



Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association

Quarterly Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2011

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Vice President: Linda Ridenour, W6MUT
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Assistant Engineer: Patrick Dunbar KG6AZZ
Training: Ed Hanna KF6FIR
Event Coordinator: Lucian Thomas KF6NPG
Programs Coordinator: Paul Owen W6UHF
Webmaster: Patrick Dunbar KG6AZZ

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – Dave Funk – KJ6BGC



Talk about an asset to our club! New comer, Dave Funk has provided NIMS training for Stanislaus County since 2006. Born in Bozeman, Montana, Dave has lived in Utah, Wyoming and Colorado before moving to California at the age of seven. He is a retired Captain from Modesto Police Department. Upon retirement, Dave joined forces with Willdan Homeland Solutions (formerly America Homeland Solutions) based out of Anaheim, CA. He teaches throughout the State offering the same courses as he does for Stanislaus County. Dave is well known for tailoring the NIMS and ICS curriculum so the scenarios and exercises are relevant to our county. Since 2006 over 4,000 first responders and county/city personnel have received training. SARA is indeed very fortunate to have a person on our team who makes sure that we are well informed and trained for our part. If you have been to one of his classes, his support of HAM operators is evident. And his passion for good food for the training!

**Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association Monthly Meeting
November 15, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.
Modesto Police Department Northeast Area Substation
3705 Oakdale Road – Modesto**

Green Eggs and Ham

I had the opportunity to try out Modesto's newest restaurant, The Golden Corral. The restaurant has been open for a while, but I purposely held off until now because every time I passed by on North McHenry the crowds were large and the wait was long. I can however tell you that the wait would have been worth it.

As many of you may recall there was a Golden Corral in Modesto located near W. Briggsmore and Prescott. We even used to hold our ARES meeting in their banquet room. I recall that the food was just so-so and really not that big of a variety. Well not the case with the new Golden Corral!

I was very surprised that after we walked in about 6:00 PM midweek we only had a slight wait. The cost was \$10.99 per adult and \$5:00 for kids. I was very happy to see how clean the restaurant was even though open tables were scarce due to large crowd. We were greeted at once by the wait staff and they stayed close during our entire visit. The inside is huge and plenty of space for the various food stations, salad bars and bakery. I was very surprised to see they had a grill to order steak area and that was probably the most crowded section. I think the large variety of different foods of every kind was most impressive. The second largest line was for the chocolate fountain where you could dip either strawberries or marsh-mellows.

My favorite was the pot roast, turkey stuffing and grilled green beans. After sampling a little bit of everything else, I finished the evening with chocolate chip mint ice cream and hot coffee.

Try out the Golden Corral, I think you'll like it!



73's de W6UHF, Paul O

Upcoming Events!

- ▶ NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS – NOVEMBER 15, 2011
 - ▶ HAM CRAM license class and testing: November 12, 2011
-

WHAT IS A SAG? OR SAG AND THE AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR

*By
LUCIAN THOMAS KF6NPG*

What is a SAG? The first time I heard someone ask me that I looked down at my stomach to see if my tummy was sticking out from under my shirt. I am sure some of you have a similar story about the first time you heard that term. SAG---Safety and Gear or some may refer to it as Safety and Support, but then that does not match the acronym. Whatever you call it a SAG is a vehicle (whether a car, pickup, motorcycle or bicycle) that provides support to the participants of some kind of event, usually a charity walk, run or bicycle ride or race. Often the mode of transportation is provided by one of the volunteers with the event and the amateur radio operator rides along to provide the communication link for the organizers the event and to assist with any emergencies that may arise.



Bicycle SAG



Conventional SAG

As you can see SAG vehicles come in all shapes and sizes and are usually equipped similarly. Often they will have some sort of identifying signs that simply state "SAG" or in the above example there is the radio club sign and a sign indicating the vehicle has emergency communications on board.

