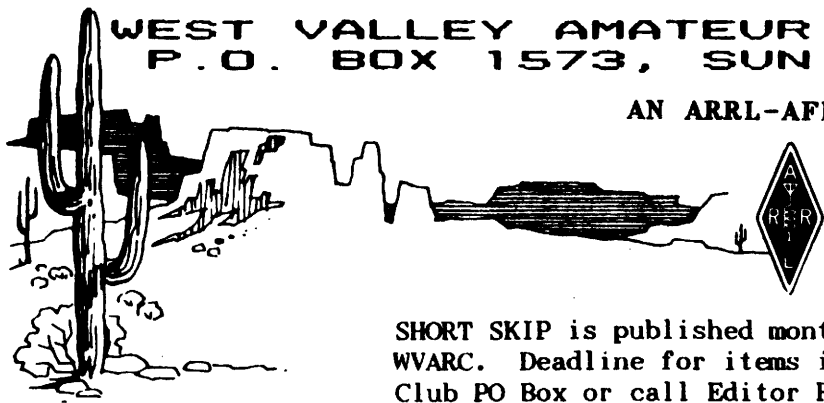


# SHORT SKIP



SHORT SKIP is published monthly (every 2 months in summer) by WVARC. Deadline for items is 2 weeks before meeting. Mail to Club PO Box or call Editor Ray Summer NW7R (972-8733).

## WVARC OFFICERS FOR 1992

Pres	Frank Smith	AA7FM	876-2718
V Pres	Ralph Barr	W0DNO	582-8208
Secy	Ray Van Skiver	W7LQM	974-1322
Treas	Shirley Barr	KB4HSP	582-8208
Directors:	Don Burk	KE0EU	972-4607
	Bob Gormley	WA1MHZ	843-2193
	Jerry Haigwood	KY4Z	486-2756
	Bert Davidson	W2GOB	584-6260

## MARCH MEETING FEATURES ANTIQUE RADIOS

West Valley ARC will meet on MONDAY, MARCH 2nd, at 7:15pm at the St Clement Social Hall, 15800 Del Webb Blvd, Sun City. Clyde and Lois Watson will display some of the rare pieces in their museum-quality collection of antique radios and will discuss the collecting of radio memorabilia, their restoration and maintenance.

Recent sessions have attracted over 100 hams, including several visitors. Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is welcome to attend the meetings. The club welcomes your support. Dues are \$10/yr and include all family hams at the same address.

## BLOOD PLATELET DONORS ARE NEEDED

Jason Chilcote N7LUZ, who is studying electrical engineering at the University of Arizona in Tucson, will be undergoing a bone marrow transplant to control his recently diagnosed lymphoma. He will need a large supply of donated blood platelets for recovery during March and April.

Jason is the son of Jim WU7V and Freda WU7I and the grandson of Mark Chilcote W7PS, members of the West Valley ARC. Jim and his wife have been long-term coordinators of the DeVry VE testing program in the Valley.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Jason's family at

938-9843 or 977-4351.

## BYERS FAMILY EXPRESSES APPRECIATION

The family of Silent Key Dave Byers NW7V have expressed their appreciation for the efforts of Frank Smith AA7FM and the West Valley club in conducting the ham radio estate sale at Dave's QTH on Saturday January 25. The family has presented a \$200 donation to the club's general fund.

## NO VEC EXAMS AT DeVRY IN MARCH

Volunteer Examiners accredited with the DeVry Amateur Radio Club VEC program offer exams on the FIRST SATURDAY of each month at DeVry Institute, 2149 Dunlap Ave, 8:30am to noon. However, no exam will be held there on March 7, due to Student Registration at the Institute. On that date the Scottsdale ARC will hold exams at the Senior Citizens Center, 7375 E 2nd St, Scottsdale. For info: Ed Couch 952-9596.

Ed Blaszczyk N7EB, new Core Leader for the local DeVry VEs, thanks all of those VEs who participated in previous sessions. He received a phone call recently from Jim Georgias, DeVry VEC Coordinator, complimenting the team for its efforts and its accuracy and Ed for his promptness in submitting the test results of the February session.

