



WEST VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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

FEBRUARY 1998
VOL XXV, NO 2

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.

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CLUB OFFICERS

CLUB DIRECTORS

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CLUB CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2 WVARC AUCTION, ST CLEMENT SOCIAL HALL, SC, 7-10pm
6 NO-CODE TECH CLASS BEGINS, SC POSSE HQ, 7-9pm
7 LICENSE EXAMS, DeVRY INSTITUTE, 8-10am
9 EXEC BOARD MEETING, W0DNO QTH, 7pm
14 CLUB BREAKFAST, TIVOLI GARDENS, SC, 8am
MARCH 14 SPRINGFEST, SCOTTSDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
(Host Club: AZ Network Intertie Group; Info 980-7626)

WEDNESDAYS 2m HAM NEWS NET, 147.30 MHz, 6:45PM
THURSDAYS BKFST/LUNCH, FAYLENE'S, SUN VILLAGE (SURPRISE), 10:30am
DAILY CALL-IN NET, 147.30 MHz, 9am

FEBRUARY MEETING IS ANNUAL AUCTION!! All hams are invited to the WVARC ANNUAL AUCTION on FEBRUARY 2nd at St Clement Social Hall, 15800 Del Webb Blvd, Sun City. DOORS WILL OPEN AT 5:30pm for sellers and at 6:30pm for buyers (we hope); bidding will begin at 7pm. Lots will be registered (and sold) in sequence, even numbers displayed on one side, odd numbers on the other. Items assigned a minimum bid will be identified with a RED TAG which will cost you \$1. (Last year some minimum bid items failed to get a bid, slowing the auction considerably. Be sure your equipment is reasonably priced.) The club gets 10% of the selling price. Those who are donating equipment to the club can receive an acknowledgement form for charitable contributions. WVARC is a 501(c)(3) organization.

CLUB DUES were payable in January. If you don't plan to be at the Auction please mail your check (\$10) to the club PO Box by FEBRUARY 14 to be included in the 1998 Roster. About 80% of the members have paid as we go to press. Look at your Short Skip mailing envelope. Those who have paid have the expiration date "1/99" (or later) after their names. Call Treasurer Shirley KB4HSP if your records don't agree with the club's.

If space will permit, the 1998 roster will include e-mail addresses. Send a short e-mail message with your e-mail addresses to Rich Piggott WB2LKU (noble@starlink.com).

CQ DX de FRANK SMITH AH0W/OH2LVG. February will bring a harvest of DX starting with a three-DXCC country DXpedition by NASA astronaut Dr Chuck Brady N4BQW, to include Baker-Howland KHL, Kingman Reef KH5K and Palmyra KH5. Each will be a multi-station all-band/all-mode effort. The team is planning to stay on each island 3-5 days. QSL via WA4FFW (Mark McIntyre).

Also look out for a multi-station operation from the Maldives as 8Q7AA, manned mainly by hams from Arizona, including N7TX, the QSL manager. That effort will concentrate on the low-bands. In addition, Bob Furzer N6BFM is returning to Kuwait and will operate as 9K2ZZ for one year. Bob is one of the hobby's greatest DX operators and QSLs are quick (via W8CNL).

Other strange/rare DX includes two highly elusive stations, FT5XN from Kerguelen and FR5ZQ/T from Tromelin. These two have come up on frequency very unpredictably, will work just a few QSOs then disappear. Good luck on these exceedingly rare ones. Your DX editor has information that these two will become candidates for a world-class team DXpedition in the future.

Speaking of low-bands, there is an American team operating from China as BY1QH, mainly on 1823. And from Cambodia, Harv, an employee at the US Embassy there is signing XU2FB; QSL via N4JR. Also look for JALIED from Vietnam as 3W6JQ.

Look out for Crozet Island FT/W by Jean Paul F5BU (QSL via F6APU), Guatemala by Hessu OH6XY (friend of Arizona) and other Finns, Burkina Faso XT2DM by Mike F5RLE, and Swaziland by Jon as 3DAOCA (QSL via W4DR).

In the meantime, GL, GD DX and CU in the Pileups!

[Editor's note: Our DX editor just returned from Laos in time to turn out the DX column this month. The trip to the Lao People's Democratic Republic came up unexpectedly. The Khao San Pathet Lao (Laotian News Agency) invited what was the first international team to operate from there to celebrate its 30th anniversary. Call designations were XW30 (CW) and XW30A (SSB, RTTY), January 5-16. The team, with members from Japan, USA and Sweden, finished with 25,000 QSOs. Frank was introduced to a number of foreign ministry and communications officials as Finland's Consul in Arizona, and he was persuaded to do some volunteer work for them which will take him back in October, along with Zorro JH1AJT, the team leader of this last operation. Frank was the first American citizen to be legally licensed to operate in Laos. He took some great pictures and hopes to have a presentation ready for the WVARC meeting in April.]

