



WEST VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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

MAY 1999
VOL XXVI NO 5

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 web page (tnx Chuck W7KIV) <http://www.starlink.com/~chuckh>
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CLUB CALENDAR

SATURDAY	MAY 1	LICENSE EXAMS, DeVRY INSTITUTE, PHX, 8-10am
	1	COCHISE COUNTY HAMFEST, SIERRA VISTA, 6am-2pm
MONDAY	3	MEETING, ST CLEMENT SOCIAL HALL, SC, 7:15pm
SATURDAY	8	CLUB BREAKFAST, TIVOLI GARDENS, Sun City, 8am
MONDAY	10	BOARD MEETING, PRESIDENT'S QTH, 7pm
MONDAY & FRIDAY		VACATION NET, 14.240 MHz (starts MAY 14), 10am
WEDNESDAYS		2m HAM NEWSLINE NET, 147.30 MHz, 6:45pm
THURSDAYS		BRUNCH, LINDA L'S, SUN VILLAGE (Surprise), 10am
DAILY		CALL-IN NET, 147.30 MHz, 9am

PROGRAM FOR MAY MEETING: DX-PEDITION TO RODRIGUES ISLAND. Frank Smith AH0W has just returned from Rodrigues, a small island in the Indian Ocean. The team had great success, with many contacts. (See Frank's DX column, p 2.) As usual, he has brought back splendid pictures of this remote part of the world for us to enjoy. The JUNE PROGRAM has been tentatively scheduled as a SKYWARN Presentation by Steve Sipple KB7QHP.

The club meets at St Clement Social Hall, 15800 Del Webb Blvd, Sun City on the FIRST MONDAY of every month, including summer months. Doors open at 6:30pm; meeting begins at 7:15. Come early and enjoy a cup of coffee with your colleagues. Everyone with an interest in Amateur Radio is welcome. Membership dues are \$10/yr. All hams at same mailing address are enrolled for one fee; only one newsletter to each address.

The presentation by Charles Whitlatch W7VF on HDTV at our APRIL meeting was very informative. We are looking forward to "Digital TV", as Charles refers to it, which should be available in the Valley in November. The meeting was well attended, with over 90 sign-ins. Joe Cutitta WA0SLL won the doorprize of \$26.50 (half the proceeds of the raffle); other prizes were won by Dave Smith WC9Y and Jean Deslover AA9CM.

There will be no Board Meetings in June, July or August unless some special need for one arises.

Please renew your ARRL membership through our Treasurer. Make check for required amount TO WVARC; Shirley will send a check to ARRL for \$2 less than this amount. The club will be \$2 richer for each ARRL renewal. TNX.

CQ DX de FRANK SMITH AH0W/3B9R

Back just in time from our 3B9R Rodrigues Island DXpedition to write this month's DX column. We're happy to report that in spite of seemingly endless challenges to our efforts, our team came home with over 47,000 QSO's in the logs. Now on to tackling the hundreds of QSL cards that are pouring every day to N7LVD. Thanks especially to our Arizona DXers who worked us. We'll be making a presentation of the DXpedition at the Dayton Hamfest so we'll see you there!

For information on the background of the DXpedition, the operators, maps of Rodrigues, photos from the island, etc, check the website
www.dateline.ru/3b9

There is also a guest book which is now swelling with comments about the DXpedition.

The Fresno (Visalia) DX Convention just held its 50th annual event. The official program included a photo of Chuck Bailey W7YU and Ron Rasmussen K7OP taken in Sun City. Chuck is now the only person to have attended all of the convention's 50 years, which was recognized in a full page write up in the program.

The program has a nice biography of Chuck, who was first licensed in 1929 as W6BXL. He worked for North American Aviation for 30 years and retired as head of the Vibration and Acoustics Lab. His first DX contact was with J1DCX in 1929. Since then Chuck has worked over 370 DXCC countries. He also served as President of the Southern California DX Club in the 70's. Congratulations to Chuck for his accomplishments. He is a hero to the DX world and always the center of attention at these big DX gatherings.

DX to look for out there includes Ethiopia by Claudio ET3VSC, Nigeria as 5N99 (celebrating the World Football championship), Nepal by Charle 9N7UD (QSL via home call K4VUD), Tonga A35RK, Vatican City HV5PUL including RTTY, Seychelles S79GT by Gavin GMOGAV, Burkina Faso XT2CI, Macao XX9TSS, Rodrigues Island by Robert 3B9FR (back on the air after 5 years!), Gibraltar ZB2FX and much more, including several stations from Palestine E44.