At that session 85 candidates took 137 test elements. The next DeVry test on is April 4th.

## CLUB ROSTER DEADLINE EXTENDED

Due to a large number of late renewals, the club roster is not ready for distribution with this mailing. The new deadline for being included on the roster is the MARCH 2nd meeting. Those who have overlooked their renewal are reminded below. The club appreciates your support.

[WANTS and FOR SALES are published in Short Skip as a service to the hams and SWLs of the community. In general, the ads accepted are not of a commercial nature. There is no charge for these items. Publication does not indicate endorsement by the Club or the Newsletter staff of the product or service offered.]

#### WANTED

KDL INDUSTRIES is looking for a person, possibly a shut-in, to monitor certain scanner frequencies to obtain leads on house fires. Will furnish equipment. Call Gary (952-8333) for information.

DRAKE R-4C RCVR. Jerry KY4Z 486-2756

BUTTERNUT BUTTERFLY. Bob WE7T 972-7749

#### FOR SALE

YAESU HANDIE-TALKIE FT-209RH, w/two 5W batteries and one 2 1/2W battery; \$200  
Chuck K8JVB 584-6596

6m BEAM, 6-el Cushcraft A-50-6; \$100.  
HAM-2 ROTATOR; \$75.

Joe WB2MKN 486-3204

YAESU FT-23R (2m), scan, "PL", SP battery, charger, manuals; \$175.

BIRD WATTMETER, Thruline Model 4111, 150W fwd, 15W rfl, 20-175 MHz, with manuals; \$100. Stan K8RAL 584-4287

HEATHKIT 100 KHz Crystal Calibrator, Model HD-20; \$10.

HEATHKIT ACCESSORY CALIBRATOR Model 10A-4510-1, primarily for oscilloscope calibration, square wave output, 1 MHz, 100kHz, 10 kHz, 1000 Hz; \$20.

Frank W7NSN 972-6653

STEEL TOWER, 50 ft, 3-section handcrank w/rotator. Bob (Paradise Val) 948-2424

#### SILENT KEYS

JOHN RASMUSSEN KD7UG, in Sun City 1/29. John was a club member for 2 years. We extend our sympathy to his wife Lois KA6KTY and family. A project engineer with Goodyear before retiring, John spent his summers in Helena, Montana.

GERTRUDE POND W7KOY, in Phoenix 1/24. Though not a member of our club, Gert was well known in the ham radio community as a dependable source of help and information on the 2m band. Our condolences to husband Ken W7MAE and the family.

#### A TIP OF THE HAT TO

John Allen W7YR, Don Camren K7ET, Tony Rogozinski N7BG, Frank Smith AA7FM, and Jack Reed WA7LNW -- WVARC members -- who were among the CADXA hams awarded special recognition by that club. John "worked most countries on SSB" and Don "worked most countries on CW". Tony was recognized for his dedication and his tenure as president for the past two years. Frank's contributions to DX and to the support of that club were deemed outstanding. Tony, Frank and Jack were among the board members given certificates of appreciation for their services.

#### ADDENDUM to last month's TELEPHONE INTERFERENCE article by Bill W9WV

Use of the "quiet line" 582-9997 will work in many, but not all locations. To access the quiet line in order to test each of your phones one at a time as test IDs are transmitted, dial the exchange number and 9996 or 9997, or dial 933-9997 in many west valley locations....Bill Johnson, ARRL ATS.

[The RRC committee should also note that their RRC manual is also incomplete and should be updated.]

#### GRID SQUARE AWARDS

Nick Sues W7ZMD can OK your applications for UHF/VHF grid square awards as well as all the new WAS awards. Nick has been repairing amateur radio and other electronic gear for over 30 years and will be a featured speaker at one of our future West Valley ARC meetings. His subject: maintenance of station equipment. If you need help with your awards, phone Nick at 992-4133.

#### QSLs TO RUSSIA

With the breakup of the former USSR, many hams are wondering about the correct addressing of QSLs into Russia. From a variety of sources, including Sandra Farley N7PQP of the Phoenix General Mail Facility, a few tips have been assembled. It is preferred not to use USSR as the destination; however, for the time being, such mail bearing "USSR" is being accepted. It is preferable to now use "Republic of....Russia, the Ukraine, Georgia, etc". Also, the old advice about NOT putting the addressee's ham radio call sign on your outer envelope still applies. Sandra is available at her office number for advice (225-3362). [Tnx Frank AA7FM.]

