



The MONITOR



Keeping Riverside County Wireless Since 1955



Newsletter for the Riverside County Amateur Radio Association

— ARRL Affiliated Club #1720 — ISSN 2475-4579 —

Volume 62, Issue 2, February 2017

EmComm Survival Training

Written by: Marlene KK6CTX

If you missed the January 2017 RCARA meeting, you lost out on a great presentation. Rick KK6CTT and his team, Ray N6KZM, Omar W6OXA, Mike AI6PD and Bob KG6NIB went to great lengths to display and explain several different types of Ham Radio “Go Boxes” designed to be operational off the grid and in the field in times of need. Each unit was different and ranged from high-end in cost to simplistic and economical. The combined and individual creativity and functionality was amazing.

Rick gave a phenomenal talk about the necessity of being prepared and knowing what to do by planning ahead and being familiar with limitations. It didn’t end there because he gave hints and tips on how to accomplish what it takes to become better structured and organized. The audience hung on his every word and asked questions so they could enhance their own situation.

The “Show and Tell” session was one of the best! We were talked through the equipment in each box, how it was constructed, the components usage and in some cases, the cost and where they could be purchased. It was interesting to see the similarities yet how they differed from each unit.

Member reactions were extremely positive and “best meeting ever” was heard more than once. Questions were answered with ease and in understandable responses and uncomplicated.

Thank you Rick, Ray, Omar, Mike and Bob for your energies and dedication in keeping RCARA and the ham world informed and knowledgeable. Your collective skills are much appreciated and we look forward to more of the same in the future. Photos will be posted soon.

See pictures of the Go Boxes by clicking on this link: [PICTURES](#)



**Who
Are
You?**

Rick Schirmer KK6CTT:

I started my lengthy journey as a city-dwelling, part-time outdoors person in the Boy Scouts, Troop 64 here in Riverside, where I progressed to outdoor activities as a teenager with a high school buddy who still gets me out to do ...

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Written By:

Duane Allen, KK6EE

Acting Secretary

Pledge of Allegiance and introductions. At least 20 club members were present.

Club Past President Ron Braley KE6RYX moved approval of \$200 reimbursement to Jim Wiley for club administrative expenses. The motion was seconded and approved by membership.

Club President Marlene Odebralski KK6CTX moved approval of \$100 contribution to La Sierra University Seventh-day Adventist Church for continuing use of the Educational Building in 2017. The motion was seconded and approved by membership.

Club Treasurer Jim Wiley AG6EA reported on bank signature card status for the 2017 Club officers.

Club Member Duane Allen KK6EE announced Technician class license training and a 2017 strategic planning meeting in January.

Club President Marlene Odebralski KK6CTX made announcements regarding the Field Day committee and exhibiting ham radio at the Riverside Air Show. She also encouraged membership to communicate ideas and requests for month meeting presentations with Club Vice President Michael Rankin N6TXR.

Club W6TJ Trustee Don Williams KD6UVT announced the need and opportunity for radio operators in support of the March 4 Diamond Lake Marathon.

The presentation by Rick KK6CTT focused on emergency preparedness. Rick KK6CTT, Mike AI6PD, Omar W6OXA, Bob KG6NIB, and Ray N6KZM presented the features, radio and power capabilities, and cost of their individual communication GO boxes.

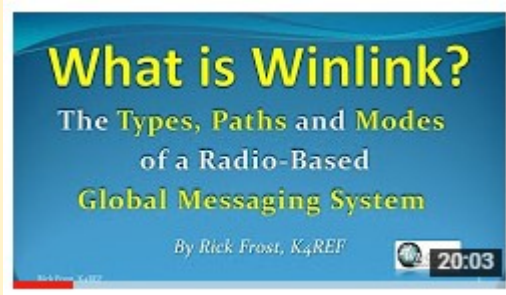


Next Month:

At our February 9th meeting, Rich Palmer, KK6CXA, will be our guest speaker. His presentation topic will be: [WinLink](#) 101.

