

# LARK NEWS November 2023

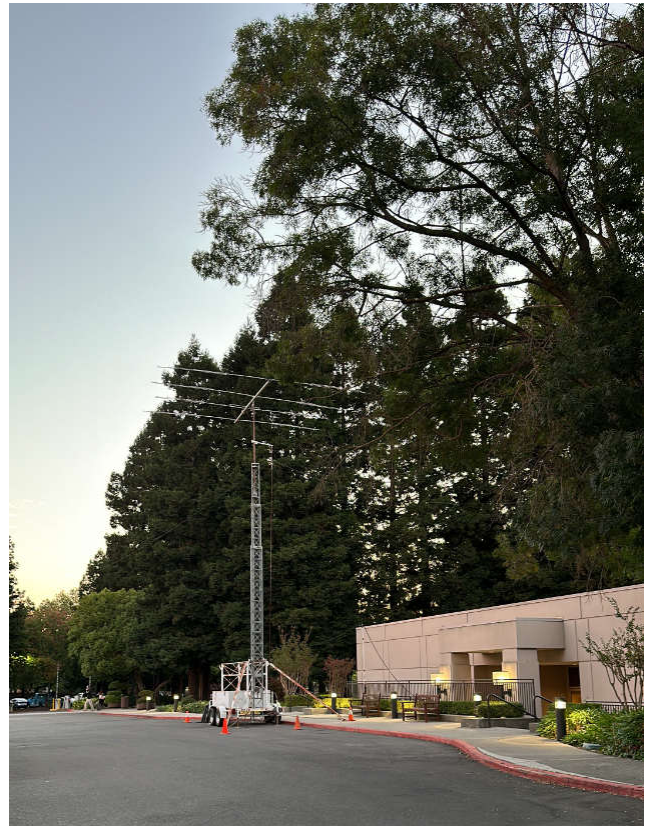
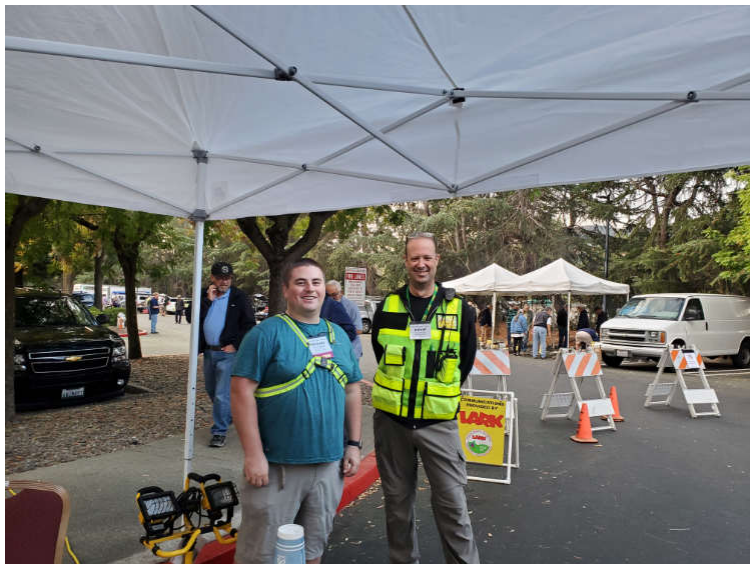


*Livermore Amateur Radio Klub LARK is an ARRL affiliated club dedicated to Public Service Volunteer Emergency Communications. Meetings are once a month on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday 9:30AM*

***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



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[livermoreark.org](http://livermoreark.org)

# President's Message

I want to thank Bernie NJ6W for making the coffee and picking up the refreshments for monthly meetings and would like to have someone help him if possible. This effort is appreciated by all who attend.

I wanted to let you know that the Events Chairperson (me) is following the upcoming events for 2023, the 2023 events are done for this year and I have an update: the events will be starting in January 2024. Make sure to sign up on the LARK website for these events for which LARK supports.

I wanted to thank Ron AD6KV and VE Team for continuing to provide a way for hams to get their testing completed. I want to thank everyone who helped out with Pacificon and the new event Cycle of Hope this year, your support was greatly appreciated.

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.