## WORLD ADMINISTRATIVE RADIO CONFERENCE

Queen Sophia, wife of King Juan Carlos EA0JC, opened the World Administrative Radio Conference, Torremolinos, Spain, on February 3rd, which was convened to determine the frequency allocations in several specific bands.

At the WARC in 1979 in Geneva, Amateur Radio was granted portions of 3 new bands, at 12, 17 and 30 meters. At this year's conference the Amateur Service will be fortunate to retain its present assigned frequencies. Other communications groups are pressing for frequency allotments.

The US delegation has 51 members, including Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, who is head of ARRL's Technical Development Department. An advisory group of other League officials is on hand, including Exec VP Dave Sumner K1ZZ, who writes that he has been pleased to renew his acquaintance with delegates from other countries who were present at WARC-79.

One US proposal affecting hams would shift our 40m band to 6900-7200 kHz and move shortwave broadcasting to 7200-7525 kHz. We will know in a week or two if this and other action affecting amateur radio will be adopted.

## CLUB NOTES

The ATV group has some interesting sessions lined up in coming months. They meet on the **THIRD TUESDAY** at Bank of America, LaRonde Center, 14601 Del Webb Blvd, Sun City from 7 to 9pm.

The Digital Modes group meets on the **FOURTH SATURDAY** at 10am; same bank. We are told that sessions have resumed.

Breakfasts on the **SECOND SATURDAY** at 8am are held at Denny's (not Lenny's) in Surprise, on Bell Road (turn south on El Mirage Rd and take driveway west in back of buildings to next street). Luncheon **EVERY THURSDAY** at 11:15am, Ritters, on 11th Ave just south of Grand. Spouses welcome at both places.

Remember to join ARRL or renew membership through League Rep Don Fenton W1JH, 12739 Bonanza Drive, Sun City West, AZ 85375. For new application, make check to ARRL for \$5 less than required amount and \$5 check to WVARC. Send both to Don (plus copy of driver's license if senior citizen). For renewal make out check to ARRL for \$2 less than required and \$2 check to WVARC; send to Don with renewal form. And we thank you for your support.

Neighbors having RFI troubles? Call your nearest RFI Committeeman or Bill Johnson W9WFV (584-2107). Don't wait.

## CLUB REPEATER ACTIVITY

A reminder that the West Valley 2m Net on **WEDNESDAY NIGHTS** on the KE7DH repeater, 145.29 MHz (-600 kHz), starts at 6:45pm, to accommodate the check-ins who switch to ATV or Digital nets at 7:30. The net provides ham news from Newline, W5YI Reports, ARRL Letters and local QSTs. Control operators for March are (4th) Bob WE7T, (11th) Frank AA7FM, (18th) Bernie N7BIE, and (25th) Stan K8RAL. If you are willing to try your hand as net control, call Coordinator Joe Nowakowski W7FPG (584-6117).

The Daily Call-in Net meets on the same frequency at 9am every day, looking especially for shut-ins, but everyone is welcome. About a dozen regulars are in attendance most days.

In addition to the KE7DH repeater in Sun City West, the club maintains a 2m repeater and 70cm repeater on Boswell Hospital in Sun City. The K7NHR 2m repeater (147.30 MHz +600 kHz) has an autopatch (as does the SCW one); the W7JHQ 70cm repeater (449.80 -5MHz) is awaiting an autopatch. Neither Boswell repeater gets much use. If you have scheduled a contact on the SCW repeater and find it in use at the appointed time, call **BREAK** and advise your party to QSY to K7NHR (or W7JHQ, if he has 70cm capability).

## RADIO CLASSES

**NOVICE CLASS:** Instructor George Hands KE7DH (974-3361) expects that most of his class will be ready to take the Novice written exam on March 7. No new Novice class is presently scheduled until the fall.

