VALLEY HAM NEWS

May 2015

Y-S ARC Web Page: http://www.ysarc.org
Y-S ARES Web Page: http://www.ysares.org

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May 2015

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VE Liaison: LeRoy Smith, KJ6DKM

UPCOMING EVENTS

02 Jun – 7:00 P.M. Club Meeting at Yuba County Library 303 2nd Street, Marysville

16 Jun – 6:00 P.M., Board Meeting, American Red Cross Building, Yuba City

27-28 Jun – Field Day

11 Jul – 9:00 A.M., VE Test, 715 King Ave. Yuba City

05 Sep – 9:00 A.M., VE Test, 715 King Ave. Yuba City

16-18 Oct – Pacificon

Monday nights at 7:00 P.M. – weekly net with swap shop and help sessions.

Monday nights at 8:00 P.M. – Butte County ARES net, 145.280 MHz – offset, PL 110.9

Tuesday nights at 8:00 P.M. – GEARS Club net, 146.850 MHz – offset, PL 110.9

Thursday nights at 7:00 P.M. – weekly ARES net.

Third Thursday of each month at 7:30 P.M. – the ARRL Sacramento Valley Section (VHF) Net, on club repeater followed by an HF Net on 3987 KHz LSB.

Other nets (From the GEARS Radiator Newsletter)

Sac Valley Net, 7:00 P.M., 2nd Wed of the month146.850 MHz – offset, PL 110.9

440 Wed. Night Net, 8:00 P.M. each Wednesday, 440.650 MHz.

Golden Bear Net, 7:00 P.M. daily 3975 kHz.

Willie net, 8:00 P.M. Mondays, 1930 kHz.

CA Traffic Net, 3906 kHz nightly at 6:00 P.M. for traffic listing and 6:30 P.M. for roll call.

Club repeater: 146.085 MHz out, 146.685 MHz in, PL 127.3

VE TEST RESULTS AND TEST SESSION

One person took the Technician test on May 2nd. Congratulations to Elvie D. Cobb (KK6UCC) from Paradise on becoming a new ham.

The Next VE Test session will be on July 11th at 715 King Ave. Yuba City at 9:00 A.M. VE's are needed to administer the exam. The elements for Technician, General and Extra class will be offered. If you are planning on taking an exam you will need two forms of ID, at least one of them must be a picture ID. A fee of $15.00 is required. A calculator may also be used as long as it has had all of its memories cleared and there are no built in or preprogrammed formulas.

If you are upgrading to a higher class you need to bring your license and a photocopy of the license.

If you take an exam and pass, you can take the next higher class exam for no additional cost. If you do not pass and wish to try again an additional fee will be required.

Good luck to all who are taking exams.

Vanity Fees[1]

The FCC is eliminating the regulatory fee to apply for an Amateur Radio vanity call sign. The change will not go into effect, however, until required congressional notice has been given. This will take at least 90 days. As the Commission explained in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Report and Order, and Order (MD Docket 14-92 and others), released May 21, it's a matter of simple economics.

"The Commission spends more resources on processing the regulatory fees and issuing refunds than the amount of the regulatory fee payment," the FCC said. "As our costs now exceed the regulatory fee, we are eliminating this regulatory fee category." The current vanity call sign regulatory fee is $21.40, the highest in several years. The FCC reported there were 11,500 "payment units" in FY 2014 and estimated that it would collect nearly $246,100.

In its 2014 Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) regarding the assessment and collection of regulatory fees for FY 2014, the FCC had sought comment on eliminating several smaller regulatory fee categories, such as those for vanity call signs and GMRS. It concluded in the subsequent Report and

Order (R&O) last summer, however, that it did not have "adequate support to determine whether the cost of recovery and burden on small entities outweighed the collected revenue or whether eliminating the fee would adversely affect the licensing process."

The FCC said it has since had an opportunity to obtain and analyze support concerning the collection of the regulatory fees for Amateur Vanity and GMRS, which the FCC said comprise, on average, more than 20,000 licenses that are newly obtained or renewed, every 10 and 5 years, respectively.

"The Commission often receives multiple applications for the same vanity call sign, but only one applicant can be issued that call sign," the FCC explained. "In such cases, the Commission issues refunds for all the remaining applicants. In addition to staff and computer time to process payments and issue refunds, there is an additional expense to issue checks for the applicants who cannot be refunded electronically."

