

LARK NEWS June 2025



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

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

Available live via zoom by invitation only. Visitors Welcome

Editor: Gregory Kiyoi KN6RUQ



Photo by Josh AE6IQ



Photo by Ian W6TCP



Photo by Alan KM6BRQ



Photo by Brian KA6ZED



Peter AI6RG, Photo by Greg KN6RUQ

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Presidents Message

I want to give a big **THANK YOU** to **Noah N6TW** for making the coffee and picking up the refreshments for monthly meetings. This effort is appreciated by all who attend the meeting.

Want to welcome **Brian KA6ZED** as the new Hospitality Chairperson.

I wanted to let you know that the Events Chairperson (me) is following the upcoming events for 2025, and I have an update. The following events will be happening:

- **Independence Day Dash - Friday, July 4th**
- **Patterson Pass Road Race - Sunday, August 3rd**
- **Cycle for Hope Bike Ride - Sunday, October 19th**

We are in need of volunteer radio support for all events and any level of experience is welcome.

As more events are confirmed you will be kept advised. 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.

The Technical Interest Group are becoming more active with project ideas. If you want to participate or have ideas, contact **Ron AD6KV**.

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 AE6D** 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 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 at comcast dot net)



Notes from the Editor

Thank you to **Clancy N6FQQ** and **Gary NA6O** for presenting on Historic CW Keys at the club meeting. This is the recording - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lw-SpX71uxA>



*Clancy N6FQQ photo
by Brian KA6ZED*

*Clancy N6FQQ
and Gary NA6O,
photo by Roger
KK6RD*



*Club Meeting
photo by Brian
KA6ZED*

June 2025 Events

- **7-8th ARRL International Digital Contest** - <https://www.arrl.org/arrl-digital-contest>
- **14-16th ARRL VHF Contest** - <https://www.arrl.org/june-vhf>
- **28-29th ARRL Field Day** - <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

Thank you for all that have sent articles, pictures, and feedback. The newsletter is a collaborative process, please keep sending me your articles and ideas.

Gregory KN6RUQ editor at [livermoreark dot org](http://livermoreark.org)



AT&T Email to Text will be ending June 17, 2025. You will not be able to send or receive texts via email. See <https://www.att.com/support/article/wireless/KM1061254/>. Sprint ended in 2022, Boost Mobile/T-Mobile ended December 2024, and Verizon is available, but has delivery problems. This could impact any notifications sent via email to text via winlink, etc.

Monthly Meeting Minutes



LARK General Meeting | May 17, 2025 | Minutes

Call to Order

1. Meeting called to order by George KG6GEM at 9:30am.
2. George started introductions, first of in-person attendees and then Zoom attendees.
3. Members: 37 / Guests: 1 = 38 Total attending the meeting.

Presentation

1. George introduced Clancy N6FQQ and Gary NA6O for his presentation "Morse code equipment and keys".

Administrative Updates and Upcoming Events

The meeting covers several administrative updates and upcoming events. Brian KA6ZED is replacing Noah N6TW as the Hospitality coordinator. Certificates of appreciation for Noah and Julian will be presented next month. Ryan reports on providing communications support for a 20-mile scouting hike event. Bernie has published recurring meeting information on Patch for Livermore and Roger for Pleasanton, with a request for volunteers to do the same for Dublin and San Ramon. Nate announces upcoming events including a July 4th 5K Fun Run, Patterson Pass Road Race on August 3rd, and Cycle for Hope on October 19th. The current membership is 162, with a membership drive for 2026 starting soon. The meeting minutes are now AI-generated and presentations often recorded for online access. The next Technical information Group meeting is scheduled for Tuesday at 6 PM at 5 Rivers Aviation Hangar.

Amateur Radio Equipment Sales

The meeting covers several topics related to amateur radio equipment and club activities. Mark KK6UKU Swap-n-Shop Chairperson announced that the club is selling various radio equipment, including a Heathkit CW transceiver and a Kenwood HF transceiver, with proceeds going to the club. Members are informed about new rules regarding equipment sales due to the club's 501(c)(3) status. The group discusses how members can sell their personal equipment through the club's reflector or newsletter. Steve and Cole are nominated for a Klutz award due to a communication mishap during a recent net. The meeting also includes a brief discussion on CW (Morse code) operation and experiences with the Long Island CW Club. Finally, a member offers to give away two linear power supplies to new operators or those in need.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:00am.

Board Meeting Minutes



LARK Board Meeting | May 12, 2025 | Minutes

Next steps

Chris & Peter: Complete and submit the Charitable Trust registration paperwork
David & Peter: Work on the LLNL Community Gift program application after Charitable Trust registration is complete
Roger & Peter: Set up and manage Benevity registration process
Nate: Set up dedicated email accounts for board members at livermoreark.org, starting with treasurer@livermoreark.org for Peter
Bernie: Create promotional content about LARK for the Independent newspaper
Bernie & Nate: Coordinate uniform messaging for LARK promotion across different platforms
Mark: Create and maintain inventory of donated items and track their sales
George: Add discussion of new charitable position/committee to next board meeting's new business agenda
Roger: Send video recording of audio quality issues with AD6KV repeater to Nate for investigation
Nate/Ian: Proceed with implementing All-Star linking for the repeater system after receiving approval from Ian
Bernie: Contact Julian regarding membership status and roster updates
Bernie: Has set up LARK events on Livermore Patch calendar
Jerry: Check Emil Villa's restaurant layout and facilities for potential future breakfast meetings
Jerry: Send out Zoom meeting link for Saturday's meeting as he will be absent
Steve: Has been asked by Jerry to help and find speakers for July, August, and September meetings
Noah: Return access card to Bernie to comply with city contract requirements
Nate: Accompany Brian for coffee days until access card situation is resolved
Roger: Set up Zoom meeting for Saturday
Nate: Set up email forwarding from kg6gem@livermoreark.org for George and president@livermoreark.org email to George's account
George: Follow up with Erica to ensure access card times remain set for 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM

Treasurer's Report and Upcoming Expenses

George provides an update on the treasurer's report, noting that the finances are stable. He mentions that Peter, who is currently traveling for work, will be back for Saturday's meeting. George also informs the group about upcoming expenses, including an insurance payment of around \$200 per year. Bernie adds that the post office box fee is also due soon.



All-Star Linking for Repeaters

The group discusses options for linking repeaters, focusing on All-Star linking and RF-based linking. Nate presents the pros and cons of each option, including potential internet dependency and management overhead. Roger shares his experience with audio quality issues on AD6KV and suggests either doing nothing or trying All-Star linking. After discussion, the group decides to proceed with All-Star linking, as it can be easily implemented and reversed if needed. They acknowledge there may be some latency issues but agree these can be explained to users during nets.

Zoom Meetings and Future Presentations

Jerry announces that Clancy will be presenting at the upcoming Saturday meeting, which Jerry and Steve will not attend due to family and event commitments. The group discusses the continued use of Zoom for meetings, agreeing it's beneficial for those who can't attend in person and for recording purposes. Jerry is working on scheduling speakers for future meetings, with CS -131 tentatively planned for June with the July meeting currently open. David mentions the possibility of giving a presentation on Alameda County OES radio operations in the future. The group discusses challenges with RACES and CERT involvement in emergency communications, with Roger expressing frustration about difficulties joining local RACES units.

Emergency Disaster Coordinator and Upcoming Events

In the meeting, Nate, Roger, Jerry, George, and Bernie discussed various topics. They talked about the LPPD and the new emergency disaster coordinator, who is coming back as a contractor to teach CERT courses. They also discussed the upcoming events, including the July 4th 5K Fun Run LARPD sponsored event, the August 3rd Patterson Pass Road Race, and the October 19th Cycle for Hope Bike Ride event, two weeks before this event we will have Pacifcon which we cover the Booth and Swap Meet. Bernie mentioned that they have 142 members on the roster, but two are silent keys, and a new member has joined. They also discussed the policy of applying payments to the following year for new members. Bernie shared that they have been added to the Livermore Vine calendar and is considering advertising their activities in the Independent newspaper.

Club Transition to 501(c)(3) Status

The meeting focused on the club's transition to a 501(c)(3) status and the associated responsibilities. George emphasized the need to register with the California's Attorney General's office as a Charitable Trust, which would cost \$50. He suggested that other board members could assist the treasurer with paperwork and reporting. The club also needs to inventory donated equipment and track its sale. Roger expressed concerns about the additional workload for the treasurer and suggested the formation of a committee to handle the paperwork and inventory. David proposed the creation of a new officer position to oversee this process. The next meeting will discuss the formation of a committee to handle the charitable trust responsibilities and help the treasure.

Board Discusses Email Spoofing Concerns

The board discusses Peter's request to remove his contact information due to scam attempts using his name. Nate proposes setting up dedicated email accounts for board



members using the livermoreark.org domain to help mitigate spoofing concerns. The board agrees to try this approach, starting with the treasurer position for Peter. George asks Nate to follow up with Peter about this solution. The discussion also touches on the challenges of balancing privacy with the need for officers to be contactable by members.

Charitable Trust Setup and Breakfast Plans

George will ask Chris to work with Peter on setting up the Charitable Trust and asked David to assist Peter with the LLNS Charity getting registered for the Home Campaign, both programs are Lab sponsored. Roger offers to help with Benevity, and Nate volunteers to assist as needed. George plans to ask Chris to work on registering with the charitable trust. The group discusses issues with city contacts and access cards, with Nate suggesting a cautious approach to card handling. They also confirm the breakfast location for Saturday which is the 833 Brick Café on Stanley Blvd. and we will consider trying Family Hickory Pit for future meetings.

Discussing 501(c)(3) and Zoom Meetings

George concludes the meeting, thanking everyone for their attendance and wishing Jerry safe travels. After most participants leave, Roger and George discuss Bernie's potential contribution to the 501(c)(3) matters and clarify some misconceptions about reporting requirements.

Minutes submitted by:

Ryan Mahoney (W6GRAM) – LARK Secretary

Community Activities



We NEED You!
Sign Up NOW



Independence Day Dash - Friday, July 4, 2025

Signup <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0844AEAD28A6FA7-56538534-livermores#/>

The event is 5K and Kids' fun run at Sycamore Grove Park. A chance to break a sweat before kicking back all day with family and friends.



Patterson Pass Road Race - Sunday, August 3, 2025

Signup <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0844AEAD28A6FA7-patterson1>

This event takes place in the hills east of Livermore. The races start at 8am and finish about 1pm. As a ham radio volunteer, you are there to provide emergency communications at planned stationary posts from 7am to approximately 1pm.

