

## **Ham Radio** in Humboldt county and *BEYOND*...

This news letter is about *ham radio*, *ham operations*, and *ham radio events* in our area. If you find this information interesting or are thinking of becoming a ham radio operator, this is the place to start! Our club offers great training to get you ready to take your official exam to earn your own Federal Communications License. You can also read back issues of this news letter online at

<http://www.humboldt-arc.org/harc/rain/raindocs.html>

We also offer elmering (new operators assistance) sessions through-out the year to help new operators discover even more about Amateur radio.

### **Field Day CONTEST 2017** **Woodley Island, California** **June 24-25**

It's THAT time of the year again. All bands will be JAMMED, OVERLOADED, completely SATURATED with the delightful calls of CQ FIELD DAY. It might be voice, or slow scan TV, Morse Code, or *pure digital*, but the goal is just the same—finding another ham to talk to and add another point to your score for this North American Radio Test. Of course we will also have a Saturday night Potluck dinner at 6pm, and to help keep our ops going, we have a great Sunday morning Breakfast at 8am!

We are going to need YOUR HELP. Those towers, masts, wires and antennas just don't seem to fly into position by themselves! We will gather Friday afternoon around 3ish to set up the antennas, tents, trailers and stuff. Page two is our flyer, you can print it out and leave it in places where it will be seen. This will also be the very first event we use our new COMM TRAILER!

So be sure to make plans to come out and join us for some fun, banter and lots of good DX contacts.

### **Upcoming License Exams**

June 17, 2017

Sponsor: Un-sponsored

**Date:** Jun 17 2017

Time: 10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: Daniel R. Martin

(707) 768-9147

Email: [Dan.AG6JW@gmail.com](mailto:Dan.AG6JW@gmail.com)

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Fortuna Volunteer fire Dept  
320 S Fortuna Blvd, Fortuna CA 95547

July 15, 2017

Sponsor: Humboldt ARC

**Date:** Jul 15 2017

Time: 10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: Irma D. Ruegg

(707) 826-0767

Email: [hamradio1991@hotmail.com](mailto:hamradio1991@hotmail.com)

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Fire Dept (Classrooms)  
6th & C Street, Eureka CA 95501

# Humboldt Amateur Radio Club's Annual **FIELD DAY**

**Date: June 24-25**

**Time: 11:00 AM Saturday -  
11:00 AM Sunday**



**WWW.ARRL.ORG**

## **Woodley Island Marina**

**Look for the Antennas!**

**Field Day is ham radio's  
open house.**

Every June, more than 40,000 hams throughout North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to our communities and our nation. It combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event. Field Day has been an annual event since 1933, and remains the most popular event in ham radio.

**Contact person: Peter Esko  
707-601-2479**

## **First HARC Elmering Session 2017**

**Jim Armstrong - KW6JIM  
Humboldt Amateur Radio Club**

HARC's first Elmering session was held on June 10th at the HARC clubhouse at 406 11th Street in Eureka.

Del - W6KOZ initiated this first elmering session. He lectured on coax, antennas, connectors, mobile installations and other ham basics.



Jim - KW6JIM spoke about and demonstrated WSPR (Weak Signal Propagation Reporting), G4FON morse code training software, and scratched the surface of FLDigi.

There were also many smaller conversations on various aspects of the hobby.

This is the beginning of something good!

## **RARC MEETING April or May?? 2017**

The Redwood Amateur Radio Club meeting was called to order at by President Lonnie Harvey, KJ6WDL.

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The Secretary's Report for the April meeting was accepted as read.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Dan Martin, AG6JW, reported \$1022.31 in savings and \$937.31 in checking. The Post Office is forwarding mail following our address change and the address has been changed at the bank. The Report was approved as read.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Equipment still needs to be transferred to the new trailer. The old trailer is very wet but the equipment is OK.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Upcoming events:

May 7 – Avenue of the Giants Maratho  
May 14 – Mother's Da  
May 20 – Tour of the Unknown Coast

Ron, W6RBJ, is looking for a tube tester (mutual conductance tester).

We are still targeting Field Day, June 24-25, to have the trailer ready. Possible Field Day venues are Table Bluff and Rohner Park.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Don Campbell, KE6HEC, Secretary

## More Than Sun Spots

### Howard kb6nn

Ever wonder what those index numbers mean? I was familiar with sunspot numbers: the more the better. But what about the A and K index? Fortunately, K6BIZ has it all figured out. I regular check his predictions here:

<http://www.cleanairwithultraviolet.com/bandconditions/>

But I didn't know he had another page I should have visited here:

<http://www.cleanairwithultraviolet.com/bandconditions/PROP.htm>

The attached PDF is distilled from that source, with the link embedded. If the PDF doesn't appear for downloading, you only need to go to the link above to his Propagation page.