Other equipment in the SAG itself could be (depending on the event):

- First Aid Kit
- Route Maps
- Ice chest for water
- Bicycle tire pump that uses presta or schrader valves
- Bicycle tire tubes
- Patch Kit
- Cell phone (to be used in addition to the amateur radio service)
- Bike Rack
- Broom
- Magnetic Signs
- Magnetic flashing light (usually a yellow or amber color which indicates caution)
- Energy bars

One of the challenges for the SAGS is to remain spread out along the route. It is important for the event participants to see the SAGS so they feel secure if an emergency arises or if they need some sort of help. Being familiar with the event and the route will help in preparation for the SAG driver's participation in the event.

The radio operator is an essential member of the SAG team. He or she can assist with watching the participants on the route and looking at the route map for direction. Two sets of eyes are always better than one. On some of the more challenging sections of the events the driver must keep his or her attention on driving the vehicle and the radio operator can focus on the event participants. The radio operator that is assigned at the rest stops also plays an important part in the success of the event. They can monitor the participants as they come into the rest areas to see if there are any signs of distress. They can relay traffic from the participants in regards to any trouble on the route so assistance can be directed to that location. The most important thing the radio operator can do is to practice proper amateur radio procedure and maintain a calm and professional demeanor as they relay information to net control.

A professional appearance is a must as the radio operator will be representing the particular radio club that he or she is a member of. Also in many of the events there is also an ARES presence. We want to make sure that amateur radio is well represented as this reflects on our professionalism and garners respect for the amateur radio community. Equipment, depending on the particular event, can range from small single band handie-talkies to high power mobile radios with independent battery power available. The following is an example of some equipment that you may want to have with you when working an event:

- Route Map or Event information
- An IAP (Incident Action Plan) if available
- Snacks and Water
- Sunscreen and appropriate clothing for the weather conditions

- Club T-shirt
- Reflective Vest
- Ball cap
- Cell phone
- And the most important equipment of all, the proper radio equipment
- Programming information for your radio(s)
- Identification badge (club badge or ARES or CERT as circumstances dictate)

The following pictures show some of the suggested equipment to have when working an event.



Of course as amateur radio operators the most important equipment for us is the radio equipment. Ideally if working as a SAG you would want to have a dual band 50 watt mobile radio with a mag mount antenna and an independent external battery for power. Dual band radios are very useful especially if there is a cross band repeater in use necessitating the use of one of the bands (usually 440) to access the cross band system. The radio's high power and a magnetic antenna give the operator the most flexibility in their communications function. Although a dual band handie-talkie with a cigarette lighter power source along with a magnetic antenna can be an effective communication tool if the operator does not have a portable mobile unit. Be prepared with extra batteries in case the vehicle cigarette lighter is not working.

Every amateur radio operator should seek out and participate in these types of events. They bring amateur radio to the attention of the public and provide support for many charitable and community events. By participating in the events the amateur radio operator has the opportunity to sharpen their communications skills, familiarize themselves with and test their equipment. The events are controlled nets. We have the opportunity to discipline ourselves to work in this environment so that we can be effective when we are needed most---in the time of emergencies such as an earthquake, flood, fire, or anything else that comes to mind.

Thanks for taking the time to read this article and I hope that you have found the information within useful. I did not address net control duties in this article and plan to write a follow up article soon and address the function of this important position.

73's
Lucian
KF6NPG

Nets and More Nets.....

Traffic and Information Net

Monday through Friday starting at 7:00 AM on the S.A.R.A. two-meter repeater 145.390 MHz. Traffic updates along with the weather conditions, Hosted by Mark WB6BJN.

S.A.R.A Weekly Net

Every first, second and fourth Tuesday at 7:30 PM on our club two-meter repeater 145.390 MHz. Covers the latest information on club activities.

Stanislaus County ARES® Weekly Net

Every Wednesday at 8:00 PM on our club two-meter repeater 145.390 MHz. Training and information for those interested in amateur radio emergency communications. The only requirements are being a licensed amateur radio operator and have an interest in emergency operations. Visitors to the net are always welcome to check in, after the membership roll-call. On the air training is provided and people of all license classes are welcome to join.

