

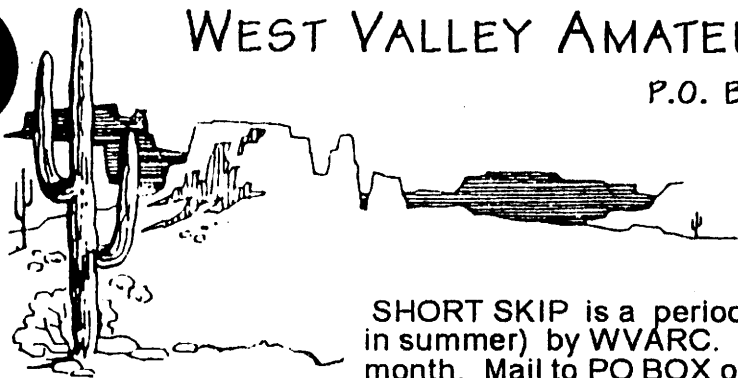


WEST VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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

JUNE - JULY 1998
VOL XXV, NO 6

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 CALENDAR

JUNE 1 CLUB MEETING, ST CLEMENT SOCIAL HALL, SC, 7:15pm
6 LICENSE EXAMS, DeVRY INSTITUTE, Phx, 8-10am
13 BREAKFAST, TIVOLI GARDENS, SC, 8am
27-28 FIELD DAY
JULY 6 CLUB MEETING, ST CLEMENT SOCIAL HALL, SC, 7:15pm
11 BREAKFAST, TIVOLI GARDENS, SC, 8am
13 WVARC BOARD MEETING, PRESIDENT'S QTH, 7pm
24-26 FT TUTHILL HAMFEST, FLAGSTAFF

DAILY CALL-IN NET, 147.30 MHz, 9am
MON & FRI VACATION NET, 14.240 MHz, 10am local time
WEDNESDAYS 2m HAM NEWS NET, 147.30 MHz, 6:45pm
THURSDAYS BRUNCH, LINDA L'S (formerly Faylene's), SUN VILLAGE (Surprise), 10:30am (except for 3rd Thursday at 9:30am)

MEMBERSHIP IN WEST VALLEY ARC is open to anyone with an interest in Amateur Radio. Dues are \$10/yr, \$5 after July 1, and include all family hams at same address. (Only one copy of Short Skip per family.)

WVARC MEETS THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH AT ST CLEMENT SOCIAL HALL, 15800 DEL WEBB BLVD, SUN CITY. Doors open at 6:30pm; meeting begins at 7:15. The PROGRAM for JUNE 1ST will be a slide presentation about Pitcairn Island by Ken Hopper KD7KH. Some of you have worked Tom Christian and others on the island, and here is an opportunity to see their surroundings. Join us early for coffee and an eyeball QSO.

At our JULY 6TH MEETING, Steve Sipple KB7QHP of the National Weather Service in Phoenix will tell us about the SKYWARN program in Arizona. [Amateur radio operators report dangerous weather conditions to the Weather Service, which informs the news media and advises the public on its own weather stations, 162.55 MHz Phoenix, 162.40 MHz Tucson.]. On AUGUST 3RD, Aubrey Stewart W6ODG will demonstrate the much discussed KACHINA 505DSP TRANSCEIVER.

There were 104 at our MAY 4TH meeting. Door prizes were won by Fred Boughton KB2CT (\$25 gift certificate to HRO) and Tom Ivy KA7ESP (subscription to WorldRadio). Everyone took great interest in the talk by the RFI Committee Chairman Ken Wakershauser N7OWP. The Radio Frequency Interference group has served the Sun Cities well, but lack of volunteers from other areas represented by club members has limited the committee services in those areas.

LEAGUE CALLS MEMBERS TO ACTION ON 70cm PETITION...from ARRL LETTER, 5-15-98

The ARRL says the recent Land Mobile Communications Council petition seeking access to 70cm is "incompatible with continued amateur use of the band" and urges members to comment in opposition - not only to the FCC but to the LMCC's members. The LMCC has petitioned the FCC for immediate reallocation of 420 to 430 and 440 to 450 MHz from the federal government to the Private Mobile Radio Service. Amateur Radio enjoys the use of 70cm on a secondary basis to government radiolocation (military radar). The LMCC has proposed to share the two subbands with Amateur Radio, but has not said how sharing would be possible. The LMCC also seeks additional UHF reallocations in the intermediate and long term.