Making a ZIF adapter for Signalink USB

Josh Senecal, AE6IQ

I purchased my Signalink USB when I got started with digital modes (for WinLink). Overall I like it and it works reasonably well. I do have one peeve: the manufacturer made it extremely user-unfriendly when it comes to reconfiguring it for use with another radio. You have to remove four screws, slide out the board, pull out the jumper wires (or carefully remove the jumper module--it's in there tight), insert a new set of jumpers or a jumper module, then put it all back together. That's so unfriendly it would probably be less frustrating to just order one Signalink for each radio. I don't have that kind of money.

Fortunately, I'm a nerd and I like a challenge. I wanted to install a Zero Insertion Force socket. ZIF sockets are not hard to come by. They're made by 3M, and the large electronics suppliers such as Mouser sell them. Or you can buy them on ebay for cheaper. I don't know if the eBay ones are knockoffs or the real deal, but functionally they're the same.

The ideal solution would be just to desolder the socket from the Signalink board and solder the ZIF socket in its place. Because of the ZIF socket's size that's not possible, as there's not enough room. The next best solution is to insert the ZIF socket pins into the DIP socket on the Signalink board. Unfortunately you can't: the DIP socket on the Signalink board is designed to accept round pins, and the pins on the ZIF sockets are flat and wide. They're not really "pins" as such, and if you look carefully you'll see they're made of two layers of metal compressed together.

So instead I had to solder together an adapter. It's actually really simple.

Take note: The usual disclaimers apply. This is something I hacked together that I found useful. You should proceed with caution, at your own risk.

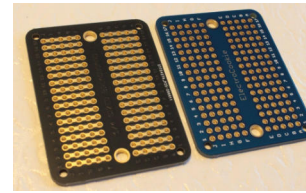
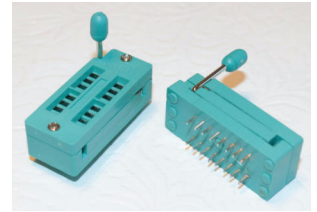
Here's what I used for the project:

TexTool 16-pin ZIF socket. Data sheet is here:

<https://www.mouser.com/datasheet/2/1/3U-0010->

[0999-3E-220993.pdf](https://www.mouser.com/datasheet/2/1/3U-0010-)

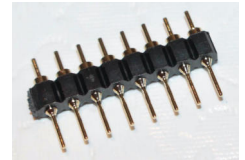
ElectroCookie Solderable mini breadboard. These are sold in a 6-pack. They're small, through-hole plated, reasonably priced, and



come in different colors. The holes are also large enough to accept the pins of the ZIF socket. You don't have to use these particular boards, but you should use a board

that has rows with at least five connected holes, and through-hole plating. You can get them from Amazon.

40 pin 2.54mm Gold Plated Male 40 Pin Single Row Straight Round Pin Header Strip. The



round pin is important, since the socket on the Signalink board also takes round pins. I used these from Amazon, ASIN B083RYP6G5, but there are others to choose from.

You'll also need flush-cutters, a soldering station, solder, a multimeter, and a tool suitable for cutting circuit board traces. A breadboard to keep pins steady while soldering is also very helpful.

Step 1: Cut the circuit board in half, lengthwise.

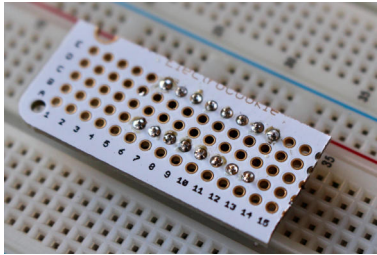
Step 2: Orient the board so there is a small hole to the upper-left, and cut off the bottom two rows of holes by cutting through the second-to-last row.

Step 3: Cut two 8-pin lengths of header strip. Place the pins in a breadboard, parallel and spaced so there are two holes between them.



Step 4: Place the circuit board over the pins, trace-side down, and solder the pins in place. **Make sure to flow solder into the hole--this is very important.** Also, try not

to let too much solder accumulate above the circuit board. It makes the next step easier. One other important note: the breadboard you use may not be

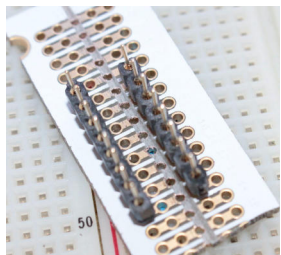


made for the narrower, round pins we're using. As such, you must take care that the pins are as nearly perpendicular as possible, and both rows are parallel to each other.

Note that my positioning of the circuit board on the pins is deliberate--I chose those rows and columns because it ensures the ZIF socket will have complete support underneath it, and also makes the optional, final step possible.

Step 5: Turn over the circuit board, so you can see the traces. What you have here is a series of rows, five holes across, where all the holes in a row are connected. For each row you need to break the traces to remove the center hole, leaving each row with two sets of two connected holes.

