

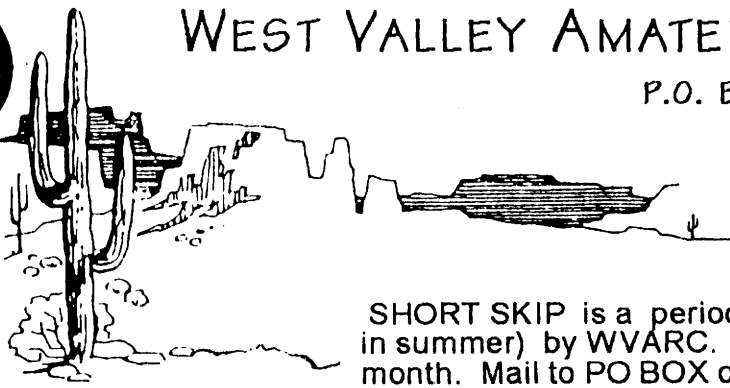


WEST VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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

NOVEMBER 1998
VOL XXV NO 9

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

FRIDAY	OCT	23	LADIES NIGHT BANQUET, SC COUNTRY CLUB, Dinner 7pm
MONDAY		26	ICOM VAN at HRO, 4-7pm
TUESDAY		27	ICOM VAN at AZ SCIENCE CENTER, 9am-3pm

MONDAY	NOV	2	CLUB MEETING, ST CLEMENT SOCIAL HALL, SC, 7:15pm
WEDNESDAY		4	PALO VERDE SIREN TEST, sign-in 9am
SATURDAY		7	LICENSE EXAMS, DeVRY INSTITUTE, 8-10am
MONDAY		9	MEETING, EXEC BOARD, QTH OF PRESIDENT, 7pm
SATURDAY		14	CLUB BREAKFAST, TIVOLI GARDENS, Sun City, 8am

SATURDAY DEC 5 SUPERSTITION SWAPMEET, MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE,

WEDNESDAYS 2m HAM NEWS NET, 147.30 MHz, 6:45pm

THURSDAYS BRUNCH, LINDA L'S, SUN VILLAGE (Surprise), 10:30am

DAILY CALL-IN NET, 147.30 MHz, 9am

MEMBERSHIP IN WEST VALLEY ARC is open to anyone with an interest in Amateur Radio. Dues are \$10/yr. Join now and be paid thru Dec 1999. One fee includes all family hams at same address; only one Short Skip mailed to each address. A Membership (Application and) Renewal Form accompanies this mailing. Current members are asked to return this form with your dues before the January meeting. The club badges that most members wear (black on yellow AZ-shaped badge) are available for \$5. The "Emergency Communications" sign for the side of your car, identifying you as a club Public Service amateur, is \$7. See Ray NW7R.

The West Valley Amateur Radio Club (WVARC) meets the FIRST MONDAY of EVERY MONTH at ST CLEMENT SOCIAL HALL, 15800 N DEL WEBB BLVD, SUN CITY. Doors open at 6:30pm; meeting starts at 7:15 with a brief business session, followed by a program usually related to Amateur Radio. The NOVEMBER 2nd program will feature a presentation by Warren Hill K7WX, describing his group's recent DXpedition to the Maldive Islands as 8Q7AA. He will also discuss briefly the phenomenon of ducting on 160m. Come early and enjoy a cup of coffee with your colleagues.

The DECEMBER 7 MEETING will get us in the holiday spirit with refreshments and some seasonal songs (Jingle Bells, Frosty the Snowman, etc). It may even snow for the occasion. Our SW Division Director Fried Heyn WA6WZO is expected to be on hand to bring us up to date on actions by the FCC and ARRL. Bring along the spouse for a fun evening.

PUBLIC SERVICE NOTES. More volunteers are needed for the PALO VERDE SIREN TEST on Wednesday, NOVEMBER 4th. Every year the sirens on the periphery of the PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT are checked out. A Valley ham is assigned to each siren and observes its performance when the sirens are activated at noon. Quality of tone and ability to rotate are noted. Sirens which fail to function properly are reported to Net Control via 2m, and the exercise is repeated some 10 or 15 minutes later. Volunteers return to base for a box lunch. CALL JOHN KORNBECK WA9HBT, club Public Service Coordinator, at 566-2018 to volunteer.

The plant is some 50 miles west of Sun City, just south of I-10. Some of our members have been participating for a dozen years or so. It is a fun day, and the West Valley club (with its large number of retirees) has been a big contributor to the success of the operation. Hams with mobile rigs have less difficulty operating through the 146.94 MHz repeater, but handhelds are also useful. Volunteers arrive around 9am and enjoy coffee and donuts or danish before the exercise.

Net Control for the operation is Richard Jackson K7VCI. Richard will hold a net on the 146.94 repeater on Monday Nov 2 at 7pm to instruct volunteers and check them off. West Valley club volunteers attending our meeting that night will report to John Kornbeck at the meeting; he will check them in with Richard.

