

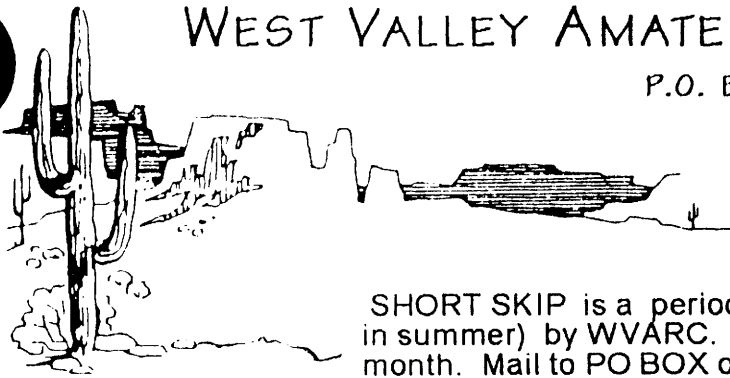


WEST VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

P.O. BOX 1573, SUN CITY, AZ. 85372

APRIL 1997
VOL XXIV, NO 4

SHORT SKIP



SHORT SKIP is a periodical published monthly (every 2 months in summer) by WVARC. Deadline for items is 2nd Saturday of the month. Mail to PO BOX or call Ed. Ray Sumner 972-8733.

APRIL PROGRAM: TVI TALK BY TV ENGINEER

Bobbie Burns said it. "The best laid schemes o' mice and men gang aft a-gley." Plans for the March program went "a-gley" when our speaker, Ed Sutton, Director of Engineering at KPHO-TV (Channel 5), had to work on a transmitter on Mingus Mountain as our meeting was in progress. We are pleased that he will try to attend our April 7 meeting; the subject, TV Interference.

There were 110 sign-ins at the March meeting, and they enjoyed a video program ("Close to the Edge") involving a DXpedition of hams to Peter I Island in the Antarctic. We admire the dedication of these hams even as we question their sanity. The door prize, a \$25 gift certificate to HRO, was won by Fred Boughton KB2CT. Our President, George Watling N7JSA, announced that when Larry Benjamin AA2SC became a Silent Key last month the club lost a Director and our No-Code Tech Class instructor. Shirley Barr KB4HSP was persuaded to serve out the one-year term as Director. There were five (!) offers to help with the radio classes. We thank them all.

At the May meeting we will finally get the answer to WHAT ARE THOSE CRAZY-SOUNDING SIGNALS SAYING? At the June meeting we will learn about the Handi-ham program and related topics.

The West Valley ARC meets the FIRST MONDAY of each month at St Clement Social Hall, 15800 N Del Webb Blvd, Sun City. Doors open at 6:30pm; a brief business meeting at 7:15 is followed by the program, usually related to amateur radio. Everyone with an interest in ham radio is welcome. Come early, enjoy a cup of coffee, and get acquainted with your colleagues.

CLUB OFFICERS

PRES	GEORGE WATLING	N7JSA	933-0854
VPRES	TIM HAYES	KF7XY	878-1728
SEC	DON KOROUS	K9EJC	815-8067
TREAS	ERNIE BREWER	N7EBN	848-1875

DIRECTORS:	DOC GREENE	AB7BD	876-2087
	RICH PIGGOTT	WB2LKU	546-4300
	RICH HAWORTH	W7MDQ	933-2191
	SHIRLEY BARR	KB4HSP	582-8208
PAST PRES	RALPH BARR	WODNO	582-8208

Club web page, tnx Chuck Hilliker W7KIV
<http://www.starlink.com/~chuckh>

CLUB CALENDAR

APRIL	5	LICENSE EXAMS, DeVRY, 8am
	7	WVARC MEETING, ST CLEMENT
	12	BREAKFAST, BRANTLEY'S, 8am
	12	AARC SWAPMEET, DeVRY, 6am -?
	14	BOARD MEETING, PREZ QTH
WEDNESDAYS		2m NET, 6:45pm, 147.30 MHz
THURSDAYS		LUNCH, COUNTRY BOYS, 11am
DAILY		CALL-IN NET, 9am, 147.30 MHz

WEST VALLEY ARC membership is open to anyone with an interest in ham radio. Dues are \$10/yr, payable in January; \$5 after July 1. The one fee includes all family hams at same mailing address.

