



MTARA NEWS



President Lorna's KJ6GFS Message

Hello, MTARA members ~~

Well, March is here. I, for one, welcome the return of daylight savings time, and the warmer weather. The news on COVID is trending in the right direction, though the experts still recommend taking the usual precautions. For MTARA, that means a continuation of our monthly meetings taking place on ZOOM.

The situation in Ukraine is, of course, of great concern. I was interested to know what part ham radio was playing in communications in Ukraine and in Russia, where so many "normal" means of communications have been disrupted. I Googled the subject, and read ARRL's report that, as of Feb. 24, Ukrainian President Zelensky has ordered all amateur radio operators in Ukraine to immediately cease transmitting, as anyone transmitting was risking his/her life. An early March report indicates that there is excellent compliance with this mandate on the part of Ukrainian hams.

Many thanks to Grandpa Vic (KK6WKI), Dad Roger (W6RJC) and Mom Shannon (KN6IBE) for allowing 6 ½ month-old Augustine (call sign coming soon, I'm sure...) to instruct me in his very effective rain dance. Please note that, after my first lesson, the mountains received a wonderful blast of snow, as well as rain for our down-the-hill members and their neighbors. I'll keep practicing!

Seven three, Everyone ~~ Lorna

Officers

- **President:**
Lorna Polley, KJ6GFS
- **Vice-President:**
Chet Olson, AE6CO
- **Treasurer:**
Nancy Karlson, K6CUB
- **Secretary/Newsletter**
Debbie Johnson, WB6LVC
- **Ed/Membership:**
Tracy Lenocker, WM6T
- **Past Presidents:**
John Snedden, KT7P
Vic Marquez, KK6WKI

The Rim of the World ARES group is an ARRL affiliated organization and part of the Mountain Top Amateur Radio Association

Monthly Club Meetings

Club meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month. Meeting begin at 7:00 p.m. and last until approximately 9:00 p.m.

Our meetings are open to everyone; so bring a friend, and keep the hobby growing.

There is always a presentation that will pique your interest and add to your knowledge.

Until further notice, all meetings will be held on Zoom. When this changes you will be notified of the location.

See you on Zoom!

Membership

Membership in MTARA is open to any individual interested in learning more about Amateur Radio. An FCC issued license is not required, but is encouraged. Membership is on an annual basis, running for the calendar year. There are no prorated membership fees. Club fees are \$20.00 for a single membership and \$30.00 for a family membership. The necessary forms can be found on the club's home page @ MTARA.club. Current members only need to send in their dues to MTARA, PO Box 2441, Lake Arrowhead, Ca. New members will need to download and send in their forms and payment to the same address.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Our ending February Balance was

\$12,439.00

73, Nancy N6CUB

Local Weekly Nets

	Repeater	Time	Activity	Purpose
Monday	MTARA—2	7:00 p.m.	Weekly Check-In	MTARA News
Monday	144.330 MHz	8:00 p.m.	“Gordo Net”	Simplex Readiness
Tuesday	MTARA—5	7:00 p.m.	“Debbie Net”	Educational Topics
Wednesday	HF	7:30 p.m. First Wednesday	7.223 MHz	Band(s) Status
Friday	MTARA—5	5:00 p.m.	YL Happy Hour	It’s Friday
Daily	CBARC	7:00 a.m.	Tech. Net	Elmer Sessions

Upcoming Calendar Of Events

- March 17-18 —Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest (CW)
- March 17—NAQCC CW Sprint
- March 17—BCC QSO Party (CW, Phone, Digital)
- March 19—Loomis Hamfest Loomis, CA <http://w6ek.org>
- April 9—USS Midway Museum Ship Special Event: Doolittle Raid
- April 9-10th—Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Run
- April 14-15—Maritime Radio Day
- April 18-19—World Amateur Radio Day
- May 20-22—Dayton Hamvention, Xenia, Ohio

