



Valley Radio Club



Amateur Radio During the Pandemic of 2020

14 Sep 2020



Agenda

- Thank You
- Purpose
- Observations & Highlights
- Where are we headed?
- Questions?

First – A Thank You

- W6AGO - Aerospace ARC <http://www.aeaclubs.org/w6ago/>
- W6HA - Hughes ARC - w6ha.com
- W7PXL - Valley Radio Club - <https://www.valleyradioclub.org/>
- ESARG - El Segundo Amateur Radio Group – Facebook
- W6TRW – W6TRW ARC - <https://w6trw.com/>
- Ham Nation - <https://twit.tv/shows/ham-nation>





Purpose

- Ham radio has been a fun learning experience
- Some highlights
- It's changed during the Pandemic
- I've enjoyed all the energized people and experiences
- Questions?



Winlink for Field Day Radiogram Messages



ARRL — the national association for Amateur Radio™

RADIOGRAM



Laptop for Winlink SW

Coax to roof antenna

FM Mobile Radio



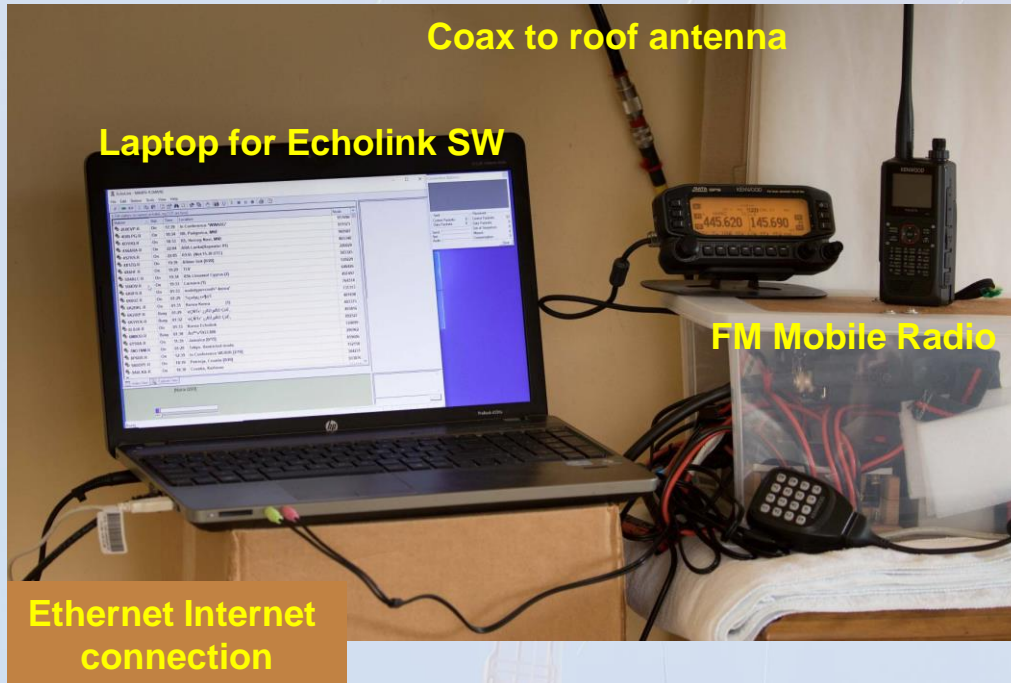
Winlink – Field Day

WinkLink - Field Day – 200 Points

- Aerospace Sat Am
- ESARG Sat PM (demo only)
- HARC Sunday AM

Mike's (N6MDV-R) EchoLink Setup

- Laptop with echolink software
- D710 in plastic carrying case with batteries





EchoLink

- Starting with the Pandemic lockdown in March, I've used EchoLink almost every day in the past 2 months
- 8 am Aerospace Emergency Net in LA
- ESARG net meetings every Monday Night
- HARC Wed Night

- My New club in Eugene, Oregon
- Associated Monthly Meetings – Aerospace and HARC, but transitioned to Skype, Zoom



Valley Radio Club Eugene OR

- Started with the Lunchtime Darned Quarantine Net – Friday’s at Noon, 50-60 people – I was used to 6-8 folks on a net
- We checked in, and then “Doc”, net control, went back around and asked “how’s everybody & what’s for lunch?!”
- Monday Night “Now What” net for newbies, Kathryn is amazing, teaching newbies the ropes – informative, fun. Getting folks used to running a net and just talking. We have Elmer's on as well.
- Tuesday night Tech Net, 30-40 folks, Tech Questions
- HT couldn’t handle RF noise, EchoLink saved my bacon
- Email reflectors – Blind email to club distro list, not quite a bulletin board, just email. Also specialty lists, like fox hunts, digital radio, emergency comm, packets, qrp, satcom, etc



VRC Bunny Hunts

- 4 bunny hunts in the last 2 months ... so fun ...





Pandemic Communication

- VRC many nets - newbie, tech, and welfare, monthly repeater club mtg, email lists, monthly club newsletter, great looking website, electronic payment, EchoLink, club roster (email, phone, etc), switched to virtual classes and social distance (SD) testing
- ESARG weekly net with trivia, Facebook Group, IO groups (email & bulletin board),
- HARC weekly check-in net repeater & simplex (EchoLink), also virtual classes, 100 mi radius and SD testing (Torrance Park). Monthly Zoom meetings – “How to be **Radioactive...**”
- Aerospace has daily 8 am net check-in (EchoLink), monthly HF net, Skype Monthly meeting, “Evaluating RF Exposure of Amateur Radio Stations”, future Challenges/Rewards of Remote Ops
- W6TRW Repeater & Discord – Audio, video, bulletin board, chat
- Incredible fires in LA and Oregon – brought Em Comm to mind



Where Are We Headed?

- The Pandemic lockdown has caused us to add internet to Ham Radio - in a good/great way
- The social interaction isn't the same, but the VRC club was welcoming, & has more than doubled in size, lots of activity, supports virtual training & social distance testing
- Many activities and many ways to communicate
- Aerospace club – we're building a Remote Controlled station – Elecraft K3, StepIR Antenna, Elecraft KPA1500
- Try Ham Radio - Engage, Experiment and Have Fun



Questions?



We can't stop bullets like Neo (the Movie the Matrix), but HAM radio feels good