

WEST VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
P.O. BOX 1573, SUN CITY, AZ 85372

AN ARRL-AFFILIATED SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

APRIL 1992

SHORT SKIP

SHORT SKIP is published monthly (every 2 months in summer) by WVARC. Deadline for items is 2 weeks before meeting. Mail to Club PO Box or call Editor Ray Summer NW7R (972-8733).

NICK SUES W7ZMD IS APRIL SPEAKER

Nick Sues, well-known Phoenix ham and amateur radio repair technician, will be the featured speaker for our meeting MONDAY APRIL 6th, at 7:15pm, St Clement Social Hall, 15800 Del Webb Blvd, Sun City. Many will recognize Nick by his friendly voice as control operator of the Monday night ARA swap nets on the 146.94 repeater.

Nick is active in many ham organizations, including the Central Arizona DX Assn and the Scottsdale ARC. He is also known as one of amateur radio's most proficient code operators and possesses a most enviable CW key/bug collection.

He will speak to us on equipment and station maintenance from the perspective of 30+ years in the business of repairing amateur radio gear. Follow his advice and save many times your \$10 club dues.

Following Nick's presentation, the Board will present a short quiz that is guaranteed to give everyone not something to look forward to but something to look upward to. Fun for all! Bring a friend.

The QRP program tentatively scheduled for April will be offered in the fall.

VEC TESTS WILL RESUME AT DeVRY APRIL 4

Volunteer Examiners will offer tests at DeVry Institute, 2149 W Dunlap Ave, on SATURDAY, APRIL 4th, from 8:30am to noon. Walk-ins only. Bring original and copy of any license and/or CSCE, check for \$5.40 (to DeVry/VEC) if taking any test other than Novice (which is free), and photo ID. FCC Form 610 is available if you need one.

VEC tests are held the FIRST SATURDAY of each month at DeVry, when rooms are available.

CLUB MEETING IN MAY SET FOR 1st WED.!!

The May general meeting will be held on WEDNESDAY MAY 6th (and that Wednesday night 2m Net will meet at 6:45pm on Monday May 4th) in order to accommodate our program speaker Al Gross W8PAL.

Mr Gross is regarded as the father of the hand-held transceiver and possesses an incredible array of patents, including the "Dick Tracy" wrist radio prototype, the first one-way radio paging system ("Beeper"), proximity fuses, solid state programmers for missiles and space vehicles, guidance devices used in the Gulf War, etc.

Mr Gross has received many commendations from the Dept of Defense, the FCC, GTE Sylvania, IEEE, the Japanese Electronics Association, etc. He was awarded a Presidential commendation by President Reagan and was also honored by the Radio Club of America for "pioneering the portable two-way personal radio."

Currently Mr Gross is the Senior Staff Engineer of the Space Data Division of Orbital Sciences Corporation. He has recently become a resident of Youngtown.

Al Gross has spoken to several area ham groups with enthusiastic responses. The West Valley ARC looks forward to welcoming him to our May program.

SILENT KEY

CLAUDE GARNER KQ7F, in Glendale on Feb 6th. Claude was one of the first to join the club when it expanded to include more than Sun City members. He seldom attended meetings but enjoyed talking to fellow members on the club KE7DH/R repeater.

It looks like the Clipperton Island DX pedition has been highly successful in spite of the nightmares this island has given past groups that have made the attempt. Those who worked FO0CI can QSL via N7QQ.

Also active has been a Bulgarian team in Afghanistan signing YA5MM. QSLs via LZ1HA.

Watch in early April for S92SM and S9AGD, Swedish hams operating from Sao Tome.

Lloyd and Iris Colvin will be active from Macao, signing XX9TQL. QSLs, of course, via YASME Foundation.

Others to look for are the Maldives 8Q, Corsica TK, Sri Lanka 4S, Bangladesh S2/HA5BUS, Burkina Faso XT, Galapagos HC8, Midway Island KH4, Uganda 5X, South Sudan ST0 and Pakistan AP/WA2WYR.

If you missed Albania, there are now quite a few "real" Albanians who have been licensed with calls ZALTA, -TAB, -TAC, etc. They are quite active and recently worked stateside hams on RTTY.

Of course, the next really big one is South Sandwich VP8SSI, whose international team as of this writing is en-route via ship from the Falklands. The team is headed by Martti Laine OH2BH.

Hopefully, this DX reporter will have an important announcement of his own to make about a DXpedition this coming June/July.

SWAPMEET MAY BE HELD IN FALL

Plans for a swapmeet to be held on a Sunday in the Merrill Lynch parking lot across from the Sun City Post Office are being reviewed. An autumn date that will not conflict with other ham activities is being sought.

ATV GROUP HOLDS ON-AIR MEETINGS

Tom Watts NY7S (972-6589) reports that the club ATV group meets on the THIRD TUESDAY on phone on the KE7DH repeater (145.29-) with their TV gear standing by on Channel 58 simplex. They no longer meet in person. Some day, when enough members have TV capability, the WVARC may telecast its meetings.

KENWOOD TS-120S, POWER SUPPLY PS-30, ANTENNA TUNER AT-120, MIKE MC-50, and Mobile Mike; \$425.

