

LARK NEWS November 2022



Livermore Amateur Radio Klub LARK is an ARRL affiliated club dedicated to Public Service Volunteer Emergency Communications.

Meetings are once a month on the 3rd Saturday 9:30AM

NEW VENUE: City of Livermore Meeting Hall
1016 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore CA 94550

Available live via zoom by invitation only. Visitors Welcome

Editor: Roberto Sadkowski K6KM

PACIFICONSM 2022

ARRL Pacific Division Ham Radio Convention
Produced by the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club



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livermoreark.org

President's Message

I want to take this time to thank Bernie NJ6W for making the coffee and picking up the refreshments for monthly meetings, it is appreciated by all who attend.

I wanted to let you know that the Events Chairperson (me) is following the upcoming events for 2022, and I have an update: the following events will have happened, Pacificon SWAP MEET on October 16th., and the LARK Booth during the event. I wanted to thank Ron AD6KV and VE Team for continuing to provide a way for hams to get their testing completed. Ron AD6KV is also coordinating the ARES groups and if interested please email him.

Ian W6TCP continues to work on enhancing the repeaters for use by all of us so please report any issues to Ian by email.

I encourage you to check in with the LARK Monday, Wednesday (10.10 Windfarms Net), and Thursday night nets, held every week. There are other nets available, and they can be found



on the LARK website. It is good experience getting on the air. I want to thank Ed Diemer for coordinating the weekly nets. By participating in the nets, you'll hear what is going on in our Ham community. We are meeting In-Person at the Livermore City Meeting Hall each month on the third Saturday, and we are also offering the meeting on Zoom for those who prefer that way to attend. Wishing you all stay healthy and stay safe.

***KG6GEM George Moorehead
(kg6wiu1@comcast.net)***

Notes from the Editor

What a month full of activities. I managed to do some SOTA in beautiful King's Canyon on my way to the US Tower plant to play on the California QSO Party. Visited Pacificon for two days and enjoyed a delicious BBQ with lots of the most talented operators in the World (some are Contest Hall of Fame'rs).

10m has been smoking. Sometimes better than any other band. I got recruited by Bob K3EST to operate at N6RO on 10m for CQWW SSB. Last year I had a lot of fun attracting a big pile up from PY, LU and CE while using my language skills. Unfortunately it did not help that much on the CW version of the contest for obvious reasons. Last year I got more QSOs on 10m to PY (186) than to JA. Will see how well 10m behaves this year.

Mr. Datta, who visited us early in the year has sent a message to try him early in the morning from India on 10m. I tried only once but it's a long shot. I might try a few more times this week. Flux has been in the decline this week but it's supposed to come



back for the contest, isn't that how it works or is it the other way around?

Next month we'll get back to our routine of meeting in-person and have a chance to socialize after so much time in Zoom the past couple of years.

If there is enough interest I might organize another SOTA or POTA outing close to Livermore for people to try operating in the outdoors.

Stay healthy and active. Winter is coming and low bands will start to come alive.

Roberto K6KM

Community Events Supported by LARK

Cinderella Bicycle Classic Saturday, April 15, 2023

The Cinderella Classic, Challenge and Short rides are 65/100/35-mile recreational bicycle ride (not a race) for women & girls only. Males do not ride the Cinderella; they do the organization, support, rest stops and SAGs for the Cinderella's. This event provides the opportunity for all hams of any experience to provide support from different assignments. The assignments are Stationary, SAGs, and Shuttles. Most assignments can be done with a HT. We encourage you to volunteer for this very worthwhile public service event. LARK has supported this event for many years.



Pacificon 2022 - Roberto K6KM

This Pacificon was more exciting than last year's. With about 800 attendees it is still a ways to reach the record attendance of 2014 of 1400 people. This year the Club tables came back in full. LARK, NCCC, SOTA, POTA, Digital, YL's, W6 Incoming Bureau, NCDXC and many more. All busy.

Vendors were also busy as you can see in the pictures. The Antenna Forum was well attended but the big crowds showed up on Saturday as many cannot get the day off on Friday.

A lot more Scouts attended this year and the Jamboree stations were busy.

