



# NEWSLETTER

November 2023

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# NOW HEAR THIS!

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

***K6AAN, Mike Dugger***

Greetings everyone,

With most of the large ham radio events behind us for the time being, it is time to focus on holiday celebrations. The Christmas Dinner for our club will be very special indeed this year. We have the Hollywood Cafe on Cherokee Rd. reserved for our December 2 meeting date from 1730 to 2030 hrs. This is a completely private event, and we have the use of the entire restaurant to ourselves. There is plenty of room for 45 people and maybe a few more, depending on interest. The dinner menu is tri-tip or chicken, mashed potatoes, green salad, bread and butter. There will be vanilla ice cream for dessert. Your \$44 reservation covers the meal, soft drinks, and all gratuities. Each reservation also comes with one drawing ticket. Several door prizes will be available, the grand prize being a Yaesu Ft-5DR handheld radio with accessories. Tickets are limited to one per reservation. All reservations must be paid for in advance and none will be available at the door. The club website is setup for online reservation sales or they can be purchased by sending a check to the club mailbox. Club membership is not a requirement to attend the Christmas dinner and anyone interested in amateur radio is welcome. Ticket sales have taken off quickly so don't wait until the last minute to get yours!

Our next meeting is on Thursday November 2, 2023, at Casa Flores Restaurant. We will be discussing 2024 dues and a revision to the club bylaws. Casa Flores will continue to be our meeting location in 2024 unless a better spot is found. The recent Fall weather has provided some very favorable weather for getting out in the field and doing some HF operating. Band conditions have been pretty decent lately as well. If you have any ideas about a field trip to operate in our local area, please share them with our group at the next meeting. Club radios, and other gear are available for any club sanctioned operations. Hope to see many of you on Nov. 2 at Casa Flores!

73, Mike K6AAN



## FROM THE NET DIRECTOR

**N6TCE, Bob Officer**

Good news! This month we welcome back Dave, K6DCL to the roster of active Net Control Stations. This brings us up to a Total of 5 Net Control Operators. I am still looking for 1 or 2 more Net Control Operators. Operating a net is a skillset every amateur operator should seek to have.

This is a tentative schedule of Net Control Stations:

<b>November 2023</b>	<i>11/1 N6DT</i>	<i>11/8 KK6ES</i>	<i>11/15 K6DCL</i>	<i>11/22 K6AAN</i>	<i>11/29 N6TCE</i>
<b>December 2023</b>	<i>12/6 N6DT</i>	<i>12/13 KK6ES</i>	<i>12/20 N6TCE</i>	<i>12/27 K6AAN</i>	-

As usual, I will take the 1st net of the new Year on Jan 3rd.

Bob, N6TCE

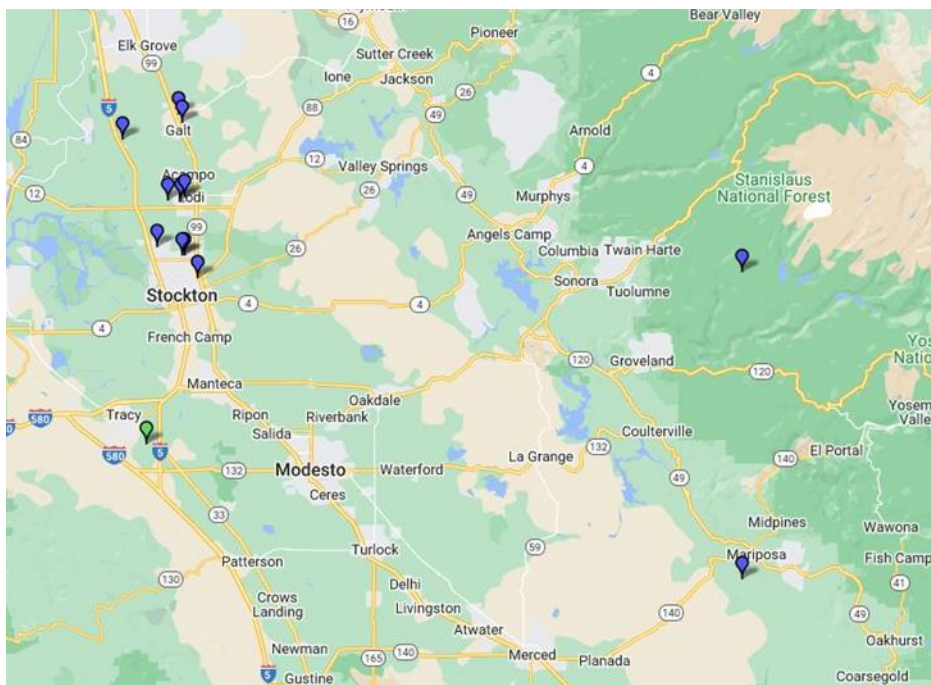
[N6TCE@arrl.net](mailto:N6TCE@arrl.net)

## SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY ARES

**N6TCE, Bob Officer**

October saw the Shake-Out 2023 drill; I consider it a success. I went over the result and my rough draft of the after-action report. OES was interested in the group's ability to get a quick assessment of conditions. I have yet to see the After-Action report from the SJV section.

Below is San Joaquin County's "Did You Feel It" (DYFI) reports.



All drills and exercises are done so we can find our mistakes before a real-life event happen. My goal as the Emergency Coordinator is to get the gaps in coverage filled. Stockton, Manteca and the areas east of the San Joaquin River need to be filled in.

The DYFI report provides "Ground Truth" reports. In any disaster there is always a doughnut hole in the center where information is missing. These DYFI's are important, even more so when you become aware of a quake in your area and you didn't feel it. These intensity maps become important when you take into consideration that different soils can absorb or transmit the energy from a quake differently. As always, anyone

interested in ARES, please contact me or visit "Join San Joaquin ARES" at <https://sjcares.org/join-sjc-ares/>.



# MEMBERS CORNER

## CW OPERATING

Submitted by Mike Zane, this is a good 2 page article on CW Operating from a 2008 old Word Radio Magazine.



### MORSE CODE

## A Basic CW Operating Manual

*Compiled by Dan Stegner, KBØOB, from FISTS CW Club member tips*

**Y**ou are ready to make that first contact. Your palms may be sweating and your heart rate may be racing. That's ok. We've all been there. The first time I called CQ I was very nervous. I didn't think it was possible for fingers to have a stuttering problem but there I was, stuttering with my fingers. Gradually I relaxed and calmed down. The CQ's flowed from my fingertips with fluidity before sailing skyward. "Hey, this is really fun," I thought to myself. Suddenly, the inevitable happened; somebody actually answered! The anxiety returned. "Now, what do I do?" Here is some help with establishing that first contact.

### Answering CQ

Let's suppose you're tuning across the bands and you hear a station calling CQ. The station seems to be sending at a speed you can copy: CQ CQ CQ DE WA3XYZ K

To answer WA3XYZ you just send the following: WA3XYZ DE (your callsign — let's use mine, KCØOB, for our examples) AR.

That's all there is to it. AR is the letters A and R sent with no spaces in between, a procedural signal that means "end of message" or "over." If the band is noisy or you are running low power, you may want to repeat your call sign twice like so: WA3XYZ DE KCØOB KCØOB AR

This is a '1x2.' The other station's call sent once, and yours sent twice. This allows the other station double-check to make sure they got your call right.

If WA3XYZ was able to copy you, that station will then come back with something like:

KCØOB DE WA3XYZ TNX FER CALL UR RST 559 IN...

If WA3XYZ only copied part of your call sign, you may hear one of the following. The station may or may not add DE WA3XYZ depending on the situation: QRZ? (Who's calling me?)

?? (Who's there?)  
KC? (KC something....didn't get the rest of your call sign.)  
OBU? (Got the suffix, but I missed the prefix)

In this case, just send your call sign again.

### Calling CQ

If the band seems to be in good shape, but nobody is calling CQ, you can do the following:

1. Find a frequency that seems to be clear, and listen for a few seconds. Listening is very important.

2. If you don't hear anything, send QRL? and listen for a bit more. Make sure you listen slightly up and down from your transmitting frequency as well. QRL is a Q signal that means this frequency is in use. When you send QRL? you are asking if the frequency is in use. If somebody comes back with C, YES, or QRL, then move to another frequency so you don't interfere. No further response is needed.

