



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 Sumner NW7R (972-8733).

MARCH PROGRAM: DX-ING FOR BEGINNERS

The West Valley ARC will meet on MONDAY MARCH 7th at St Clement Social Hall, 15800 Del Webb Blvd, Sun City. Meeting starts at 7:15 PM with brief business session. Doors open at 6:45; come early and meet your colleagues.

The program for this evening will be an excellent video prepared by CQ Magazine entitled Getting Started in DXing. Some of the club's DX gurus will be on hand to supplement the presentation with their own expertise on the subject. It will be an interesting topic and may inspire more of our newer hams to upgrade. (There are 10 candidates in our current GENERAL CLASS course.) Everyone with an interest in Amateur Radio is welcome to our meetings and to become a member; dues are \$10/yr.

The Auction Committee will report on the success of the February meeting and how future auctions will be improved because of this first experience.

George Hands KE7DH is preparing a program for the near future, with help from other members. The subject: Soldering Techniques. Several members have suggested this topic and other workshop instructions. If you've ever melted the insulation on your coax trying to add a PL-259 plug, you'll want to attend this meeting, tentatively scheduled for April.

The SUGGESTION BOX (which was on hand at the last meeting to accept your comments on where to hold the October Ladies Night event) will be retained as a permanent fixture at our meetings. Please submit ideas for programs and other suggestions, anonymously if you prefer.

WVARC OFFICERS -- 1994

Pres	Ralph Barr	WODNO	PHX	582-8208
VP	Paul Playford	W8AEF	SCW	546-2119
Sec	George Watling	N7JSA	SC	933-0854
Tr	Walt Schwiebert	K7HGZ	SC	974-3387
Dir	Bill Pauley	KB7RRE	PHX	938-6163
	John Kornbeck	WA9HBT	PEO	566-2018
	Clarence Reid	K0BHJ	SC	876-8780
	Merrill Butterman	KF8DZ	PEO	878-4651
PPres	Frank Smith	AH0W	GLD	876-2718

NO LICENSE EXAMS AT DeVRY IN MARCH

WVARC sponsors Amateur Radio license exams at DeVry Institute, 2149 W Dunlap Ave, on the 1ST SATURDAY of every month EXCEPT March (DeVry Registration Day) and Holiday Weekends. Next test session at DeVry is APRIL 2nd; sign-in time is 8:30 AM and no tests will begin after 11 AM.

WVARC also provides VE teams to test physically challenged candidates who are unable to attend our regularly sponsored sessions. In general, we take care of the northwest area of metropolitan Phoenix bounded by Central Ave and Interstate 10. Call Ray NW7R (972-8733) for information.

Tests are also given at Tempe Public Library on the 3rd Saturday of every month, starting at 9 AM, sponsored by Tri-ARC. Call Roger AA7QY (838-1215) for more information. NDNE IN MARCH !!

On a one-time basis the West Valley club will hold a test session in Sun City on FRIDAY NIGHT, APRIL 1st, for those candidates taking the club's NO-CODE TECHNICIAN and GENERAL CLASS courses. Tests will include written Elements 2, 3A and 3B, and 5- and 13-WPM code tests. We will accept a limited number of other candidates for these tests only; please pre-register by calling Ray NW7R.

The Peter 1 3Y0PI is now history as of mid-February. Arizonans found it perfectly workable on virtually any of the HF bands. Again, if you worked it I would suggest a donation with your QSL card request.

If you missed out on the XF4CI Revillagigedo/Socorro operation, you will get another chance thanks to XE1BEF, who will activate Clarion Island (NA-115) as XFOC the 1st part of March.

Chris Burger ZS6EZ has announced plans to activate Walvis Bay as ZS9Z the end of February, just before the island is relinquished by So Africa. After that, they'll activate the island in March, but as V51Z, Namibia. Rarely heard Benin will be active March 1-14 as TY8OBO. Erik SMOAGD is once again activating Guinea-Bissau as J52AG through the end of the month. Also active from Africa is Niger 5U7Y, Rwanda 9X5DX, Togo 5V7JB, Ghana 9G1KL, Zambia 9J2BO and 9J2TM.

