

LARK NEWS January 2024



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



**And one more
White Elephant
has passed.**

Rich: AD6X Lucky winner of this year's LARK BRICK

"In Rich We Trust".

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Notes from the Editor

This is the end of my 4 year volunteer task as Editor of the LARK Newsletter.

These 4 years have been a roller coaster for many of us. From in-person meetings to quickly moving to the chaos of zoom and lack of human interaction, back to the fun of in-person meetings.

I would like to think that the LARK Newsletter helped keep this group of people, who share common interests, closer than otherwise would have been possible.

It was a struggle at the beginning to obtain material. I reached to people outside the Club with great support.

Later, having fun with the hobby I was able to fill articles that I thought would be of interest to our Members.

In the last months I was pleasantly rewarded with articles coming from our own Members. Not all, of course, but several.

There's momentum but no Editor. Nobody has stepped up to the task. That is a bit disappointing.

LARK has more members than many Country-wide HAM Clubs in the world and nobody has stepped up to fill this gap.

I was at the N C D X C holiday lunch last week and had the pleasure to share the table with Kristen McIntyre K6WX. She is the ARRL



Pacific Division Director. She was commenting how difficult it was, even for the ARRL, finding volunteers to fill the positions. The State of Connecticut, the same one that hosts the ARRL Headquarters, was 2 years without an ARRL Section Manager.

Well... enough ranting. I hope the LARK community feels the void and somebody steps up to fill it.

It has been a pleasure, an honor and a lot of fun being your Editor.

Keep hamming and stay active.

Roberto

K6KM

Monthly Meeting Minutes



LARK General Meeting | December 16, 2023 | Minutes

Call to Order

1. Meeting called to order by Chris W6CJQ at 9:30am.
2. Chris started introductions, first of In-Person attendees and then Zoom attendees.
3. 32 Members / 4 Zoom / 1 Guests = 37 Total attending the meeting.

Presentation

1. Chris introduced Ron Kane AD6KV for LARK's Annual Gift Exchange.
2. Rich AD6X won the brick!
3. Mikhail KK6BQX won the obnoxious holiday gift!

Treasure's Report - Bernie NJ6W

1. Dues are due for 2023/2024
2. Looking for a new Membership Chairperson.

Activities - Jerry N5KA

1. January: How to Volunteer for Public Service Events by Chris W6CJQ and Ryan W6RAM
2. February: Talk on early Marconi Experiments on the West Coast
3. March: Gary NA6O Antennas for Dummies
4. Brian KAZED has volunteered to do a talk and activity on Foxhunting at one of the future meetings. Brian also volunteered to be the club's foxhunt expert.

Newsletter - Roberto K6KM

1. Looking for a Newsletter editor!
2. Contributions due by Sunday evening.

Repeaters - Nate N8MOR

1. WA6ODP battery now gives half a day run time.
2. Will have an upcoming work day to further improve the system.

Old Business

1. Minutes from the November meeting approved unanimously.

Adjournment

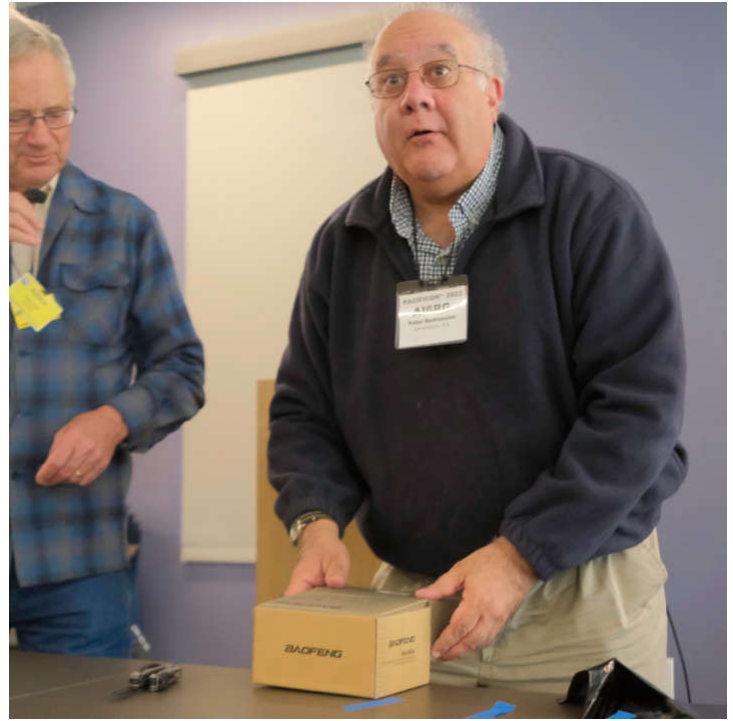
1. Chris W6CJQ adjourned the meeting at 11:31 AM