Tech Net

Thursday nights at 7:00 PM on our club two-meter repeater 145.390 MHz. Dedicated to helping all hams increase their skills, an ideal forum for all hams to share their knowledge. Topics may include simple construction projects, answering your questions, training for license upgrades, and general skills needed by any ham.

SpaceNet

Friday nights at 8:00 PM on our club two-meter repeater 145.390 MHz. Those interested in the very latest news and information related to air and space are invited to join us on SARA SpaceNet. This is an open net held on SARA's 145.390 repeater and can be reached throughout the Central Valley of California. Topics include the latest news in the worlds manned and unmanned space programs, aeronautics, astronomy events and new discoveries. We also cover Amateur Astronomy, Model, Mid and High Powered Rocketry, as well as Amateur Radio activities related to space such as monitoring meteor activity, contacting the International Space Station, using Amateur Radio Satellites, EME (Moonbounce) and how to use Orbital Plotting software.



Supported by Funding From
FY10 Homeland Security Grant



Stanislaus County OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

NIMS/SEMS/ICS COURSES

October, November, December 2011

COURSE	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
ICS 200 Basic ICS	4 October	0800 - 1700	3705 Oakdale Rd (Logistics)
Advanced EOC	12 -13 October	0800 - 1700	3705 Oakdale Rd (Logistics)
IS 704 Communications and Information Mngmt	26 October	0800-1700	3705 Oakdale Rd (Logistics)
IS 704 Communications and Information Mngmt	8 November	0800 - 1700	3705 Oakdale Rd (Logistics)
ICS 300/400 Introduction to EOC	5 -9 December	0800 - 1700	3705 Oakdale Rd (Logistics)
ICS 200 Basic ICS	14 December	0800 - 1700	3705 Oakdale Rd (Logistics)

ICS 200 COURSE (Basic NIMS Compliance)

An eight hour course that meets the requirements of the Basic Incident Command System. This course is designed to go beyond the basics of NIMS/SEMS/ICS introduction courses and cover such topics as Leadership and Management, Delegation of Authority, Management by Objectives, Functional Areas and Positions, Briefings, Organizational Flexibility, and Transfer of Command.

Target Audience: First line supervisors, single resource leaders, or other emergency response/management personnel who require a higher level of NIMS/SEMS/ICS training.

Pre-requisite Completion of IS700/Introduction to NIMS and ICS 100 Introduction to ICS.

ICS 300/400/EOC

A forty hour combined Intermediate/Advanced Incident Command System course created for supervisory or management staff that would be assigned in a supervisory or leadership role in the Command or General Staff of an emergency response incident or major pre-planned event. This course introduces participants to the Emergency Operations Center, is a requirement to work in the Stanislaus Operational Area EOC, and meets NIMS/SEMS compliance.

Target Audience: First line supervisors, middle managers.

Pre-requisite: Completion of Introduction and Basic NIMS/SEMS/ICS courses.

ADVANCED EOC

A sixteen hour course designed for selected students who have completed the 40 hour Stanislaus County ICS 300/400/EOC course. This course expands upon Emergency Operation Center functions, roles and responsibilities. It is tailored specifically for EOC operations in Stanislaus County. It will involve numerous break out scenarios designed to expose participants deeper into their roles and responsibilities in managing/supporting field incidents or large scale events from the EOC. It focuses on the four phases of emergency/disaster management of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. It emphasizes EOC primary functions of policy direction, jurisdictional management/inter-agency coordination, information gathering/sharing, and resource management.

Pre-requisite: Completion of Stanislaus County's ICS 300/400/EOC course.

IS 704 COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT COURSE

An eight hour course designed to introduce participants to the Communications and Information Management component of the National Incident Management System. This course: Identifies components of NIMS Communications and Information Management; Identifies capabilities required to achieve effective communications and information management; Assesses the communication and information management capability of your jurisdiction or agency; Describes processes and forms for managing incident information flow, and; Identifies strategies for continually improving communications and information management systems and maintaining their readiness.