3. If you did not hear a response, send QRL? again and listen again. Some stations may take a bit to respond.

4. Still nothing? You can assume the frequency is clear. Immediately send your CQ while the frequency is still open.

The 3x2 CQ call seems to work well for most situations. Call CQ three times, and then send your call twice: CQ CQ CQ DE KCØOB KCØOB K

The final K at the end means you're inviting any station to answer you.

After calling CQ, listen, listen, listen. Listen slightly up and down in case the station trying to answer you is slightly off-frequency. You can miss a return call if you are not listening carefully. If you hear nothing, send another 3x2 CQ call again, and listen. Repeat until either somebody answers or you want to try in another spot. Pretty easy, huh?

The 10x2x3 CQ call (CQ sent ten times followed by your call sign twice, sent three times in a row) is seldom productive.

When stations hear this, they will keep moving up or down the band and you will be scratching your head wondering why nobody is answering your CQ: CQ CQ CQ CQ CQ CQ CQ CQ CQ DE KCØOB KCØOB CQ CQ CQ CQ CQ CQ CQ CQ CQ DE KCØOB KCØOB CQ CQ CQ CQ CQ CQ CQ CQ CQ DE KCØOB KCØOB K

### The QSO

Basically there are three parts to a QSO: The introduction, the middle, and the conclusion. Almost sounds like a term paper. Let's take a look at each of these parts.

#### The Introduction

Once a CQ is answered, the stations first exchange three important pieces of information: RST (a signal report), QTH (location), and Name. So let's suppose I am calling CQ and WA3XYZ answers me. I would then send something like this:

WA3XYZ DE KCØOB GM (GA, GE, GN) TNX CALL UR 559 (579,549, etc) 559 IN TRENARY, MI TRENARY, MI NAME DAN DAN HW? AR WA3XYZ DE KCØOB KN

First I send the other station's call, then DE (which means from) and then my call sign. Then I say good morning (GM), afternoon (GA), evening (GE), or night (GN), whichever is appropriate. Next I say thanks for the call (TNX CALL) and give the RST signal report (UR 559). I then send my QTH or location followed by my name. You can send 'QTH' instead of 'IN'. Don't send 'MY QTH IS' because that would be redundant....sort of like saying 'MY MY LOCATION IS IS'.

'HW?' is short for 'How are you copying me?'. Then I send AR (Over or End of Transmission), WA3XYZ DE KCØOB (so other stations listening will know who we are) and KN which says go ahead to a specific station, which in this example is WA3XYZ.

The other station will then reply



with its information by sending something like the following: KCØOBU DE WA3XYZ R GM DAN NICE TO MEET U UR RST 579 579 QTH PITTSBURGH, PA PITTSBURGH, PA NAME PHIL PHIL HW? AR KCØOBU DE WA3XYZ KN

The R sent after the initial call signs means that the other station copied EVERYTHING that you sent. Don't send R and then ask the other station to repeat part of the information that was sent. If you need the other station to repeat something send 'PSE RPT NAME', or 'RST', or 'QTH', etc. You can also send something like 'NAME?' or 'RST?' in your next transmission, and the other station should understand.

### The Middle

Now, you chat back and forth about whatever you want: the weather, sports, your rigs, antennas, etc., using a format like the following: WA3XYZ DE KCØOBU R blah, blah, blah, AR WA3XYZ DE KCØOBU KN

Then the other station has a turn: KCØOBU DE WA3XYZ R blah, blah, blah, AR KCØOBU DE WA3XYZ KN

Technically, you don't have to send both call signs with each transmission. Some stations just send BK (back to you) and the end of a transmission and then legally identify the station every 10 minutes. Other stations will send both calls with each transmission so those listening will know who they are.