Minutes submitted by:

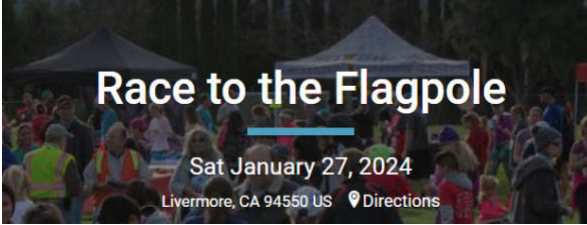
Ryan Mahoney (W6RAM) - LARK Secretary

Monthly Meeting - White Elephant Party





LARK Community Activities



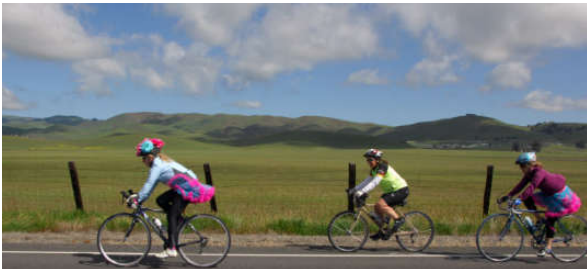
RACE TO THE FLAGPOLE - Saturday, January 27, 2024

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0844AEAD28A6FA7-race#/>



Livermore 1/2 Marathon - Sunday, March 3, 2024

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0844AEAD28A6FA7-livermore#/>



Cinderella Bike Ride - Saturday, April 13 2024

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0844AEAD28A6FA7-cinderella1#/>

The Cinderella Classic, Challenge and Short rides are 65/100/35-mile recreational bicycle ride (not a race) for women & girls only. More details in January.

The Smelly Radio - Gary NA6O

Recently I acquired a well-used, as-is, TS-590S off of Ebay at a very reasonable price. After any needed repairs and upgrades, it will be donated to a blind ham [1]. This radio, with its VGS-1 Voice Guide System, is the most accessible radio on the market and is highly regarded among those with limited vision.

Upon opening the box, the smell was almost stupefying! Apparently the former owner, a ham who died of lung cancer no doubt, was a very heavy smoker. Packing materials went straight to recycle... It's been a long time since I came across a piece of equipment in this state. It didn't have the "brown slime" on it from cigarette tar, but you definitely didn't want to be around it very long. So I had to decontaminate it.

After an electrical test to verify that it didn't have any obvious or fatal problems, I took off the covers and removed the plastic front panel bezel. I had to take the front panel off anyway because one control had to be replaced. Lee, KI6OY, pointed me to a wonderful parts supplier <https://www.pacparts.com>

Consumer Electronic Parts and Accessories at PacParts, Inc.

Distributor of consumer electronics parts and accessories for leading manufacturers.

www.pacparts.com

and they had just what I needed.

So how do you remove smoke odors from things? Some say to put it in a bag with baking soda. Well, given infinite time, that could eventually work but it's driven purely by vapor pressure and diffusion, which are extremely slow processes. The baking soda simply gives the vaporized chemicals somewhere to go; leaving it open in plain air is just as effective. Heating it up would increase the outgassing rate somewhat. Still, this will take forever. So more direct action is indicated.