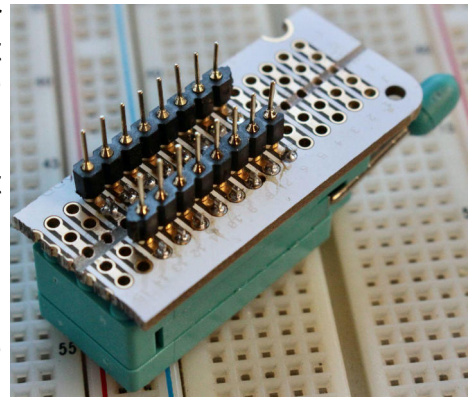
Use your favorite cutting tool to do the job. When done, use a multimeter to verify each trace has been completely cut. In my case I used the pins as a guide for a hacksaw blade that I used to cut the traces.



Step 6: Using the flush-cutters, trim off the solder and pins that extend above the circuit board. It doesn't have to be perfect, but try to get it as flush as possible.

Step 7: Place the ZIF socket so it is pin-up (you'll need to push the locking lever downward). Place the circuit board on ZIF socket pins so each pin of the ZIF socket is lined up on a row with one of the pins you just soldered in. Make sure the arm of the ZIF socket is oriented the same direction as the

hole in the corner of the circuit board. Solder the ZIF socket pins in place. This will require some tight maneuvering with the soldering iron, but is doable.



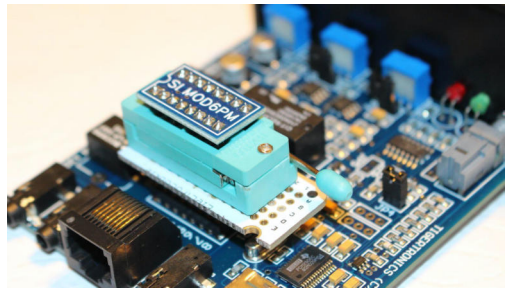
A word about the ZIF socket pins.

They're not secure in the socket housing, and may have worked their way out (or gotten pulled out), so they protrude too far. Just prior to soldering, gently push on each of the ZIF socket pins to ensure they are properly positioned.

Step 8: Carefully remove any jumpers or jumper module you have installed in the Signalink. Make sure the pins are straight and carefully install the ZIF module you just made. If needed, use a Sharpie or similar to mark the ZIF socket, so you know the pin ordering. Note that the ZIF socket's lever will be opposite the board socket's notch.

Optional step:

For added peace of mind, create a hold-down for the ZIF socket lever, using a piece of



narrow, solid, insulated wire (like telecommunications wire). Loop one end of the wire through the hole on the circuit board's corner, and loop the other end around the ZIF socket lever when it is in the locked position.

That's it! It fits within the Signalink enclosure and is easy to use. To install a jumper module into the Signalink, lift the lever up, insert the module into the ZIF socket (taking care to make sure the jumper module is oriented properly), and push the lever down to lock it in place. It takes a little practice to get the jumper module to sit evenly in the ZIF socket, but isn't difficult.

Devil Mountain Run

George Moorehead, KG6GEM

The Devil Mountain Run was held on Sunday, May 4th, 2025, in downtown Danville. The runners for 5K and 10K groups started at Railroad and School and finished at the designated finish lines (both locations were covered by volunteer radio operators).

Runner at Station 3, photo by Alan KM6BRQ

The races went around and through downtown Danville. There were other races as well involving dogs and children. The total numbers of runners



for all groups were over 1,100+, with 3 medical responses, and 1 transport to the hospital.

The total number of hams that volunteered for this event was 15 radio volunteers and they did a very professional service. Sadly, we did not have enough radio volunteers to cover all post assignments this year.

We used two (2) APRS trackers, one (1) from LARK and personal tracker to follow the Bike Sweeps for both races.

All major areas and intersections of concern for the race were covered for safety for the entire event. Net Control operations were performed in the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District Communications Support Unit CS-131 with volunteer staffing from four Communications Reserves (who are volunteer radio operators also) performing as Net Control operators.

I want to thank the following LARK and other ham volunteers for helping today: **Peter AI6RG, Alan KM6BRQ, Bill N6SGT, Mark KM6XU, David K6WOO, Bill AJ6UU, Barbara K6WHY, Steve K8YIP, Brian WB6TJR, Adrian AK6FR, Noah N6TW, Chris W6CJQ, Edward KN6MBF and Larry KI6LNB.**

A special thank you to **John Street WB6ETY** for setting up the iGate for the APRS in Danville area and monitoring the event from remote location, as well as **CERT volunteer Elizabeth** for assisting in Net Control.

Thanks for putting up with the last-minute assignment changes and for your help for this very worthwhile annual public event.

Last Runner and Sweep, Photo by Alan KM6BRQ



Member Spotlight

This month member spotlight is our Treasurer.

Name/Call Sign: *Peter Bedrossian, AI6RG*

Past call(s): *KE6KAS*



Home Location: *Livermore*

Property/Lot size: *0.183 acres*

Antenna(s): *Always experimenting. My standing HF antenna is a Cushcraft R9 Vertical, which I need to repair when the rain stops.*

What's in your shack?

Icom IC-7300 for HF; Yaesu FT-60 HT; Yaesu FT-7800 mobile rig as base station for VHF.

What is your career (or what was your career)?

Physicist, recently retired from LLNL but still consulting there part time.

What type of operating do you do?

Mainly rag chewing. I used to be an avid shortwave listener before most of the international stations cut their North American broadcasts.

Any other hobbies besides ham radio?