I managed to get a QSO with the Parachute

Mobile as I did a few years back when Jeana grabbed me on the corridor and put the mike in front of my face :-)

I tried hard with my HT from the patio but I had to finally give up and use their mobile rig and antenna.

Unfortunately I missed the Swap Meet on Sunday. I was attending the NCCC BBQ at N6RO. The first in-person event for that Club in almost 3 years. It was very good.

Hopefully next year we'll have an even better Pacificon coming to us. Kudos to the organizers for a very well run Pacific Division ARRL Ham Radio Convention.





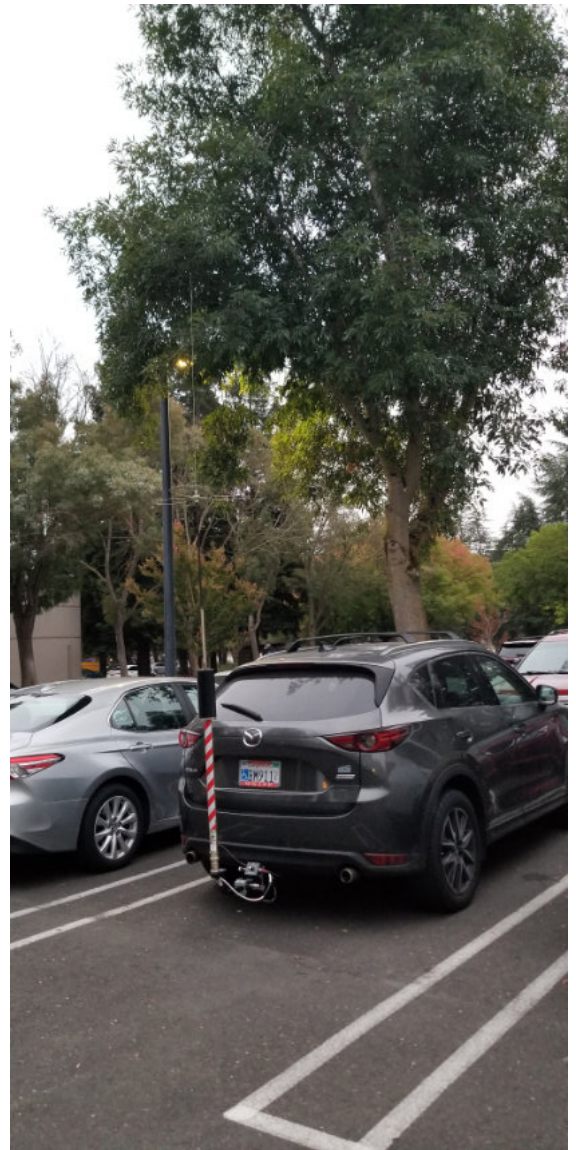
Antenna Forum



With N6BT and XYL Vicki



Our own Simon: KM6TMC teaching the Electronics Merit Badge to Scouts.



Yes, it's a Ham Radio Convention dear...







The Enigma Machine.
Fascinating presentation.



K6KM personally thanked Gordon West for his presentation to LARK.



SOTA Lunch with Wayne from Elecraft attended by a
record 26 people

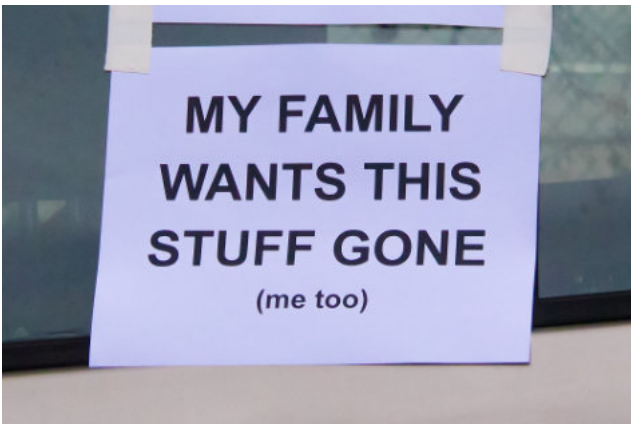
Pacificon Swap Meet Report - George: KG6GEM

The Swap Meet at Pacificon was a great success because of the dedicated LARK Ham volunteers who staffed this event on Sunday, October 16th from 0400 hrs. to 1300 hrs. The Swap Meet portion of Pacificon was a success. The sign in and check in for sellers went well. There were many buyers walking through the Swap Meet and finding items of all types. I want to thank the following hams for volunteering for this event: Roger KK6RD, Mark N6MIN, Ryan W6RAM, Steve K8YIP, Noah AJ6XK, and David KG6WIR.