Washing is your main weapon because it dissolves and rinses away contaminants. The case and front panel are just metal and plastic and 1) don't absorb much and 2) are easy to clean. I used hot water and dish detergent and scrubbed them. This adds mechanical action to the chemical dissolution process provided by the detergent. That worked except for some little blocks of foam that still smelled. A final 5 minute soak in 10% bleach finally took care of that. Everything was wiped dry and came out good as new. One problematic item was the microphone with a coiled rubber cord. That required a very long hot soak and I don't believe it will ever be totally fresh.

As for the radio electronics, we are limited in what we can do. Alcohol is almost always a safe rinse for electronic systems since they often use it during fabrication to remove soldering flux. So I whipped out my reagent-grade dehydrated ethanol and a spray bottle and inundated the boards and

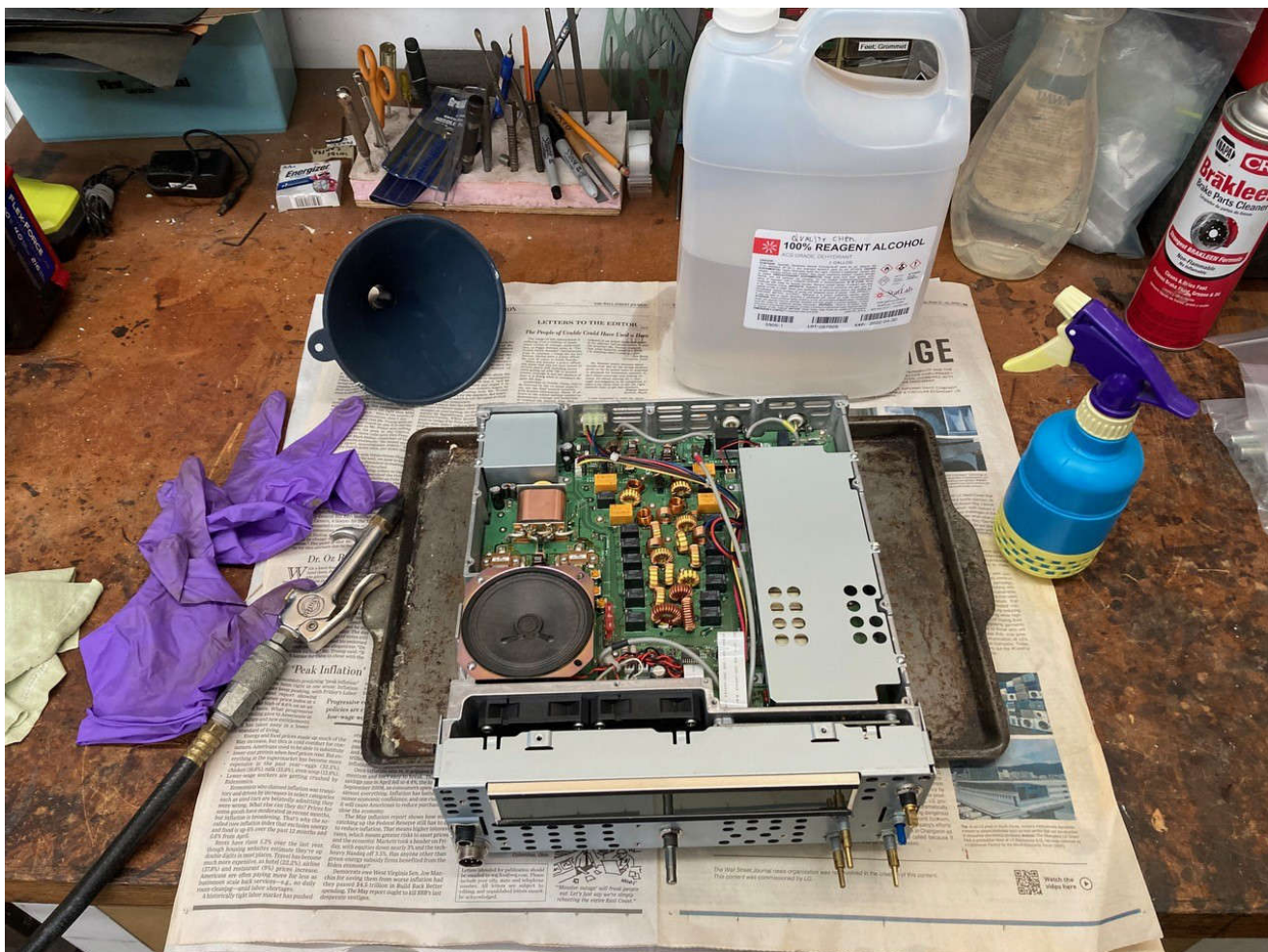
especially the heatsink surfaces. Then I used compressed air (not too strong a blast) to dry it out pretty well, and finally a gentle warming with a heatgun to drive off the last of it. Finally, we left everything sitting on the bench for final outgassing.

