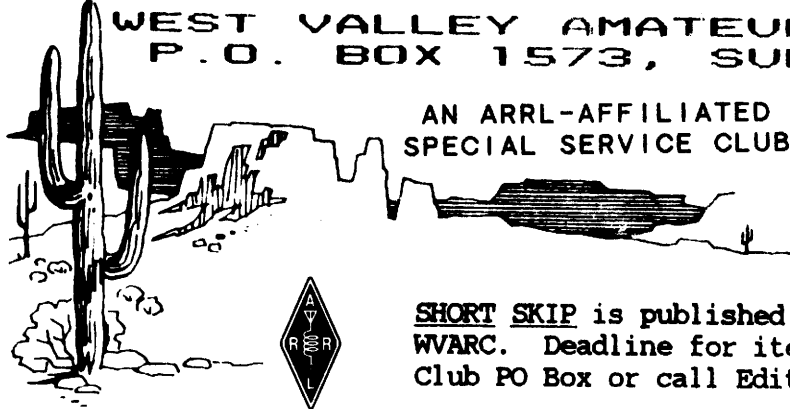


AN ARRL-AFFILIATED  
SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

MARCH 1995

# 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: RESCUE OF DX-PEDITIONERS

The West Valley ARC will meet at St Clement Social Hall, 15800 N Del Webb Blvd, Sun City, on MONDAY, MARCH 6th at 7:15 PM (doors open 6:30). The program, which was rescheduled from the January meeting, will be a presentation by DX-peditioner Frank Smith AH0W about the problems encountered by the Socorro Island DXpedition team (XF4M) last October. We have heard bits and pieces of the story from newspaper items (see AZ Republic, Jan 30, 1995) and ham radio sources. Here is an opportunity to get the whole story from one of the participants. Join your colleagues. Everyone with an interest in Amateur Radio is welcome. We guarantee that you won't need it to stay awake, but coffee will be available.

Other Programs being planned for future meetings include one by Bert W2GOB on Antennas: VHF, UHF, hidden and indoor types. Newer hams especially will enjoy a presentation on Amateur TV that is in the works for the near future. A talk on the Iridium Program by Motorola representative Rod O'Connor is also being scheduled. The Board would like to hear from members about other programs of interest.

The Board of Directors wants to know your preference for Ladies Night Out this year. Do you prefer a BBQ at \$10-\$12/ea, a restaurant dinner or country club setting at higher figures? Ask your spouse and cast your vote at the March meeting. Tentative date is October 27th.

## ARCA SPRINGFEST '95 - MARCH 11

SCOTTSDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
(East of Pima Rd on Chaparral)  
SEMINARS, LECTURES, MEETINGS, T-HUNT  
PARKING: \$2 TAILGATING: \$5  
Talk-in 146.76-  
Information: Len KB7LPW 861-0303  
Mark N7KKQ 843-0960

## NO LICENSE EXAMS AT DeVRY IN MARCH

Because March 4th is Student Registration Day at DeVry Institute, there will be no VEC-sponsored license exams held there on the first Saturday of March. Next test session at DeVry will be on APRIL 1st. There will be testing on MAR 11 at the Spring Hamfest at Scottsdale Community College, 8 to 10:30 AM. There will also be a test session on FRIDAY NIGHT, MARCH 31, at Sun City Posse HQ. Call Ray NW7R (972-8733) to register for the Sun City exam unless you're in the NO-CODE TECH class that meets there on Friday nights. Tests for all classes of amateur licenses will be available, including Morse Code tests.

VEs participating at DeVry in February:

Ed Blaszczyk N7EB	Ed Beyer WU7A
Jack DeWitt AB7AX	Jack Dow KE7ZQ
Bob Johnson KE7LZ	Bill Lange KA7KQQ
Jack O'Keefe WJ7N	Yoshi Sano KE7NC
Leo Staley NS9Y	Ray Sumner NW7R
Roy Woodruff W2HTX	Dwight Yard KB7KON
Bill Reiss	AB7FA

Club Note: The roster is due to be out with the April Short Skip. The information listed below will appear in the roster if your dues have been paid by the March meeting. Check expiration date and data.