Listen also for a special events station from Thailand as E20EHQ/p as part of their Senior Scout Jamboree.

It's time to make plans for the New Orleans International DX Convention at the Royal Sonesta Hotel -- one of North America's ten best hotels. There will be numerous presentations of recent DXpeditions as well as several technical seminars including one on 160 meter DXing by Garry Shapiro NI6T, plus a Gala Jazz Banquet. This has emerged as one of the hobby's greatest conventions worldwide. The dates are August 26-27-28. Contact your DX Editor for more information.

In the meanwhile, GD DX, Best 73 and CU in the Pileups!!

Special note to SC hams: Ethel Gross, wife of Al W8PAL, asks us to announce that "Sun City Home Owners Assn will hold its monthly meeting at 10401 Coggins Drive at 10am on May 11th. The Public is invited." You may find out how the matter regarding changes in deed restrictions is progressing.

COCHISE COUNTY HAMFEST 99. 6AM-2PM, SATURDAY, MAY 1. SIERRA VISTA, AZ.
COCHISE COLLEGE (SIERRA VISTA CAMPUS), NORTH PARKING LOTS, 901 N COLOMBO AVE,
PARKING/ADMISSION \$2. TAILGATING \$5/SPACE. LICENSE EXAMS 9AM.
PRIZE DRAWING 1PM, 2 GRAND PRIZES: ICOM 2710H db mobile, CUSHCRAFT db beam ant
Info: Chmn Ray Berger W1LYT 520-378-4214.

VACATION NET TO BEGIN MAY 14. Valley hams are heading for cooler environments in large numbers. Each year they keep in touch with one another on the West Valley Vacation Net, which meets on Mondays and Fridays at 10am local time on 14.240 MHz. Chuck Bailey W7YU is usually Net Control, with Eva Karnatz KC7RY and others on standby if Chuck can't make it. The net will run through the middle of October.

CLUB NOTES.

Club Vice President Ron Rasmussen K6OP chaired the April meeting in the absence of President Ralph Barr W0DNO, who was enjoying a visit to Florida with XYL Shirley KB4HSP. They spent some time with club member Peter Scriven WH6FH of Vero Beach, who sends his greetings. Since Ron did such a great job in Ralph's absence, our prez says he may turn the gavel over to Ron more often.

Remember our weekly 10am Thursday Brunch at Linda L's, Sun Village, and our Second Saturday of the Month breakfast at 8am at Tivoli Gardens, Sun City. We are losing our winter visitors at these events, so please support them.

Several people have expressed an interest in the club's Amateur Radio Class for beginners (No-Code Technicians). This class ended the 1st Friday in April. Another class will begin on October 1st and will run each Friday evening for 9 weeks, if at least eight candidates sign up. The club will also sponsor upgrade classes if enough interest is shown. Call NW7R at 972-8733 to register for any class. We thank the Sun City Posse for their support in providing the classroom for these sessions.

Everyone has known for some time that the year 2000 would eventually arrive. Surprisingly there are still some organizations that are not prepared for it. Valley hospitals feel especially vulnerable. Locally, Boswell and Del Webb Hospitals are asking that our Public Service teams be available on New Year's Eve in case of a breakdown in communications because some computer system may fail to recognize the year 2000 and crash. The West Valley club has an excellent rapport with our Boswell and Del Webb Hospitals, who provide us with the sites for our 70cm and 2m repeaters as well as the phone service for our auto-patches. Rich Haworth W7MDQ (933-2191) is making a list of volunteers who may be available in the event of a breakdown on 1/1/00. Call him.

Your Short Skip editor is again putting out a plea for someone to take over the newsletter. With over 400 members, the club must have someone who is willing to try. Dave Cain KB7WDD labels and stamps the envelopes; he needs someone to provide the contents. Call NW7R (see masthead) to offer your services.

SILENT KEY. CHARLES A STONE K0OSN of Sun City died at Boswell Hospital on April 6th at the age of 88. Chuck joined the club in 1983, when he moved to Sun City from Missouri. We extend our sympathy to his wife Ruth WA8FSX and family.

