



The President's Message

If you missed the monthly meeting on May 7th, you missed out on a great presentation by our club president Vic/ KK6WKI on taking part in activities such as Route 66, Tour de Big Bear, Kodiak 100 and others. He also showed how to use an electronic logbook to keep track of contacts and look up information during events and contests. Vic also had new members and members who had not done this type of “work” run a net while Tracy/WM6T had other operators in another room respond and create pileups, so the operators all got practice in running such activities.

Along with this activity, there was input from club members on how to find nets, other than MTARA's scheduled ones, and work different stations from various locations. Debbie/ WB6LVC had spoken with Dan Zaner/W6VAH at the Big Bear Hamfest about his involvement with the Loma Linda VA Hospital HF station. Dan shared an article with her explaining the origin of the station. He said that they are in need of operators, especially women, to add diversity to their club and its operations. The club runs its nets Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:00am to Noon. If you'd like to read the article, just search for “Redlands Daily Facts. February 18, 2016”.



Take a look at their amazing antenna!

Officers

- **President:**
Vic Marquez, KK6WKI
- **Vice-President:**
Lorna Polley, KJ6GFS
- **Treasurer:**
Nancy Karlson, K6CUB
- **Secretary**
Gail Brarmann, KM6GBN
- **Ed/Membership:**
Tracy Lenocker, WM6T
- **Past Presidents:**
Chrystal Stenberg, KK6API
John Snedden, KT7P
Vic Marquez, KK6WKI
Lorna Polley, KJ6GFS

The Mountain Top 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. The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. and lasts 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.

Meetings are held at the Lake Arrowhead Community Presbyterian Church
351 South State Highway 173, Lake Arrowhead, CA 92352

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

As of May 7, 2024, the Club's Balance was:

\$13,885.00

Income:

\$345.00

73, Nancy, K6CUB

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

- May 17th—19th Dayton Hamvention, ARRL National Convention, Xenia, Ohio
- June 1st—2nd ARRL International Digital Contest
- June 4th MTARA Club Meeting
- June 8th—10th ARRL June VHF Contest
- June 15th Kids Day
- June 22nd—23rd ARRL Field Day
- July 20th—21st North American QSO Party, RTTY
- July 20th CQWW VHF Contest

Big Bear Hamfest

by WB6LVC

On Friday, April 26th. Ham Operators from all over Southern California and beyond drove up through fog and chilly weather to reach Big Bear for an amazing event that had never taken place before. This brand-new event was held on the weekend of April 26-28th. For many years now, there has not been a Hamfest in Southern California. Back in January, Dede Hermon/K6DDZ was at Quartzfest in Arizona. She met with some fellow hams to get their input into having a Hamfest in Big Bear later that year. Everyone thought it would be a great idea. So, along with fellow ham, Nancy Karlson/K6CUB and Tracy Lenocker/WM6T, they began the intense task of planning and producing this event. I am happy to report that it was a major success! Over 300 Hams were in attendance. Friday afternoon was time for registration, "Meet and Greet" and a great banquet. Saturday was a full day of Forums, such as Teaching Ham Radio with Gordon West, Go Bags with YLRL president-Vicki/N6KLS, Solar Panels, Introduction to DXing with Carol Milazzo-KP4MD and so much more. There were various vendors including Hitched4Fun, IMPULSE Electronics, ARRL, the PAPA System and YLRL. Sunday was an Indoor Swap meet with POTA/SOTA activities on your own. It was a very busy weekend for all. If you didn't make this year, be sure to join in the fun next year. I am happy to report that plans are already in the works for an even bigger event. So put that on your calendar for April 25-27, 2025!



75th International DX Convention 2024

by WB6LVC

On April 11, Gary and I packed up the Jeep and headed up north to Visalia. We were on our way to the DX convention being held in Visalia, CA from 4/12-4/14. This would be our second time attending the event, and this year I would work with Gayle Olson/K6GO, presenting topics at the YLRL Forum. Along with Gayle, Vicki Zumwalt/N6KLS, the YLRL President, would speak to the group and discuss aspect of the organization and how the club is there to help ladies in Ham Radio through meeting up with other members on ZOOM District Meetings, reading the group's publication-*YL Harmonics*, getting on nets created for women and taking part in YL contests. On Friday morning, we went next door, from our hotel to the convention center to pick up our registration packet. There were some seminars on that day, but Saturday was where the action was. Many of the meetings were presentations from hams who had been on DXpeditions, sharing information about the trip, who made up the crew, the equipment they took, what the travelling conditions were like, and, finally, what happened when they made it to their location and set up camp. There were vendors, but not as many as we have seen at Pacificon and other hamfests. This type of convention is much more specific, so only vendors related to DX are usually there. On Saturday evening and Sunday morning, we were treated to the pleasant words of our emcee, Josh Nass/KI6NAZ. You may know him from HamNation and his Ham Radio Crash Course on YouTube. He was terrific! At the end of each of these events, there was a prize drawing. And what prizes there were...Yaseu, FlexRadio, ICOM, Rig Expert, Elecraft, DX Engineering and many more. But these were BIG prizes such as transceivers, \$500 gift certificates, antenna analyzers-just amazing. It was a terrific way to end a fun weekend. BTW, we did not win anything other than the super interaction with fellow hams. But that was more than enough of a reward.