Please welcome these new members:

	Al Diebel	KB8NSN	Clark Lake MI
	Glen Gustafson	KB00K	Littleton CO
⊗	George Hollander	WB7PMR	Sun City
	Lyle Hunt	N3OTA	Sun City West
	John Kuhnen	KB7QGS	Gilbert
	John Lacy	KC7GBZ	Sun City West
	Dennis Martin	NOGPD	Sun City
	Bob Pistone	K1KVI	Sun City West
	Bill Vomocil	KC7UTW	Glendale
	Harry (Rick) Willis	K2DLZ	Tempe

ARIZONA ARC will hold its annual Swap-meet on SATURDAY APRIL 12 in the SOUTH parking lot, DeVry Institute, 2149 W Dunlap Ave, start 6am. Admission \$1; Tailgaters, \$5. George KQ7C 274-6212.

⊗ Silent Key, 3/23/97!

THUMBNAIL HISTORY OF WVARC REPEATERS

The West Valley ARC set up a 2m Repeater Fund in early 1987. In June of that year Don Starkey K7NHR and a group from Glendale offered to loan their Spectrum SCR-2000X to the club. In exchange we would maintain it and allow them free use. The frequency was 147.30 (+) and the group was having intermod problems at their Glendale location. These problems were still present on Boswell Hospital, but strong input signals were able to overcome them.

The club continued to add to the fund (thanks to some generous contributions) and in the summer of 1988 a 2m repeater was installed on Del Webb Hospital in SCW on 145.29 MHz. The SCW repeater (KE7DH/R) had fewer problems and became the club's primary station.

The club applied for a 70cm frequency in late 1990, and a year later W7JHQ/R was in operation on Boswell Hospital. When Don K7NHR moved to Georgia his equipment was returned to the group but we used 147.30 on Del Webb hospital and relinquished 145.29 because the latter was often triggered by Green Valley hams on the frequency.

The Treasurer has carried a sum on the books, identified as Repeater Fund, but repeater maintenance has come from the general funds in recent years, and since the club finances are in good shape compared with the early days of the West Valley club, the Executive Board recently voted to add the Repeater Fund figures to those of the general fund to simplify the treasurer's task.

On the subject of repeaters, remember to ID when you access the repeater. If you just want to know if your transceiver is working, give your callsign and say "Testing", then listen for the beep. All qualified hams are welcome to use the repeater facilities and to check into the Wednesday evening Newsline (6:45pm) and daily call-in (9am) nets on 147.30 MHz.

The 1997 Roster tells how to access the auto-patches on our 2m and 70cm repeaters. If you need to dial 911 on the 2m repeater, you can get the dispatcher by dialing 1239; and on 70cm dial *83 (unkey) then 911. Remember to give the location, since the call originates at the hospital. Also say that you have a 3-minute limit. Alternately, since most calls are not strictly emergencies, you may want to dial non-emergency number 256-1011 (Maricopa County Sheriff's Office) and give location and time constraints.

WYOMING LIMITS ANTENNA RESTRICTIONS

Several years ago club member Al Lamb KE7WT was appointed ARRL Government Liaison Officer (GL) for the Wyoming Section. He had previously been involved in a long but successful battle with the city of Evanston WY over restrictive antenna heights. Section Manager Warren Morton WS7W asked Al to draft a statute to be taken to the legislature that would preempt ham antenna restrictions. Atty Marshall Quiat AG0X, Director for the Rocky Mountain Region, supplied Al with helpful material. Al drafted a simple statute forbidding political subdivisions from enacting any regulation that would limit the ability of ham operators to transmit and receive. It died in committee but after Al came to AZ, a revised bill was enacted into law on 2/20/97.