### WVARC OFFICERS -- 1995

PRES	GEORGE WATLING	N7JSA	933-0854
V-PRES	CHUCK HILLIKER	W7KIV	584-0918
SEC	MERRILL BUTTERMAN	KF8DZ	930-5534
TREASURER	ERNIE BREWER	N7EBN	848-1875
DIRECTORS:	AL LAMB	KE7WT	876-8518
	JOHN KORNBECK	WA9HBT	566-2018
	JACK NORMAN	KA3VIY	546-9551
	(A fourth director is being sought.)		
PastPRES	RALPH BARR	W0DNO	582-8208

### CENTER FOR AMATEUR RADIO LEARNING: CARL

At a meeting at DeVry Institute on Jan 28, moderated by Ralph Barr W0DNO, representatives from many Valley ham radio clubs were on hand to hear of the progress with Project CARL, the plan to establish a multi-mode radio station and exhibit at the new Arizona Science Center being built at 6th and Washington Streets.

Sheila Grinell, Exec Director of the Science Center, showed a model of the building and explained the desire of that Center to stimulate the interest of young people in Science. Hands-on exhibits and workshops will provide opportunities for children to interact with equipment. Ms Grinell pointed out that at 4th Grade level US kids are in 8th place among nations in scientific knowledge and by 8th Grade had dropped to 14th place. The ham station, with its SSB and FM voice, its Packet, ATV and other communication modes, should arouse the curiosity of young visitors. Adults, of course, are also welcome.

The building itself will be completed in the first quarter of 1996, with the opening slated for that December.

Four basic cluster groups (Management, Fund Raising, Technical and Communications) are seeking more volunteers. Dee Hester N6BQR, Communications, is organizing three-man teams to show the model at club meetings and describe the plans and needs of CARL. A group chaired by Tony Rogozinski N7BG is planning a temporary ham radio exhibit at the present Science and Technology Museum this summer. Rick Checketts KA0KZB needs hams to man our booth at the March Swapmeet in Scottsdale. If you want to volunteer for any of the above, give CARL secretary Al Lee a call (933-1942).

A 2m Net (to keep volunteers up to date with progress) is planned for Wednesday nights at 6:30 PM on 147.28 MHz.

### FCC TO PROVIDE VANITY SIGNS

The FCC has decided to offer a vanity call sign system to the amateur service community and to resume issuing new club and military recreation station licenses. The Commission will use a series of four "starting gates": Gate One would allow a previous holder to apply for that call sign or, where holder is deceased, a close relative could apply. Gate Two would allow EXTRA CLASS operators to apply. Gate Three would allow ADVANCED CLASS operators to apply. Gate Four would open the system to any licensee.

New club call sign applications may be submitted beginning March 24, 1995 and will be issued from the 2x3 block, unless under the "4th gate" the trustee of an existing club station applies for the call sign of a deceased member as a vanity call sign for the club. A club must have a conventional call sign in order to be eligible to apply later for a vanity call sign. Cost of a vanity call sign is \$70 for a 10 year period.

### "QRM CRIMINALS" APPREHENDED

In case you missed this on the ARA swap net, net control station Nick Sues W7ZMD announced that those responsible for the QRMing on the 146.940 repeater during the swap net have been "apprehended". Without divulging the identity of the offenders, Nick commented that the paperwork with the FCC in Douglas is in process. Everyone remarked on how nice it was to get through one night's net session without all the noise and interruption.

For those who are not aware, the AZ Repeater Association conducts a weekly swap net on that repeater, located on the White Tanks Mountains, starting at 7:30 PM every Monday. All hams are invited to check in with QSTs of local interest as well as buy-and-sell items related to ham radio....de Frank AH0W.

### SILENT KEY

JAMES C ELDER W7JFL, 83, of Sun City. Jim was a member of the club in the early '70s. He died Feb 11 at Boswell Hospital. An engineer for the Ohio Power Company, Jim retired to Arizona in 1972. We extend our sympathy to his wife Agnes and family.