Ponder the Pool

by AA6GJ

Ponder the Pool is a way for us as Amateur Radio Enthusiasts to dive into selected questions more deeply from each of the current FCC pool of questions used to create the randomly generated Examinations for the Technician, General, and Amateur Extra License. Ponder the Pool is helpful to individuals who are studying for an exam or simply to review concepts that we have already learned.

Because, as we know, if we don't use it, we lose it.

The question we will ponder today comes from the new General Class pool.

Question: *G5A05 – What is the solar flux index??*

The Solar Flux Index (SFI) is a measure of solar radio emissions, specifically, the amount of radio noise or flux that is emitted by the Sun at a frequency of 2800 MHz, which corresponds to a wavelength of 10.7 cm. This is why it's also referred to as the 10.7 cm flux index.

The SFI is measured in solar flux units (SFUs), with one SFU equivalent to 10^{-22} watts per square meter per hertz. The SFI provides an indication of the level of ionization in the Earth's upper atmosphere, which can affect radio wave propagation. It's particularly useful in the field of amateur radio, where it can help operators predict the best frequencies for long-distance communication.

Please note that higher SFI values indicate higher levels of solar activity, which can lead to improved conditions for certain frequencies. However, high solar activity can also lead to geomagnetic storms that may disrupt communications. So, it's a bit of a double-edged sword.

Here's why it's helpful:

Indicator of Solar Activity: The F10.7 index is an excellent indicator of solar activity⁴. It reflects the level of ionization in the ionosphere, which is primarily affected by solar radiation². Higher levels of ionization mean higher maximum usable frequencies and better High Frequency (HF) conditions².

Predicting HF Band Conditions: For any HF DXer (long-distance radio operator), understanding the SFI is crucial to predict what band conditions may be like². Conditions can vary significantly from day to day, and the SFI can provide insights into these changes².

Space Weather Forecasting: The SFI is used in space weather forecasting. It can help predict geomagnetic and ionospheric storms, which can affect various technologies on Earth².

Long-running Record: The F10.7 index is one of the longest-running records of solar activity, making it a valuable tool for studying long-term trends and cycles⁴.

Remember, a higher SFI generally indicates better conditions for HF radio propagation, but it can also be associated with increased geomagnetic activity, which can cause disruptions². Understanding these indices and their implications is a key skill for anyone involved in activities affected by space weather.

That is why the official answer to this question is:

G5A05 – A measure of solar radiation with a wavelength of 10.7 centimeters

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



Source: Conversation with Bing, 5/8/2024

[What Does the Solar Flux Index Mean? - Heartland Hams](#)

[Space Weather: F10.7 Indices - NWRA](#)

[F10.7 cm Radio Emissions - NOAA / NWS Space Weather Prediction Center](#)

Amateur Radio Exams Now Online or In-Person! No Paper! All Electronic! Very Cool!

with K6DDZ & AA6GJ

Now that MTARA is back to in-person meetings, amateur radio testing will be offered before each meeting. Testing will cover all three elements (Technician, General and Amateur Extra). Remote (online) testing is also available by appointment.

For MTARA in-person or remote testing, please go to **K6DDZ.com - Amateur Radio Testing Made Simple.**

ONLY ONE CLICK to:

Order Gordon West's study materials

HamStudy.org Practice Tests (all levels)

Schedule a Test (in-person or remote)

Get Your FCC Registration Number (FRN)

Pay for Your Test

...and even click to Gary's (AA6GJ) video training for more in-depth knowledge

Let's keep it simple! Any questions, email Dede Hermon at DedeK6DDZ@gmail.com

And if you are DTH (Down the Hill)

You can test all classes of license with the

**West End Amateur Radio
Group**



That's my team AA6GJ and the Group

If you are interested, drop me an email at AA6GJ@arrl.net to set a time, either online or in-person or to just get information. We can help you with your FRN, too.

73,

Gary

<https://GaryRJohnson.org>

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 commu-

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 510L Dark Green, 510K Dark Green, Long Sleeve Dark Green.—Check with Brandy
- Jackets—Forest Green or Black J317. Sizes Small to 6X
- Brandy will also embroider hats. You must supply the hat.
- Contact:

Hurt Ink

2651 Coleen Lane

San Bernardino, CA 92407

(909) 815-6852

hurtink815@gmail.com

www.hurtink.com