We were fortunate that the weather for the event was perfect. Again, thank you for your support for this worthwhile event and we plan on supporting this event again next year.







NCCC BBQ at N6RO - Roberto K6KM

Finally! After more than 2.5 years the Northern California Contest Club held its annual picnic at N6RO. Five LARKers attended the event: Gary: NA6O, John: WX6G, Tom: NS6T, Greg: KK6PXT and Roberto K6KM.

The weather was the coolest experienced at picnic events in N6RO for a long time. A bit windy but enjoyable.

Gary: NA6O was awarded a nice bottle of Scotch by Ken: N6RO for all the



Gary NA6O with Ken N6RO



Tom: NS6T

excellent technical work he has done to improve the station during all these years. Well deserved!

Our own Greg: KK6PXT, who is the current Club Secretary, did a marvelous work coordinating and managing the event with some other people's help.

Gary gave tours of the antenna farm and the station. People chatted and enjoyed the food. The Devil Mountain Jazz Band (N6RO Band) entertained the audience with some bluegrass music. About 60 people attended the event and probably it could have been



John WX6G and Dave K6TQ

larger had it not for the lingering effects of the pandemic.



Rob K6KM with Contest Hall of Famer Bob K3EST and Nian WU6P. All N6RO Operators.



Bob W1RH (Past President) and Greg KK6PXT



California QSO Party - Tulare County - NS6T



Last year I had the pleasure and privilege of operating in Tulare county for CQP with Tom: (NS6T). He had been doing it for several years from the US Tower plant in Woodlake near Visalia. We did a Multi-Single (multiple operators and a single transceiver) where Tom operated SSB and I did CW under the call sign NS6T. While there, the owner of US Tower generously offered us more towers for next year if we were envisioning a Multi-Multi operation.

Dean: (N6DE) picked up on the idea and started planning and purchasing equipment for the first M/M CQP operation in Tulare county. Initially the operating crew would be: Tom: (NS6T), Dean: (N6DE), John (K6MM) and Roberto (K6KM). Unfortunately for us, John's other commitments to the ham radio community were too large, and he had to change plans. Eric: (N6SPP) joined us as another SSB operator for the

NS6T operating team.

Thursday, I drove very early from Livermore to Kings Canyon NP and activated three 8 point SOTA peaks before joining Tom and Dean to raise the antennas and start building the stations.



Friday we tested the station on a scheduled CQP rehearsal in the evening. Most went well except a few software touches.

Antennas were:



JK Antennas JK401 40m Dipole at 107ft

JK Antennas C3S-JK Triband Yagi at 60ft

80m Inverted-V at 90 ft

4 Stations:

10m/80m: Elecraft K3S + Elecraft KPA500/KAT500

15m: Elecraft K3 + Elecraft KPA500

20m: Elecraft K3 + ACOM 1500

40m: Elecraft K3 + ACOM 1010

One of the best things of participating in a Multi-Multi is the camaraderie and friendships that develops.



Friday night, Tom offered to cook dinner for all of us and grill some delicious steaks. We had a very relaxing evening.

Next morning (Saturday) the contest started at 9AM. We assembled and starting working the shift plan.



Everything happen as smoothly as one can hope for. The equipment all behaved; people were acting to cover as many bands/modes as possible given propagation. Talking about propagation, 15m was stronger to EU than to the East Coast. There was EU on 10m also. We cannot complain at all with the propagation Gods.

on priorities. Also making sure somebody would be ready for openings to EU in the early morning.

Second day Contests are usually slower and this was no exception. Two or three hours before the end you would like to call it a day and start packing gear. However a good contester will always be ready for the cavalry to make its appearance at the last minute. This actually happen as the last hour got reasonably busy.

Once the contest finalized (Sunday 3PM) it was time to disassemble everything, pack things in an orderly fashion and leave the premises as good boy scouts do: Leave no trace.