WinLink, is a worldwide radio messaging system that uses amateur band radio frequencies to provide radio interconnection services that include email with attachments, position reports, weather bulletins, message relay, this mode of communications has been used effectively with emergency relief communications.

The presentation will include a live demonstration, and Q&A session.



★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!



FEBRUARY BIRTHS

Loreen Wynja KF6ACY
February 8

Ron Braley KE6RYX
February 14

Bil Seymour WA6MOD
February 19

Chris Maness KQ6UP
February 24

W6TJ MONDAY NIGHT "NET"



The club provides communications support during many Public Service Events throughout the year. A weekly RACES net is held to foster emergency preparedness every Monday evening at 7:00 PM on the W6TJ club repeater (146.88 MHz, -600 KHz offset with a PL of 146.2 Hz). This 2M Monday net provides bulletins of upcoming club activities and events.

It is also possible to check into the Net via the W6TJ Box Springs 224.460 MHz Repeater (- offset with a PL of 110.9 Hz) which is linked to our 2M repeater.





PRESIDENTIAL "QSO"



To Members of RCARA:

As previously posted, the January 12 meeting and presentation was awesome. It was well attended in spite of the rainy weather. Check out our Face Book page for details and be sure to join us there:



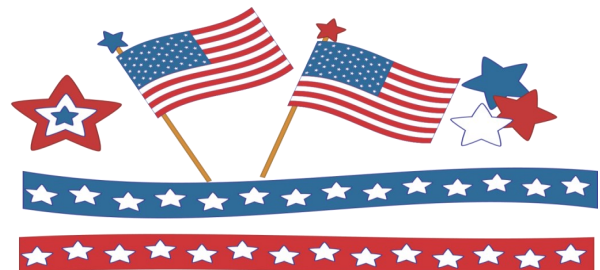
<https://www.facebook.com/RCARA.W6TJ>

I believe we are off to a good start with the changes at hand. It is my hope that we will have many more members step forward and volunteer their time and knowledge to enhance the upcoming events and monthly programs. Let's all lend our support and grow the club by adding new members ... bring a friend to the meetings/events and help spread the word about RCARA. New members are especially encouraged to participate and share your talents. All skill levels are needed.

A "rag chew" type net will be added in the near future on the W6TJ repeater (frequency: 146.280 – Input, 146.880 – Output, - 600 Hz, PL = 146.2 Hz) to encourage use by new members as well as longtime associates and those who tend to be mic shy. The net is scheduled to follow the regular 7:00 PM weekly Monday night net at about 8:00 PM. We hope you will join in and make suggestions for potential topics and even volunteer to be a guest net operator. Let me know if you are willing to help establish this new venue.

How about coming out to the Riverside Airshow on April 1 and spend some time at our booth. Let Larry WA6PMY know how and when you will participate ...

Field Day plans are in the mix as well. We always enjoy a spectacular pot luck, lots of camaraderie, meet new friends and get reacquainted with those from the past. You will experience many great opportunities to see some new ideas, test equipment and gain new knowledge about ham radio. The annual Anniversary of RCARA will be celebrated in August with a pot luck dinner. It will be 62nd year as a club!



It may seem like a lot to digest all at once, but a small step in the right direction goes a long way.

Cheers, 73 and welcome to our world!

~Marlene KK6CTX



Public Interest

The 'Big One' is coming in 2017: A total solar eclipse

Submitted By: Don Williams KD6UVT

Our October program on the NRAO or National Radio Astronomy Observatory and its various facilities throughout the US and the world gave us some insight in the use of radio waves to explore the heavens, universe and galaxies. A forerunner to radio observation of astronomy was optical observations which many hams share as a hobby. One can conclude that visible light at 400 to 790 tetra Hertz, 380 to 760 nanometres or 1000 times our UHF and microwave privileges, is a form of extremely high radio frequencies and therefore within the confines of our hobby! USA Today's "The 'Big One' is coming in 2017: A total solar eclipse" gives us all the details for many of next year's astronomical events that can be seen by the naked eye.