I continue to moonlight as a cellist. I play in several Bay Area orchestras, and I play chamber music and casual gigs.

Devil Mountain Double Century

John Street, WB6ETY

2025 was a change-of-pace year for the DMD – there were no changes, for a change! In 2023 the DMD got a new ride director, a new supporting bicycle club, a new start/finish in San Jose, a new support format, and a new route. For 2024 the route changed back to the traditional route (almost) of the previous 20+ years. The 2025 DMD was a virtual repeat of 2024, thus minimizing planning efforts for the organizer and for LARK radio support!

The route is a 200 mile clockwise loop, with San Jose at the south, Castro Valley at the west, Clayton at the north, and Tracy at the east. This loop includes Mt. Diablo and Mt. Hamilton for a total of 20,639 feet of vertical climbing. Riders are checked in at each Control Point (CP) to guarantee they didn't take a short cut and more importantly, to verify they are safe and have not gone off a cliff since the previous CP. There is one wished-for change that hasn't happened: Change the event timing so the LARK segment happens earlier in the day! Most LARK supported CPs closed after dark, the earliest at 1920 hours, the latest at 0019 hours Sunday morning.

The event was successful. 59 riders signed up, 57 started, and 41 finished. There were five crashes, none within the route segments supported by LARK, and to my knowledge, none were too serious. See the DMD website for a description of the event and many photos taken during the event: <https://devilmountaindouble.godaddysites.com/> Click on "Photos from 2025" on the home page.

LARK Support of the 2025 DMD

LARK supported the portion of the route with poor to zero cell phone coverage; from Livermore to the summit of Mt. Hamilton, which included 4 Control Points (CPs) (aka rest stops). They were: CP#9-Mines Rd/Del Valle Rd, CP#10-The Junction,

CP#11-Isabel Creek, and CP#11a-Mt. Hamilton. A main CP operator task was sending and receiving DNS and DNF (did-not-start and did-not-finish) rider number updates to/from the NCS (net control station). Knowing which riders had dropped out (DNF) made it possible for each CP to guarantee that no rider had gone missing since the previous CP. CP operators were kept up-to-date on SAG vehicle positions by the NCS which monitored our APRS trackers – see below for more about APRS. CP operators often assisted the CP bike club workers with the rider check-in process.

We used two repeaters to cover our CPs. WA6HAM-Morgan Territory 2m repeater covered our NCS, CP#9, and CP#11a. W6TCP's temporary cross band repeater on Mt. Hamilton at CP#11a linked the WA6HAM repeater to CP#10 and CP#11. We used the Alum Rock Repeater Group's 1.2GHz linked system as a backup link between the NCS and CP#11a. Plug for 1.2GHz: We will have much improved DMD coverage next year if you buy a 1.2GHz radio and help with the 2026 DMD.

Hams at CP#9 installed three LARK APRS trackers in three SAG vehicles. Hams at CP#11 and CP#11a removed those three trackers as their SAG vehicles continued toward San Jose. We used two portable APRS digipeaters to cover the route between our CPs. Ian, W6TCP, set up KQ6DI-3 at CP#11a. Ryan, W6RAM, set up KQ6DI-6 on the side of Mines Rd about 3 miles north of the CP#10. KQ6DI-6 portable digipeater was recently built by Arnold, KQ6DI, and was used to increase coverage near the Junction. It relayed "heard" position reports to KQ6DI-3 digipeater on Mt. Hamilton.

Photo by Ryan W6RAM



We didn't use APRS messaging this year, but did use Verizon cell phone text messaging. It turns out that Verizon (and only Verizon) cell phones work well at all our CPs (but not always between CPs). And there is one 15 mile segment of Mines Rd between CP#9 and CP#10 with virtually zero cell phone coverage.

With no particular place to be, Net Control was at WB6ETY's home QTH.



Photos by Ian W6TCP

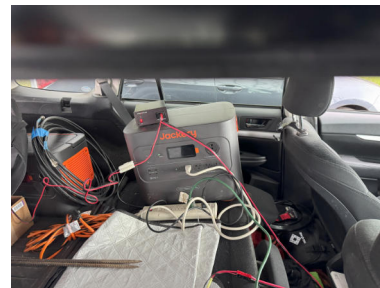
Bernie AC6MX and Ian W6TCP at CP11a

Dark Clouds Approaching

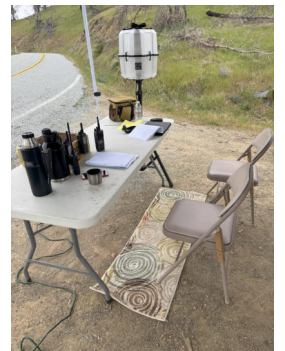


Digipeater deployed with trees assisting

Lone rider makes their way up the road



Portable power and "minimum" creature comforts along with a hand loomed Persian rug!



Bernie AC6MX and Ian W6TCP prepared for foul weather

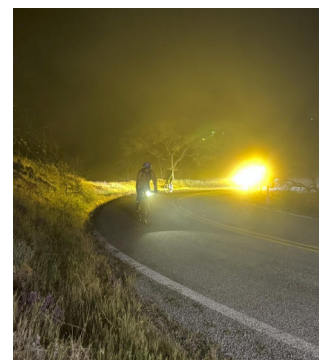


Future is so bright I gotta wear shades!