Target Audience: County OES Staff, Department Managers, EOC management teams, Incident Commanders/Managers; Section Chiefs/coordinators in Planning or Logistics;

Leaders of Situation or Communication Units (including I.T.); P.I.O.'s, Advanced Planning Unit Leaders; MAC Coordinators; All City Emergency Managers and City Managers that would serve in the above positions.

Pre-requisite: IS-700a. Introduction to NIMS.

Special Notice:

*Anyone with emergency management responsibilities, including planning, response, mitigation and or recovery from emergencies **is required to be NIMS compliant.** All public agencies, including schools, medical and other government organizations that have any role in emergency management need to meet or exceed all NIMS requirements. By attending the courses offered here in Stanislaus County, you will avoid the high registration cost associated with other training (generally \$600+) for registration alone. This training will provide you with the necessary skills to respond and be successful in emergency management regardless of your role in our next emergency/disaster response.*

REGISTRATION

Early registration is recommended. Classes fill quickly.
(Preference given to Stanislaus County Emergency Response and Management Personnel.)
To register for courses go to www.stanoes.com, click on NIMS-SEMS-ICS Training
Registration and select the class you wish to attend.

Sponsored by:
Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Services
3705 Oakdale Road
Modesto, CA 95357

209.552.3600

WHAT I LOVE ABOUT HAM RADIO



*LOVE CHASIN' DX, LATE NIGHT WITH STRANGE
VOICES AND CALL SIGNS, WEAK SIGNALS-DEEP IN THE MUD-
PULLIN' THEM OUT AND MAKING THE CONTACT. DE WA6UXA*