By the way, another recommended cleaning practice for circuit boards is to run them through the dishwasher. LLNL used to do exactly that with equipment that came back filthy from the Nevada Test Site. They actually had a row of big commercial dishwashers in the instrument shop. Entire oscilloscopes, piles of cables, all kinds of stuff got a thorough cleaning. Of course you need to know

something about what's inside your device. The paper cone on the speaker of this radio might not like it, for instance. If it was easy to remove the boards (like plug-in boards from a PC), those I would wash.

In the end, I will say that this process was 95% successful and the radio will not be offensive to its new owner.

[1] If you are interested in understanding a person's experience of becoming blind, I highly recommend the new book, "Country of the Blind" by Andrew Leland. This memoir describes his lifelong journey through a gradual loss of vision, and is a good way to begin to understand the blind lifestyle.



Training Opportunity

The Alameda Office of Emergency Services (OES) and the Alameda County Sheriff's Department are sponsoring the following two FEMA Zoom tabletop exercise courses:

January 24: Large-Scale Power Outage

February 22: Flash Flooding

The courses will be held from 9-1pm EST on Zoom. If you wish to register, please contact Judi Clark at: kk6zcu@gmail.com

Here's the flyer on FEMA's tabletop exercises:

<https://training.fema.gov/emigrams/2023/1817-training%20opportunity-virtual%20tabletop%20exercise%20program%20fiscal%20year%202024.pdf>

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE

NATIONAL EMERGENCY TRAINING CENTER • EMMITSBURG, MD 21727



FEMA

January 2024

<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	16	17 Ham Breakfast	18	19	20 <u>LARK Meeting</u>	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

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

January

February

March

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

Date	Weekday	Primary Net Control	Backup Net Control
1/4/2024	Thursday	Nate/N8MOR	Bill/AJ6UU
1/11/2024	Thursday	Rich/KN6HSR	Nate/N8MOR
1/18/2024	Thursday	Bill/AJ6UU	Rich/KN6HSR
1/25/2024	Thursday	David/K6WOO	Bill/AJ6UU
2/1/2024	Thursday	Noah/N6TW	David/K6WOO
2/8/2024	Thursday	Peter/AI6RG	Noah/N6TW
2/15/2024	Thursday	Brian/KA6ZED	Peter/AI6RG
2/22/2024	Thursday	Nate/N8MOR	Brian/KA6ZED
2/29/2024	Thursday	Rich/KN6HSR	Nate/N8MOR
3/7/2024	Thursday	David/K6WOO	Rich/KN6HSR
3/14/2024	Thursday	Bill/AJ6UU	David/K6WOO
3/21/2024	Thursday	Noah/N6TW	Bill/AJ6UU
3/28/2024	Thursday	Nate/N8MOR	Noah/N6TW

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**

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 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	
ARRL 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>	