Valley hams are also invited to volunteer for the Phoenix to Parker 2-day Bike Ride on November 7 & 8. Call Jim Pierce N7QVW 780-2057 or Ron Reynolds N7WTF 240-0473 for info.

[from NOVEMBER 1998 QST]...Update on Arizona Legislation. When we reported last issue that HB-2121, a bill to criminalize the act of interrupting communications over public safety land mobile frequencies, failed to pass by the time the Arizona legislature adjourned, we only told part of the story. A nearly identical companion bill in the Senate passed earlier in the session and was signed by Governor Hull. According to Rick Tannehill W7RT, an engineer with the AZ Dept of Public Safety, the bill makes it unlawful to recklessly interrupt, impede or otherwise directly interfere with emergency communications over a public safety land-mobile network, or with non-emergency police or fire dispatch communications. Previously the word "knowingly" was in the law, which made it hard to prosecute. Tannehill says the bill....includes a reference to FCC Part 97 in the definition of emergency communications. In other words it could now be a felony to interfere with a 911 call over an Amateur Radio autopatch, or to interfere with other disaster/emergency communications in progress. Tannehill says the act is no threat to ham radio, and actually could discourage interference on the ham bands. He credits Jim Worthham W7GNP, a communications manager with the City of Phoenix Fire Dept, with being instrumental in getting the bill through the legislature. [Editor's Note: Rick W7RT is a long-time member of WVARC.]

SILENT KEYS

BOB PRIEBE W7BY died in Redmond WA on August 14 at the age of 93. Bob spent his winters in Sun City. We extend our sympathy to his wife Tadsie and family.

RAY NEIDER KA7MQQ died in Sun City on October 8 at the age of 91. Ray was a member of the club in the '80s. Ray earned his ticket in the club's Novice class in 1982, under the tutelage of Chuck Bailey. We offer our condolences to his son Ray and daughter Joyce Kelley, both of Sun City West.

RAYMOND H McPHERSON W0GK of Sun City West died on October 15. Ray was an electronics engineer before retiring. Though a Sun City West resident for a number of years, Ray was not a member of the club. We offer our sympathy to his wife Alma and family.

HAM RADIO LICENSE EXAMS AT DeVRY on NOVEMBER 7th. Tests for all classes of Amateur Radio licenses are given on the FIRST SATURDAY of each month (except holiday weekends) at DeVry Institute, 2149 W Dunlap Ave. Registration 8-10am (no tests to start after 10). Bring photo ID and original and copy of any ham license or CSCE. Fee of \$6.35 entitles you to one exam in as many different elements as desired. A second fee is charged for a second try in any Element. There is no charge for Elements 1A and 2. Form 610 is available at registration.

These tests are sponsored by WVARC and DeVry ARC, who invite all VEs (ARRL-accredited) to participate. Tests are held in the Library (east corridor on second floor) unless otherwise posted.

At the October 3rd Test Session, 26 candidates were served. Licenses earned included 2 Extra, 1 Advanced, 1 Tech Plus and 7 Tech (Codeless). Some candidates qualified for partial credit. VEs participating:

Ed Beyer	WU7A	Jeff Johnson	KJ7LO	Jack Richards	KB7WPH
Edson Campbell	AA7TU	Stan Kieffer	N7QB	Yoshi Sano	K7YS
Jack Dow	KE7ZQ	Robert Knight	N7LPD	Ray Sumner	NW7R
Bob Johnson	KE7LZ	Shelley Newman	AB7LQ	Dwight Yard	KB7KON
	Richard Piggott	WB2LKU	Liaison and Session Manager		

Other test sessions: THIRD MONDAY 6pm, Mesa Utility Office, 7115 E Adobe Rd; sponsor Superstition ARC (Denise AB7KG 898-4066). Be sure to check with Denise, since the club is also holding exams at their Hamfest on Dec 5th. FOURTH SATURDAY 7pm, Red Cross Bldg, northbound frontage rd to I-17 just north of Bethany Home Rd; Sponsor AZ ARC (Gary K7GH 996-8148).

LADIES NIGHT BANQUET. At press time, some 50 people had signed up for the Annual Ladies Night Banquet at the Sun City Country Club on Oct 23rd. Over 60 people attended last year and it is hoped that a similar number will be on hand Friday evening. We'll have a report on the event in our next issue, including recipient of the club Ham-of-the-Year Award, door prize winners, and the response to the entertainment program, featuring a singer of popular songs of our day. Suggestions for improving this event are welcomed by our executive board.