The Commission said that after it provides the required congressional notification, Amateur Radio vanity program applicants "will no longer be financially burdened with such payments, and the Commission will no longer incur these administrative costs that exceed the fee payments. The revenue that the Commission would otherwise collect from these regulatory fee categories will be proportionally assessed on other wireless fee categories."

The FCC said it would not issue refunds to licensees who paid the regulatory fee prior to its official elimination.

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Copied from http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-eliminates-amateur-radio-vanity-call-sign-regulatory-fee

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A Guide To Safer Web Surfing

The following was submitted by Bob N6BOB with permission of the author.

Computer security and protection of personal information while on the web is a matter of constant interest. The science of computer hacking, and the consequential theft of personal data from commercial and social media enterprises is rampant.

This article will describe one way of protecting personal information and unauthorized access to our online data, explaining a method of generating passwords that are very secure, easy to remember, and different from website to website.

The ultimate form of assuring our personal safety on the internet will be the evolution of some form of simple and fool proof identification, be it through fingerprint id, retinal scan, or something as yet not invented. Meanwhile, the venerable password remains the method used.

We all know how to generate and use passwords. We write all our passwords on a teeny piece of paper we stick on the underside of the desk drawer, and then agonize when we can't remember our password when we

access one of our websites from our smart phone because the paper is back home, or we adopt the most common password routine used by the majority of internet users, which is creating a simple password like xyz321 which they use on all internet sites that require their password! Yes, research shows that such simple passwords are rampant, even on bank sites.

I won't bother commenting on the fallacies and pain associated with the either approach.

The latter is absurd, as the professional hackers working for the crime syndicates, you know, the ones who hacked Target and Home Depot, and stole millions of bank data information on the customers, use computerized algorithms that take the passwords they stole and compare them to millions of other on-line troves of data which they have also hacked, but for which the passwords appear encrypted. Knowing the passord of a user who uses the same password everywhere immediately "decrypts" the password on another site. Those who use the same password everywhere are doomed!

This article will offer you a method to create a password that avoids both of those shortfalls. It assumes that the sites, financial institutions, etc. that you use do not employ some obsolete password algorithm that restricts the character type or number of characters you use for a password.

The method is one wherein you establish a consistent pattern to the method you use in creating a password. Two practical examples will be outlined, one to illustrate creating a password to access QRZ.COM, and another to access the financial system of MorganStanley.com.

The pattern to use always follow a consistent pattern.

First, always begin the password with a pair of consistent special characters. We will use two special characters in the examples to follow, namely % and &.

Second always use the website name as the written part of the password, and capitalize a consistent number of the letters in the name. The examples will capitalize the first two letters of the website's name.

Third, always end the password in a pair of digits that reflect the total number of letters and special characters you just selected.

As stated above, the examples will start with the special characters % and &.

Following the pattern mentioned, then the password for the QRZ site becomes %&QRz05. It consists of the two special characters at the beginning, the name of the website with its first two letters capitalized, and then the total number of characters that precede the two numbers.

In creating the password for the Morgan Stanley site, the password becomes %&MOrganstanley15.

There are two immediate advantages to those selections.

First, assuming some scam artist hacked into QRZ and the QRZ password (obviously for some bizarre reason), any attempt at breaking into the Morgan Stanley account will require a lot more effort than mere trolling for the

same password. If by some reason they should hack into Morgan Stanley by some way of hacking the Morgan Stanley finance security, that becomes Morgan Stanley's problem. It will have had nothing to do with hacking my password. If what the hackers steal is credit card information, that too becomes Morgan Stanley's problem.

Second, when you eventually have to log into either site, perhaps after a long absence from the site such that you have forgotten the password, you have an immediate reminder of the password. It is simply the name of the site, with the consistent preamble and post amble used for all passwords: two consistent special characters, website name with two capital case letters to begin the name, and the two digits that represent the number of characters preceding the digits.

As another example, the password for an account at Target would be %&TArget08

This method is almost foolproof, and works well with the sites you use that are not obsolete in the conventions they demand for password selection, it will keep you safer on the web, and will be easy to remember from site to site.

73 and safe web surfing
NN3V

General Class Guided Self Study

Beginning in May, once the updated manuals are available, we will begin a General Class self study. Those wishing to upgrade will study the manual on their own and then get together once a week with others studying and a couple of elmers to answer questions about the material. The days and times for getting together are yet to be determined.