Just after sunset on January 1 we can witness a crescent moon and Venus in the southwestern sky. We will find that Mars makes it a trio on January 2nd and again on January 31st.

February 11 features a penumbral lunar eclipse, the moon moves in to the lighter shadow of the earth.

Jupiter joins the sky on April 7th and again on April 10th, May 7th and June 3rd.

We should see the Orionid meteor shower in the sky on or near October 21st; the Leonid meteor shower should follow on November 17th. Check a day before and after both dates since meteor showers don't always respect our predictions.

Lastly the big event in 2017 is the Total Solar Eclipse on August 21st. Southern California is not the most opportune place to witness the eclipse; we'll see some darkening but to really experience it you need to be directly in its path. Plan a road trip to the eclipse in totality with this link: Xavier Jubier's 2017 Total Eclipse Interactive Google Map! Note there may be some problems opening the link with Mac computers but I am hoping they get it fixed by the time you read this.

Again, follow the USA Today link for their full article:



USA TODAY NETWORK Dean Regas, Special to The Cincinnati Enquirer

Published 5:13 p.m. ET Dec. 27, 2016 | Updated 8:16 a.m. ET Dec. 29, 2016



TECH Talk

Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS)

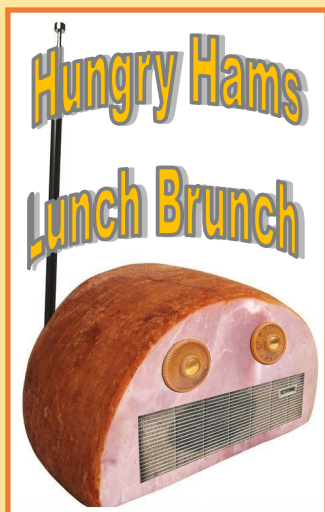


Submitted By Ray G-J N6KZM

APRS was developed by Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, as a real-time local tactical communications system for rapidly exchanging digital data of immediate value to operations. This really took off when GPS became available and MAPS were integrated into the system for tactical situational awareness of everything in the net. In the 18 years since its introduction, it has grown to encompass just about every aspect of Amateur Radio.

APRS is now in its 21st year! APRS is digital communications information channel for Ham radio. As a single national channel (see map at right), it gives the mobile ham a place to MONITOR for 10 to 30 minutes in any area, at any time to capture what is happening in ham radio in the surrounding area. Announcements, Bulletins, Messages, Alerts, Weather, and of course a map of all this activity including objects, frequencies, satellites, nets, meetings, Hamfests, etc. The APRS network has grown to most countries with strong Amateur Radio population

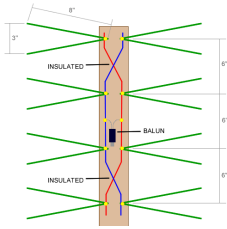
To learn more about APRS, click on the discussion icon to the right:



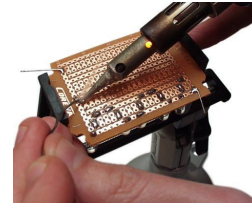
The Hungry Hams Lunch Bunch will meet on Tuesday, February 14 2017, at the "Back Street Cafe," at 11:00 a.m. Please join us for some socializing and ham camaraderie.

Let Marlene KK6CTX know if you will be attending so she can make adequate reservations: xmadamxx@aol.com



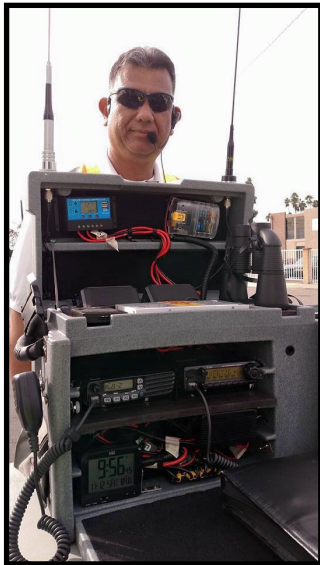


Home Brew



EmComm Go Box

Submitted by: Ray G-J N6KZM



The best way to describe a go-box is a complete amateur radio station in a box. There are many examples where this has been achieved, but usually the biggest issue is the power source and the associated weight. In other words, batteries are not light. The easiest solution to this issue is to have the batteries, if used, external to the actual go-box itself. One method which is appealing is to use a battery box. In particular, a battery box intended for marine use (with small electric trolling motors).

