

# 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. Deadline for items is the second Saturday of previous month. Submission by electronic mail is preferred; email:shortskip@yahoo.com. West Valley Amateur Radio Club, Inc. is an Arizona 501(c)(3) not for profit corporation.

An ARRL Affiliated Club

CLUB OFFICERS				CLUB DIRECTORS		
President	Bill Roberts	KD7JMN	623-826-3097	Rosemary Kydd	N7PLN	623-877-3987
V-President	Ted Walker	KJ7V	417-260-7401	Ken Peloquin	N7PHO	623-877-3987
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<p>Cindy Morrill: Editor                      Email: KD7JVW@cox.net                      Club Web Page: <a href="http://www.westvalleyarc.org">http://www.westvalleyarc.org</a></p>						

### WVARC CALENDAR

Saturday	FEB 4	VE Exam Session	DeVry University 2149 W Dunlap Ave, Phoenix	9:00 AM
Monday	FEB 6	Monthly Meeting	St. Clement Catholic Church Social Hall 15800 Del Webb Blvd, Sun City	7:00 PM
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> . Sat	FEB 11	Monthly Breakfast	Lou's Tivoli Gardens 14635 Del Webb Blvd Sun City	7:45 AM
Thursdays		Weekly Breakfast	Lou's Tivoli Gardens	8:00 AM
Daily		Call-in Net	147.300 MHz, Tone 162.2 Hz	9:00 AM
Mon-Thur		Call-in Net	147.300 MHz, Tone 162.2 Hz	8:00 PM

### PREZ SEZ

Welcome to a new year. Yes, it really is 2012. There is going to be many challenges this year, but I believe that we are up to meeting them and beating them.

I am very proud of our Board of Directors. They have a vision of what we can do and how we can better serve our community through Ham Radio and have fun doing it. Isn't that what Ham radio is all about? Helping our communities and have fun while we do.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we need your help. We need ideas for programs at our meetings. We have some already planned but we need help generating plans for those months not already planned out. Please contact one of the officers

or board members and let us know your ideas. Perhaps you would even be willing to be a Presenter at a meeting. What a concept!!

I hope and pray that your new year is a great one. I believe that we are overcomers and that we will meet and beat all challenges that come our way. Have a GREAT year!!

*J. William (Bill) Roberts, Jr., KD7JMN*

### \*\*\* ANNUAL AUCTION - FEB 6 \*\*\*

Our annual auction will be Feb 6, 2012. It will be at St. Clement of Rome social hall, 15800 Del Web Blvd. Sun City Az.

**Sellers** - Please bring your Ham or Ham Related Equipment to the church between 4:30 to 6 PM.

Equipment Inspection at 6 p.m.

Auction Begins at 7 p.m.

Questions - phone Ted Walker, KJ7V at 417-260-7401

## HAMFESTS

### **2012 ARRL Southwestern Div. Convention February 17-18m 2012**

Mark your 2012 calendar. This convention is hosted by the Yuma Amateur Radio Hamfest Organization, and will be held at the Yuma County Fairgrounds. For more information, go to their website: [www.yumahamfest.org](http://www.yumahamfest.org).

## NEW MEMBERS

Robert Armstrong, K0BT, Peoria, AZ  
Hal Asher, N7EYR, Surprise AZ  
Phil Bullock, K7PB, Surprise AZ  
Stephen Gianoplus, KF7PPNK, Buckeye AZ  
David N Helman, WD7I, Coralville IA  
Sandy J Helman, K7FRG, Surprise AZ  
JD Waldron, KF7RWT, Anthem AZ

## FCC LICENSE EXAMS

Next exam session at DeVry University Saturday February 4<sup>th</sup> 2012. Exams start at 9:00 AM and all tests must be concluded by 11:00 AM. Check-in at the Library on the second floor, southeast corner. Bring photo ID and the original operator and a photocopy of your License if you have one. ARRL VEC Exam Fee is \$15 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 Jan, session at DeVry –3 candidates were examined

- 3 Earned Technician Class license

Administering VE's  
David Morrill N7TWT Liaison

VE Team:  
Joe Cutitta W0SLI  
Bill Martin AI0D  
Robert Gormley KS7U  
Robert Kettler Jr. WA6MIO  
James Scherfling K8NAU  
James Skinnell, K7EOG

## A TOOL FOR YOUR HAM RADIO TOOLKIT

Ham radio poses a certain risk during foul weather, especially lightning strikes. One strike or even static buildup during windy times can cause damage to equipment. The best protection is to disconnect outside wiring from the shack entry point. In cases of being on the air while making an important contact, it would be helpful to know how close the storm is.

Watching NOAA weather radar combined with satellite information is one way to monitor the weather but there is a better way. Today's technology supplies us with a useful tool to do just that. Outdoor sensor systems are available to detect lightning and generate data that come with software to process that data. It is a bit expensive. You can look it up on the internet to understand how it works and find it an interesting read.