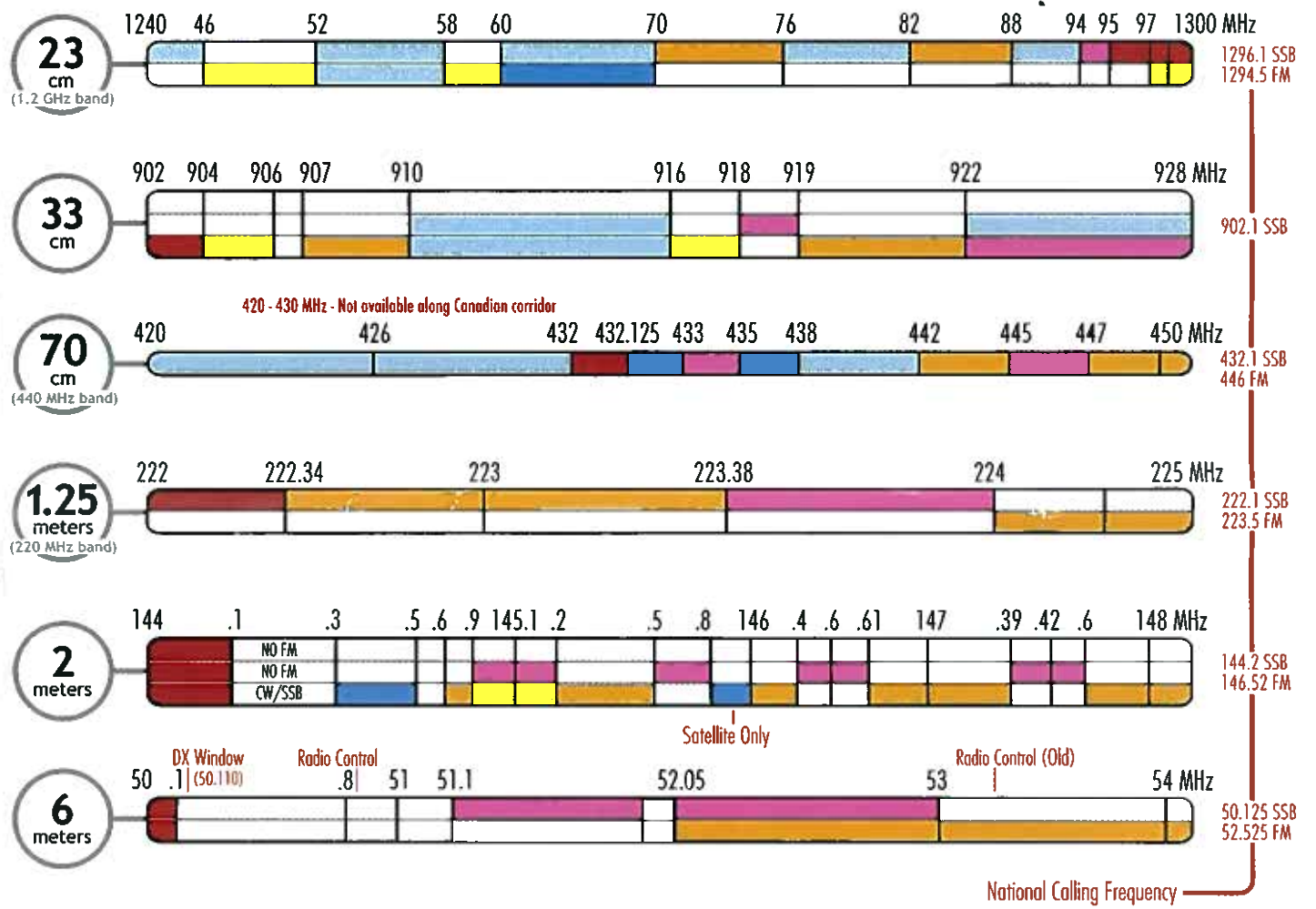


**Stay tune for next quarter
as you meet Gordo (Gordon West)!**

**WB6NOA and
W6MUT**

U.S.A. Amateur Radio **UHF/VHF** Band Plan

- Amateur TV Fast Scan
- Satellite
- CW & Weak Signal (No FM)
- Digital
- FM Simplex
- SSB
- FM Repeater