CARL NEEDS MORE VOLUNTEERS FOR SUMMER. The Center for Amateur Radio Learning Group is looking for more help in staffing Amateur Radio Station W7ASC at the Arizona Science Center. Each summer many of the regular volunteers leave the Valley for long or short vacations. Call Bob KG7QJ at 961-1109 if you can take an occasional 4-hour shift (9am to 1pm or 1pm to 5pm). Parking in the Science/History Museum parking garage is free for volunteers; get ticket validated at the Security desk.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for July 23 - 25. Ft Tuthill Hamfest (1999 Arizona State Convention). More information in future newsletters.

HAM RADIO LICENSE EXAMS AT DeVRY on MAY 1ST. Walk-in registration 8 to 10am; no tests to begin after 10. Bring photo ID, original and copy of appropriate FCC license or Certificate of Successful Completion. Form 610 is available at registration. A single fee of \$6.45 covers one test in all desired elements; a second fee is charged for a repeat test of any element. There is no charge for Elements 1A (5wpm) or 2 (Novice written).

Exams are held at DeVry Institute, 2149 W Dunlap Ave, on the FIRST SATURDAY of each month except holiday weekends, and are sponsored by DeVry ARC and West Valley ARC. On April 3rd, fifteen candidates were tested. Six earned Technician Class licenses, two Tech Plus, one General and 2 Advanced class. Others earned partial credit towards a license or upgrade. Volunteers participating:

Ed Beyer WU7A	Joe Brian AB7VY	Jack Dow KE7ZQ
Ken Ehrhardt KK7NU	William Gadbois KC7JRY	Bob Johnson KE7LZ
Stan Kieffer N7QB	Monte Nelson W1MN	Shelly Newman AAB7LQ
Jack Richards WA9TV	Yoshi Sano K7YS	Ray Sumner NW7R
Glenn Wade N7JWF	Roy Woodruff W2HTX	Dwight Yard KB7KON
Rich Piggott WB2LKU,	Liaison and Session Manager	

On March 27th a special Technician test session was held at the Arizona Science Center with 12 candidates. Eight earned their No-Code Technician class license, two others passed Element 2. Volunteer examiners were Rich Piggott, Yoshi Sano, Ray Sumner and Al Lee W6KQI. Charlotte Horwitz KB7TKQ was the class coordinator.

CORRECTIONS, ADDITIONS TO 1999 ROSTER

DAN ALDRICH N1GHR phone 623-535-9569
BRUNO BERG KB0UYT and FLORA RUTLEDGE WA0AAM new address:
21613 N 137th Dr, Sun City West 85375-5852 (same phone)
BRUCE KABANA WB7SRC email: cjeep@goodnet.com
JACK RICHARDS new call WA9TV
RON RICHARDS new call W0ICP
BILL ROWELL K7JJH, Waddell AZ zip 85355-0765
BETTY N7SKR and BOB SMITH WE7S, 5701 N 43rd Ln, Glendale AZ 85301-6301,
phone 623-937-2827, email: bnbsmith@ibm.com
ORLY STIRES new call W7OOS
JOSE VASQUEZ N7WSX phone 623-583-3707
WALT SCHWIEBERT (in Chairperson AUDIT COMMITTEE and PUBLIC SERVICE Team
Captain) change callsign to W8EPO.

Please report any other errors/changes to Short Skip Editor.

FOR SALE

ASTRON 16 Amp POWER SUPPLY; \$75. HUSTLER 5-BTV 5-BAND ANTENNA; \$100.
MIRAGE MP-1 WATTMETER 160-10m; \$150. MP-2 WATTMETER 6m, 2m; \$150.
DRAKE TR-3 XCVR w/Power Supply, desk mike; \$200.
HEATHKIT HD-15 Hybrid PHONE PATCH; \$50; KLM Solid State Power Amp; \$75.
NYE LOW-PASS FILTER; \$30. B&W COAX SWITCH (6-position); \$35.
Misc cables, connectors, test gear etc.
Ed K17SF 546-4189 (Sun City West)

TV CLOSED CAPTION DECODER with remote; make offer.
Bob WE7S 937-2827

ASTRON RS-20 POWER SUPPLY 13.8VDC, 20A ICS, like new; \$65.
Fred W7MCP 584-6100

TBIRD HY-GAIN TH5DX VERTICAL ANTENNA, 10-15-20m; best offer.
Bob N7ZDB 977-4206