January 2026 RCARA Monitor

Happy New Year! Hopefully everyone had a fun but safe new years eve celebration. Where did 2025 go?!?!

This is Mike, KM6LOR. I have started working on the RCARA Monitor for 2026. I'm still trying to figure out what to add into W6TJ's newsletter. And whether or not to use a template for newsletters or to just keep it simple. Please let me know what the club prefers. And how often to send out a newsletter (I'm thinking monthly). There are events coming up soon, so I figured that I'd keep this month's newsletter simple.

RCARA celebrated the club's holiday party on December 11, 2025. The club had a white elephant gift exchange, and raffled off some prizes, including a gift card. The club is still looking for a Club President if anyone is interested.

Winter Field Day is rapidly approaching. Field Day this year will be January 24-25, 2026. This years Winter Field Day will be at Fairmount Park at the same location Summer Field Day was in June 2025. One $100 gift card and two $50 gift cards will be auctioned off. FYI Summer Field Day 2026 may be moving to another location at Fairmount Park. More news on this to come.

Did you know that the club has an account at the local blood bank? W6TJ has an account with Life Stream (the blood bank). When you donate, all you have to do is mention "Amateur Radio Association of Riverside." Just let Ron (KE6RYX) know once you've made a donation.

I thought I'd add a little history of Ham Radio into the newsletter. I found this information on a website called Ham Radio Planet:

James Clerk Maxwell presented his theory of the electromagnetic field in 1873. His work laid the foundation for understanding radio waves. Maxwell’s equations showed how electric and magnetic fields interact and propagate, a crucial insight for later radio technology. Guglielmo

Marconi took Maxwell’s theory and applied it practically. In 1901, Marconi achieved a milestone by successfully transmitting a radio signal across the Atlantic Ocean. This demonstrated the potential for long-distance wireless communication. These early experiments were pivotal. They demonstrated that electromagnetic waves could be used for communication over vast distances, paving the way for future advancements in radio technology.

In 1912, the United States government began issuing the first amateur radio licenses. This marked a significant milestone as it brought formal regulation to the growing hobby of amateur radio. Prior to this, there were no licensing requirements, and enthusiasts could operate their equipment freely. The Radio Act of 1912 was passed by Congress to curb interference and organize the radio spectrum. This act required all amateur radio operators to be licensed and set specific frequency limits for their operations. It also marked the beginning of a more structured approach to radio communication. Licensing was managed by the Department of Commerce. The first licenses issued under this act represented a new era of accountability and standards in radio communication. The introduction of licenses helped organize the airwaves and ensured that amateur operators adhered to best practices. This move was essential in the development of amateur radio and laid the groundwork for what it would become in the future. The regulation ensured that operators maintained a level of professionalism and responsibility in their transmissions.

I'll look for more interesting bits of information to add into the next RCARA Monitor. If you have any ideas for the newsletter, please let me know!

Mike, KM6LOR