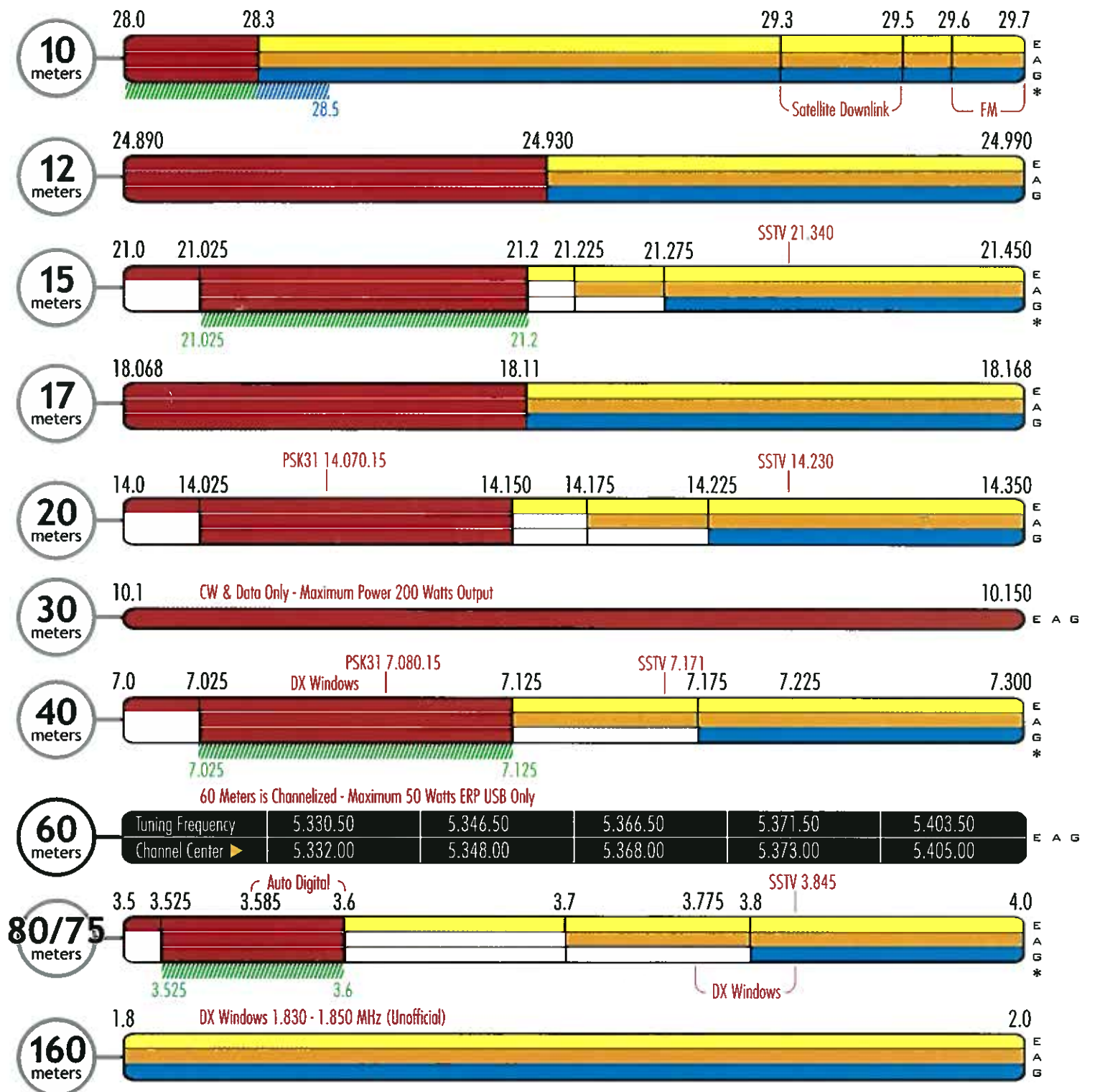


U.S.A. Amateur Radio **HF** Band Plan

- Extra Voice - CW - Image
- Advanced Voice - CW - Image
- General Voice - CW - Image
- CW - RTTY - DATA
- Novice / Technician - CW
- Novice / Technician - Voice
- No Privileges

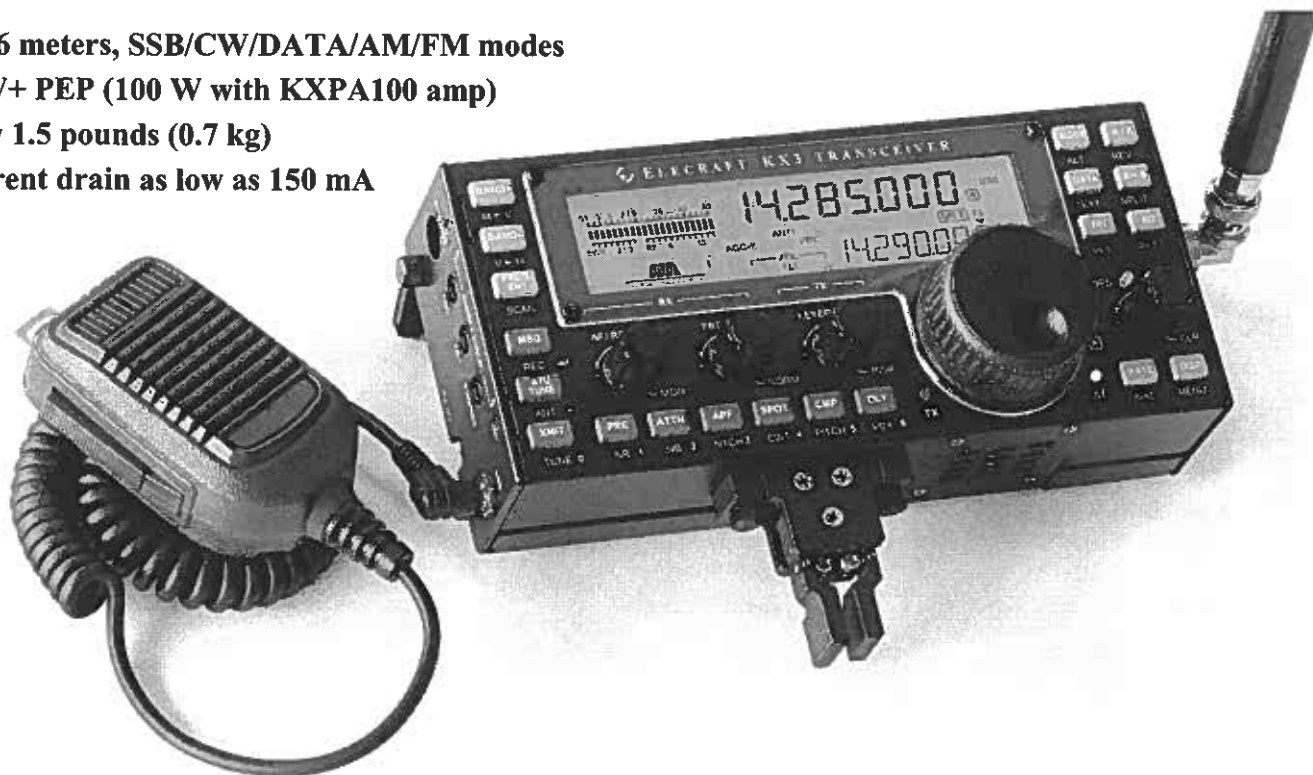
E Extra A Advanced G General
* Novice and Technician