Then upon return, managing of the log for submission was handled between Tom and Dean. Here are the results:



We took turns on manning the station during the late hours at night depending

Call: NS6T
 Operator(s): NS6T K6KM N6SPP N6DE
 Station: NS6T

Class: M/M HP
 Class Overlay: CntyExp
 QTH: TULA
 Operating Time (hrs): 28

Summary:

Band CW Qs Ph Qs

 160:
 80: 194 109
 40: 402 249
 20: 459 462
 15: 372 322
 10: 307 180

Total: 1734 1322 Mults = 58 Total Score = 455,068

Apparently this has been the highest score for a M/M County Expedition Station category since 2015.

We want to thank Gary: NA6O and Ian: W6TCP for loaning us some equipment.

On behalf of the NS6T Team, many thanks to all those who called us during the 57th running of the California QSO Party. The largest in the Nation.

And a special **Thank You** to US Tower for hosting us once again for CQP.

Roberto

K6KM



The NS6T Operating Team. from left to right:
Eric: N6SPP, Roberto: K6KM, Dean: N6DE, Tom: NS6T

SOTA in Kings Canyon NP - ROB K6KM



On my way to Visalia to activate the Tulare County for CQP (California QSO Party), I decided to hit some SOTA peaks. I chose three that were relatively close to the roads so I could drive from home, get the activations and reach the US Tower plant on time to help assemble and raise antennas.

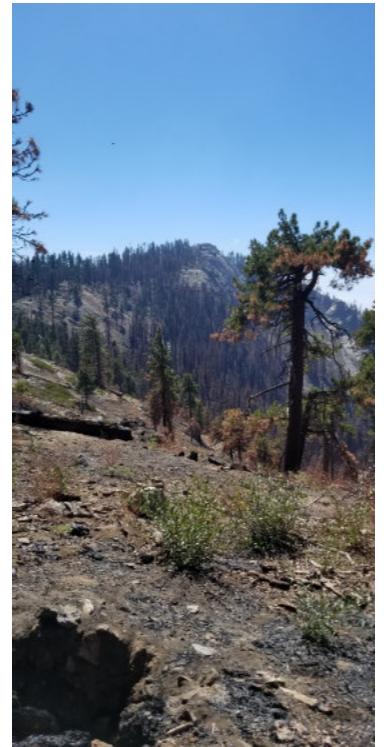
What a beautiful parks Kings Canyon and Sequoia are. Beats Tahoe in my opinion by a lot. You really hike out in the wild. Unfortunately some parts of the park have been badly burnt in the past years and you see that everywhere. The pamphlet that you get at the park's entrance says that 20% of the Sequoias have been killed in recent fires. That's very sad.

First peak was Park Ridge. A drive up to a vista point and then hike along the ridge for a bit over a mile to the activation zone. I tried two new things on this trip. My new waterproof seahorse dry box for the KX2 with integrated paddle/headphones/unun. A real shack in a box. Even room for my cell phone to log the activation. The other new thing was an inverted L configuration that allows me to use the 66ft end fed using the footprint of my 41foot random end fed. Good thing that I practiced on a park before going. Deploying the inverted L is a bit more tricky than just a slopper.

Second peak was Big Baldy. Trailhead is right on Generals Highway. A bit over 2 mile hike to a rocky peak. Lots of burnt trees in that area. In fact, it still smells smoky.

I was careful to stay away from dead trees as they can fall anytime or drop branches.

A few hikers passed by and one in particular was staring at me. We started talking and he was from the UK. Had a blast hiking at Yosemite and now was trying Sequoia. He asked me lots of question on Ham Radio and was eager to go back home and try a local Ham Club and find out more about SOTA which ironically started in the UK. While activating I noticed a fire in the distance. I know that recently some SOTA guys spotted a fire and contacted the local authorities saving a forest from



devastation. Maybe this is my hero moment? Wait, let me try my "Watch Duty" application on my phone. Oh, that's a prescribed fire at a local ranch. Good that I didn't create mayhem.



That peak enjoyed good cell phone reception so I was catching up with life. The last peak was Buck Rock. An observation deck manned by a Park Ranger with some scary floating stairs leading to the structure.