Winding Road for cars and riders



Another lone rider making the climb up the road





Mark KK6UKU at CP11, photo by Ryan W6RAM

2. Try "Google Sheets" to create a "real time" spreadsheet of rider number check-ins at all CPs. Each CP would be able to edit this spreadsheet so all CPs could see the data at all CPs.
3. Use APRS messaging –it was useful in 2023 and 2024, but not used this year.

I've asked all the DMD radio operator volunteers if they enjoyed their DMD experience and if they would like to help next year, their schedule permitting. I haven't gotten all the replies yet, but so far, every reply states that they enjoyed the experience and want to help next year. And that's true, even considering the very late hours, the very remote locations, and the dark winding road between their CP and home! So if you like providing a real service to some fellow humans, please consider volunteering for the 2026 DMD!

Ryan W6RAM and race volunteers at CP11, photo by Mark KK6UKU



CP11, photo by Ryan W6RAM

Thanks to all the LARK volunteers

- CP#9, Mines Rd/Del Valle Rd: **KI6DMD, John**
- CP#9, Mines Rd/Del Valle Rd: **KO6HUE, Mike**
- CP#10, The Junction: **KI6LNB, Larry**
- CP#10, The Junction: **KE6VOO, Ruth**
- CP#11, Isabel Creek: **W6RAM, Ryan**
- CP#11, Isabel Creek: **KK6UKU, Mark**
- CP#11a, Mt. Hamilton: **W6TCP, Ian**
- CP#11a, Mt. Hamilton: **AC6MX, Bernie**
- NCS (at home QTH): **WB6ETY, John**
- APRS digipeater support: **KQ6DI, Arnold**

Changes that worked well this year

- 4" rider numbers on the front each rider's helmet much improved the rider check-in process.

Some potential things to try next year

1. Once again, improve the rider check-in process at each Control Point. This process can get crazy at times and seems to always need improvement!

TIME OUT! / Dit a Diddle Dot Dit

Rich “Sparkie” Combs, KN6HSR

TOT - Maybe you've heard this mentioned, but aren't quite sure what it means, or how to use it. Let's take a time out and dig into it.

TOT is your Time Out Timer. This simply is an option that will stop your transmission after a set period of time.

Why might this be important?

The most important case is if, say, your mic has gotten wedged between your seat and center console, and the PTT button is engaged. So you're transmitting, and will continue to transmit until your battery runs out. This of course will lock up the channel, and the repeater if you are using a repeater. Not good.

I've heard this multiple times when supporting an event, such as a run or bike ride, when there are multiple mobile operators. There is however a cure.

The TOT will stop your radio from transmitting after the user defined time. I usually set mine for 120 seconds, since if I am talking this long I'm probably just rambling anyway!

There is usually a beep or tone that will warn you a few seconds before the time out. All you need to do is release the PTT button for a moment, and the TOT resets. Push the PTT again and you can ramble on if need be.

This is one reason you hear knowledgeable operators say "I'm going to drop for a moment." They are resetting their TOT.

The other case is when you are holding up a repeater for a long period. Repeaters have TOT timers also, and if you carry on too long the repeater will drop the connection, resetting itself. Again, a protection against long windedness.

So dig into your unit's program menu and find and set the TOT Time Out Timer setting, and we will all be glad the be set for a TIME OUT!

Story provided by **Tony Yamin, KF6JS**

Back when the telegraph was the fastest method of long-distance communication, a young man applied for a job as a Morse Code operator. Answering an ad in the newspaper, he went to the office address that was listed. When he arrived, he entered a large, busy office filled with noise and clatter, including the sound of the telegraph in the background. A sign on the receptionist's counter instructed job applicants to fill out a form and wait until they were summoned to enter the inner office.

The young man filled out his form and sat down with the seven other applicants in the waiting area. After a few minutes, the young man stood up, crossed the room to the door of the inner office, and walked right in. Naturally the other applicants perked up, wondering what was going on. They muttered among themselves that they hadn't heard any summons yet.

They assumed that the young man who went into the office made a mistake and would be disqualified. Within a few minutes, however, the employer escorted the young man out of the office and said to the other applicants, "Gentlemen, thank you very much for coming, but the job has just been filled." The other applicants began grumbling to each other, and one spoke up saying, "Wait a minute, I don't understand. He was the last to come in, and we never even got a chance to be interviewed. Yet he got the job. That's not fair!"

The employer said, "I'm sorry, but the last several minutes while you've been sitting here, the telegraph has been ticking out the following message in Morse Code: 'If you understand this message, then come right in. The job is yours.'" None of you heard it or understood it. This young man did. The job is his.

CW IS IT!

Source unknown.

Training

MDARC Amateur Extra Class

Beginning June 24, 2025, Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club is offering a 10-week course. Extra Class License test on September 2, 2025. Course cost is \$15.

When Starting June 24, 2025 7-9pm,
10 sessions through August 26th

Where Clayton Valley Presbyterian Church
1578 Kirker Pass Rd.
Clayton, CA 94517 or Zoom

Questions See <https://www.mdarc.org/education-and-testing/class-details>
for more information.