However, in searching for all this I found a site maintained by Matthew Pace, member of Skywarn, in Apache Junction that makes all this very simple. He has installed such a system, supplies the National Weather Service with his information and has made it available for use on the internet. You can go to this well maintained, well presented site to monitor lightning strikes and it is free. Reliable data than simply listening for it or watching for strikes out the window.

There is a link on the site to make a donation if you are so inclined. His site covers the entire state of Arizona and has tools to zoom in closer to his location. With a little study, one can learn how to use the site to best advantage. Other information is available such as temperature, barometric pressure and other weather data. There are color indicators to show what type lightning, how many strikes are occurring etc. You can actually track a storm to determine if you need to disconnect or watch it pass off away from you, providing much more

Visit the site, check out all the features and bookmark it for another tool in your ham radio toolkit.: <http://www.weatherbus.com/light.php>

*Submitted by Ted Walker, KJ7V*

**Closing date for articles for  
March Short Skip  
Tuesday, February 13  
Email: [KD7JVW@cox.net](mailto:KD7JVW@cox.net)**

**FCC PUBLIC NOTICE**

The FCC released a Public Notice on January 6, reminding land mobile licensees, frequency coordinators and equipment manufacturers that they have less than one year to transition to narrowband operations in the 150-174 and 421-512 MHz bands. While the latter frequency range includes amateur service allocations, radio amateurs are not affected by the narrowbanding requirement.

Land mobile operation is permitted in parts of the 421-430 MHz band in the areas around Detroit, Cleveland and Buffalo, and land mobile licensees in these areas are among those who will have to migrate to narrowband (12.5 kHz or narrower) technology by January 1, 2013. Amateur operation is not permitted along the Canadian border (north of Line A as defined in the FCC Rules) in the band 420-430 MHz.

*Submitted by David Morrill, N7TWT*

**NEW SHORTSKIP EDITOR**

I want to thank Cindy Morrill, KD7JVW, for volunteering to be the new Shortskip editor. I know that she will be a terrific editor.

Thank you for all of your support and articles that you have sent me. I have appreciated being your editor for the last five years. I know you will support Cindy in the same manner.

**YEAR 2012 MEMBERSHIP**

**Year 2011** memberships expire January 31 2012.

**Year 2012** memberships will be valid through January 31 2013. Your 2012 membership is effective the day it reaches the Treasurer. A filled out and signed form must accompany a dues payment. Year 2012 dues are \$15 for individual and any additional Hams at the same address, or \$7.50 **after July 1, 2012**. Please list only one individual on the front of the form. List other licensed family members and their call signs on the back of the form; that makes it easier to transcribe entries correctly.

Members whose dues reach the Treasurer by February 1, 2012 will be listed in the Roster of Associated Members 2012 booklet. Members who renew or join later will be listed in the online Roster. Application forms are available at monthly meetings or can be downloaded from the WVARC web site and printed out.

**WEST VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.**

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL FORM**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CALL (if any) \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL MEMBER? **Y N** (circle one please)

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

*Your phone number and E-Mail address will be published in the Roster only if you fill in these items below:*

PHONE ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I agree to abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of the West Valley Amateur Radio Club and pay such dues as assessed upon members. Dues are currently \$15 per year per family of licensed members residing at the same address, payable by the January meeting. Dues of \$7.50 are available for Late Joiners after July 1. Write name and call of additional (licensed) family members on the back of this application.

Send to WVARC, PO Box 1573, Sun City, AZ 85372-1573, or pay at any regular meeting.

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR SALE: "Make Offer on Items"**

- Transceiver - Radio Shack HX 202 FM
- Transceiver – 2 meter ICOM, Model IC251, 144mg, all mobile transceiver
- 2 meter antenna.

Contact: Gene Metzger, WA0GRV

Phone: 623-546-8478

**FOR SALE:** The WVARC has several items for sale. If you are interested in a list of items, you can visit the club's website at [www.westvalleyarc.com](http://www.westvalleyarc.com), or you can send a simple request to Ted Walker, [Kj7v@cox.net](mailto:Kj7v@cox.net), and Ted will put your name on his send list.

**Ham Radio Auction Site.**

Steve Miller, K2HQ, opened an internet auction at [www.HamRadioHQ.com](http://www.HamRadioHQ.com).

**HAM HOME REAL ESTATE (Ad)**

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 Residential Brokerage

602-370-1450 cell, [rahaworth@cox.net](mailto:rahaworth@cox.net)

**NEED COMPUTER HELP? (Ad)**

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; KE7JXQ at L.E. Purchase Computer Consultants, Inc. 1-888-922-9295 or 602-863-0502.

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