An old friend to Phoenix DXers, Bob Hatter K7RDH (former manager of HRO/Phoenix), will be active March 2-20 from Guernsey as GUO/ K7RDH. He will be on most IOTA frequencies operating from St Peter Port (IOTA EU #114). Tnx Bob WA1MHZ for info.

A group of Hungarians led by Laci HA0HW will be operating from Cambodia as XU0HW starting in May. They also plan to activate Rong Island (in Gulf of Thailand) as XU9HA, a new one for IOTA buffs.

It's been years since anybody activated Cocos Island T19, and soon we'll have a chance to work it. A large multi-national team headed by Craig AH9B is making plans. Another future one is Banaba T33KK by Mats SM7PKK, a veteran of that area.

Finally, don't forget to mark your calendars for the weekend of March 5-6, the ARRL SSB DX contest, always a chance to work your DXCC in one weekend as well as boost country totals on the low bands. PA3DFT will be active from Somalia as T50A during that contest as well as many more choice ones. Other operating events to plan for are the OQWW 160 meter SSB Contest Feb 25-27 and the OQWW WPX SSB Contest March 26-27. Of course April 15-17 are the dates for the Visalia International DX Convention. As always, Chuck Bailey W7YU will be there representing WVARC!

Best 73 and CU in the pileups!

Arizona Repeater Association will host the Scottsdale Spring Hamfest at Scottsdale Community College on Chaparral east of Pima Rd, SATURDAY, MARCH 12. Admission is free (parking is \$2, so bring a carful). Tailgating is \$5. Events include SEMINARS, YOUTH PROGRAMS, LECTURES, MEETINGS, T-HUNT, COMMERCIAL VENDORS and GOOD FOOD. Raffle prizes are HRO gift certificates (\$750, \$500, \$250) and Earlybird prize (Astron power supply); tickets are \$1, or 6 for \$5.

GA BILL WOULD OUTLAW RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS

A bill introduced in the Georgia legislature that would eliminate the effect of restrictive property covenants on amateurs is believed to be the first of its kind, according to ARRL Georgia Section Manager Jim Altman N4UCK. The bill would prevent all new and renewed covenants from regulating, controlling or restricting antennas owned and operated by licensed amateurs in the state.

Altman said that in Georgia all restrictive covenants have a life of 20 years, but can be renewed. This law, in banning new and renewed covenants, would leave existing covenants in place until their natural expiration, and prevent new ones. Over the next 20 years all existing covenants would disappear.

The bill was initially referred to the State Bar committee on real property law, which gave the measure a "do pass" recommendation.

The bill mentions that Amateur Radio is federally created and protected in part to provide emergency communications; that local zoning laws are partially preempted by an FCC declaration; that local zoning authorities do have the power to ensure the safety and "appropriateness" of antenna installations; and that restrictive covenants on antennas are a "serious frustration" of amateurs' role in emergency communication.

The new bill would add the following subsection to Georgia law on covenants:

No covenant shall control, regulate or restrict the installation of antennas within the subdivision by federally licensed amateur radio operators.

Amateurs in Georgia are urged to contact their state legislators and ask for their support of H.B. 1134. For more information, contact Altman or the Regulatory Information Branch at ARRL HQ. [ARRL Letter, 2/10/94]

WVARC VOL EXAMINER AT RUSSIAN EXAMS

When you work on one of our club projects you never know when that experience will serve you well in the future. Frank Smith AHOW is one of the dedicated Volunteer Examiners at our monthly test sessions. While on a January business trip to Finland and Russia, Frank took time from a hectic schedule to join with Ed Kritsky NT2X in setting up a VE (ARRL) exam session at the HQ of the Russian Amateur Radio League. Some 16 candidates took a number of tests, many of them all the way thru Extra Class, in a session that lasted nearly 8 hours.