The bill provides that no county, city or town shall pass a regulation or ordinance that fails to comply with "Amateur Radio Preemption, 101 FOC 2d 942 (1985)", known as PRB-1. Ordinances that involve placement, screening or height of antennas based on health, safety or esthetic considerations shall reasonably accommodate amateur communications. No ordinance shall establish a maximum height for an amateur radio antenna of less than seventy feet above ground.

This is a significant victory for hams in Wyoming. No more fighting the P&Z of each city and town. Quiat says that it is a model statute and ARRL will use it in other states.

NEW VANITY CALLS OF INTEREST TO VALLEY HAMS

Bob Hatter K7RDH, former manager of Ham Radio Outlet in Phoenix, is now W7MAE; wife Martha N7KGB is now W7KOY. Hams will recognize W7KOY as the call of Martha's mom, Gertrude Pond, who was always available to help anyone and everyone via 2m. And W7MAE is the call of Martha's dad, Ken Pond, who helped so many newcomers get started in ham radio. We are pleased that these calls will continue to grace the airwaves. Bob and Martha now reside in Virginia.

FOR SALE: HOUSE WITH 65 ft CRANK-UP TOWER, 6-element wide space tribander, shack wired for 220 Volts. Located on oversized lot on a SCW golf course. Rich Haworth W7MDQ 843-2700 (W).

From QST March 1997 article by Fred Hopengarten K1VR.... "Don't call it a tower! You may know it's only 12 to 18" wide but people you speak to might imagine it to be 12' wide at the base and 3' wide at the top with 10' microwave dish on top. Call it an antenna support structure."

If you're following the Reflector and various DX "ragsheets" you'll see that the recent 701A (Yemen) operation has been rejected for credit by the DXCC. This operation from Aden by JH1AJT and DJ9ZB was for many their "last one", so the news is a big disappointment for many, and certainly not without controversy. Many question why an earlier 708AA operation was accredited with identical paperwork. According to one published source, the "release of this news has stirred heavy discussion on the internet" and "much discussion has ensued, including the suggestion of an overhaul of the DXCC program and its leadership." This will be an interesting subject to follow and may result in another attempt at Yemen by Zorro JH1AJT.

While you're waiting for that to happen, you might want to set your beam to Auckland Island and work Ed ZL9/K8VIR, who will be there with some scientists. He will work mainly SSB. Another rare one to work is Juan de Nova FR5ZQ/J along with Amsterdam FT5ZG who should be workable on 7,006 and 14,190.

Look also for Nick EM1HO operating from Vernadsky Base, Antarctica, Hrane YT1AD who will operate from Tunisia (3V8BB), Bob W7MAE from Guernsey GU, Gus in Uganda as 5X1D, Jacques F6BUM from Senegal 6W, Belau KC6/T88 by the Japanese Palau Crazy Contest Club (sic), the Faroe Islands OY by several Germans, Ascension by several Americans, St Helena ZD7RH, and Swaziland 3DA by several Japanese operators.

IOTA chasers should be alert for Portsmouth Island (NA-067) by the Knightlites QRP Club and Brazil's Sao Sebastiao Island (SA-028) ZY2IB.

Your DX Editor hopes to see you at the International DX Convention held this year in Fresno (not Visalia) the weekend of April 5th. It is starting to shape up as nearly an all-Arizona convention, with presentations by Arizona DXers including a seminar on propagation by Ned AA7A, one on Togo which involved N7MB, K5VT, N7BG and KC7V, Myanmar AZ1N by many CADXA members, and this DX editor presenting Midway AH4/AHOW with Frank Schottke W2UE of Scottsdale. The real AZ highlight, of course, will be the annual salutation to WVARC's own Chuck Bailey W7YU, who is the only ham to have attended every annual convention for the last 50 years!