#### Solar Flux and A and K Indices

**Solar Flux:** Affects 20 -15 -10 Daytimes 160 - 80 and 40 somewhat at Night

The 10.7 cm (2800 MHz) radio flux is the amount of solar noise that is emitted by the sun at 10.7 cm wavelengths. The solar flux is measured and reported at approximately 1800 GMT daily by the Penticton Radio Observatory in British Columbia, Canada. Values are not corrected for variations resulting from the eccentric orbit of the Earth around the Sun.

The solar flux is used as a basic indicator of solar activity. It can vary from values below 50 to values in excess of 300 (representing very low solar activity and high to very high solar activity respectively). Values in excess of 200 occur typical during the peak of the solar cycles.

The solar flux is closely related to the amount of ionization taking place at F2 layer heights (heights sensitive to long-distance radio communication). **High solar flux values generally provide good ionization for long-distance communications at higher than normal frequencies.** Low solar flux values can restrict the band of frequencies which are usable for long distance communications.

**A Index and K Index:** Affects 160 - 80 at Night Very Little on 20 -15 -10 Daytime

The Earth's magnetic field is continuously monitored by a network of magnetometers. These readings are converted into the A and K index values.

The K index is computed once every three hours ( eight times a day @ 0100, 0400, 0700, 1000, 1300, 1600, 1900, and 2200 GMT ) and the values can range from 0 to 9, with 0 being inactive, and 9 representing an extreme severe storm condition. The values are quasi-logarithmic.

The A index is linear, and is computed from the eight previous K index values. It ranges from 0 (quiet) to 400 (severe storm).

Generally, **propagation conditions are best when the K index is 3 or lower. the A index is 15 or lower.** Besides causing auroral activity, high geomagnetic field conditions can affect the electrons in the ionosphere, reducing the maximum usable frequency (MUF).

**SOLAR FLUX**  
50 - 159 = POOR  
160 - 200 = SO SO  
201 - 300 = GREAT

**K INDEX**  
9 - 4 = STORM  
3 - 0 = CALM

**A INDEX**  
400 - 16 = STORM  
15 - 0 = CALM

FROM: <http://www.cleanairwithultraviolet.com/bandoconditions/PROP.htm>

## Far West Repeater Association ONLINE

I did not know that the FWRA has a new home for their web site. Check it out here:

<http://farwestrepeaters.org/>

Take a look at the site. Also, check out the rosters of various local nets along with the preamble for each. We ALWAYS need new Net Control stations.



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Jaye Inabnit ke6sls, ke6sls@arrl.net

For more information, please visit our website <http://www.humboldt-arc.org> or write to:

Humboldt Amateur Radio Club  
BOX 5251  
Eureka, CA 95502-5251

## HUMBOLDT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

### Minutes of Meeting – June 6, 2017

Officers Present: Jim Armstrong, KW6JIM, President / Anthony Wiese, KG6LHW, Event Planner and Librarian / Jaye Inabnit, KE6SLS, Newsletter Editor Pro Tem

Minutes taken by Greg Deja, AA6GD, Secretary Pro Tem

Call to Order: Jim called the meeting to order at 19:05 PDST in the Eureka Municipal Auditorium meeting room at 406 11th Street, Eureka. All attending introduced themselves and the log-book was passed. Newly licensed ham Russell Faulkner, KM6KXV, and aspiring ham Carl Eggleston were



present.

Health and Welfare: Marci Campbell, KE6IAU, was recovering from a procedure to remove bone spurs.

Secretary's Report: Copies of Draft Minutes of the meeting held on May 2, 2017 were distributed. Don Campbell motioned that the Minutes be approved as submitted; Howard Lang, second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer was absent; hence, a formal report was not given.

Old Business: Don Campbell reported that communications during the Avenue of the Giants Marathon were rough due primarily to high winds and probable antenna damage at the Grasshopper repeater. Don went on to say that communications at the Tour of the Unknown Coast, Kinetic Grand Championship and Kids Triathlon ran smoothly.

The Humboldt Amateur Radio Club had a wine table at a May 2017 Arcata Arts Alive event. The HARC members that attended stated that although the event was "break-even" financially, it would be worthwhile participating in future Arts Alive events for the PR value.

Trailer Status:

- \*Documents needed to register the trailer are en route from the dealer. Jim said that he would obtain personalized license plates with the Club's call sign.
- \*Gene Bass is soliciting community donations for the build-out of the trailer.
- \*Steve Isherwood is negotiating with a local cabinet maker for a labor donation for cabinet construction.
- \*Jim is investigating potential parking locations for the trailer.
- \*Jim suggested equipping the trailer with 200 watt solar panel(s). No decision was reached.
- \*Jim suggested that the committee formed to purchase the trailer continue in the capacity of construction organizers for the build-out. Jay volunteered his labor for the build-out as his time allows.
- \*Although some members had suggested not applying graphics to the trailer (to avoid calling attention to its contents), Jim stated that he would prefer graphics that promote the Club and its value as a community resource. No discussion ensued. No decision regarding graphics was made.