So, based on a recent conversation with CERT EmComm leaders, I decided that I needed to build a CERT specific EmComm Go Box (no HF work will be done with this box; I have a Icom IC-7000 in a MFJ EmComm kit for HF work). My intent is to have this EmComm Box build completed before the "Festival of Lights" (FOL) event in the City of Riverside. The CERT EmComm people will be running event communications for all CERT participants.

I will be basing my build around a Long Range Fishing Tackle Box, made by SKB; that has been collecting dust in my storage unit. This will be a self contained system with access to AC, DC, and solar power sources; access will be simultaneously or individually. [Learn More](#)

Rick Schirmer KK6CTT: *(Continued from page 1:)*

**Who
Are
You?**

adventures like hiking the Grand Canyon, Half Dome and Mount Washington. In the military I spent 15 years on active duty and another 10 years with the CA Army National Guard as an Infantry Soldier to include Battalion Scout and Long Range Surveillance assignments that included Ranger and Airborne duties for most of my career. My travels with the military have taken me to Central America, Europe, Asia and the Middle East. Eventually, I switched gears to be a better family man and have filled the void with volunteer work with the Riverside Fire Department's CERT program and enjoy conducting a weekly net with the Riverside Emergency Communication Group discussing all things CERT, Preparedness, safety and related gear

Just 10 days after being introduced, the 2017 Amateur Radio Parity Act legislation, [H.R. 555](#), passed the U.S. House of Representatives this week on unanimous consent under a suspension of House rules. The bill's language is identical to that of the 2015 measure, H.R. 1301, which won House approval late last summer after attracting 126 co-sponsors, but failed to clear the U.S. Senate last fall as the 114th Congress wound down. H.R. 555 calls on the FCC to establish rules prohibiting the application of deed restrictions that preclude Amateur Radio communications on their face or as applied. Deed restrictions would have to impose the minimum practicable restriction on Amateur Radio communications to accomplish the lawful purposes of homeowners association seeking to enforce the restriction.



Legislation

Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES)



The **Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES)** is a standby radio service provided for in Part 97.407 of the [Federal Communications Commission \(FCC\)](#) rules and regulations governing [amateur radio](#) in the [United States](#). The concept of a standby "Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service" to replace the conventional "Amateur Radio Service" during wartime was developed in 1952 as result of input from the [American Radio Relay League](#) and the Department of the Army's [Office of Civil Defense](#).

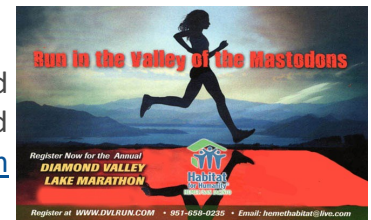
The Riverside County RACES is under the direction of the Riverside County Emergency Management Department, Community Readiness Division. [Click Here](#) for the web page.

UPCOMING EVENT: W6TJ Trustee Don Williams KD6UVT requests the need and opportunity for radio operators in support of the March 4 Diamond Lake Marathon. Contact Don if you wish to participate: kd6uvt@mac.com



Visit Us on Facebook

Click on the image to the right:



Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES)



The **Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES)** consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment, with their local ARES leadership, for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes. Every licensed amateur, regardless of membership in ARRL or any other local or national organization is eligible to apply for membership in ARES. Training may be required or desired to participate fully in ARES. Please inquire at the local level for specific information by clicking on the image to the left.