2022 Yuma Hamfest by WB6LVC

On the weekend of February 18-19, many of our members attended the Yuma Hamfest. It was held at the Yuma County Fairgrounds and was sponsored by Yuma Amateur Radio Hamfest Organization (YARHO). It was also the ARRL Southwestern Division Convention. Due to Covid, the event had not been held for the past 2 years. So, you can imagine how excited Hams were for the return of this activity! Never having attended before, Gary and I were not sure what to expect. We were not disappointed. The committee had put together some great seminars covering topics such as FlexRadio-Advances in SDR, FCC Rules update on RF Hazard Assessment, Red Cross Ready, Slow Scan Television, ABC's of RFI for Hams and a discussion about the new U.S. Department of Agriculture Site/Repeater Fee hosted by Dick Norton/N6AA and Rick Paquette/W7RAP. There were also some activities for non-hams or those wishing for a change of pace. Let me tell you, we were well represented by the MTARA YL's at the Line Dancing seminar! Denise/N6DEE really showed everyone how to own the dance floor. YEE-haw!!

Many people attended for only one day, but most Hams arrived on Thursday to set up their RV's. The fairground provided power, which was very helpful. The RV "village" provided a nice gathering spot for a visit around the "fire" in the evening and just a general location to meet up before or after an activity. On Saturday, those Hams who had attended Quartzfest, gathered at Kristyn and Lyn's RV for the 13th annual Weenie Roast/Potluck. They even gave out raffle tickets and gave away more prizes just as they did at Quartzfest! Speaking of prizes...that's the main event at the BBQ catered dinner. We have never seen so many Grand Prizes. Icoms, Yaesus and more. During the day, there were hourly drawings for both Ham gear and baskets of goodies from the Hospitality Table. Over \$25,000 worth of prizes in all! So, if you have ever considered attending this event, I say put it on your calendar now. It's relaxed, informal and full of fun!



Ponder the Pool by AA6GJ

Ponder the Pool is my column for the MTARA Newsletter. Every month I pick a point to ponder (a question) from one of the three FCC question pools and try to explain it more and review the concepts because,

“If you don’t use it, you lose it!”

This time, I thought I might change it up a little. As you may or may not know, the present Technician Class License question pool is ending on June 30, 2022, and the new pool will become effective July 1, 2022. This means a couple of things:

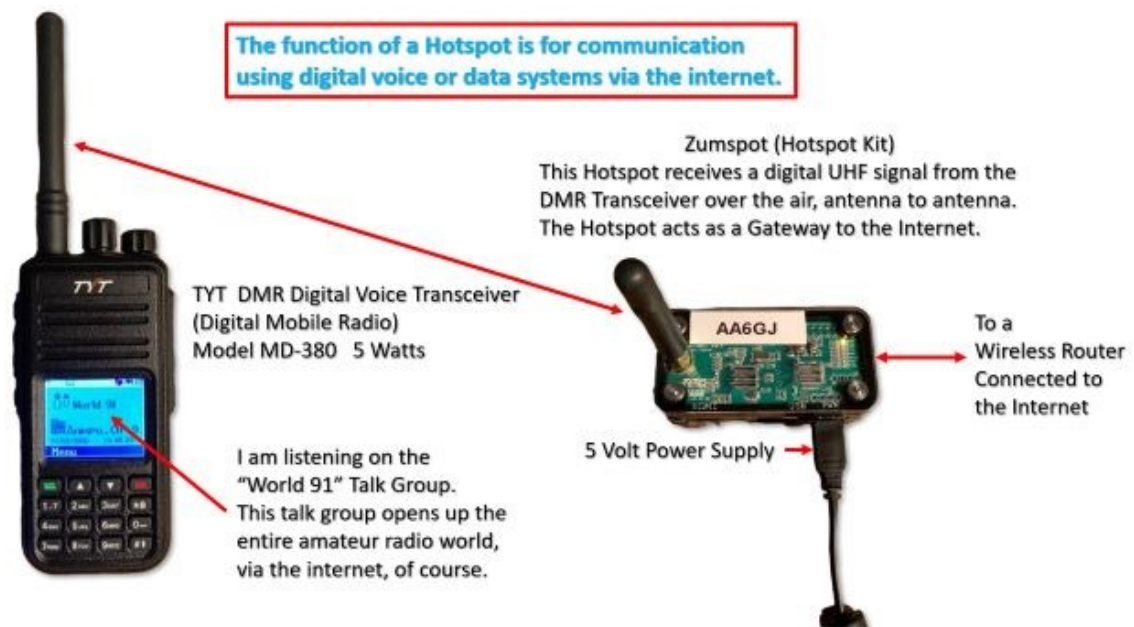
- 1) If you want to take the exam with the present pool, you must do it before June 30, 2022,
- 2) There will be 40 new questions. 51 questions have been removed from the pool. The old pool has 423 questions, and the new pool has 412 questions.