New Business:

- \*Library: Anthony announced that a book shelf was in place, and that books were available for check out. Books for check out will be stored on the top shelves, while books that may be taken out without check out will be stored on the bottom.
- \*Banner: Anthony announced that the Club's banner is now housed in a new case. The banner and case will be housed in the trailer.
- \*Rubber stamp: The Club now owns a rubber stamp that can be used to stamp the Club's information onto documents, boxes, etc.
- \*Upcoming outreach opportunity: Don Nelson announced that the Tsunami Preparedness Group will be participating in a Sustainable Living Forum on October 14, 2017 and has invited

HARC to participate in its program. The event will be from 9:00AM to 4:00PM at the Arcata Community Center. Don would like a minimum of seven HARC members to participate.

\*Elmer Sessions: Del Freret reminded the Club of the Elmer Sessions to begin on June 10th.  
Field Day –

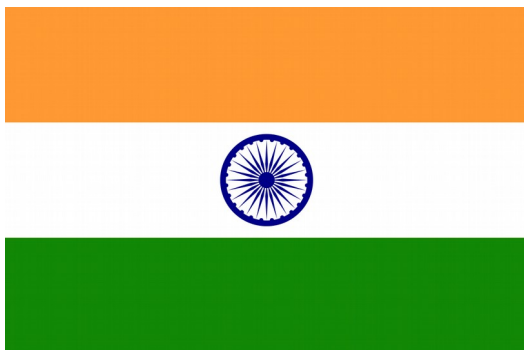
- \*The event will be held at the Woodley Island Marina, June 24th and 25th.
- \*Set-up will begin on Friday, June 23rd at ~2:00PM.
- \*Steve Isherwood suggested trying to obtain greater media coverage of the event.
- \*Jaye stated that he would like to see a dedicated digital station in operation.
- \*Don Campbell suggested using GenLog for logging contacts.
- \*Jim stated that he would supply a two-room tent, the tri-plexer, and hex-beam.
- \*Jaye said that he would have lengths of coax made.
- \*A potluck will take place around 6:00PM on Saturday.

Raffle: The lucky winners were - Dexter, AG6DA / Don C., KE6HEC / Russel, KM6KXV / John, KG6MAR, and Charles, KK6MPU.

Adjournment: ~21:00 PDST.

## **Telecommunications Ministry in India Orders Halt to Online Transceiver Sales**

The *Mumbai Mirror* in India [reports](#) that a complaint by radio amateurs has prompted the Telecommunications Ministry to order online purveyors, including eBay and Amazon, to stop selling wireless transmitting equipment. According to the newspaper, a group of hams wrote the Wireless Advisor in the Telecommunications Ministry last fall to warn that online sales of wireless equipment could pose a national security threat. Their warning followed reports of "highly suspicious" 2-meter transmissions along the Bengal-Bangladesh border.



The letter drew the attention of the Intelligence Bureau, the prime minister's office, and the military. The Telecommunications Ministry has now ordered e-commerce websites to stop selling transmitting gear online, effective immediately. The law in India requires that those selling such equipment have a dealer's possession license and users have a license to transmit.

Ankur Puranik, VU2AXN, spokesperson of the Mumbai Amateur Radio Society, told the newspaper, "...our concern is that the powerful equipment can fall into wrong hands and be misused. More importantly, these two-way radios can tune into any frequency including confidential frequencies used by law enforcement agencies. They can be misused to listen to confidential wireless conversations."

RAIN  
Box 5251  
Eureka, California, 95502-5251

#### North Coast Nets

Sunday	0800	North coast emergency net	3.855 MHz LSB
Monday	1900	Arcata Emergency simplex net	146.430 MHz
Monday	1900	Eel River Emergency net	147.090 PL103.5
Monday	1900	Eureka Emergency simplex net	146.460 MHz
Monday	1900	Southern Humboldt Emergency net	146.790 PL 103.5
Monday	1915	Eureka & north UHF Emergency net	444.400 +5000 PL103.5
Monday	1930	Humboldt county Emergency net (nearest FWRA repeater to you)	146.700 PL1031.5 147.000 PL1031.5 146.760 PL1031.5 146.610 PL1031.5
Monday	1930	Humboldt HF Digital emergency net	3.581 USB MFSK32
Monday	1945	Humboldt County HF emergency net	3.955 MHz LSB
Monday	2000	California State net	3.992 MHz LSB
Tuesday	1930	ORCA digital operations net	3.581 MHz USB
Tuesday	1930	California-Mendocino net	3.915 MHz LSB
Wednesday	1000	California State net	7.230 MHz LSB
Wednesday	1930	FWRA net	146.760 PL103.5



[humboldt-arc.org](http://www.humboldt-arc.org)