One last note: we hoped to have news about Martti Lane OH2BH's announced DXpedition to North Korea P5 -- probably the #1 most wanted DXCC country. All we have heard so far is that he wants to take his team there before Dayton. Meanwhile we wish him success and good luck.

Amateur Radio license exams will be held at DeVry Institute, 2149 W Dunlap Ave, on SATURDAY APRIL 5th. Walk-in registration is 8 to 10am; no tests to begin after 10. Charge is \$6.25. There is no charge for Element 1A or 2. Bring your original and copy of appropriate CSCEs or licenses and photo ID (e.g., driver's license). FCC Forms 610 are available at registration. A new NO-CODE TECH question pool will be used for exams BEGINNING JULY 1; prospective hams will have five extra questions to answer in Element 2 and 3A at that time. Manuals for the new tests should be available around May 1st.

The exams are sponsored by the West Valley ARC and DeVry ARC. There were 15 candidates at the session on March 1st. The clubs thank the following VEs who participated; ARRL-accredited VEs are welcome to help in the tests, which are held on the FIRST SATURDAY of each month (except holiday weekends):

Rich Piggott	WB2LKU, Liaison
Ed Beyer	WU7A Larry Teel KJ7QP
Jack DeWitt	AB7AX Yoshi Sano KE7NC
Jack Dow	KE7ZQ Ray Sumner NW7R
Bob Johnson	KE7LZ Hal VanDyke KD2PH
Stan Kieffer	N3GEZ Glenn Wade N7JWF
Elliott Klein	K7ER Dwight Yard KB7KON
Bob Knight	N7LPD Shelly Newman AB7LQ
W Sheldon Schiff	KA7K

Information for our Volunteer Examiners: WVARC will sponsor an exam at Peoria's Sports Complex THURSDAY evening APRIL 10th at 7pm, for a class of Special Military Active and Retired Travelers (SMART), in town for their annual get-together. It is estimated that some 20 candidates will be taking NO-CODE TECH exams. Here is an opportunity for Examiners who have not served recently because of other Saturday activities, to keep their accreditation active. Call Ray NW7R (972-8733) if you can help. Candidates for this test session are restricted to SMART members because of limited accommodations.

Exams are held on the THIRD MONDAY of each month at 6pm at 7115 E Adobe Road in the City of Mesa Utility Office; for info: Denise AB7KG 898-4066. Exams are also held on the FOURTH SATURDAY of the month at 7pm at the Red Cross Building, 6135 N Black Canyon Hwy, Phoenix; for info: Gary 996-8148.

SUN CITY WEST HAMS MEET

SCW hams will meet at Bank of America, 19022 RH Johnson Blvd, at 9am on April 18. Please do not use the bank parking spaces. Discussions will be on problems of concern to SCW hams. For information: Joe Nowakowski W7FPG 584-6117.

SILENT KEYS

LARRY BENJAMIN AA2SC of Sun City died unexpectedly in February from complications following heart bypass surgery. Larry was a chemical engineer and lawyer and remained active as a consultant in these fields after retirement. He was involved in many club activities and will be sorely missed. We offer our condolences to wife Jane and family.

MARLAND KEELER N7OBO of Sun City West died Feb 23. Marland joined the club as a Short Wave Listener (SWL) in 1988, attended our classes to earn his Novice call KB7ENG and current call. He has been interred in the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona. Our sympathy is extended to his wife Vera.

WALTER BURKE W9JOW died recently in Sun City. He joined the club in 1978 and was an active member until ill health slowed him down. Walter was an officer with United Steel Workers in Pittsburgh before retiring. We offer our sympathy to his wife Aletha and family.