The activation zone is limited in space but nothing a good SOTA operator can't overcome.

I heard VHF/UHF operators complain of RFI and maybe SSB too. I had no particular problems getting about 13 CW QSOs in a very short time.

Yes, I plan to visit this park again but probably next year. The weather is going to change there drastically in the near future.

There are some SOTA peaks in the Mineral King area that have never been activated. They are in many people's sights. Nothing like the challenge of activating a peak for the first time. These peaks tend to be far away from civilization so, long hikes, perhaps backpacking and camping on the

way, carrying more stuff and sometimes you'll be surprised that the peak is very rocky and demands a set of skills that a mere mortal doesn't possess.

Well... till the next one.

Roberto K6KM



November 2022

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	Ham Break	17	18	LARK Meeting	20
21	22	23	24	25	CQWW CW	27
28	29	30				

LARK MON. NIGHT NET ON: 147.120 MHZ + offset,
PL 100 AD6KV.
Every Monday 7 PM local time.
Visitors welcome to join in.

Net Control Operator Schedules

Monday Night Net Control Operator Schedule

October

November

December

DAY	OP	NAME
03	AD6KV	Ron
10	EOC	
17	AE6D	Ed
24	N5KA	Jerry
31	WB6ETY	John

DAY	OP	NAME
7	WB6AEA	Jon
14	EOC	
21	AD6KV	Ron
28	AE6D	Ed

DAY	OP	NAME
5	N5KA	Jerry
12	EOC	
19	WB6ETY	John
26	WB6AEA	Jon

EVERYONE is invited to check in to the net. Please contact AE6D ae6d@sbcglobal.net if you need more information or would like to become a Net Control Operator. After the net please call Ed AE6D with the AC/DC statistics or send him the information by email.

Thursday Night Net Control Operator Schedule

10/6/2022	Thursday	Peter/AI6RG	Rich/KN6HSR	Easy Tech Discussion:
10/13/2022	Thursday	Nate/N8MOR	David/K6WOO	General Discussion:
10/20/2022	Thursday	Rich/KN6HSR	Jerry/N5KA	Advanced Tech Discussion
10/27/2022	Thursday	David/K6WOO	Peter/AI6RG	New Comer, General Discussion:
11/3/2022	Thursday	Jerry/N5KA	Nate/N8MOR	Study Night: General Exam
11/10/2022	Thursday	Peter/AI6RG	Rich/KN6HSR	Easy Tech Discussion:
11/17/2022	Thursday	Nate/N8MOR	David/K6WOO	General Discussion:
11/24/2022	Thursday	Rich/KN6HSR	Jerry/N5KA	NONE
12/1/2022	Thursday	David/K6WOO	Peter/AI6RG	New Comer, General Discussion:
12/8/2022	Thursday	Jerry/N5KA	Nate/N8MOR	Study Night: General Exam
12/15/2022	Thursday	Peter/AI6RG	Rich/KN6HSR	Easy Tech Discussion:
12/22/2022	Thursday	Nate/N8MOR	David/K6WOO	General Discussion:
12/29/2022	Thursday	Rich/KN6HSR	Jerry/N5KA	Advanced Tech Discussion

Regularly Scheduled Nets

LARK/LIVERMORE NET	Every MON.	1900 local 147.120+	PL 100
RACES Net 7pm	Every MON.		
Windfarms 10-10 NET	Every WED.	1930 local 28.485	USB
LARK TECH NET	Every THURS.	1930 local 147.120+	PL 100
LLNL Retiree Net	Every FRI 8:30 am	0830 local	7.2630 LSB
SWOT	Every Sun. & Tues.	2000 LOCAL	144.250 USB
THE NOON TIME NET	EVERY DAY	1200-1400 LOCAL	7.2685 LSB & 3970 LSB
RV RADIO NET	MON-FRI	0800-0930 LOCAL	7.2685 LSB

LARK CONTACTS 2022

**LARK—LIVERMORE AMATEUR RADIO KLUB P.O. BOX 3190,
LIVERMORE, CA 94550-3190. Web: <http://www.livermoreARK.org>.
E-mail list: livermoreark@groups.io**

GET YOUR HAM LICENSE OR UPGRADE. LARK conducts all levels of license testing (upon request) at the Livermore City Council Chambers following club meetings (3rd Sat. each month). Contact Ron Kane, AD6KV (AD6KV at arrl.net) 2 weeks in advance.