For those planning to file comments, specific information and recommendations plus a copy of the LMCC petition and a list of LMCC members are available on the ARRLWeb page at <http://www.arrl.org/>

Commenters should explain how the loss of access to 420 to 430 and 440 to 450 MHz would affect them personally and how it would affect the ability of hams to provide needed public service. "Even if you do not use these segments yourself, it is likely that the loss of access would result in more crowding and interference in the part of the band, or another band, that you do use," said ARRL Exec VP David Sumner K1ZZ. "Don't overlook the fact that if you use linked voice or packet systems, it is quite likely that some of the links you rely on are in either or both of these segments.

Additionally, amateurs involved in public service communication can ask the government or non-government agencies they assist for written statements of support. Hams also should urge Amateur Radio organizations, especially those with interests in the 420 to 450 MHz band, to comment as well.

The LMCC, a nonprofit association, includes several well-known organizations such as the American Automobile Association, the American Petroleum Institute, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials-International (APCO), a frequent Amateur Radio supporter. The League suggests that ARRL members who also belong to one of the LMCC member organizations consider writing to inform the organization that the LMCC is acting contrary to your interests and requesting them to disavow the LMCC petition insofar as it affects Amateur Radio.

Sumner says ARRL members should not complain to members of Congress nor write angry letters to the FCC. "The LMCC petition is a private-sector initiative, not a government proposal," Sumner said. "By law, the FCC has to put the petition on public notice and invite comment. That's all the FCC has done with it." Sumner says that criticizing the FCC at this stage would be "inappropriate and counterproductive."

Sumner reminds members that nothing is going to happen overnight with the LMCC petition, and there will be at least one more opportunity for public comment. "Before the FCC can take the next step to reallocate this spectrum, it must get the federal government to agree," he explained, because the government is the primary occupant. Then, the FCC would have to issue a Notice of Proposed Rule Making, and solicit public comments on its proposal.

The FCC is accepting only written comments in response to RM-9267. Comments are due by June 1, and reply comments are due by June 15. Address comments to RM-9267, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M St NW, Washington, DC 20554. Formal comments must be submitted with an original and four copies.

PUBLIC SERVICE REPORT de JOHN KORNBECK.....Fourteen members were on hand to monitor the WALK TO HEALTH event held in Sun City on April 25th. The walk ran smoothly with no problems. Amateur operators participating:

John Kornbeck WA9HBT	Lou Bennett K7LOU	Al Folden W7KAP
Larry Teel KJ7QP	Al Ellis W7RTA	Chuck Sauer K9IHV
Nancy Teel KC7FKT	John Prather KC7QKB	Rudy Strothmann WA9RK1
Orie Moretti W9LHW	Rich Haworth W7MDQ	Mit Thompson K9CCX
Dennis Arend KC7HLX	David Cain KB7WDD	

CQ DX de FRANK SMITH AH0W/OH2LVG

Just as DXers are making last minute QSO's with the large 3B7 St Brandon operation, attention is now being turned to a large DXpedition to St Paul as CY9RF by VE9AA who just announced the inclusion of Glendale DXer Mike Bill N7MB on the team. We wish Mike good luck.

A group of Hungarians has announced a large-scale operation from Mongolia as JU1HA.

Look for Moldavia ER, Crete SV9 by W1KSZ, Afghanistan YA, Tristan de Cunha by Ian as ZD9IL (on SSB almost every day), Libya by EA5XV as 5A3YAZ, Galapagos HC8 by DL4VCG and more.

Kerguelen has returned to the air as FT5XN, 20 and 40 CW.

NEWS FROM VISALIA: Our own Chuck Bailey W7YU was once again the only person to have attended every Visalia convention. Also at Visalia, Zorro JH1AJT announced to the large gathering of DXers a return DXpedition to the Kingdom of Bhutan (A51), this time with an international team of 10 operators, presumably to take place in the spring of 1999. WVARC Short Skip readers got this information first in last month's issue.

This is IOTA season and there's plenty on the table, including some places with exotic names like Oiseaux Island as F/EA2BUF/p, Elba Island (EU-028) 1A5 by IK4LIE, Cayos Cochinos (NA-160) by Gerard F2JD, Chateau d'If (EU-095) by F5NBX, Isla de Venado as H75/AD5A (Nicaraguan Caribbean group), Mel Island by PP5YZ, Gabo Island (OC-196) by VK's, etc, all in warm-up for the July 25-26 IOTA contest. Best 73, GD DX and CU in the pileups!

