

THINGS TO DO

Ham radio buffs to gather Saturday at Fiesta Island for weather balloon launch

Spectators can follow the flight of a high-altitude amateur radio weather balloon as it ascends 18 miles up during the annual Hamtastic gathering



Mt. Carmel High School Amateur Radio Club members and mentors work on launching a high-altitude amateur radio weather balloon (radiosonde) at Poway Amateur Radio Society's annual Field Day event at Lake Poway, similar to the one that will be launched at the Hamtastic event Oct. 17 at Mission Bay. Gayle Olson.



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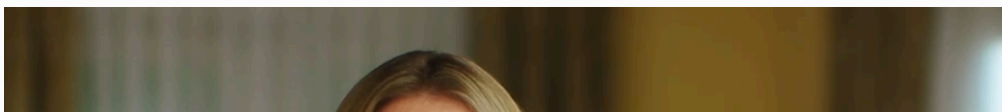
PUBLISHED: October 15, 2026 at 1:45 PM PDT

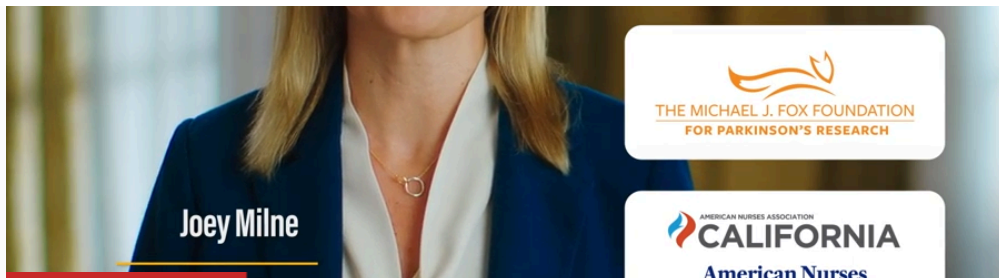
Amateur radio buffs and aspiring ham radio operators are set to come together for the annual Hamtastic gathering Oct. 17 at Fiesta Island and the community is invited to participate.

The event features the launch of a high-altitude amateur radio weather balloon (radiosonde), amateur radio gear displays, satellite demonstrations, displays of vintage radios and presentations by the amateur radio community. The free event is hosted by the nonprofit San Diego Repeater Association, which is open to licensed amateur radio operators.

The high-altitude weather balloon is slated to launch at noon from Mission Bay and is expected to ascend for roughly two hours, and then reach a burst altitude of 93,000 feet, nearly 18 miles above Earth, before beginning its descent. Flight predictions indicate that the radiosonde might land about 30 miles southwest of the launch site, probably over the Pacific Ocean.

The 200-gram latex weather balloon will carry a transmitter broadcasting the amateur radio call sign K6GO, assigned to Gayle Olson of Poway. A call sign is an alphanumeric identification used to identify a transmitter station, amateur radio operator, aircraft or military unit during radio communications.





The weather balloon's payload includes a reprogrammed radiosonde, a device that was originally launched by the National Weather Service to collect atmospheric data for one-time use.

The launch is slated to be conducted by Randy Standke, (call sign KQ6RS), of Rancho Peñasquitos and Gene Swiech, (call sign WB9COY), of San Diego, who are mentors for the Mt. Carmel High School Amateur Radio Club. The club uses demonstrations such as balloon launches for students to learn about amateur radio, science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The launch demonstrates the capabilities and educational value of amateur radio to the public.

Spectators can follow the flight in real time using SondeHub Amateur. The K6GO balloon will appear on the tracking map roughly 15 minutes before launch. Viewers can then monitor its ascent and progress throughout the flight.

Radio buffs are expected to start gathering early in the morning and the first presentation is at 10 a.m. There will be ham radio club tents and information tables. Folks are encouraged to bring a picnic and their barbecue grills.

For more information, visit hamtasticsd.com.

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Wednesday, October 21



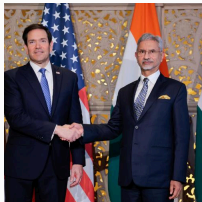
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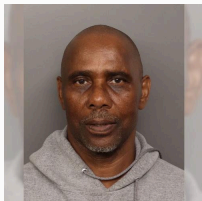
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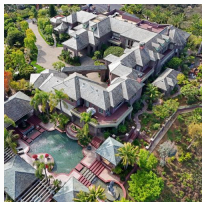
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Tuesday, October 20



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Tuesday, October 20



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Tuesday, October 20



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Friday, October 16



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Monday, October 19



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Thursday, October 22



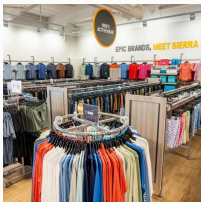
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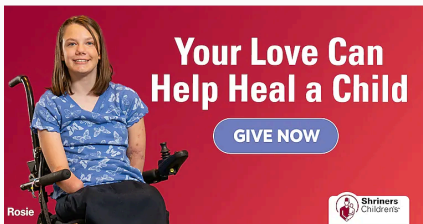
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