MARCH MEETING will feature a program by Fred S Jones KC5AC, who will talk about Attic Antennas and construct one for us. (It'll be one of the door prizes.) The Executive Board is open to suggestions for programs. We have recently had DXpeditions to Midway, Kure Island and Bora Bora -- all of them presented with fascinating slides -- and our wandering DX members Frank Smith and Paul Playford have just returned from Laos and the Maldives respectively, so we hope to visit these places vicariously in the future. But how about some other topics of interest. Anyone?

INTERESTED IN COPYING 20 WPM CODE? Brass pounder Irving Weinman W7GX has offered to conduct a class for Morse Code enthusiasts (or not-so enthusiasts). Call Irv at 815-2469 to express your interest. The use of Morse Code may have been terminated in the maritime and other services, but in Amateur Radio we are still required to demonstrate some capability in the mode to be qualified to operate in the HF bands. It is unlikely that the requirement will be dropped as an international policy until the World Radiocommunications Conference in now scheduled for 2001.

NO-CODE TECHNICIAN CLASS TO BEGIN FEBRUARY 6th. The West Valley ARC will sponsor a beginners class in Amateur Radio, to be held at Sun City Posse HQ, 10861 Sunland Drive, from 7 to 9pm each FRIDAY in FEBRUARY and MARCH. THERE IS NO CHARGE! A few more candidates have expressed an interest in attending the class this year than at our last offering. Instructor Jean Deslover AA9CM hopes to complete the course in the 8 assigned sessions, and the license exams will be held at the regular test session at DeVry Institute on SATURDAY, APRIL 4th. Call Merle Bodine KC7OGU (546-1737) or Ray Sumner NW7R (972-8733) to register for the course. The textbook is the latest edition of the ARRL manual, "Now You're Talking". We thank the SC Posse for the use of their training classroom, where we have held our classes since 1993.

LICENSE EXAMS at DeVRY on FEBRUARY 7th. Exams for all classes of Amateur Radio licenses will be held at DeVry Institute, 2149 W Dunlap Avenue, in Phoenix, on SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7th. Register from 8 to 10am; no exams to start after 10. Bring photo ID and original and copy of appropriate CSCE or license. The new FCC Form 610 (dated Sept 1997) is available at registration. There is no charge for Element 1A and 2; single charge of \$6.35 covers all other Elements taken once. A second \$6.35 is charged for any retest (permitted if you fail by one or two questions the first time).

All ARRL-accredited volunteer examiners are welcome to participate in the sessions, which are sponsored by West Valley ARC and DeVry ARC. Any General Class (or higher) amateur who is interested in becoming a VE should call Rich Piggott WB2LKU (546-4300) for info. License exams are held at DeVry the FIRST SATURDAY of each month except holiday week-ends.

CLUB NOTES: The club has about 30 committees that help the club to serve its members and the community. (See first two pages of 1997 Roster.) The Committee Chairpersons generally have life tenure except when they ask to be replaced. President Ralph Barr W0DNO does not anticipate any changes in the current list of chairpersons. Reviewing the 1997 list, chairs are needed for Legal and Elmers, and Connie Muldoon N7WZA is assigned the job of finding a co-chair for Greeters. Merle Bodine KC7OGU now chairs the No-Code Tech Class Committee. Chuck Hilliker W7KIV is administrator of the web page, which includes posting the Short Skip monthly, and naming a Ham-of-the-Month; the web page provides access to WB2LKU's site, which includes a currently updated club roster w/e-mail addresses, a list of items for sale by members, FCC new licenses in our area, and access to Callbook info.

There have been some changes in Captains of the Public Service teams. SUN CITY WEST has expanded to 5 teams, which Joe Nowakowski helps coordinate: Fred S Jones captains the North expansion; Del Young and Ron Wamsley, NW; Baldwin Hallaway, Ed Carlstrom and Reuben Deerhake, SW; Paul Ashby, Jack Dow and Ed Balaker, SE and Surprise (includes SC Grand); Paul Kummel and Bert Davidson, NE part of SCW. In SUN CITY, Walt Schwiebert and George Watling, South (includes Youngtown); Fred Swain and Lou Einstein, Central; Larry Teel and Hal Van Dyke, North. PHOENIX and GLENDALE have no assigned captains at the present time. Tim Hayes is PEORIA captain. John Kornbeck is our Public Service/Emergency Chairman and Bill Johnson the ARES Emergency coordinator.