Under restructuring, all Advanced license classes retain their operating privileges.



ELECRAFT® KX3 Transceiver (Preliminary)

- 160-6 meters, SSB/CW/DATA/AM/FM modes
- 10 W+ PEP (100 W with KXPA100 amp)
- Only 1.5 pounds (0.7 kg)
- Current drain as low as 150 mA



- Internal wide-range antenna tuner (ATU) and battery options; built-in speaker
- Advanced DSP provides dual watch, noise reduction, noise blanking, autonotch, stereo audio effects
- Software-defined radio (SDR) architecture *plus* roofing filters (KXFL3) for excellent dynamic range
- Operates in data modes (PSK31/RTTY) with or without a PC; includes RX I/Q soundcard outputs

Ultra-Compact Home/Portable/Mobile Station

The revolutionary Elecraft KX3 puts the world in the palm of your hand! Despite its small size, it covers all amateur bands from 160-6 meters, operates in all modes, and has DSP-based features usually found only on larger radios.

The KX3's unique form-factor allows you to operate from anywhere. Fold out the rear tilt-feet for use on a desktop or picnic table, or add our rugged mobile mount bracket for vehicle use. For extreme portability, you can add the internal wide-range ATU, 8-AA cell battery pack with NiMH charger, and adjustable KXPD3 keyer paddle. With a whip antenna, you can even operate hand-held.

In receive mode, current drain can be as low as 150 mA – about one-half to one-third that of competing all-band portables. Transmit efficiency is also excellent, further improving battery life.

Full-Featured, yet Easy to Use

The KX3 features a large front panel with all controls optimized for convenient use. You won't have to dig through menus to set the power level, adjust the keyer speed, or change filter settings. And the KX3 has the same full-size display as the Elecraft K3, so all operating information is available at a glance.

The KX3's tutorial-style manual explains *how* and *why* controls are used, so new hams will be experts in no time. Of course you'll also have Elecraft's legendary customer support, and free firmware upgrades via the internet.

KXPA100 External 100-Watt Amplifier

Our high-performance KXPA100 home/mobile amplifier seamlessly integrates with the KX3 as well as other popular 5- to 10-W transceivers. It has its own internal ATU option (KXAT100) with dual antenna jacks.