## CHAMPION MORSE CODE OPERATOR DIES

West Valley club old-timers will regret to hear of the passing of Morse Code champion Harry A Turner W9YZE. He died in December in Alton IL at the age of 88. In 1942 Turner was clocked and certified at 35 wpm using a straight key. According to William Garret KB8NTE of the Morse Telegraph Club, this is a record that is yet to be broken. It is recorded in the Guinness Book of Records.....de Frank AH0W.

### FOR SALE

KENWOOD TM-2550A mobile 2m XCVR (5W & 45W), with mounting brackets, half and full wave antenna and magnetic antenna holder. Lionel N7ILU 972-8757

KENWOOD TS-430S HF XCVR w/CW filter, mint condx; \$500. Fred W7MCP 584-6100

YAESU FT-101E HF XCVR, 100W & 1KW LINEAR AMP FL-2100B; \$1000.

Rick KC7HMA 972-9716

AM/VHF PORTABLE RADIO (54-160 kHz and 108-135 MHz); \$10 or best offer.

George N7SCC 995-2005

### NO-CODE TECHNICIAN CLASS WELL ATTENDED

The NO-CODE TECH class began on FEB 3rd and will be held each FRIDAY from 7 to 9 PM at Sun City Posse HQ, 10861 Sunland Drive. Some 15 candidates have signed up, and more are expected. Larry Benjamin AA2SC is the Instructor. Last session will be March 31st, exam night.

We had hoped to hold a GENERAL, ADVANCED or EXTRA CLASS on Tuesday, but not enough candidates signed up. We'll try again in October.

### CLUB NOTES

Lunch every THURSDAY 11 AM, Breakfast 2nd SATURDAY 8 AM, Denny's, Bell Rd in Surprise. Spouses welcome.

The club Board of Directors is seeking a replacement for Director Bill Pauley KB7RRE, whose work schedule no longer permits him to attend business or board meetings. His past services have been greatly appreciated.

Ralph Barr W0DNO and Paul Playford W8AEF helped the widow of Clyde Dewey NOCCY of Sun City West dispose of his gear. The club needs more volunteers on the Silent Key Committee.

### CQ DX de FRANK SMITH AH0W/OH2LVG

February was full of un-DX-spected surprises, thanks to German operators who launched an operation to Chatham Island and another big one, Congo, as TN4U and TN4M, passing out sorely needed QSOs on the low bands. A few stations in AZ even got through on 80m CW. If you worked them, QSL both calls via DL7VRO.

An even bigger event: a 3-day operation from Bhutan A51 by JH1AJT and other Japanese operators, who worked over 4,000 stations from this Number-One most desired country. Your DX Editor has "inside" information that another similar operation from Bhutan, again for just a few days, will come up anytime.

The next big one is likely to be the upcoming Conway Reef 3D-DXpedition by Pekka OH1RY and operators from Sweden and California. They will have several full powered stations on the air with emphasis on low bands, RTTY and Europe.

In other DX news, John PA3BTQ will be QRV from Afghanistan YA for about two full months. QSLs via the PA bureau. Listen also for Comoros Islands D68 by DK7UY, Lebanon OD5 by Timo OH1NOA and Namibia V5 by DL7UUO. Also from Africa, listen for Rwanda 9X5EE, Uganda 5X1MW, Zaire 9Q5TT and Ceuta EA9EI from Northern Africa, especially on 75 phone.

Satellite DXers: note that Sanyi XU7VK is active from Phnom Penh on AO-10 and AO-13. He is also a regular on 80m CW during our mornings. QSL via HA0HW.

Other DX to look for: several Pacific locations by Akio JA3JM/AA5K from Guam AH2 and Saipan KH0. Also your own DX Editor AH0W from Saipan and possibly another of the Marianas between March 23 and 30. DJ4ZB is active from Chatham Island as ZL7ZB until March 7th. Ann DL8NBH and Dick DJ2EH will operate from East Malaysia 9M8. After that they will move on to Vanuatu YJ, even more rare. Another station from Vanuatu is active as YJ0AXC on 40 & 80. Finally, Jim Neiger N6YJ is going back to Ascension Island as ZD8Z. With his rhombic antenna Jim puts out one of the loudest signals on 80/75 and should be easy to work.