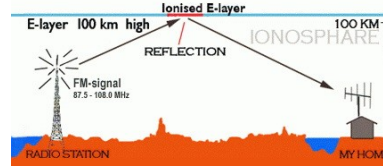
Membership is open to all licensed amateur radio operators, to register, www.aresnwrc.org and click on Register with ARES. Meetings are held the Second Monday of each month, at the Riverside Red Cross Chapter, 6235 River Crest Dr., Suite A, Training Rm. 3, Riverside, CA

Weekly-on-the air net is held on Thursdays at 7 PM, on the K9KAO Box Springs repeater, 145.360 - pl 91.5. Visitors are always welcomed. Next meeting/training session is February 13th

UPCOMING EVENT: Northwest Riverside County ARES District will partner with Riverside Chapter of the Red Cross on February 11th, a half day simulated emergency exercise. The focus is readiness. The Red Cross will set-up shelters throughout Western Riverside county and ARES will provide radio communications support by testing their emergency net activation, call-out procedures, message handling and setting up relay stations. This is the second training exercise conducted with ARES since the establishment of an MOU agreement to assist the Red Cross with emergency communications last year.



NW RIVERSIDE ARES
SERVING NORTHWEST RIVERSIDE COUNTY



DXing is the hobby of receiving and identifying distant [radio](#) or [television](#) signals, or making two way radio contact with distant stations in [amateur radio](#), or other two way radio communications. Many DXers also attempt to obtain written verifications of reception or contact, sometimes referred to as "[QSLs](#)" or "veries". The name of the hobby comes from DX, [telegraphic shorthand](#) for "distance" or "distant".

The practice of DXing arose during the early days of [radio broadcasting](#). Listeners would mail "reception reports" to radio broadcasting stations in hopes of getting a written acknowledgement or a QSL card that served to officially verify they had heard a distant station. Collecting these cards became popular with radio listeners in the 1920s and 1930s, and reception reports were often used by early broadcasters to gauge the effectiveness of their transmissions. Although international shortwave broadcasts are on the decline, DXing remains popular among dedicated shortwave listeners.



How to Identify Chinese Radio Stations

By [Mika Mäkeläinen](#)

Source: http://www.dxing.info/articles/identifying_Chinese_radio_stations.dx

China is one of the few countries increasing its presence on the medium wave (AM) radio dial, as DXers have been able to observe. Identifying Chinese stations can however be tricky if you don't understand the language. With this guide you will learn how to identify Chinese stations based on just a few keywords and phrases. Don't let the language barrier intimidate you, because DXing Chinese stations can be extremely exciting and rewarding.

Standard Chinese (*Putonghua*) is the official language both in the People's Republic of China and the Republic of China (Taiwan). It is a spoken form of Chinese based on the Beijing dialect of Mandarin Chinese. In this article we won't delve into written Chinese and its thousands of characters, nor the four tones of the language, but will instead use a phonetic transcription known as *pinyin*, which will help you to recognize Chinese words as you hear them.

Not all Chinese-language radio stations originate from China, and on the other hand, not all broadcasts from China are in the Chinese language. First we'll learn how to tell the difference between Chinese-language stations in mainland China and the rest of East Asia. In the very end of the article we will also briefly discuss some of the many minority languages that can be heard on stations in mainland China.

This article is a practical guide to understanding Chinese station identifications. Therefore, let's assume that you've heard an AM station, which you think could be Chinese, and you even have a recording of what might be the ID. Listings of Chinese stations are of course an essential reference guide, but with these instructions you can probably figure out your ID and also learn a lot along the way.

When you're hearing Chinese language on the AM or shortwave dial, the first question is whether the broadcast is from the People's Republic of China or elsewhere. There are two main clues that can point to mainland China: a time announcement where Beijing is mentioned, and the use of the word "people" (*renmin*) in the station identification.



EDITORIAL



Hello Fellow Members!