OFFICE	CONTACT	CALL	E-mail	Phone
President & Events	George Moorehead	KG6GEM	KG6WIU1@COMCAST.NET	(925) 516-2676
Vice President	Chris Quirk	W6CJQ	w6cjq@yahoo.com	925-202-1198
Secretary	Ryan Mahoney	W6RAM	Ryan.andrew.mahoney@gmail.com	925-786-0640
Treasurer	Bernie Bernstein	NJ6W	nj6w@xemaps.com	(925) 858-4608
Board (PP)	Roger Deming	KK6RD	rogerdeming@yahoo.com	(925) 484-1285
Board	David Counts	KG6WIR	dlcounts@sbcglobal.net	925-895-4698
Board	Nate Moore	N8MOR	nate@nateandamy.org	(925) 577-4916
Activities	Jerry Benterou	N5KA	benterou@gmail.com	925-321-3263
Repeater Chair	Ian Parker	W6TCP	w6tcpian@gmail.com	
Web Site	Arnold Harding	KQ6DI		
Newsletter Editor	Roberto Sadkowski	K6KM	rsadkowski@gmail.com	
Membership	Venkatesh Varadha (Var)	KM6TAB	svvenkatesh2786@outlook.com	(925) 961-7703
Net Coordinator	Ed Diemer	AE6D	ae6d@arrl.net	
RFI	Gary Johnson	NA6O	gwj@me.com	
T-Hunts	Rich Harrington	KN6FW		
Swap n Shop	Richard Combs	KN6HSR	KN6HSR@arrl.net	



Facebook—<http://www.facebook.com/LivermoreARK>
Twitter link : <https://twitter.com/LivermoreARK>



Special interests: Mesh Networking. Dave KK6DF <http://mesh.sushisoft.com> . <https://www.youtube.com/user/fanninsushi/videos>. View: AREDN!<http://www.aredn.org>. **CERT NEWS:** Tracy Hein CERT contact. Email: thein@lpfire.org or (925) 454 -2317 https://community.fema.gov/Register/Register_Program_View?id=a0xt000000mAuZAAE

Meetings 3rd Wednesdays. Remillard RM 3333 Busch Rd. Pleasanton.

LARK Membership Form



LARK LIVERMORE AMATEUR RADIO KLUB.

P.O. BOX 3190, LIVERMORE, CA 94551-3190

An ARRL Affiliated Club

LARK MEMBERSHIP FORM - Print, fill out, mail in with check.	
Circle all that apply: New / Renewing / Family Today's Date: _____	
NAME: _____	
CALL SIGN: _____	
ARRL MEMBER? Yes / No	
Address: _____	
PHONE: () -	
UNLISTED? ___ YES ___ NO	
Enter your E-mail here and stay connected: _____ LARK NEWS featuring upcoming club events and articles is available monthly via email. http://www.livermoreark.org/ Access the current and back issues on our website.	
ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBERS (At the same mailing address, only \$2. membership per person)	
NAME	
PHONE	
EMAIL	
AARRL MEMBER	
ANNUAL DUES # _____ PRIMARY (\$20.00) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS # _____ (\$2.00 each)	
TOTAL: \$ _____ MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: LARK. Thank You.	
<p>Membership is \$20.00. per calendar year starting on Jan 1 through Dec. 31. To complete membership by mail: print and fill out this form, include a check payable to LARK, and mail to: LARK Membership Chairman, P.O. Box 3190, Livermore, CA, 94551-3190. Please be sure your complete mailing address, e-mail, and call sign are on your check. Questions? Contact the Membership Team via email: membership@livermoreark.org You may also complete membership application and payment by: Bringing this form filled out and pay by cash or check to either the Membership Chairman or Treasurer at any general meeting. Or: pay with a credit card or PayPal account on the Club's membership page: http://livermoreark.org/membership/membership.html.</p> <p>Thank you and welcome aboard from LARK and the Membership Team.</p>	