George KG6GEM  
(kg6wiu1@comcast.net)



## Notes from the Editor

Well, another Pacificon came and went. It was very good in my opinion. I personally enjoyed some presentations regarding antennas and joining my fellow SOTA activators on Saturday for an hour of camaraderie and to listen to Wayne N6KR, co-owner of Elecraft. He showed us the new KH1 super portable HF CW only rig. Rex KE6MT made a QSO with a fellow activator on 20m during the lunch using the new rig.

The new radio was the talk of the town, partly because it was pretty much the only “new” thing from vendors and also because the expectations were building days before the announcement.

Remember, LARK is looking for the next Editor of this newsletter. If nobody will volunteer, this newsletter might cease to exist. This has happen in the past during the 1960's. In fact, LARK went through a hiatus period where nobody wanted to volunteer for anything. We don't want to go through the same thing, right? 60 years later, with so many productivity tools like computers, cell phones, etc... you would think people have more time to devote to volunteer. Anyhow... contact George KG6GEM or myself if you want to step up.

Several DXPeditions were QRV this month, mostly in the Pacific and one in the Atlantic.

There are some more rare ones coming up in the next few months. Check the DXPedition part of the ARRL magazines or on their website for more information.

These days, not only FT8 is an alternative for noise constrained small stations. Propagation is nearing the peak of the cycle so we all should have a shot at making that ATNO (All time new one) from the comforts of our QTH.

One tip, don't get discouraged if you can't win a large pile up with a DXPedition when they start the operations. Wait a few days until most of the big stations were satisfied and the pile ups subside. In fact, some get very bored calling CQ at the end of their operations, that is definitely your chance with a weaker signal. They will dig you out of the mud.

Keep active!  
Roberto K6KM



# Pacificon

## Swap Meet Report and Thank You



The Swap Meet at Pacificon was a great success because of the dedicated LARK Ham volunteers who staffed this event on Sunday, October 22nd 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, Ryan W6RAM, Steve K8YIP, Noah N6TW, Bill N6SGT, Clancy N6FQQ and Nate N8MOR.

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.

George KG6GEM

Swap Meet Coordinator

## LARK Booth Coverage

Thank You

This is big thank you to following LARK members who helped cover the LARK booth this past weekend at Pacificon. Your help and dedication are greatly appreciated.

The LARK volunteers were Bill N6SGT, Peter AI6RG, Mark N9LS and Clancy N6FQQ.

Thank you to Roger KK6RD for setting up the booth on Friday, and to Nate N8MOR for taking down the booth and storing the LARK materials.

George KG6GEM



# Cycle of Hope Bike Event - Report George KG6GEM

Report and Thank You for the Cycle of Hope Bike Event – Sunday, October 22, 2023

## WHAT IS CYCLE OF HOPE?

Habitat for Humanity is a movement to build a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Cycle of Hope takes “movement” literally – by getting our community moving for a mission.

Habitat is built on community and to increase access to home ownership and housing opportunities, we need our community. When you ride Cycle of Hope, you are that community.

In-person or virtual, one kilometer or 50, you are building a more just, equitable, sustainable, and vibrant Bay Area. With every mile traveled and every dollar fundraised, you are helping Habitat build more in Santa Clara, Alameda, and Contra Costa Counties. You are building with Habitat families as they lay a firm foundation for the future. And, you are building with other Habitat supporters, bonded by purpose.

## The Day of the Event:

There was a need for radio volunteers for this event that starts and finishes in Dublin. The support

needed is for SAGs and Stationary Posts and we needed about 20 volunteers, however we did the event with 15 volunteers leaving two positions not covered (SAGs). The weather was cool and with showers in the morning hours. The hours for volunteering are from 7am to 3pm.

SAGs were assigned APRS for tracking for all three routes. There were about 600+ bike riders who rode on all the courses. Net Control was in the San Ramon Valley Fire District CS-131 and was located at the Patelco HQ parking lot where the event Start and Finish Lines were located. Net Control was fully supported by LARK radio operators and Comm Reserves. Hours of operations was from 0645 hrs. – 1500 hrs. approximately. We want to thank the following volunteers: Chris W6CJQ, Bill AJ6UU, Raj KN6MBG, Rand W6TRM, Mark KM6XU, Mark KK6UKU, Kim N6LVQ, Bill N6SGT, David K6WOO, Alan KM6BRQ, James N6JRQ, Edward KN6MBF, Brian N6BRB, and Reserves Chris Eckenrode, and AJ Lafferty.