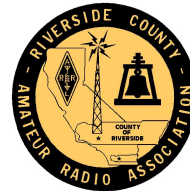
The MONITOR” is continuing to evolve. I am sure you noticed the “Who Are You?” section on the first page. In an effort to better know the members of our club, I will publish a brief biography or bio of different members each month. Knowing the person next to you at a meeting or at an event, will eliminate the uncomfortable thought of “Who is this guy/gal next me?”

In this issue, I included the following sections: Tech Talk, Home Brew, DX’ing, Legislation, Editorial, & something called “For the Good of RCARA.” The purpose of the section is to publish statements such as compliments or criticisms about some program or activity that the organization had undertaken. It is hoped this section will stimulate some critical thinking and help us to strive to better our club.

If you have any material for The MONITOR; please forward it me at n6kzm@rivecg.net.

Ray N6KZM

For the Good of



Welcome to our newest section in the newsletter. As the section name implies, we want to share information that will stimulate critical thinking and cultivate a healthy organization.

As most know, our amateur radio hobby is filled with challenges. When we turn on our radios, we seek instant contact with friends and fellow radio operators. Most times, we can make that contact; other times we will make adjustments to antennas, power supplies, and other devices to stretch out and grab that contact. During those moments of experimentation, we always have a question or two rattling around in your head. Some of us will call someone on a land line or drive to a friend’s home and pick their brain. Now you have a new option; the members of the Riverside Emergency Communications Group or Riverside ECG created an online discussion portal and information clearing house particular to radios, communications, and disciplines connected to our hobby.

RCARA has a portal category dedicated to club operations, events, and discussions. You are invited to become a user of the portal; just click on the images below and the right:





Mark Your Calendars

EVENTS



We will have a booth and therefore will need members stationed at the booth.
Contact Larry WA6PMY



Granite Creek Community Church, 1580 N. Claremont Bl., Claremont, CA 91711
3rd Saturday of the month, 6 AM – 11 AM



2017 Yuma Hamfest & ARRL Arizona Section Convention
February 17-18, 2017



Don't Forget...

FIELD DAY: Details will be forthcoming as they develop

Last weekend of June
Sat./Sun. June 24-25, 2017



RECURRING EVENTS

RACES PUBLIC SERVICE NET, 3.945 MHz
Every Sunday at 8:30 AM
Don Williams KD6UVT kd6uvt@mac.com

RACES/ARES PUBLIC SERVICE NET,
146.880 MHz, Neg. Offset, 146.2 PL
Every Monday at 7:00 PM
Marlene KK6CTX xmadamxx@aol.com

RACES/ARES "SIMPLEX" PUBLIC SERVICE NET,
146.880 MHz, NO PL
Last Monday of the month at 7:00 PM
Marlene KK6CTX xmadamxx@aol.com

VE Testing, Corona TBD
1ST Saturday of the month 1:30 PM By appointment only

RACES MEETING
2080 Lemon St., Downtown Riverside
1ST Monday of the month 6:00 PM
Don Williams KD6UVT kd6uvt@mac.com

RCARA monthly meeting
2nd Thursday of the month 7:00 PM
Marlene KK6CTX - xmadamxx@aol.com

Riverside EmComm Group Net
KB6OZX 445.060 MHz, Neg. Offset, PL 162.2
Every Wednesday at 7:00 PM
Rick KK6CTT kk6ctt@rivecg.net

Amateur Radio Swap Meet, Cable Airport, Upland
2ND Saturday of the month 7:00 AM
IEARC Karen KJ6HFX karen92316@yahoo.com