**TECHNICIAN CLASS:** Instructor George Thompson AA7LA (977-9855) is aiming for the April 4th testing date. He will hold classes throughout March at Vencor Hospital in Youngtown on Fridays from 7 to 9pm.

**GENERAL CLASS:** Instructor Rick Tannehill W7RT (435-9584) expects his class to be ready for March 7 exams.

**ADVANCED CLASS:** Instructor Ray Sumner NW7R (972-8733) will continue to hold classes through March at the Youngtown Clubhouse Auditorium on Thursdays from 7 to 9pm.

## LATE WANTED

2-METER Outdoor antenna, any make.  
Joe WB2MKN 486-3204

[Among other business at the ARRL Board Meeting in January, the EVP was directed to use "all resources at his disposal" to encourage Amateur use of the 900 MHz and 1.2 GHz bands. The following report from the Vancouver (BC) ARC Newsletter January 1992 (relayed by Fred Cooper VE7JNJ) addresses this subject.]

DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S UP THERE?  
Scott Charles VE7FYC

The majority of amateurs are active on the HF bands between 180 and 10m. These are the first frequencies on which most hams get up and running. A considerable number of amateurs venture above 6m, 2m and even 70cm, which is where they stop on their RF climb.

But to think that life ends after the 440 MHz band is [to be] sadly mistaken. The largest part of spectrum allocated for amateur use lies above 900 MHz (33 cm). Twelve hundred Megahertz (23 cm) has a combined bandwidth large enough for all allocations from 160m through 220 MHz. That is a lot of room to play with, and the room is largely empty most of the time.

I have always wondered why the bands above 900 MHz are unused by most amateurs. Could it be ignorance? A lack of willingness to spend money? Or little or no understanding of propagation at these frequencies? I like to think that it is a mixture of these.

The technology and equipment for operating on these frequencies is available to the average amateur, in both kit and completed form. Most equipment at the moment is in transverter form, with the exception of Gunnplexers which are self-contained. All gear can be purchased from companies which advertise in QST and 73 Magazines. Down East Microwave has a line of transverters from 908 to 5650 MHz which can be operated in any mode, including ATV. All this microwave magic is brought about

by using a few chips, some MICCs and microwave technology. Most of the transverters operate with a 2m IF for more flexibility and better image rejection. Another company, SSB Electronics, has other equipment for 70, 23 and 13 cm and also has a completed 10 GHz transverter system.

Gunn diodes are small devices which produce microwave energy in the milliwatt range when voltage is applied (8-16V). These devices can be modulated with a low frequency IF, the most common being 30 MHz. Now Gunn diodes can be found in a waveguide/cavity system, better known as a Gunnplexer. These are commercially made products, but the same type of system can be home built or made from surplus materials. For the home brew person, these systems can be built with help from the RSGB's VHF/UHF Manual or other sources. I have operated both home brew and commercially built which I have found equal in performance. I have witnessed distances of 40 miles operated with only 35 milliwatts from a Gunn diode.

The frequencies of 903, 1296, 2304, 3456, 5760 and 10368 MHz are the largest untapped range of amateur spectrum you can imagine. With all of that RF space, you can run almost any mode of operation with little or no QRM. Although higher power is difficult to obtain, antenna size to signal ratio compensates for this fact.

If this form of communication interests you, I recommend the following books: the RSGB VHF/UHF Manual, RSGB Microwave Handbook Vols I and II, ARRL VHF/UHF Microwave Experimenters' Manual, Microwave Update 1989 and Microwave Update 1991. All are available from the ARRL Publications Department. An excellent newsletter is the North Texas Microwave Society's FEEDPOINT, available from Wes Atchinson WA5TKU, Route 4, Box 565, Sanger, TX 76266.

SPRING HAMFEST ON MARCH 21

The Scottsdale ARC is again hosting the annual Spring Hamfest, scheduled for SATURDAY MARCH 21, at Scottsdale Community College. This event is always well attended. Get out and meet your friends there.

CLUB HAS NEW ARCA REPRESENTATIVE

George Hands KE7DH has been appointed to represent the club at ARCA meetings. George, who succeeds Art LaFleur N7OSM, has served in this capacity previously. ARCA (Amateur Radio Council of Arizona) coordinates activities of AZ ham clubs.