Radio Volunteer Coordinator was Chris Quirk W6CJQ.



# Training Opportunity

**AWR-329**

## **LEVERAGING TOOLS FOR COORDINATED COMMUNITY DISASTER COMMUNICATIONS**



Join us for our Leveraging Tools for Coordinated Community Disaster Communications course. Gain valuable information that will assist in improving the communication capabilities of your community by introducing various tools and strategies that can be integrated into community communication plans. Participate in practical exercises and learn to leverage coordination among community organizations and resources to ensure effective communications before, during, and after a disaster. Explore your community and the related hazards to find the community's communication needs and assets. Enhance your knowledge about information needs and requirements of different groups in an emergency and the importance of communicating with different groups at different times.

### **WHO SHOULD TAKE THIS COURSE**

- ✓ Government Administrative
- ✓ Emergency Management
- ✓ Citizen/Community Volunteer
- ✓ Public Safety Communications
- ✓ Public Works

### **MODULES**

- ✓ Review of Informational Needs
- ✓ Communication Hardware and Software Tools

**DATE:** December 9th, 2023

**TIME:** 8:00am - 12:00pm

### **HOSTING AGENCY:**

California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)

### **REGISTRATION POC:**

Stephen Hughes  
323-372-2796 | [sthughes@hawaii.edu](mailto:sthughes@hawaii.edu)

### **REGISTRATION LINK/ INFORMATION:**

<https://ndptc.hawaii.edu/training/delivery/3547/>

### **LOCATION:**

Alameda County Sheriff's Office  
4985 Broder Boulevard  
Dublin, CA 94568

### **ELIGIBLE CONTINUING EDUCATION:**

Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM), CFM	3.5 CEC
International Association for Continuing Education & Training (IACET)	0.3 CEU
International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), CEM/AEM	4 E/G



NOAA Inouye Regional Center  
1845 Wasp Blvd Building 176, Honolulu, HI 96818  
PHONE: 808.725.5220 • FAX: 808.725.5230



As a member of the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium, the NDPTC is a DHS/ FEMA training partner dedicated to providing critical all-hazards training throughout the United States and its territories with an emphasis on natural hazards and island and coastal communities