Gear up for the ARRL and WPX contests, always an opportunity to log in new ones and new band country contacts.

GL, 73 and CU in the pileups!

### CLUB AUCTION A SUCCESS

The West Valley ARC Second Annual Club Auction was held on February 6th with over 190 buyers, sellers and spectators in attendance. Paul Playford W8AEF and Frank Smith AH0W did an excellent job as auctioneers, completing the task by 9:30 PM. Treasurer Ernie Brewer N7EBN reports that the 10% donations to the club (plus additional 100% donations) brought in \$963.71 to our treasury. A part of that amount goes to our School Project, since certain items were given for that purpose.

A critique of the effort produced a few suggestions for improvements. Our next auction should go even more smoothly. If you have workable equipment that is gathering dust keep us in mind for next year.

### ARRL DUES TO INCREASE BY ONE DOLLAR

ARRL's Board of Directors have voted to increase the annual membership dues by \$1 (to \$31), effective April 1st. Dues for family and blind members and for those over 65 and under 18 will also increase, as will life memberships.

So if you are considering joining the League, you can save a dollar or two by acting before April 1st. The WVARC is a Special Services member of ARRL; we receive \$5 for each new member to ARRL and \$2 for each renewal. Send your applications and renewals to Jack Dow KE7ZQ, 18810 N Zinnia Ct, Sun City West 85375. Make out your check to ARRL for \$5 less than required amount (\$2 less, for renewals) and check for \$5 (or \$2) to WVARC. The club appreciates your support.

### "W1AW BULLETIN" ON INTERNET IS PHONY

A message purported to be official W1AW Bulletin ARLX004 falsely claimed that ARRL plans to petition the FCC to drop all Morse Code requirements for Amateur Radio licenses in the US. An authentic ARRL Bulletin apparently was altered and re-posted on an Internet news group as a practical joke. The League plans no such petition..... The League views any dissemination of forged messages as an extremely serious matter. [from W5YI Report 2/1/95]

[Ed. note: Authentic Bulletin ARL004 referred to an unsuccessful attempt to launch a balloon carrying Amateur Radio on Jan 21. A group based in Boone, IA, said they would try again, according to Barry Buelow WA0RJT.]

### ARRL PROVIDES SERVICES VIA INTERNET

The services that ARRL provides via the internet include the Technical Information Service and the Automated Information Server.

The Automated Information Server provides information about Amateur Radio ranging from Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) about the hobby to info on the currently developing technology used in the hobby. To find out more about this service, send an e-mail message to [info@arrl.org](mailto:info@arrl.org) with the subject line "Request" and the following text in the body of the message:

help (for a brief set of instructions)

index (for a list of available topics)

send PROSPECT.TXT (or prospect.txt; for info on Ham Radio)

quit

The Technical Information Service gives internet users access to the knowledgeable technical staff at ARRL HQ. Questions relating to Amateur Radio and related technical topics are welcome. To use this service send a normal e-mail message to [tis@arrl.org](mailto:tis@arrl.org) with your question spelled out in plain english. Be as specific as possible, and keep your line length in messages to a maximum of 80 characters.

If you have any questions about these services contact ARRL Technical Information Services (TIS) Tel 1-203-666-1541  
FAX 1-203-665-7531  
or write ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

[Ed. note: The above information is from a disk of downloaded programs given to me by Harvey Tetmeyer K5LJM. The disk also contains lists of hand-outs from TIS, names of famous hams, mail-order addresses (companies from which you can obtain small amounts of materials), computer RFI elimination, and more. Let me know if you would like a copy. It is on a 720k, 3 1/2" floppy.]

NOTE: Those who will be away for the summer, please give us your 9-digit Zip with your address.....Ray NW7R, Editor