Elmers will be Curtis Sylvester-Jose (KF6VFP) and Joe Visalli (N9BD).

So far Cindy (KK6OIO), Rosalyn (KK6SOU), Dan (KK6SOW), Joe (KK6SOX), Manna (KA6ETB), Shari (K6AVW), and Bob (KJ6JFW) have expressed interest.

I have a copy of the 2015-2019 general class question pool I can email to you, for any that are interested in getting a head start. Just let me know at the email address below.

If you are interested in joining us or for more information please contact Curtis at (530) 743-3003 or preferably by email at curtis.jose@att.net.

Curts (KF6VFP)

CLUB MEETING

The club meeting was held on 5 May at the Marysville Library. Joseph Herman (WA6CAL) gave a very informative talk and demonstration on remote accessing your HF radio via the internet.

The next Club Meeting, Tuesday, June 2nd, will be at the Yuba County Library Conference Room, 303 2nd Street, Marysville. Doors will open around 6:30 P.M. The meeting will start at 7:00 P.M.

Visitors are welcome to come and join us. Free bottled water, coffee and

soda will be provided.

Our monthly drawing will be held. The grand prize is a preprogrammed Baofeng handheld radio. A few other prizes will be a digital multimeter, 19 pc mini socket & bit set, “Are You Radio Prepared?” booklet by Brad Smith, coax wrap, a Baofeng car charger, yummy cinnamon honey and more! Tickets are $1 each or six for $5. Everyone who attends the meeting receives one free ticket.

Our guest speaker will be Dr. Minhu Bui. He will be giving a talk on DX (Distance) communication.

3F CENTURY BIKE RIDE

On 2 May 2015 the Colusa Lions Club held the 6th annual 3F Century bike ride which started at the Colusa County Fair Grounds and went south of Winship School back up to Meridian then around the Sutter Buttes and ended back at the Fair Grounds where the Lions served a delicious lunch.

This year 11 volunteer ham radio operators assisted to help the riders have a safe and fun day. Other then a few riders who just couldn’t quite make the full trip and needed a ride back, a couple of flat tires, and a desperate call to replace the paper product in the out house all went well. All 298 riders returned to the Fair Grounds safe and sound.

We were invited to return next year so if you would like to help next year be sure to set Saturday May 7, 2016 aside on your calendar.

A hearty thank you to all who helped.

Bill WA6OHP

THE ROLE OF VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

From John Stettler-KI6DWP-Section the following item he received from: Todd Root, KE6GCV" ke6gcv@live.com.

“Came across this while surfing around FEMA’s Training website. It became available in February of this year! I think it’s an awesome certification to obtain! I know I will be going through the course.

In reading the overview, it’s geared toward voluntary agencies and how they’re involved in emergency management operations. It would appear you can take the course online, including the final exam. Please keep in mind, however, it does say that it takes approximately ten (10) hours to go through the entire course. But I would think it depends on your ability to read and participate in the course material.

Without further ado, here is the link to the independent study course: IS-288.A: The Role of Voluntary Organizations in Emergency Management.”

From the GEARS Radiator

AMATEUR RADIO NETS CRUCIAL LINK IN MARITIME RESCUES

Amateur Radio played a crucial role

in two recent at-sea rescues. On April 8, sailors Randy (VA3ORT) and Dawn (VA3PBT) Ortiz of Ontario, Canada, ran into heavy seas that led them to abandon their 42-foot sailing yacht *Nirvana Now* in a remote portion of the South Pacific while en route to the Marquesas. The Ortizes were able to summon help via the **Pacific Seafarer's Net** on 14.300 MHz.

To read more of this article: http://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-radio-nets-crucial-link-in-maritime-rescues

Pacific Seafarer's Net: http://www.pacseanet.com/

CLUB STORE

The club has the following items available for purchase at cost.

1. Marine grade white RG8X coax, 13 feet. Cost is $0.41/foot.
2. RG8X Black coax, 320 foot reel. Cost is $0.41/foot.
3. PL295 coax connectors, 63 each. Cost is $1.99 each.
4. RG8X reducers, 46 each. Cost is $0.69 each.
5. Power Pole connectors, 119 red/ black pairs. Cost is $1.00 per pair.
6. 12 guage red/black wire for power connections, 25 feet. Cost is $1.00/foot.
7. Coax wrap, 2 rolls. Cost is $4.00 per roll.
8. LMR 400 coax, 40 feet. Cost is $0.90/foot.
9. RG8X strain relief boots, 14 each. Cost is $0.50 each.