### The Conclusion

To end the QSO just send something like: WA3XYZ DE KCØOBU R blah, blah, blah, OK PHIL TNX NICE QSO HPE CUL 73 VA WA3XYZ DE KCØOBU K

I thank Phil for a nice QSO, say hope to see you later (HPE CUL), send best wishes (73). The VA "run together" (didididadidah) means that's all I have. Similar to AR (didadidadit) except it is only used in the final transmission from your station. Phil will then send his final transmission: KCØOBU DE WA3XYZ R FB DAN TNX QSO 73 VA KCØOBU DE WA3XYZ CL

The CL means that Phil is going to be closing his station and won't be answering any more calls. Phil could also end his call with a "dit dit". I would respond

### A CHEAT SHEET

You might find it helpful to use a cheat sheet that you can refer to when your mind suddenly goes blank. Just fill in it and replace WA3XYZ with the other station's call sign. Is this frequency in use? QRL? (then LISTEN)

Calling CQ CQ CQ CQ DE \_\_\_\_\_ K

Answering another station's CQ WA3XYZ DE \_\_\_\_\_ AR

#### When another station answer's your CQ

WA3XYZ DE \_\_\_\_\_ GM (GA, GE, GN) TNX CALL UR 559 (or 579, 549, etc) 559 IN \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME \_\_\_\_\_ HW? AR WA3XYZ DE \_\_\_\_\_ KN

#### To end the QSO

WA3XYZ DE \_\_\_\_\_ R blah, blah, blah, OK TNX NICE QSO  
HPE CUL VY 73 GM VA WA3XYZ DE \_\_\_\_\_ K

#### If the other station initiates ending the QSO

WA3XYZ DE \_\_\_\_\_ R OK TNX NICE QSO HPE CUL VY 73 VA WA3XYZ DE \_\_\_\_\_

with a single dit. Ending a QSO with the dit dit — dit, or the "shave and a haircut...two bits" is a friendly way of acknowledging that the QSO has ended and you enjoyed the chat. It started back before anyone can remember with one Ham sending 'shave and a haircut' — dahdididahdit — and the other station completing it with 'two bits' — dit dit. It has shortened over the decades to stations sending 'dit dit' and 'dit'.

Please don't fall into the habit of pluralizing. There is no need to send "73s." 73 by itself means "best wishes"; it is not proper to send 73s or 'best wisheses.'

Another tip to remember is that most Procedural Signs (like QTH) already mean phrases, and are intended to reduce the amount of sending you need to do to make your point. You don't need to use extra words when using prosigns like QTH. QTH PA is sufficient, not MY QTH IS....

### A Final Word about Speed

Accuracy transcends speed. Most operators would rather copy slower accurate code with proper spacing than code sent fast with uneven spacing and many mistakes. Speed will come with practice.

Rule of thumb for spacing: The space between letters should be about as long as a dash — which is equal to 3 dits. The space between words should be about as long as two dashes (technically, 7 dits, but it's easier to estimate 'two dashes' since you DON'T want to start counting). Keep in mind that the person on the other end has to decipher your sending, so make it as clear for them as you can. Spacing is just as important as the letters themselves. Without spacing, it's all gibberish! Space between your letters, and pause ever so slightly between words.

It is asking for trouble to call CQ with a speed faster than you can comfortably copy, because that will probably be the speed somebody will use when answering you. Don't get frustrated if the other station doesn't slow down for you, even after you have sent PSE QRS (please send slower). The other station may be pressed for time, in the heat battle during a contest, or has been operating at a fast speed for so long that they have difficulty copying or sending slower. You also need to be courteous. Do not assume that everyone who does not slow down is being a jerk. If you cannot copy the other station, just say SRI TOO FAST, send them a 73 and move on. You are sure to find somebody that you can work. 🌐

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# NETS & MEETINGS



## WEDNESDAY NIGHT NETS

We have two nets, weekly on Wednesday nights:

- 6:30 PM – **Simplex Net**, 147.090 (No offset, No PL)
- 7:00 PM – **Weekly Club Net**, 147.090 (+600 kHz offset, PL is 114.8 Hz)

## CLUB MEETING

Our club meetings are held the first Thursday of each month starting at 6:30 PM, located at **Casa Flores Restaurant, 400 E Kettleman Ln, Lodi CA.**

The meeting starts promptly at 6:30. If you plan to eat dinner then arrive early as usual.

