



WEST VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

P O BOX 1573 SUN CITY, ARIZONA 85372-1573

SHORT SKIP

SHORT SKIP is published monthly except July and September. Deadlines for items is second Saturday of previous month. Submission by electronic mail preferred. E-mail shortskip@yahoo.com. West Valley Amateur Radio Club, Inc. is an Arizona 501(c)(3) not for profit corporation.
An ARRL Affiliated Club

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President	David Cain	AC7CS	623-910-4191	Pat Lynch	K7NFB	623-544-9282
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Ellsworth Campbell AA7TU, Editor 623-975-0646 e-mail: shortskip@yahoo.com Club Web Page: http://www.westvalleyarc.org						

WVARC CALENDAR

Saturday	February 3	VE Exam Session	DeVry University 2149 W Dunlap Ave, Phoenix	7:45 AM
Monday	February 5	Monthly Meeting	St. Clement Catholic Church Social Hall 15800 Del Webb Blvd, Sun City	7:00 PM
Saturday	February 10	Club Breakfast	Lou's Tivoli Gardens 14635 Del Webb Blvd Sun City	8:00 AM
Thursdays		Breakfast at Coco's	98th Avenue & Bell Road	7:30 AM
Daily		Call-in Net	147.300 MHz, Tone 162.2 Hz	9:00 AM

PREZ SEZ

Hope everyone's year is getting off to a fine start. It has been a little cool in mid-January for antenna work, so maybe this is a good time to clean out the garage or ham shack of that extra gear that you haven't used recently. Our annual WVARC auction is February 5th. Times for seller and buyer check-ins are listed elsewhere in the newsletter. For sellers, it helps greatly to have the auction lot tickets made out prior to arriving, but we will have tickets available for you if advance ticket completion is impractical. For buyers, just register for your "paddle" number and get ready to have some fun. (I never seem to get out of a hamfest or auction without finding something that I couldn't pass up.)

There will be several changes in the auction procedure this year. The first is that the "checkout"

tables will be to your left side of the hall and on the same level as the chairs. This will make it easier and safer for everyone to access the checkout tables. The other significant change is that payout to the sellers will be by check mailed to the seller within 14 days of the auction. This will relieve much of the frustration and delay experienced at the checkout tables in previous years.

Ken Solheim, WN7DRX, has again recruited an excellent group of volunteers to run the auction. Without the many hours of effort put out by a large number of our members, the auction would be impossible. A great big "Thank you" to all of our volunteers in advance. Let's all bring our extra gear and our money and have lots of fun.

David Cain AC7CS

FCC LICENSE EXAMS

Next exam session at DeVry University Saturday February 3. Exams start at 7:45 AM and all tests must be concluded by 9:45 AM. Check-in at the Library on the second floor, southeast corner of the School. Bring photo ID and the original operator license and CSCEs and photocopies of each if applicable. ARRL VEC Exam Fee is \$14 for all elements taken once. An additional fee applies for a retest of any element. Retest is at the option of the VEs. **Pay fee by check to ARRL/VEC or exact amount in cash – Volunteer Examiners cannot make change.**

The January 6, session at DeVry – 8 candidates were examined

6	earned	Technician	Class	License
3	failed	Technician	Written	Exam
1	earned	General	Class	License
4	earned	General	Written	Credit
1	earned	Extra	Class	License
1	earned	Extra	Written	Credit

Administering VEs

Robert Miner KA7NPQ Liaison

Edward H. Beyer	WU7A
Joseph Cutitta	W0SLL
Robert Fairfield	K7RQN
Robert W. Gormley	WA1MHZ
Robert Knight	N7LPD
Richard Koch	W7DIC
Shelly Newman	AB7LQ
Yoshi Sano	K7YS
Harold V. Taylor	W7VHT

VE Team Members, Just a reminder about our Special VE Session on January 23, 2007 at Church of Latter Saints, in the Gym. 22034 N. 83rd Ave. / Deer Valley Rd.) (note: The Church is located on the left side, North of Deer Valley Rd. on 83rd Ave.) The Gym is located inside of the Church complex. We have been instructed to enter from the southside, Main Entrance of the building. Please arrive at 1845 hr. (6:45 PM) we will begin the session at 1900 hr. (7:00 PM)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Dave Collins	AD7JT	Sun City West
Steve Garber	KE7JDR	Peoria
Travis Gardner	KE7EUL	Peoria
Robert Weaver	W4SCB	Sun City
William Weaver	AA7RM	Sun City
Mike Nelson	KB7VCO	Surprise