Please welcome these new members of the club:

Gerald (Gus) Arnold N7ASE	SCWest	Marian Clark KC7TOL	Sun City
Kevin Hartman KC7TQD	Glendale	Robert Jones W6VBT	Goodyear
Bruce Kabana WB7SRC	Peoria	Julia Korytkowski KC7ZVO	Phoenix
Don Kesler KB7ORP	Phoenix	Loss Stewart N0LHD	Peoria
Darryll Salsburg KC7ZCU	Phoenix	David Weldon KC8DUJ	E Liverpool OH
Bill Stoker K2PQZ	Phoenix	Alex Williams N07M	Glendale

C.A.R.L. HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING. Members of the Center for Amateur Radio Learning, the group that operates W7ASC at the Arizona Science Center, had their annual meeting on Saturday January 17 at DeVry Institute. Minor changes to the Constitution were adopted, and it was voted to apply for status as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. A certificate of appreciation was awarded to group advisor, Dave Pollack KF7WW, who conceived the idea of an Amateur Radio presence at the new Science Center.

Current officers were also commended for their efforts:

Ralph Barr WODNO Chairman, Management Committee
Bob Burleson KG7QJ, Chairman, Technical Committee
Rick Horwitz AB7FH, Chairman, Communications Committee
Charlotte Horwitz KB7TKQ, Chairwoman, Fundraising Committee
Al Lee W7KQI, Secretary
Shirley Barr KB4HSP, Treasurer

Walt Schuknecht N7IZM addressed the group on Making Better Presentations, Rick AB7FH described future improvements to the station, including a beam antenna and greater height to the VHF/UHF antenna. Rick also ran the KPHO (Channel 5) News video segment showing several young people operating the W7ASC station. Charlotte KB7TKQ expressed the need to get greater ham community involvement; Char runs the CARL booth at valley Swapmeets and is surprised at the number of hams unaware of the Science Center station. Charlotte displayed the Worked All Kids award, recognizing the participation of the many hams at the other end of QSOs from the Center. Suggestions from the floor included making a video tape showing young people involved in the hobby (including the Channel 5 clip). A Special Event day involving ham stations at all Museums and Science Centers was proposed as a long term project.

West Valley club members who have participated at the station include

Paul Ashby KB7YTF	Tex Jarvis KE8AK	Barbara Miller WB6EVJ
Ralph Barr WODNO	Bruce Kabana WB7SRC	Jerry Overeynder W6IWR
Shirley Barr KB4HSP	Eva Karnatz KC7RY	Pete Pedersen W7KTK
Marian Clark KC7TOL	Stan Kieffer N7QB	Dave Pollack KF7WW
Steve De Well KB7NKB	Don Korous K9EJC	Yoshi Sano K7YS
Allan Fusler KI7NF	Al Lee W6KQI	Ray Sumner NW7R
Russ Iverson KJ7KN	Rob McAndrew N7RIX	George Watling N7JSA
John Wicke KB7VCK (Silent Key)		

FOR SALE - RECEIVER, HAMMARLUND SP-600-JX w/cabinet v y gd wking condx
.54-54.0 Mc (6 bands) w/manual 87 1/2 lbs w/o spkr; \$200,
pickup only. Can provide details by phone.
Al W8PAL 814-6387

FOR SALE items are listed in the Short Skip and on the club web page with no charge. These listings are effective especially in moving "Silent Key" estate items. We note that items from the estate of Al Kutchik W9VYG have been closed out. Bert Davidson W2GOB did an excellent job in disposing of thousands of dollars worth of equipment. All remaining items will be offered at the club Auction, and those not sold will be donated to Explorer Post 599.

The items had been listed on the web page and were sold to readers in the valley and even in Alaska and California. The "3rd Party Sales" page is administered by Rich WB2LKU and is seen around the world. Rich says, "We are happy to be of help to hard working volunteers. Silent Key estate disposal is not an easy job, but unfortunately it is a necessary one." Other Silent Key estate disposers include Chuck Bailey W7YU, who has served the club in this capacity in the Sun City area for many years, and Jerry Overeynder W6IWR, who serves a similar function in Sun City West.

The West Valley Amateur Radio Club

welcomes all to its annual

HAM RADIO AUCTION

of Almost Next-to-New Amateur Radio
and related gear

Monday evening - February 2, 1998
St. Clement's of Rome Catholic Church Social Hall
15800 North Del Webb Blvd in Sun City
(1/2 mile south of Bell Road)

5:30 - 6:30 sellers' check-in, registration and set-up

6:30 - buyers welcome to inspect items for sale

7:00 AUCTION ACTION BEGINS !

Sellers please note:

- *WVARC retains 10% of items sold as a donation.*
- *WVARC will gladly accept 100% donations of equipment for sale.*
- *All are welcome to participate; please: no commercial vendors.*
- *Contact auctioneers for special instructions on minimum bids.*

For additional information:

Frank Smith AHØW at 938-8000
(mkdxf@aztec.asu.edu.)

Ralph Barr WØDNO 582-8208
(wØdno@worldnet.att.net)