2017 Board of Directors

President: Marlene Odebralski KK6CTX xmadamxx@aol.com

Vice President: Mike Rankin N6TXR - mrankin@me.com

Treasurer: Jim Wiley AG6EA – jameswwiley@att.net

Secretary: Donna Beveridge KK6UDF – ntlc01@charter.net

Newsletter Editor: Ray Gayton-Jacob N6KZM - n6kzm@rivecg.net

Membership Chair: Ed Morgan KF6BNQ – edjmorg@aol.com

Communications Director: Larry Junker WA6PMY - larryandmelba@junker-family.com

Appointed Club Positions

Club Historian: **vacant (volunteer needed)**

Club photographer: Steve Evans AF6HR – kf6bnp@aol.com

Sunshine Chairman: Art Sutorus AA6CA – aa6ca@att.net

Web site Administrator: Mike Riiff KA6VPW – mriiff2@gmail.com

W6TJ Trustee: Don Williams KD6UVT – kd6uvt@mac.com

Grant Administrator: Donna Beveridge KK6UDF - ntlc01@charter.net

Repeater Maintenance & Blood Bank Chairman: Ron Braley KE6RYX

Immediate Past President: Ron Braley KE6RYX - (951) 369-5149

Annual dues for 2017 are now payable

RCARA Membership is currently \$15.00 per calendar year per person (new memberships are pro-rated). Membership includes a Membership Card, W6TJ Two Meter Repeater Auto Patch Access Codes for local telephone calling, a Club Roster, access to THE MONITOR Monthly Newsletter, Club Voting Rights and Board of Directors Membership eligibility.

Please remit your payments to Membership Chairman Ed Morgan KF6BNQ . Renewal forms are available through our web site, [Click Here](#). If you have questions about RCARA membership, Ed can be contacted in the following manner:

Phone: (951) 689-1917 or EMAIL: edjmorg@aol.com

REFERENCE LINKS

ARRL WEB SITE

<http://www.arrl.org/>

QRZ WEB SITE

<http://www.qrz.com>

Ham Radio Outlet

<http://www.hamradio.com>

Eham WEBSITE

<http://www.eham.net>

RADIO MANUALS

<http://www.manualman.com>

REPEATER LIST

<http://rprrlist.w6ipl.ampr.org/>

Ham Radio: The Original Social Network

<http://73s.com/>

ALL ABOUT BATTERIES

<http://www.batteriesamerica.com>

ECHOLINK

<http://www.echolink.org/>

Maidenhead Grid Square Locator Map

http://www.levinecentral.com/ham/grid_square.php

<p>* * ARRL - Orange Section * * Counties of Inyo, Orange, Riverside & San Bernardino Click-Here</p>	<p>* * Amateur Radio Emergency Service - ARES * * Northwest Riverside County Click-Here</p>
<p>* * Communications SITES * * International Headquarters http://www.Communicationsintl.org</p>	<p>* * SALVATION ARMY * * S.A.T.E.R.N. http://www.satarn.net</p>
<p>* * AMERICAN RED CROSS * * National Chapter http://www.redcross.org</p>	<p>* * AMERICAN RED CROSS * * Riverside County Chapter http://www.redcross.org/ca/riverside</p>
<p>* * AMERICAN RED CROSS * * Orange County Chapter http://www.oc-redcross.org/</p>	<p>* * AMERICAN RED CROSS * * Inland Empire Chapter http://www.ie-redcross.org</p>
<p>* * CALIFORNIA-EMA * * CA Emergency Management Agency http://www.calema.ca.gov/Pages/default.aspx</p>	<p>* * FEMA * * Federal Emergency Management Agency http://www.fema.gov/</p>
<p>* * RADIO SCANNER GUIDE * * http://radio-scanner-guide.com/</p>	<p>* * EARTHQUAKE INFORMATION * * So. California Earthquake Center http://www.scec.org</p>
<p>* * Los Angeles Emergency Communications Team * * Click-Here</p>	<p>* * CREST Communications * * Click-Here</p>
<p>* * CERT - Los Angeles * * Click-Here</p>	<p>* * Community Connect - Riverside * * Click-Here</p>
<p>Federal Communication Commission - Home Page: http://www.fcc.gov FCC Sponsored GMRS Link: [Click Here] Electronic Filing of Comments: http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html License Searches: [Click Here] GMRS Applications - Form 605: http://www.fcc.gov/Forms/Form605/605.pdf FCC Digital Index Search: http://www.fcc.gov/searchtools.html</p>	