UPCOMING HAMFESTS**Monday, February 5**

Annual Ham Radio Equipment Auction
West Valley Amateur Radio Club
St. Clements of Rome Social Hall
15800 North Del Webb Blvd.
Sun City, Arizona
Sellers register at: 5:30 PM
Buyers admitted at 6:30, auction starts: at 7
Talk-In: 147.300 MHz, +600 offset (PL 162.2)
Fee for selling applies.
Contact Ken Solheim, WN7DRX
15874 West Grand Isle Way
Surprise, AZ 85374
Phone: 623-544-2827
Fax: 623-544-2827
Email: hamauction2007@cox.net

Friday February 16 to Sunday February 18

Yuma Hamfest & Electronics Expo
Yuma County Fairgrounds, Yuma AZ

Sponsors:

Amateur Radio Council of Arizona (ARCA)
Yuma Amateur Radio Hamfest Organization
(YARHO)

Events include:

Prizes, Swap Meet, Prizes, Seminars, Prizes, Testing, Prizes, Buzzard Barbeque, Prizes, Manufacturers' Exhibits, and Prizes.

This annual event is well worth the travel to it. More information see: www.yumahamexpo.com/

Saturday March 10

Scottsdale Spring Hamfest

Sponsors:

Amateur Radio Council of Arizona (ARCA)
Scottsdale Amateur Radio Club (SARC)

Opens 6:00 AM

Self contained RV parking-

Table space donation \$10

Parking donation \$2

VE Testing, Refreshments

Scottsdale Community College

9000 E Chaparral RD, Scottsdale AZ

East Parking Lots

Exit 46 Loop 101 Chaparral RD

Talk-In: 147.18 no tone

Contact: Ed Nickerson, WU7S

sarc2007@cox.net

FEBRUARY 5 ANNUAL AUCTION

The auction will be held at our usual meeting place, the St. Clement of Rome Social Hall, 15800 North Del Webb Blvd., Sun City, Arizona. Seller registration starts at 5:30 pm, Bidder registration at 6:30 pm and the auction starts promptly at 7:00 pm. Sellers will need to fill out a Lot Ticket describing equipment being offered. The Lot tickets will be available at Sellers registration. To help save time, starting in January 2007 the Lot tickets will be available at the WVARC meeting, anytime from an officer or board member and at the Thursday morning breakfast at CoCo's. Lot tickets will also be available by mail if requested via the auction or e-mail to hamauction2007@cox.net

WVARC will retain 10% of the selling price for all auction items sold. The fee shall be used for the general benefit of the club. Sellers of items successfully auctioned will be paid their net proceeds by WVARC club check sent via mail within 14-days of conclusion of the auction.

As in past years, we will need the help of volunteers. To help out, please email Ken Solheim (WN7DRX) at the above address or call 623-544-2828.

SERVICE OFFER *(Advertisement)*

I buy used electronic and radio equipment. Also I can work for you as a Handyman doing antenna work or odd jobs, and am willing to take used equipment if you prefer, as payment. Please call Scotty Rathjen W7SW at (623) 214-3303 or send an e-mail to: w7sw@arrl.net.

HAM HOME REAL ESTATE *(Advertisement)*

Are you or someone you know looking for a Ham Home? I can help you find a home with a tower or one where a tower can be added. Call or email me to get started. Richard Haworth W7MDQ Coldwell Banker Success Realty 602-370-1450 cell, rahaworth@cox.net

NEED COMPUTER HELP? *(Advertisement)*

Computer consultant: in-home tutoring, problem solving, hardware and software installations, virus detection and removal. Patient professional with 30+ years in the computer field. Call Larry at L.E. Purchase Computer Consultants, Inc. 1-888-922-9295.