**Lodi Amateur Radio Club**  
1030 S. Hutchins St., Ste. 4-127  
Lodi, CA 95240-5251

[LodiHams@gmail.com](mailto:LodiHams@gmail.com)  
[lodiarc.org](http://lodiarc.org)

# EVENTS

## NOVEMBER 2023 EVENTS & CONTESTS

*Text in blue can be clicked for more information!*

- 2<sup>nd</sup> – **LARC Monthly Club Meeting** at Casa Flores, Lodi!
- 9<sup>th</sup> – **SDARC Meeting** – 7PM, Stockton Sailing Club.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – **Run & Walk Against Hunger** – More info at [w6sf.org](http://w6sf.org). Sign up to volunteer by clicking [Here!](#)



Some artists of the 50's are revising their hits with new lyrics to accomodate baby boomers. Here's a few:

1. Herman's Hermits- Mrs. Brown you've got a lovely walker.
2. The Bee Gees- How can you mend a broken hip.
3. Bobby Darin- Splish Splash I was Having a flash.
4. Ringo Starr- I'll get by with the help from depends.
5. The Commodores- Once, twice, three times to the bathroom.
6. Marvin Gaye- Heard it from the Grape Nuts
7. Leo Sayer- You make me feel like napping.
8. Willie Nelson- On the commode again.
- 9- Procol Harem- A whiter shade of hair.
10. Johnny Nash- I can't see clearly now.
11. Helen Reddy- I am woman hear me snore.
12. Abba- Denture Queen.

*A little humor, submitted by Mike Zane, N6ZW.*

# FOR SALE

## VIRTUAL SWAP MEET



- **ACER 19-inch VGA Monitor – Proceeds will be Donated to the Club**

With power and VGA cables, manual and disk. Used maybe 25 hours as a test monitor for upgrading computers. It has a VGA input but will work with HDMI computer output with a VGA to HDMI cable. This was tested and works fine. Proceeds will be donated to the Club.

Contact Mike Zane for further, [n6zw@comcast.net](mailto:n6zw@comcast.net)

- **EFHW/Random Wire Antennas Information – Available to Borrow**

I have compiled a bunch of info on EFHW and random wire antennas, plus info on how to wind a line choke. Put all into a binder for anyone that wants to borrow it. Articles can be copied if needed, just put originals back in correct order.

Contact Mike Zane, [n6zw@comcast.net](mailto:n6zw@comcast.net)

- **Motorola Radius 2 Meter Radio - \$150.00**

I have a Motorola Radius 2 meter radio mounted in a Motorola rack, with an Astron 7 amp. power supply for sale. This radio has 40 watts output and contains 8 channels that are programmed for 7 local repeaters as well as 146.52 simplex. There is also a Motorola desk microphone included in the package. The radio has an Anderson Power Pole connector installed and is easily used for portable battery operation. This would be an ideal compact 2 meter station radio for a new ham. Price is \$150.

Contact Mike Dugger via email, [sjdep97@gmail.com](mailto:sjdep97@gmail.com)

- **Ameritron, AL1200 – Make reasonable offer**

High Power HF Amplifier covers 160-15M, with an easy convert to 10M. Factory wire for 220-240V. Runs a very cool 1200 watts output, 1/2 hour 1500 Watts. Driving power approx. 100w for FULL output. Weighs 77 lbs., 18 1/2X 17 X 10. Date of purchase 8-12-91. Was used approx. from purchase date until approx. 2005, approx. 3 hours a week during that time. Has been sitting idle in shack since. I no longer need high power. New AL-1200's from MFJ (Ameritron) are approx. \$5,999.95! I also have the QSK-5 (new) but haven't installed it.

If anyone is interested, make an offer, until Mike can find what used ones are going for.

Contact Mike Zane, [n6zw@comcast.net](mailto:n6zw@comcast.net)

- **Hy-Gain AV-18HT – \$ 1,200.00 OBO**

This is for a Hy-Gain AV-18HT 53ft Tower, 10-80m, tilt-over hinged base, has not been used. Pick-up only.

Contact Bob LaRocca, [ke6eang@gmail.com](mailto:ke6eang@gmail.com) or 209-747-3287

- **Antennas – Contact for Details**

Four-element Cushcraft 15M beam. Three-element A3s triband beam; Plus, I "might" have a rotor that will work with either beam.

Contact Mike Zane by email, [n6zw@arrl.net](mailto:n6zw@arrl.net)

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***Interested in posting something for sale here?***

*Please send your request to [LodiHams@gmail.com](mailto:LodiHams@gmail.com) to be considered for the next newsletter, no later than the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month. **Please ensure** to include your contact information to go along for the sale item!*

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