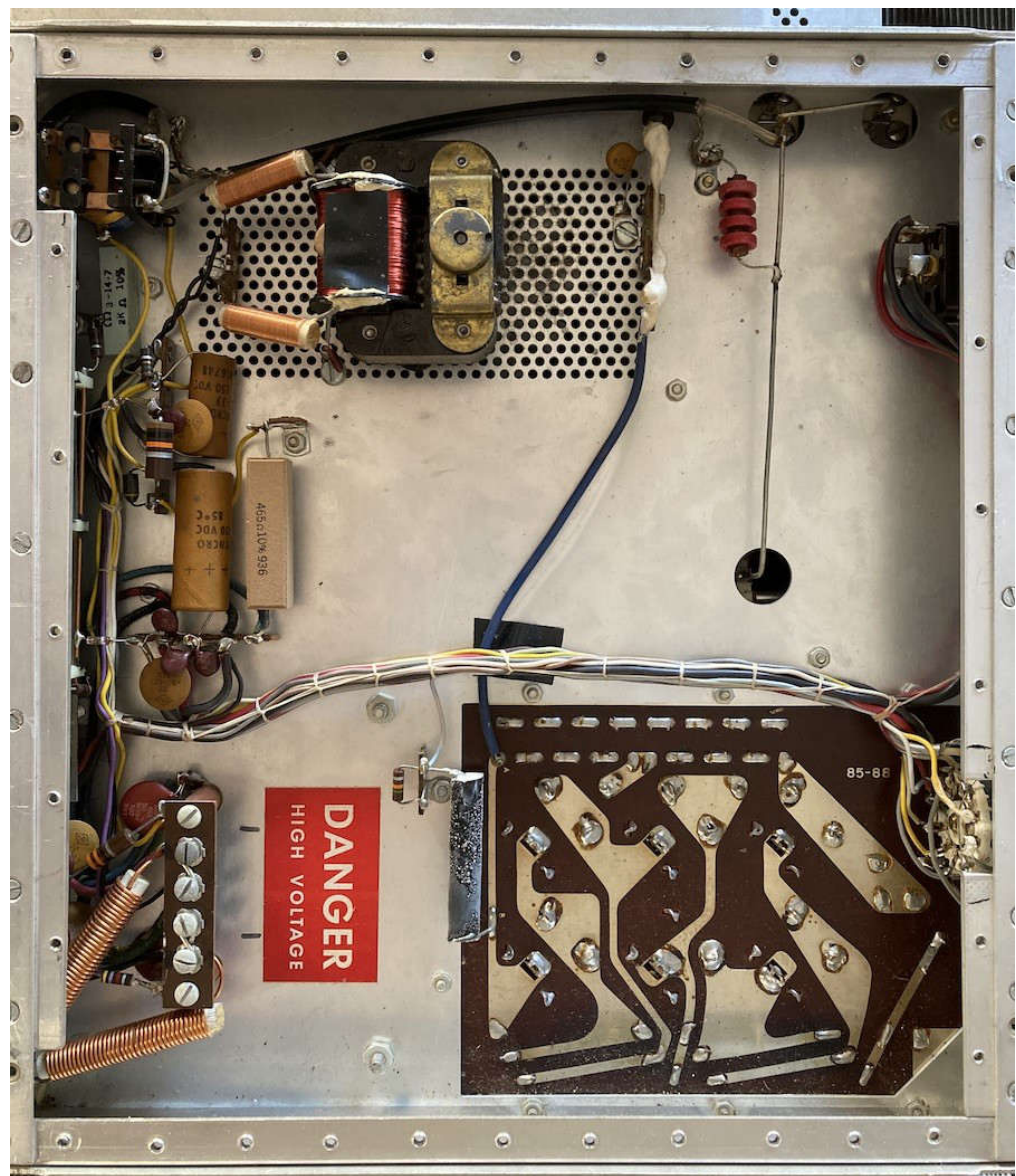
**FEMA**

# Updating a Heathkit SB-200 Amplifier - Gary NA6O

Greg, KK6PXT, got a hold of an SB-200 and wanted it restored. For some reason, I accepted the challenge since I've worked on a number of tube amps in the past. This one looked very good externally. Inside, a previous owner had replaced much of the sheet metal with his own homebrew versions for reasons unknown. So now it has ugly sheet metal inside, with about 200 mostly redundant screws holding it together. Electrically, it was nearly original and fairly clean.

There are many websites devoted to updating old amps like this. Most important is replacing the old high-voltage capacitors. A nice company, Harbach Electronics, makes several kits for this and many other older tube radios. I bought the power supply kit, a soft-start kit, and a keying buffer that makes the PTT input compatible with modern solid-state rigs. I also bought a number of other parts

to reduce the risk of damage from internal arcs in the tubes (which are fairly common, it turns out), and updated a few other minor things. Finally, I replaced the damaged and unobtainable power connector with a robust cord grip bushing and 14 AWG cord.