NO-CODE TECHNICIAN LICENSE CLASS. The No-Code Tech Class began on Oct 2 and most candidates are still in attendance at the Sun City Posse HQ each Friday night. Instructor Dan Pierson W6NTX will hold the last session on Nov 27th. About 8 or 10 prospective hams should be ready to take the test at DeVry on December 5th. Anyone who has been studying for the No-Code Tech license on his own is welcome to sit in on these classes. There is no charge. The club thanks Dan for his dedication in preparing for the classes. Thanks also to Ted Torrence KB7MMT, our standby instructor, who will fill in on at least one occasion. Sun City Posse HQ is located at 10861 W Sunland Dr, off Agua Fria Drive.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REPLACEMENTS. SILENT KEY ESTATE DISPOSAL COMMITTEE has new chairmen. After many years of service, Chuck Bailey W7YU has stepped down as Silent Key Chairman. Serving in this capacity will be Frank Smith AH0W of Glendale and Bob Moyer KC7CMM of Wickenburg. Thanks to Chuck for a job well done and to Frank and Bob for volunteering to step into some big shoes. Other members may also serve on this committee to cover the far reaches of the club.

Our President is looking for replacements for Ken Wakershauser N7OWP on the RFI Committee and Joe Nowakowski W7FPG as Sun City West Coordinator for the Public Service Committee. Call Ralph (582-8208) if you can help. We are also looking for a new editor for the Short Skip; call Ray (972-8733).

BRUNCH BUNCH MEETS IN SURPRISE EACH THURSDAY. Our club brunch is well attended at Linda L Restaurant in Sun Village, Surprise, every Thursday. Sun Village is located on Bell Rd, half a mile west of Litchfield Rd. Pick up pass at gate house and proceed a few hundred yards to the restaurant on right side of road. Order breakfast or lunch. Time: 10:30~~am~~pm (most are there by 10:15). Spouses are most welcome.

The club also holds a MONTHLY BREAKFAST at 8am the SECOND SATURDAY of the month at Tivoli Gardens in Sun City (14635 Del Webb Blvd, in LaRonde Shopping Center East). The club would like to see more people at this event. The food is excellent and the atmosphere is friendly.

CONFUSION SURROUNDING MORSE CODE REQUIREMENTS in FCC NPRM 98-143. The proposal is that no new Novice licenses will be issued and that Technician Plus license (when expiring) will be renewed as Technician. Section 97.503(a)(1) still provides for the 5 WPM code examination. Section 97.509(1) still requires a VE to issue a CSCE when an examinee passes an examination, and new Section 97.301 (e) provides existing Novice and any Technician w/CSCE credit for 5 WPM access to the 80, 40, 15 and 10m Novice bands. Section 97.505(a)(3)(5) provides 5 WPM credit to any Novice or Technician Plus amateur with an unexpired (or expired within the grace period for renewal) license.

Thus, any applicant who passes Element 1A - 5 WPM code - after passing the Technician requirements gets Technician Plus operating authority - even though the class is being abolished. This is in keeping with the way nearly all amateurs have been obtaining beginning HF privileges anyway. Extremely few go the Novice route. [from W5YI Report, October 15, 1998]

INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR RADIO UNION (IARU) REGION 2 RENAMES TOM ATKINS VE3CDM AS PRESIDENT. Representatives of 24 national Amateur Radio Organizations in the Americas have selected a new Region 2 Executive Committee. Action came the week of Sept 28 during the 13th General Assembly of IARU Region 2 in Porlamar, Venezuela. Returned to office for a second 3-year term was IARU Region 2 President Tom Atkins VE3CDM. [WVARC members will remember Tom as Program Speaker in March of 1989, when he described the vital role that ham radio played in the Polar Bridge Ski-trek Expedition across the North Pole in 1987. Tom was President of the Canadian Radio Relay League at the time.] Among new regional directors is Rod Stafford W6ROD, President of ARRL.

[Information from ARRL Letter of 10-16-98]

SUPERSTITION ARC HAMFEST at MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE off HIGHWAY 60 on DOBSON RD
DECEMBER 5, 1998

Open at 6 AM. Admission \$2/car for parking, \$5/tailgaters, \$10/commercial.

ARCA Meeting at 10 AM. Talk-in @ 147.12+, 449.60- MHz.

Prizes: 1st, Yaesu 5200 dual band mobile; 2nd Yaesu FT-50R dual band HT; 3rd, Jensen Power Supply; other prizes. Tickets \$1 (6/\$5).

Information: Gary AB7MX Chmn Hamfest, Fred AB7JF Pres (602-898-4897)

THE ICOM VAN IS COMING TO TOWN. The ICOM Van with its fully operational gear is returning to the Valley. Its last visit was in April of this year. It will be in the Ham Radio Outlet parking lot from 4 to 7pm on Monday, October 26 and at the Arizona Science Center from 9am to 3pm on Tuesday October 27. Come and see ICOM's newest offerings.

FCC LICENSE RENEWAL REMINDERS: Jerry Overeynder W6IWR January 1999.

(Also David Smith WC9Y September 1998, if not already renewed)

THERE IS NO CHARGE for the FOR SALES and WANTS published in the Short Skip as a service to our hams. Only ads for ham-related gear are accepted.

FOR SALE. NEW, GAP Eagle 6-band Vertical Antenna, Assembled; \$250.
Murray W7XY 933-1132