Crossword Puzzle

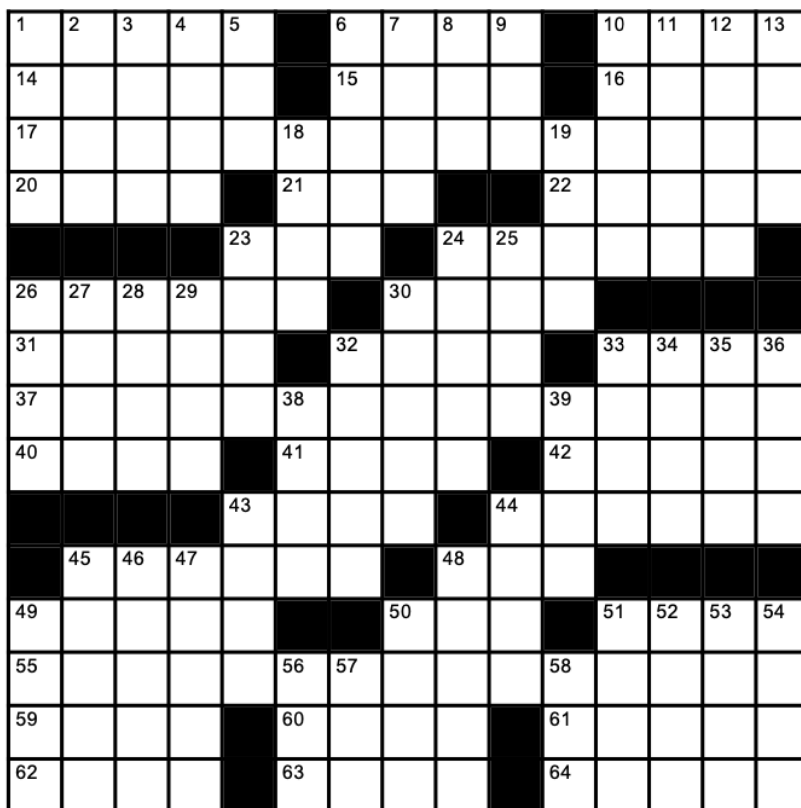
by Chris Codella, W2PA

2/9/2008

Aerial View

Across

1. 10 kilogauss
6. UA parliament
10. Kludge
14. Kind of socket or tube
15. Ancient OA-lander
16. Competent
17. Improbable dream
VHF/UHF antenna
20. Achy, as after an
antenna project
21. Transceiver knob label
22. Part connections
23. Ckt.between IF and AF
24. Suffix with bio- or
proto-
26. Loud speaker
30. Eye part
31. US hams do it every 10
years, usually
32. "That's great, friend", on
CW
33. Be next to
37. What rural hams fancy
themselves?
40. Feedline badness
41. Baseball stats
42. Symbol in coax specs
43. Go out of your cell area
44. Unidirectional dipole
45. Where all good signals
go, eventually?
48. Late summer contest
49. Tribander parts
50. Kind of FET
51. They have replaced
tuning dials in modern rigs,
often.
55. Improbable dream HF
antenna
59. K, on phone
60. Elser-Mathes Cup target
61. Look of disdain
62. One meaning of V
63. Switch type
64. They deliver power



Down

1. Narrowest tower sections,
often
2. EME signal
3. Sirius, for one
4. Emit coherent light
5. Draft pick
6. One's self, on CW
7. Ampere, for one
8. Lots and lots of Hz in the
old days
9. Word to a doctor
10. Bugs, Roger, Peter, et.
al.
11. Garfield's middle name
12. Copper often does it
13. Enables, as a transmitter
18. Kind of hunter, in radio
19. Word of regret
23. "See you ____ the log"
24. Univ. teachers
25. Kilo follower
26. Not written
27. W7-land city
28. What this puzzle is
about, for short
29. Connectors named for
their shape
30. Italian yagi?
32. One C per V
33. BBs, e.g.
34. E, to a non-ham?
35. Encourage
36. Bygone UA leader
38. It glows amber
39. Part
43. Sometimes causes
antenna failure
44. Window part, where the
feedline might come in
45. Group of trees
46. 5 wpm, 70 mph, etc.
47. Eyeball benders
48. Least good
49. Gait faster than a walk
50. QSLs often go via them
(abbr.)
51. Lead-ins to P
52. Future ham, sometimes
53. Became SK
54. Switching
semiconductors
56. RX spec.
57. Break, during a long
contest, say
58. Sig. src.

Crossword Solution

T	E	S	L	A		D	U	M	A		H	A	C	K	
O	C	T	A	L		I	N	C	A		A	B	L	E	
P	H	A	S	E	D	D	I	S	H	A	R	R	A	Y	
S	O	R	E			X	I	T			L	E	A	D	S
				D	E	T		P	L	A	S	M	S		
O	R	A	T	O	R		I	R	I	S					
R	E	N	E	W		F	B	O	M		A	B	U	T	
A	N	T	E	N	A	E	F	A	R	M	E	R	S		
L	O	S	S			E	R	A	S		O	M	E	G	A
				R	O	A	M		S	L	O	P	E	R	
	G	R	O	U	N	D		W	A	E					
T	R	A	P	S			M	O	S		L	C	D	S	
R	O	T	A	T	I	N	G	R	H	O	M	B	I	C	
O	V	E	R			M	A	R	S		S	N	E	E	R
T	E	S	T			D	P	S	T		C	O	R	D	S

Swap n' Shop Cave

There are several items available in the cave. If interested please contact the shop keeper, **Mark KK6UKU** via email ***mkshbow2 at gmail dot com*** or phone **925 339 4212**.