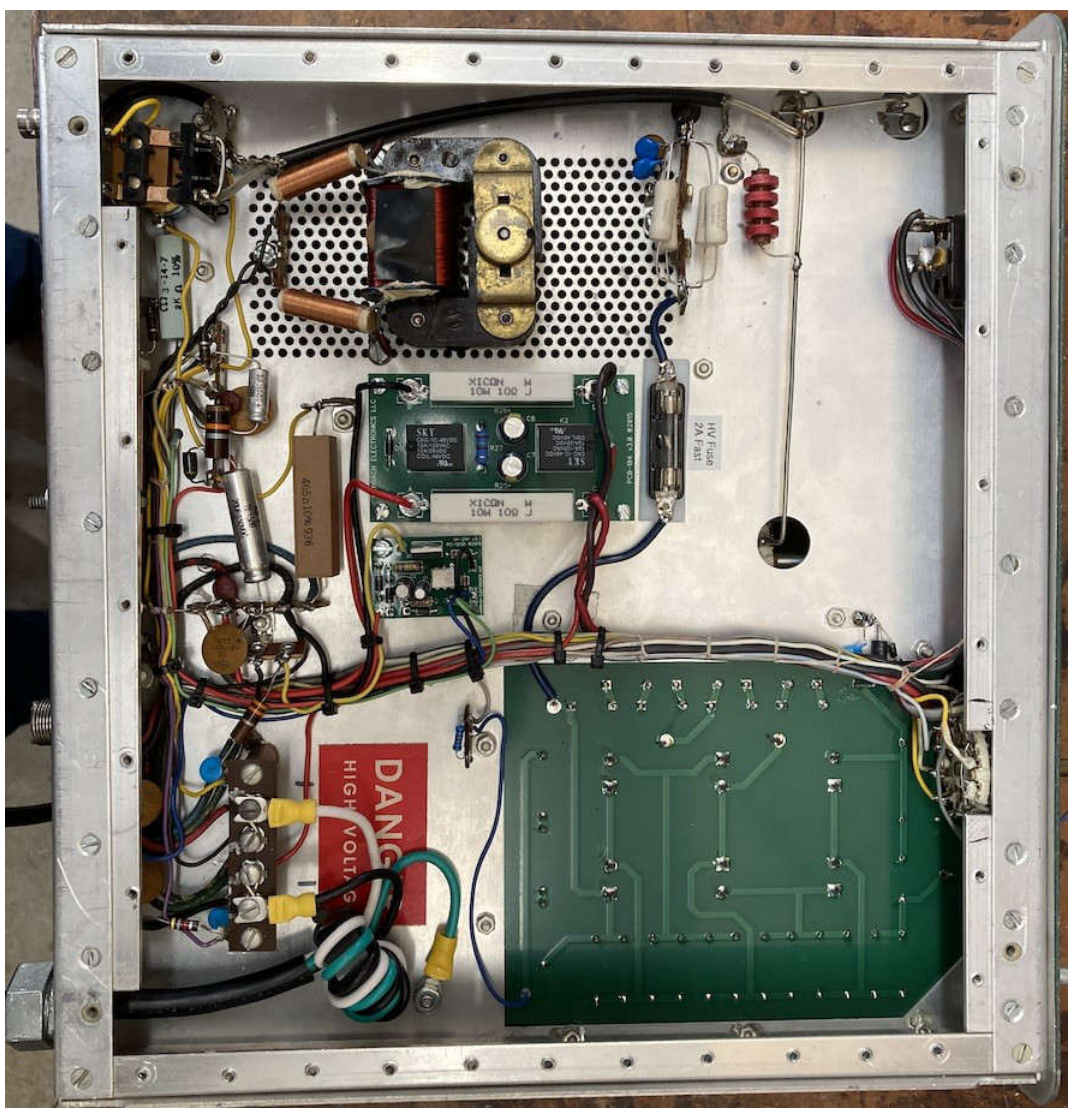




Another recommended practice is burning in the old tubes. When they've been sitting for decades, oxides can build up on the directly-heated cathodes. A simple and safe way to do this for the type 572B tubes is to connect the heater to a 6.3 VAC supply and warm it up for 30 min. Then apply 40-45 V to the plate, which you connect to the grid, thus

biasing the tube full-on. Tweak the voltage for about 250 mA of plate current, and leave it for another half hour. You can also get a rough idea if the tubes are matched. They weren't, but who wants to spend another \$200?

Testing into a dummy load, it worked ok the first time. My spectrum analyzer showed some parasitic oscillation at 200-400 MHz especially when operating on 15 and 10m, which isn't too unusual for this amplifier. Careful tuning, especially keeping the loading a bit high, can pretty well avoid this. There's lots of reasons behind all this... Suffice it to say that Heathkit made certain economical decisions. Anyway, Greg now has another classic amp to add to his boat anchor station.



# Devil Mountain Ride    Rich KN6HSR



BoDY" but had not made a contact yet. So I put her on the radio and she made her first, slightly nervous contact, with Larry Loomer, the net control operator. We were both all smiles afterwards.