W7ASC AIRS IN APRIL

Amateur Radio Station W7ASC at the AZ Science Center will be on the air in early April. Valley hams are asked to make this ham station a big success. Call Ralph (582-8208) to sign up. Station W7ASC will be manned from 9am to 5pm weekdays and 10am to 5pm weekends, with two 4-hour shifts each day. Parking is available free with validated ticket, in the structure north of the Science Center, just off of 6th Street.

NEW ROOM FOR BREAKFAST AT BRANTLEY'S

West Valley hams meet for breakfast the 2nd SATURDAY of each month at 8am, at Brantley's, NW corner of Thunderbird Rd and 101 Loop. The small room assigned to us made conversation difficult, and attendance fell off. Thanks to efforts by Bert W2GOB, management has agreed to give us the large room. Please join us and make the event a success.

Attendance at the weekly THURSDAY BRUNCH at Country Boys (1 blk W of El Mirage Rd) is high. Join us between 10:30 and 11:30. Spouses welcome at both places.

FOR SALE: R-7 HF ANTENNA; \$200.
Rick W8JFR 972-9716

ICOM IC-280 MOBILE 2m XCVR; \$100.
DIAWA RF-440 RF SPEECH PROCESSOR; \$35.
BELL & HOWELL DIGITAL MULTIMETER; \$5.
Tom N7YLJ 979-3520

JOB OPPORTUNITY: Sun City Rec Centers have an opening for a part time sound equipment operator for meetings, plays, concerts, etc. For further info call Dick Stout KE7RD 815-0985.

LOCAL DISASTER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

David French N7FAN and club member Ed Ryan N7VEX, of the Central Arizona Chapter American Red Cross, are looking for hams to train as Local Disaster Volunteers. Interested hams can find out more at the following orientation sessions at the West Valley Service Center, Luke AFB, 7383 N Litchfield Rd. Dates are 3/27, 4/10 and 4/24, 10am to Noon. Pre-register by phone: 856-7823. For more info, call Rich Pig-gott WB2LKU 546-4300.

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER ON DISK

WVCALL 1.1 has been released. WVCALL for Windows 3.1 and 95 is the online searchable member roster with members, summer addresses and email addresses. The roster will be updated at least 5 times during the year. Updates are sent by e-mail to subscribers, who unzip the roster files. Now Juno and AzTeC clients can receive the zipped file uuencoded. The file must be uudecoded, then unzipped. The WVCALL 1.1 distribution disk includes the 1997 roster and a zipped file of Extract Version 3.04, a very neat Windows 3.1 uudecode utility. Registration of the utility is free to private users by email. The \$3 annual fee for WVCALL supports the club's VE activities. Members may add their call sign change, email addresses, residential addresses by email to noble@starlink.com.

HAM RADIO & MORE GETS REPRIEVE

[from ARRL LETTER, March 14, 1997]

The Ham Radio & More radio program will continue, says program host Len Winkler KB7LPW, who says he got the word recently from Ron Cohen, general manager of KFNN Radio (1510 AM in Phoenix), which owns and originates the program. Ham Radio & More has been on the air for six years and is syndicated to about 20 local commercial stations around the country and short wave station WWCR. Cohen told Len that the station has received some encouraging responses to sponsorship. Darlene Grimes N7XYB has taken over the marketing of the program, which airs each Sunday [at 4pm AZ time]. "We are hopeful of more industry suppliers and organizations jumping on the bandwagon and supporting a show that really does support Amateur Radio," said Winkler.

Ham Radio & More show information is available at <http://www.goodnet.com/~lenwink/hrm.htm>.

ROSTER PREP: Make-up and Printing Arrangement, Ralph Barr WODNO; Folding and Collating, Ralph, Shirley Barr KB4HSP, Sylvia Hilliker WA2MFR, & Chuck Hilliker W7KIV; Stapler Acquisition, Mit Thompson K9CCX who drove to Tempe to borrow the Broadway Consumer stapler; Stapling, Stuffing & Mailing, Ray Sumner NW7R & Ruth (XYL). Tnx all.