Afterwards, examiners and applicants posed for photos and traded QSL cards. Frank was also able to retrieve some valuable QSL cards of his own, including one from the Soviet Space Station (signed by Sergei Krikalev U5MIR, who flew on the recent STS-60 flight of shuttle Discovery); Frank worked Sergei on 2 meter packet in January of 1992. Another cosmonaut, Musa Manarov U2MIR, and ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Larry UA6HZ/WJ1R (who was one of the VE examiners), joined Frank and Ed and Andy UA3AB for a quiet dinner hosted by another Moscow ham.

In looking through some back copies of the Russian equivalent of QST Magazine, Frank was surprised to find his own photo in an article about his 4J1FM/4J1FW DXpedition to M-V Island in October 1992. He was not aware that the Russians had written up that event. The issue is now part of his collection.

Frank was asked to take back to the USA a "few" QSL cards from these Russian hams. He had to buy an extra suitcase in Helsinki to accommodate these several thousand cards. However, he was amply rewarded for his efforts when his Russian friends presented him with five "new" straight keys (one from a Soviet MIG plane) to add to his large collection.

AHOW is planning to return to Russia this summer and will take an extra suitcase with him this time.

ARRL NOTE

Bill Kennamer K5FUV is the League's new DXCC Manager. Bill also conducts the QST "How's DX?" column.

NEW FORM 610 NEEDED FOR LICENSES

On Jan 31, 1994 the FCC issued the following Public Notice:

..."Effective March 1, 1994, only the November 1993 edition of the FCC Form 610 may be used to obtain an Amateur license. Earlier editions of the form received after March 1, 1994 will delay issuance of the license as the application will be returned without action and the applicant will be required to refile on a current form."

Ed Blaszczyk N7EB, the club ARRL/VEC Liaison, has these new forms for candidates for new licenses and upgrades. They will be available at test sessions sponsored by the West Valley Amateur Radio Club.

HAMS MONITOR SUN VALLEY BIKE RACES

Except for a few flat tires, the Senior Olympics 20 mile/20 km bike races (held on the Sun Valley parkway in Surprise, west of Happy Trails Resort, on Sunday Feb 20th) took place uneventfully. Paul Kummel N7MYS, our club Public Service coordinator, was stationed with the race officials, while Bill Johnson W9WV handled net control duties with John Kornbeck WA9HBT assisting. Others stationed along the route were

Jack Dow KE7ZQ Reuben Deerhake WA2OQU
Ed Gross KF8CG Dick Zimmerman KB7IOT
Tom Ivy KA7ESP Dwain Mitchell WB8YQK
Tom Watts NY7S Clarence Reid K0BHJ
Ed Balaker WK7L Bert Davidson W2GOB
Leo Staley NS9Y Harold Zabel N7KXZ
Gene Klein N7OBM Chuck Trudel K8JVB
Chuck Bailey W7YU Ed Carlstrom N7ESP
Norm Fulmer N7JAQ Chuck Sauer K9IHV
Monte Nelson NX1Z Detta Reid KA0DSR

Check-in time was 8:30 and races were over by noon. Volunteer hams who were on hand received T-shirts marking the event. Reports on other races to be held Saturday Feb 27 and March 5 will be in the April Short Skip.

TAPR 1994 ANNUAL MEETING...MARCH 4-6

Tucson Amateur Packet Radio will hold its 1994 meeting at Best Western Inn at the Airport, 7060 S Tucson Blvd, Tucson on March 4, 5 and 6. See Feb Short Skip for details and schedule.

SUN CITY COUPLE DONATE HAM GEAR

Mr and Mrs J R Mackenzie, new residents of Sun City, have donated the following to the West Valley club:

A 5-SECTION 40' PUSH-UP MAST with 9 aluminum guys broken with strain insulators, turn-buckles, screw eyes and roof clamp.