LICENSE EXAMS at DeVRY on MAY 2. Twelve candidates took tests, but only three earned licenses (No-Code Tech); others earned partial credit. Club members who earned No-Code Tech licenses were Don Svardal KD7BTE and Chris Cost KD7BTF. Volunteer examiners at session:

Ed Beyer WU7A	Merle Bodine KC7OGU	Robert Johnson KE7LZ
Yoshi Sano K7YS	Stan Kieffer N7QB	Charles Wallace W1OSV
Ray Sumner NW7R	Robert Knight N7LPD	Shelley Newman AB7LQ
Dwight Yard KB7KON	Rich Piggott WB2LKU, Session Mgr & Liaison	

Next test on JUNE 6. Register 8-10am; no tests will start after 10. Bring photo ID and original and copy of appropriate license or CSCE. Latest 610 Forms (Sept 1997) available at registration. No Charge for Elements 1A, 2; \$6.35 will cover all other tests taken once. THERE WILL BE NO EXAM AT DeVRY IN JULY. A new question pool for Element 3B (General written test) goes into effect on July 1st.

Volunteer Examiners accredited by ARRL are welcome to participate in test sessions at DeVry. VE turnout is typically light during the summer months and your support is appreciated.

Exams will be held at the Ft Tuthill Hamfest on July 25th. Register from 8:30 to 10:30am. For info: 602-779-2722 (voice mail).

SCIENCE CENTER HAM STATION GETS HF BEAM ANTENNA. We now have a rotatable 10-15-20m antenna on the AZ Science Center roof. It is a used Explorer 14 triband antenna and Yaesu rotator. The 2m/70cm antenna is on top of the tribander, providing additional height. The R-7000 vertical and the 80m longwire antennas will be reinstalled in the future. The installation was accomplished by Rick Horwitz AB7FH, Paul Playford W8AEF, George Cooney KQ7C, Ralph Craner WA0RSF, John Ekiss AA6HA, and Chuck Hayes AI7M. Thanks for a job well done.....Ralph Barr WODNO, Chairman, Center for Amateur Radio Learning.

Raising the 2m antenna appears to have created a unique problem with QSOs on the 147.30 MHz repeater. Audio from the Science Center is fuzzy (distorted) through that repeater. Audio is not distorted when heard on the W7ASC output frequency, nor are W7ASC contacts through other repeaters distorted. Signals through the 147.30 repeater from other sources are not distorted. Conclusion: The signal may be reaching the repeater by a reflected path as well as direct path. Experiments will be made using the Packet antenna that is at a different location on the Science Center roof

The list of available operators to man the W7ASC ham is dwindling as hams leave for cooler locations. If you have an occasional morning or afternoon to spare, how about helping out? Call Ralph 582-8208.

SILENT KEY. MERRILL LARGENT KA7OOP died in Sun City on May 7. He was 82. Merrill was a club member during the '80s. We extend our sympathy to his wife Ethel and family.

ARCA ARIZONA CONVENTION (FT TUTHILL HAMFEST), JULY 24-26 (Dawn to Dusk on Friday/Saturday, Dawn to 2:00pm on Sunday). Talk-in 146.98 (PL 100 Hz). Seminars, ARRL Forum, Major Manufacturers, Classes, Awards, Entertainment, Saturday Night Dinner, Ladies Program, Sunday Junque Sale. ADMISSION FREE! TAILGATING \$15 before June 1; \$20 after. CAMPING/nite \$8. DINNER \$15. For Reservations: 779-2722 (voice mail), email arcathill@aol.com or send Legal-Size SASE to ARCA PO Box 42003-312 Phoenix AZ 85080-2003. TAKE AIRPORT exit #337 3 mi South of I-40 on I-17. See you there!

MORE CLUB NOTES. Please welcome two young members CHRIS and ALEX COST of Glendale. Chris is a new No-Code Tech, KD7BTF; Alex has passed Element 2 and is working on 3A. They were among the students in Jean Deslover's No-Code Tech Class recently. (A new class will start October 2 and run for nine or ten weeks on Friday nights.) Also welcome back to Bob WE7S and Betty Smith N7SKR of Glendale and Flagstaff, and from the club's dim past Al Fischer W7OA of Sun City West. Please add them to your roster.

Also make a note of the following changes and corrections:

New Calls: Ed Hahn KD7BJI; Brian Harrod KC7OC; John Johnson K7BUJ;
Don Svardal KD7BTE.

Robert M Jones, correct zip 85338-0140. George Owens, add zip 89005-3344.

Tom Peterson, correct street number 10838 W Morten Ave.

Orly Stires address, 9418 W Manzanita Dr, Sun City AZ 85373-1736

Dick Strautman, add zip 85374-4907

Please advise your editor of any other additions or corrections.

Club badges, black lettering on yellow AZ-shaped badge, \$5; magnetic signs for Public Service/Emergency Communications (approx 8 1/4 x 18 1/4"), \$7. See Ray NW7R.

Remember our THURSDAY brunches at Linda L's in Sun Village at 10:30 (except 9:30 on third Thursday) and our breakfast on the SECOND SATURDAY of every month at Tivoli Gardens, LaRonde Shopping Center, 14635 Del Webb Blvd, 8am.