In this “Ponder the Pool” I am going to let you preview a NEW question from the new pool. Many of the new questions are “digital radio” oriented. This is one of them:

New Question No. T4A10

T4A10 – What function is performed with a transceiver and a digital mode hotspot?

A *digital mode hotspot* is a device that is very similar to a Wi-Fi router. The Wi-Fi (Wi-Fi stands for **Wireless Fidelity**) is a facility usually built into a stand-alone router that allows computers, smartphones, smart TVs, or other devices to connect to the internet or communicate with one another wirelessly within a particular area.



An amateur radio hotspot will only connect to a digital voice device or a digital data device. It is a personal, low-power transceiver that is a combination of hardware, firmware, and software that enables an amateur radio operator with internet connectivity to link directly to digital voice (DV) systems around the world. Hotspots can link to DMR, P25, and NXDN talk groups; D-STAR reflectors; YSF rooms; and so on. I use my hotspot as a gateway to the internet for DMR as shown above. The best part of having a hotspot is that it is your own personal DMR repeater. Many repeater systems around the country have digital internet gateway capabilities. If you use the repeater, you tie up the repeater for anyone else to use, not to mention taking up time on the talk group. When I use an HT, as above, the RF energy comes off the rubber duck and transmits to the hotspot antenna. This is the only real radio contact. Once it gets into the hotspot, it is processed by an on-board computer and then retransmitted to your wireless router and sent out over the internet where the opposite function happens on the receive side of the QSO. The other operator could be next door or thousands of miles away where he/she receives the signal via their local repeater or hotspot. Earlier I mentioned a talk group. We learned from our study of the Technician Class License that a talk group is a way for groups of users to share a channel at different times without being heard by other users on the channel. With digital radio, multiple groups can use the same carrier frequency at the same time by routing the voice packets into different groups. A talk group is one with the same group ID programmed into their radios. One of the talk groups I have programmed into my HT is "World 91". This talk group literally reaches around the world, via the internet, of course. Programming this group ID on your HT is accomplished by creating what's called a "Code plug". It's not actually a plug, but a packet of information needed to connect your radio to various talk groups. Creating this code plug can be quite involved and I won't go into it here, but if you are interested, there are many YouTube videos online that can run you through the process. So, there's your sneak preview of one of the new Technician Class License questions that will be available in July. You still have time to get your Tech. license with the old pool, but remember it expires June 30th. Good luck!!

So, there you have it, the official answer to this question is:

T4A10 – Communication using digital voice or data systems via the internet

That's *Ponder the Pool* for another month. I hope it was helpful.

Stay tuned, next month we will come up with another question to ponder. 73 – Gary
If you have any questions or comments, drop me an email at AA6GJ@arrl.net.



<https://vimeo.com/687759628> Click the link to view a short 10-minute QSO via Digital Mobile Radio (DMR)

Mountain Top Amateur Radio Association

The Amateur's Code by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)

The Radio Amateur is:

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

LOYAL offering 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 beyond reproach.

FRIENDLY with slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, co-operation 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.

MTARA Shirts, Jackets, and More

We have many items available with our club logo.

The information for ordering is as follows:

- Name Tags—Harlan Technologies, Name Tags by Gene (715) 340-1299, www.hampubs.com
- Mouse Pads—Check with Jodi, WA6JL
- Polo Shirts—Port Authority K420P Dark Green, L420 Dark Green, K100LS Dark Green. To order, contact Mary at Classic Images, (909) 338-2281, Tuesday through Friday. She will take your information and Callsign to be embroidered on the shirt. When completed, order must be picked at the business located at 23723 Rocky Dell Drive, Crestline, CA 92325
- Jackets—Forest Green or Black. Sizes Small to 6X For pricing and embroidery contact Mary at Classic Images same information as above.



RADIO