It was a delightful day supporting the ride and practicing radio skills. If you haven't done one of these events there are numerous opportunities, just keep an eye on the LARK newsletter, or check the announcements during one of the LARK weekly nets. Rich Combs KN6HSR

On a brisk Sunday morning October 1st nearly 1000 bicycle riders took off for the top of the devil mountain, Mt Diablo, for the 2024 Mt Diablo Challenge. It was a beautiful morning, and I and my course marshal, Janet Vigaloon, were at an ideal location, known as the Danville Overlook to catch the rising sun, and encourage and support the riders as they began their ascent. The road was closed to automobile traffic as the first four groups of elite riders raced up the hill. They were followed by somewhat less competitive tandems, unicycles, and an amazing number of very young children, taking on the very adult mountain. Radio operators were stationed at numerous locations on the course, providing updates and practicing their communication skills. I learned that Janet had just received her Technician license three weeks prior, KO6BDY, "Knock Out size 6





# November 2023

<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 Breakfast	16	17	18 <u>LARK Meeting</u>	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
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

DAY	OP	NAME
2	AE6D	Ed
9	EOC	
16	WB6ETY	John
23	WB6AEA	Jon
30	N6FQQ	Clancy

### November

DAY	OP	NAME
6	AD6KV	Ron
13	EOC	
20	AE6D	Ed
27	WB6ETY	John

### December

DAY	OP	NAME
4	WB6AEA	Jon
11	EOC	
18	AD6KV	Ron
25	AE6D	Ed

EVERYONE is invited to check in to the net. Please contact AE6D [ae6d@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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

Date	Weekday	Primary Net Control	Backup Net Control	Topic
10/5/2023	Thursday	Noah/N6TW	Bill/AJ6UU	Easy Tech Discussion:
10/12/2023	Thursday		Noah/N6TW	General Discussion:
10/19/2023	Thursday	Brian/KA6ZED	Peter/AI6RG	Advanced Tech Discussion
10/26/2023	Thursday	Nate/N8MOR	Brian/KA6ZED	New Comer, General Discussion:
11/2/2023	Thursday	Rich/KN6HSR	Nate/N8MOR	Study Night: General Exam
11/9/2023	Thursday	David/K6WOO	Rich/KN6HSR	Easy Tech Discussion:
11/16/2023	Thursday	Bill/AJ6UU	David/K6WOO	General Discussion:
11/23/2023	Thursday	CANCEL	CANCEL	THANKSGIVING: CANCEL
11/30/2023	Thursday		Noah/N6TW	New Comer, General Discussion:
12/7/2023	Thursday	Brian/KA6ZED	Peter/AI6RG	Study Night: General Exam
12/14/2023	Thursday	Nate/N8MOR	Brian/KA6ZED	Easy Tech Discussion:
12/21/2023	Thursday	Rich/KN6HSR	Nate/N8MOR	General Discussion:
12/28/2023	Thursday	David/K6WOO	Rich/KN6HSR	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 2023

**LARK—LIVERMORE AMATEUR RADIO KLUB P.O. BOX 3190,  
LIVERMORE, CA 94550-3190. Web: <http://www.livermoreARK.org>.  
E-mail list: [livermoreark@groups.io](mailto: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	
Ask the Elmer	Lee Zalaznik	KI6OY	Lee.zalaznik@sbcglobal.net	(925)-699-5998



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](mailto:thein@lpfire.org) or (925) 454 -2317 [https://community.fema.gov/Register/Register\\_Program\\_View?id=a0xt000000mAuZAAE](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. <a href="http://www.livermoreark.org/">http://www.livermoreark.org/</a> 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	
ARRL MEMBER	
ANNUAL DUES # _____ PRIMARY (\$20.00) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS # _____ (\$2.00 each)	
TOTAL: \$ _____ MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: LARK. Thank You.	
<p><b>Membership is \$20.00. per calendar year starting on Jan 1 through Dec. 31.</b> 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: <a href="mailto:membership@livermoreark.org">membership@livermoreark.org</a> 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: <a href="http://livermoreark.org/membership/membership.html">http://livermoreark.org/membership/membership.html</a>.</p> <p><b>Thank you and welcome aboard from LARK and the Membership Team.</b></p>	