- Heathkit CW transceiver - full system
- Hammarlund HO-180 with speaker
- Can of yellow wire nuts
- Can and bag of various screws
- CSL SINAD
- Grid dip meter
- Garmin NUVI GPS
- various relays, relay mounts and miscellaneous parts



June Calendar

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
						1
2 Net	3	4 10-10 Net HH Net	5 Tech Net	6	7	8
9 Net	10	11 10-10 Net HH Net	12 Tech Net	13	14	15
16 Net	17	18 10-10 Net HH Net	19 Tech Net	20	21 LARK Meeting	22
23 Net	24	25 10-10 Net HH Net	26 Tech Net	27	28	29
30 Net						

LARK MONDAY NIGHT NET
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

April

Date	Net Control
4/7/2025	Ed / AE6D
4/14/2025	EOC
4/21/2025	John / WB6ETY
4/28/2027	Jon / WB6AEA

May

Date	Net Control
5/5/2025	Ron / AD6KV
5/12/2025	EOC
5/19/2025	Ed / AE6D
5/26/2025	John / WB6ETY

June

Date	Net Control
6/2/2025	Jon / WB6AEA
6/9/2025	EOC
6/16/2025	Ron / AD6KV
6/23/2025	Ed / AE6D
6/30/2025	John / WB6ETY

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	Primary Net Control	Backup Net Control
4/3/2025	Brian / KA6ZED	Rich / KN6HSR
4/10/2025	Don / W2DON	Bill / AJ6UU
4/17/2025	Peter / AI6RG	David / K6WOO
4/24/2025	Nate / N8MOR	Noah / N6TW
5/1/2025	Rich / KN6HSR	Brian / KA6ZED
5/8/2025	Bill / AJ6UU	Don / W2DON
5/15/2025	Nate / N8MOR	Peter / AI6RG
5/22/2025	Noah / N6TW	Nate / N8MOR
5/29/2025	Brian / KA6ZED	Rich / KN6HSR
6/5/2025	Don / W2DON	Bill / AJ6UU
6/12/2025	Peter / AI6RG	David / K6WOO
6/19/2025	Nate / N8MOR	Noah / N6TW
6/26/2025	Rich / KN6HSR	Brian / KA6ZED

Regularly Scheduled Nets

LARK/LIVERMORE NET	Every Mon	1900 local 147.120+	PL 100
RACES Net	Every MON.	1900 local	
Windfarms 10-10 NET	Every WED.	1930 local 28.485	USB
HamShack Hotline Net	Every WED.	1900 Bridge 363	PIN 0331
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	EVERYDAY	1200-1400 LOCAL	7.2685 LSB & 3970 LSB
RV RADIO NET	MON - FRI	0800-0930 LOCAL	7.2685 LSB

LARK Contacts

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	kg6wui1 at comcast dot net	925 516 2676
Vice President	Chris Quirk	W6CJQ	w6cjq at yahoo dot com	925 202 1198
Secretary	Ryan Mahoney	W6RAM	ryan dot andrew dot mahoney at gmail dot com	925 786 0640
Treasurer	Peter Bedrossian	AI6RG	treasurer at livermoreark dot org	
Board (PP)	Roger Deming	KK6RD	rogerdeming at yahoo dot com	925 484 1285
Board	David Counts	KG6WIR	dlcounts at sbcglobal dot net	925 895 4698
Board	Nate Moore	N8MOR	nate at nateandamy dot org	925 577 4916
Activities	Jerry Benterou	N5KA	benterou at gmail dot com	925 321 3263
	Steve Nissen	K8YIP	s dot nissen55 at gmail dot com	650 270 3796
Repeater Chair	Ian Parker	W6TCP	w6tcpian at gmail dot com	
Web Site	Arnold Harding	KQ6DI		
Newsletter Editor	Gregory Kiyoi	KN6RUQ	editor at livermoreark dot org	
Membership	Bernie Bernstein	NJ6W	membership at livermoreark dot org	925 858 4608
	Julian Riccomini	WB6BDD	wb6bdd at gmail dot com	
Net Coordinator	Ed Diemer	AE6D	ae6d at arrl dot net	
RFI	Gary Johnson	NA6O	gwj at me dot com	
T-Hunts	Brian Zoraster	KA6ZED	ka6zed at gmail dot com	925 786 8412
	Rich Harrington	KN6FW		
Swap n Shop	Mark Bowers	KK6UKU		925 339 4212
Ask the Elmer	Lee Zalaznik	KI6OY	lee.zalaznik@sbcglobal.net	925 699 5998
Hospitality	Brian Zoraster	KA6ZED	ka6zed at gmail dot com	925 786 8412



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



Special interests: View: AREDN Mesh <http://www.aredn.org>.

CERT NEWS: CERT contact - Email: cert@lpfire.org or (925) 454-2361
 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

AARL MEMBER

ANNUAL DUES # ____ **PRIMARY (\$20.00)** **ADDITIONAL MEMBERS #** ____ **(\$2.00 each)**

TOTAL: \$ MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: LARK. Thank You.

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>.

Thank you and welcome aboard from LARK and the Membership Team.