DISTRESS CALLS

Records indicate that a British vessel used radio as early as 1899 to summon aid. The first radio Distress call from an American vessel has been traced to 1905. But radio operator Jack Binns made headlines in 1909 when he stuck to his post on the stricken steamship REPUBLIC to send the distress signal then in use, "CQD". In 1912 the ill-fated TITANIC flashed the same call. Before the turn of the century there was no special radiotelegraph call for emergencies at sea. One pioneer operator simply sent the letters "HELP" in code. In 1903, Italy suggested "SSSDDD" as an international radio emergency call. By 1904, a number of ships engaged in Atlantic trade were equipped with "wireless", as radio was then known, and they recruited land telegraph operators for sea duty. These operators resorted to the landline general call "CQ", meaning "attention all stations". In 1904, the Marconi Company added the letter "D" to signal distress.

Meanwhile, German ships had been using "SOE" and in 1906 Germany recommended these letters as an international distress call. This combination was deemed unsatisfactory to radiotelegraphy because the final dot was often obliterated by static or other interference. The American delegation to an international conference suggested "NC", which is the call for help in flag signaling. However, international agreement was reached on "SOS", which became effective in 1906, though "CDQ" continued to be used by British ships for some years thereafter.

For radiotelephone purposes, or voice transmission, the international distress call is "MAYDAY", which corresponds to the French phrase "m'aider" meaning "help me". It was adopted from a British proposal approved by an international convention in 1927. It has since been used by military as well as civilian ships and aircraft. In 1963, an international telecommunication conference agreed that the distress signals "SOS" and "MAYDAY" should also be used in space communication.

The Communications Act specifically bans transmission of false or deceptive signals

Submitted by Ron Wamsley W8QVG

W9BB DOES IT AGAIN!

Having been elected to the ARRL A1 Operators Club, the editor asked Bill Simons to submit his Worked All Countries information for this issue. Interestingly, 10 of the countries he worked no longer exist! Look and see if this isn't a serious Ham operator!

Band	DXCC
80M	117
40M	138
30M	102
20M	268
17M	131
15M	220
10M	166

Total Countries Worked:

Mixed	347
Phone	330
CW	317
RTTY	233

Also, WAS (Worked All States) on Extra Class Section of 80 Meter Band.
Congratulations, Bill!

NO MORE CODE

(Applause or groans optional)

FCC has modified the Amateur Radio Service rules with elimination of the Morse code exam requirements for all Amateur Radio license classes. The effective date of the FCC's action will be 30 days after publication >in the Federal Register - most likely in February. . The FCC's action will eliminate the Morse code test as a licensing requirement to operate on HF. Once the changes are in effect, all Technician licensees will have "Tech Plus" operating privileges. This means you will have all of your current VHF/UHF and above frequencies and also will have access to the Novice/Technician Plus frequencies on HF. Technicians can upgrade to General by passing the General (Element 3) written exam and to Amateur Extra by also passing the Extra (Element 4) written exam.

MORE ON BPL

As was noted a couple of months ago, the City of Surprise is planning to bring BPL internet service to 984 homes in an area known as The Old Town Site. While there are no Hams in that area, the experience in other areas of the country is that nearby Hams could experience interference. To be prepared, so that a complaint can be registered with the FCC (if needed), a crew headed by Bob Gormley WA1MHZ has made a noise level survey of the area, (774 readings), which can be compared with noise levels after the start of BPL service. Others in Bob's crew are Ralph Adair W7JU, Steve McCully W7TZ, Andree Marcoux KB5NWZ, Scotty Rathjen W7SW, Roger Matschke WA9MSR, Craig Graham KK7PG, Donald Price K7OSE, Marty Colburn K4VM and Roy Woodruff W2HTX.

Interestingly, the FCC has dismissed complaints by Hams operating in the Manassas, Virginia area, although Hams are still complaining about excessive radiated noise. It will be interesting to see what happens when the Surprise BPL service is put into operation. Stay tuned in!

EXPIRING MEMBERSHIPS

Year 2006 memberships have expired.

A complimentary copy of this Short Skip issue has been mailed to members whose membership has expired. The mail envelope notes "MEMBERSHIP EXPIRED". Dues mailed to WVARC after January 11 were received after envelopes had to be addressed. Members whose dues reach the Club by February 5 will be listed in the printed 2007 Roster and the online edition on the WWW.. Payments received later will be listed only in the online edition.

Renewal and application form may be downloaded from the WVARC web site. Print out the application and mail it with your check or turn both in at a meeting. Please always submit a form with a payment. The forms are a necessary part of our management and accounting and data security systems.

<p>Deadline for material for next issue of Short Skip is Saturday February 10, 2007</p>