If you are interested in purchasing any of these items contact the club store manager, Curtis (KF6VFP) at (530) 743-3003 or on the air.

TECHNICIAN, GENERAL AND EXTRA CLASS QUESTION POOL REVIEW

From the Technician Class question pool:

T1C06 From which of the following locations may an FCC-licensed amateur station transmit, in addition to places where the FCC regulates communications?

A. From within any country that belongs to the International Telecommunications Union
B. From within any country that is a member of the United Nations
C. From anywhere within in ITU Regions 2 and 3
D. From any vessel or craft located in international waters and documented or registered in the United States

The correct answer is D. Anywhere that the FCC has jurisdiction. That includes all 50 states and any ship or aircraft that is registered in the US. For a ship or aircraft you must have authorization from the captain of the vessel or air craft.

From the General Class question pool:

G1A11 Which of the following

frequencies is available to a control operator holding a General Class license?

A. 28.020 MHz
B. 28.350 MHz
C. 28.550 MHz
D. All of these choices are correct

The correct answer is D. All of these frequencies are in the 10 m band which runs from 28.000 to 29.700 MHz. To determine which band the frequency is in use 300/frequency in MHz.

From the Extra Class question pool:

E6F08 What is a solid state relay?

A A relay using transistors to drive the relay coil
B. A device that uses semiconductor devices to implement the functions of an electromechanical relay
C. A mechanical relay that latches in the on or off state each time it is pulsed
D. A passive delay line

The correct answer is B. The key words in this question are "solid state". This implies a device made of transistors, diodes, integrated circuits, etc. that perform the same function as a relay These are all semiconductor devices.

Curtis (KF6VFP)

BITS AND PIECES

Submitted by Larry Witcher (KE6LAW) Could more capacitors give more longevity, and work in ham radio shack with power outages? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GPJao1xLe7w&index=1&list=PLUd8qSRI_F8hD-8Gdufp9MDChEC9ccavr

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Just a note to the membership.

Sorry I've not been available lately, especially for Monday night nets. I took a bad fall the end of March and been confined to a wheelchair since with a fractured hip. My shack is up a 100ft hillside gravel driveway. As soon as I'm able, I'll be on the air again.

73 Mister Bill N6YWZ

EDITORS MESSAGE

Just a Quick Review of the Amateur's Code this month.

The Radio Amateur is:

CONSIDERATE…never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL…offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE…with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

FRIENDLY…slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED…radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