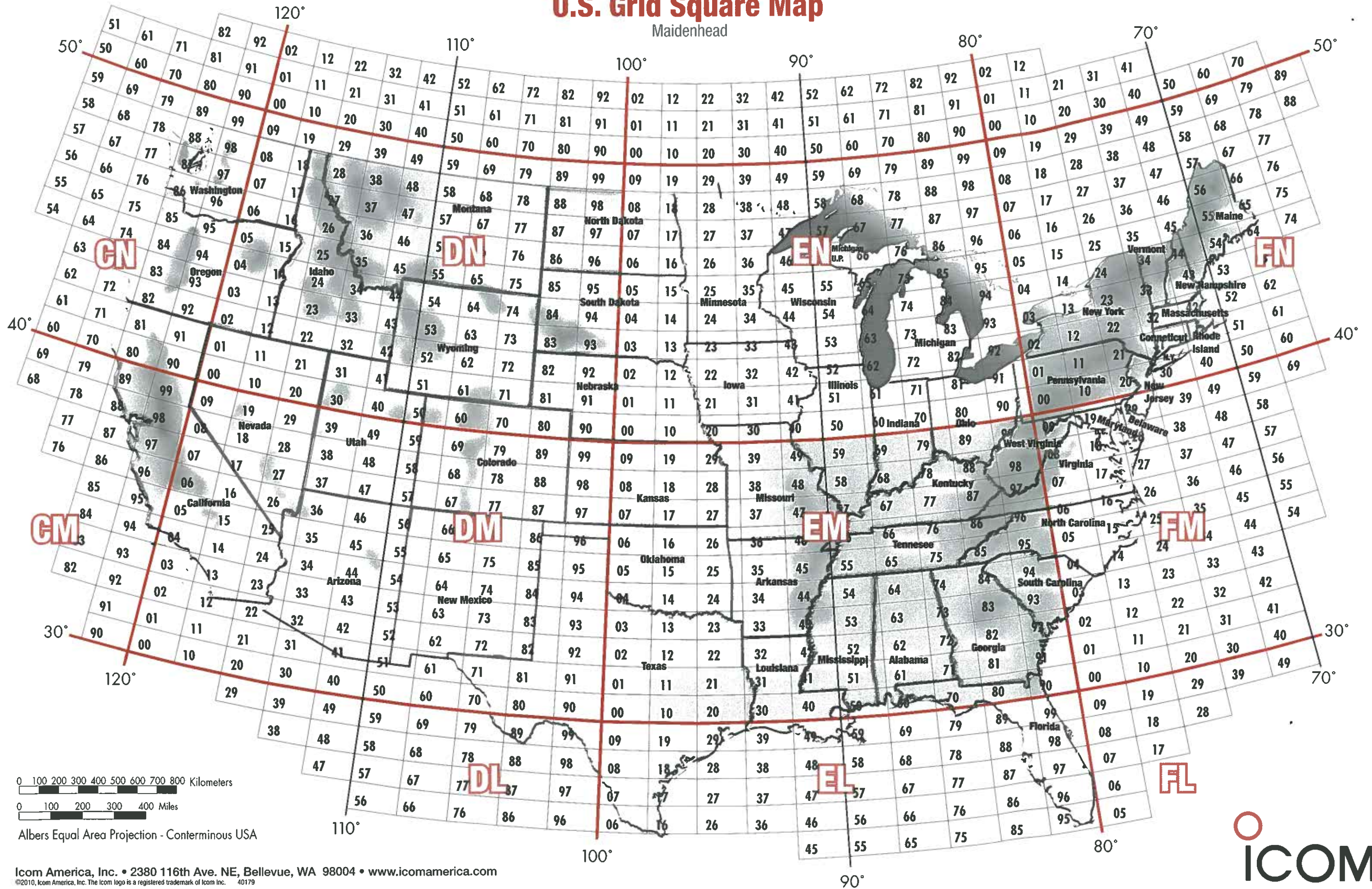
ELECRAFT, INC.
PO Box 69, Aptos, CA 95001-0069

Phone: (831) 763-4211
sales@elecraft.com

FAX: (831) 763-4218
www.elecraft.com

U.S. Grid Square Map

Maidenhead



0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 Kilometers

0 100 200 300 400 Miles

Albers Equal Area Projection - Conterminous USA

Icom America, Inc. • 2380 116th Ave. NE, Bellevue, WA 98004 • www.icomamerica.com

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