M using SSB.



Another All Time New One. I've only rarely heard Nepal on the air, so when I saw 9N7AA spotted I pounced as quickly as I could. I made contact on 20M using FT8's Fox/Hound mode.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

VOLUME 26 EDITION 5 A PUBLICATION OF VOMARC, THE VALLEY OF THE MOON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF

Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Robert Barron KA5WSS – President

Ed Jacobson, W1EJ – Vice President

Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL – Secretary/Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Moe Llanes, KI6JNU – ACS Unit Leader

Elizabeth Morris-Mowrey, N6LY – VE Liaison

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

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.

Breakfast Nets are held every Tuesday and Saturday morning at 7:30 AM on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

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

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

VOMARC

NET CONTROL ASSIGNMENTS

	Name	Call
JANUARY	ROBERT	KA5WSS
FEBRUARY	DARREL	WD6BOR
MARCH	MOE	KI6JNU
APRIL	DAVE	KD6FIL
MAY	ED	W1EJ
JUNE	FRANK	KG6N
JULY	ED	WIEJ
AUGUST	CARL	N6TTV
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP 2022

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**.