A 1/4 WAVE VERTICAL ANTENNA with 4 decoupling radials using "Ringo Ranger" adjustable matching feed, 75' RG-8 Coax. This base antenna is completely adjustable - 10m, etc.

These items are in like-new condition and will bring the club an excellent price if some member will transport and offer for sale at the SCOTTSDALE MARCH 12 HAMFEST! Tom Watts NY7S has the equipment in his garage at 10138 Concho Circle, Sun City. He has out-of-town guests and cannot make the swapmeet.

Tom and friend Tom Martin removed the antenna prior to a reroofing job, and then NY7S recruited Hal VanDyke KD2PH to help load it and cart it to the Watts QTH -- all in one day, start to finish. The club appreciates the generosity of the Mackenzies and the efforts of NY7S and friends.

ARRL OPPOSES RF RADIATION STANDARDS

The FCC has proposed that new RF radiation standards adopted by ANSI and IEEE in 1992 should replace '82 ANSI exposure standards on which most current communication systems are based.

ARRL opposes this proposal because 1) it doesn't actually propose rule changes or suggest anything on which to base substantive comments; 2) it asks for comments not on the 1992 RF exposure guidelines but on how to implement them; 3) it suggests that the FCC has not decided to adopt the 1992 ANSI standards, yet offers no other standard as an alternative; 4) it discusses a standard - the 1992 ANSI/IEEE standard - that is not readily available for the public to review; 5) it addresses a subject that is, according to the Commission itself, beyond the Commission's expertise to deal with. Further, some of the ANSI 1992 standards would be practically impossible to assess for commercial or amateur facilities.

[Info from ARRL Letter 2/10/94]

MARCH CALENDAR

MAR 4-6 TAPR ANN. MEETING, TUCSON, AZ
5-6 ARRL SSB DX CONTEST
7 WVARC MEETING, SUN CITY 7:15 pm
12 SCOTTSDALE SWAPMEET SUNRISE
12 BKFST COUNTRY KITCHN SURPRISE 8am
26-27 CQWW WPX SB CONTEST

THURSDAYS LUNCH COUNTRY KITCHEN 11 AM
WED HAM RADIO NEWS NET 147.30 6:45 pm
DAILY NET (esp. shut-ins) " 9 AM

A TIP OF THE HAT TO.....

FLOYD SMITHBERG NQ7X of Sun City West for winning a gold medal in the 1500m run at the Tempe Senior Olympics meet on Saturday Feb 19 in 7 min 9.4 sec. Floyd added another gold in the 3000m event for 75-79 year-olds with a time of 15:35:32 min. Ann Daley reported the event in the 2/21 Daily News-Sun.

FOR SALE

YAESU FT-901 DM HF ALL-MODE XCVR, AC/DC, SPEAKER, DESK MIC, DUMMY LOAD, mint condx; \$400.

George W7FRV 546-1141

CLUB NOTES

West Valley ARC is an ARRL Special Service Club. Club members need not belong to the League, but a majority of our members do. We urge you to support ARRL. They provide us with a voice in Washington, render technical and legal advice, and sponsor our VEC program that gives exams for new hams and upgrades.

Our club receives \$5 for each new ARRL member and \$2 for each renewal. Jack Dow KE7ZQ is our League representative. When you renew ARRL membership, make out a check to ARRL for \$2 less than the required amount and a check for \$2 to WVARC and send both with renewal form to Jack at 18810 Zinnia Ct, Sun City West, AZ 85375. To join ARRL send application to Jack with check made out to ARRL for \$5 less than required and check made out to WVARC for \$5. The club appreciates your support.

Ray Van Skiver W7LQM is the club Awards Manager. He can validate your QSL cards for VHS and WAS awards for ARRL members. Call 974-1322.

WVARC meets the FIRST MONDAY of each month at St Clement Social Hall, Del Webb Blvd, Sun City at 7:15 PM.