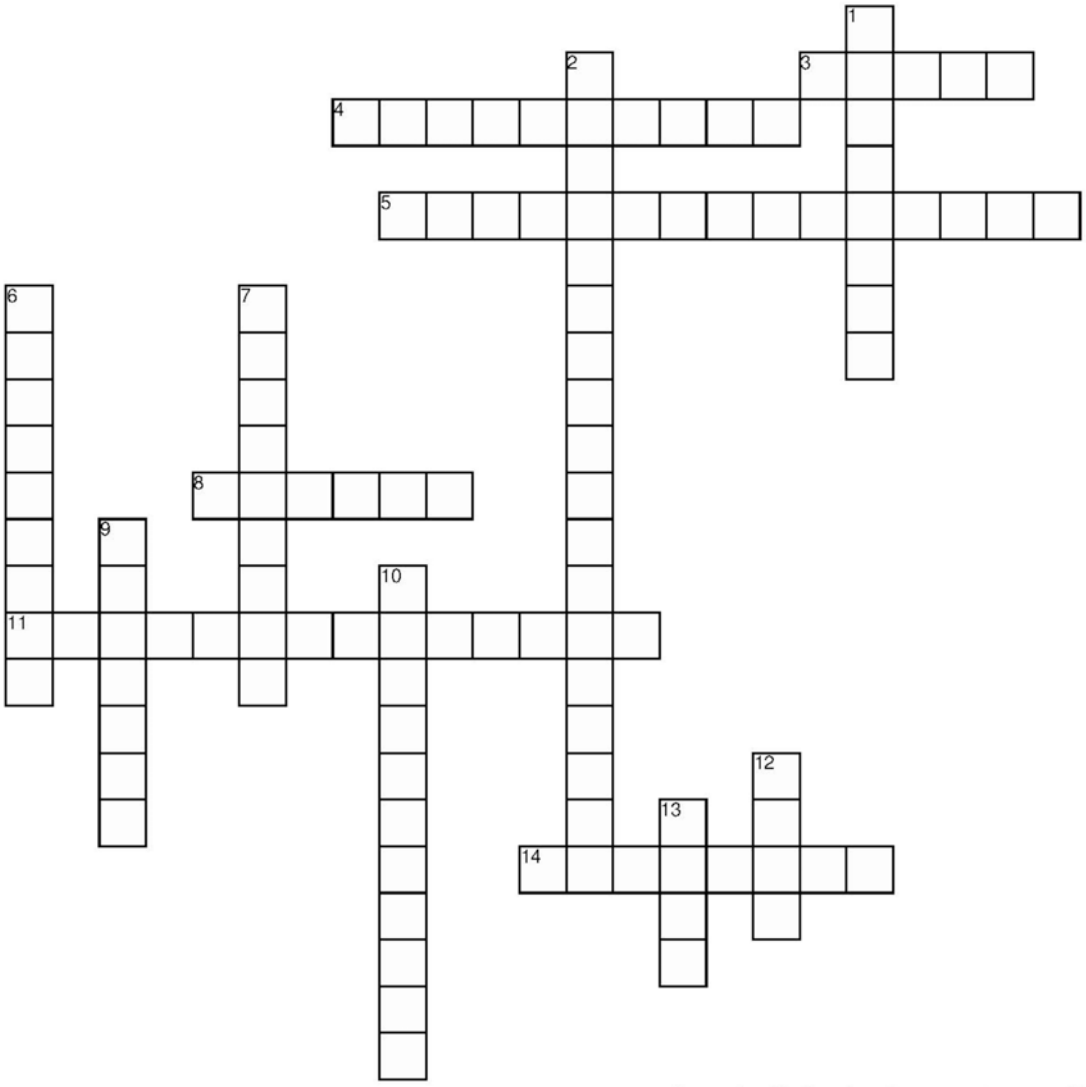
PATRIOTIC…station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

—The original Amateur's Code was written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, in 1928.

Curtis (KF6VFP) and Marsha (KI6CSN)

Antenna Trivia

Complete the crossword below



Created on TheTeachersCorner.net Crossword Maker

Across

3. Points at which radiation is at a minimum between lobes.
4. The distance a radio wave travels in one RF cycle.
5. An antenna that radiates and receives equally in all horizontal directions.
8. An antenna that radiates strongest broadside to its axis and weakest off the ends.
11. A device used to reduce SWR at the transmitter connection feed line. (2 words)
14. A very long and low directional receiving antenna.

Down

1. A type of propagation using several skips or hops between the Earth and the ionosphere.
2. Ratio of RF voltage to current at an antenna's feed point. (3 words)
6. A pattern that shows signal strength in horizontal directions.
7. An antenna with poor harmonic rejection.
9. A device used to turn an antenna.
10. An antenna with a consistent radiation pattern and low SWR over a wide frequency bandwidth. (2 words)
12. An antenna built with its elements in the shape of four-sided loops.
13. A directional antenna.

Across

3. The distance a radio wave travels in one RF cycle. (**wavelength**)
4. A directional antenna. (**beam**)
7. An antenna that radiates and receives equally in all horizontal directions. (**omnidirectional**)
8. A very long and low directional receiving antenna. (**beverage**)
10. A pattern that shows signal strength in horizontal directions. (**azimuthal**)
13. A device used to turn an antenna. (**rotator**)
14. An antenna built with its elements in the shape of four-sided loops. (**quad**)

Down

1. An antenna with a consistent radiation pattern and low SWR over a wide frequency bandwidth. (2 words) (**log periodic**)
2. Ratio of RF voltage to current at an antenna's feed point. (3 words) (**feed point impedance**)
5. A device used to reduce SWR at the transmitter connection feed line. (2 words) (**antenna coupler**)
6. Points at which radiation is at a minimum between lobes. (**nulls**)
9. An antenna with poor harmonic rejection. (**multiband**)
11. A type of propagation using several skips or hops between the Earth and the ionosphere. (**multihop**)
12. An antenna that radiates strongest broadside to its axis and weakest off the ends. (**dipole**)