TEN-TEC KR-20A ELECTRONIC KEYSER, single lever; \$40. 3-Position COAX SWITCH, 750W rf; \$4. SWR and FIELD STRENGTH METER (Radio Shack); \$3. PAT-ROLMAN SCANNER 1254 (Realistic); \$15. STEREO CASSETTE DECK (Sanyo RD-S24), good condx; \$50.
Ed N7EB 972-2646

ICOM IC-R71A COMMUNICATIONS RCVR (Excellent condx)/with Kenwood SP-520 Speaker; \$600, or best offer.

CUSHCRAFT R5 Vert Antenna, w/coax. Must take down. \$165.
Walt W7IVZ 933-9239

ICOM IC micro-4AT (70cm).
HUSTLER Vertical antenna, 80-10m.
Sam W7JHQ 977-8734

HEATHKIT IG-5228 COLOR BAR AND DOT GENERATOR for color and B/W TV alignment; \$25. HEATHKIT 10A-4510-1 ACCESSORY CALIBRATOR; \$10.
Frank W7NSN 972-2390

RAINBOW-100 DIGITAL COMPUTER, plus LA-50 Printer RS-232 7x9 Matrix printer w/keyboard, mainframe, hard drive, 2 floppies, B&W video terminal, manuals, user guides, lots of extras; \$200.

PORTABLE MODEM COMPUTER, 3M Whisper writer, with intelligent keyboard, heavy duty carrying case, 3M acoustical adapter; \$200.
Monte NX1Z 584-6484

LADIES NIGHT

For some years the club has sponsored an annual dinner to express the appreciation of members for their spouses' patience in putting up with ham radio. Despite increased membership, attendance at these events has diminished. A western style barbeque in place of the banquet has been suggested and will be discussed at the April meeting. CADXA put on a similar event at the SW Div Convention with favorable results.

APRIL CONTROL OPERATORS FOR 2m NET are Chuck W7YU (1), George AA7LA (8), George KE7DH (15), Bill W9WV (22), & Tom NY7S (29). WEDNESDAYS 6:45pm. Newsline, ARRL Letter, W5YI Report.

THE WEST VALLEY ARC REPEATERS

Several years ago, on three occasions, telephone service from Sun City's Boswell Hospital to the outside world was cut off, due to construction mishaps or other failures. Amateur Radio Operators from Sun City provided voice communications between nurses stations and doctors in their offices. Because of these outages the Technical Committee of the club prepared a plan to provide better and more realistic emergency communications for the Boswell Hospital and the then new Del E Webb Hospital in Sun City West.

The plans were cleared by the hospital management. We now have a 2m repeater at each hospital and a 70-cm repeater at Boswell. The hospitals provide the electricity (including emergency power, when needed) and autopatch phone service in a symbiotic relationship which the club hopes to merit by providing a state-of-the-art emergency communications system, including back-up voice, data and image transfer between the hospitals at speeds and quality comparable to those presently used via tele-

phone lines. Much of this is still in the future as funds become available. This service may only be used under emergency situations and may not be used to supplant commercial services.

The project began on a shoestring, with the Boswell 2-meter unit on loan from another group in exchange for our agreement to maintain and operate it. Don Starkey K7NHR is trustee of the 147.30 MHz repeater, whose performance at a Glendale site was unsatisfactory. The repeater still has intermod problems, but reasonably strong signals overcome them. Members QSY to this frequency for lengthy QSOs.

Funds for the Del Webb 145.29 MHz repeater (which is the club's most active one) and the Boswell 449.8 MHz repeater and all allied gear (autopatches, etc), and maintenance costs were raised by contributions from members of the West Valley ARC. The equipment used is commercially built and was installed by members of the club who are retirees from the communications industry.

HAM RADIO ATTRACTS DESERT HORIZON KIDS

Students in Barbara Shassetz' class at Desert Horizon School in West Phoenix are taught Radio Theory on Monday mornings under the tutelage of W2GOB, Bert Davidson. Barbara provides time on Tuesday through Friday for practice of Morse Code.

The West Valley ARC has requested that these students be enrolled in the Kenwood KIDS program. Under the program the sponsor receives 10 copies of

NOW YOU'RE TALKING, and an Instructors guide as well as a certificate for the Kenwood HamWindows computer program. Students who get their license under this program receive a \$25 gift certificate. Participating schools and clubs are entered in a drawing for a complete HF station.

Bert reports that it is a pleasure to work with this class because they are so attentive and interested.

HAM DIRECTORY AVAILABLE ON PACKET

Local Packet users have access to a directory of current US licensed hams by connecting with station KB7TV on 2m (145.11 MHz), typing "CB [blank space] [and the station call letters]" of the individual you want to identify. The response will be the name and address.

If you know only the first name, middle initial and last name, other information can be obtained from the system. Dave Pollack KF7WW (933-8771) can explain the routine.

The Digital Modes group meets on the 4th Saturday at 10am at Bank of America in La Ronde Center East, Del Webb Blvd, Sun City. They are attempting to set up a digital/phone net that will eliminate the need for an eyeball meeting. Format for such a net is still being discussed.

The club Exec Board is planning to order a US ham directory in a digital format. Director Bert Davidson will have custody.

PUBLIC SERVICE AND EMERGENCY REPORTS

1) The useful relationship between the club and hospitals was recently demonstrated when Boswell lost its incoming and outgoing phone service on the morning of March 2. Boswell's communications manager, Susan Young, informed Emergency Coordinator Bill Johnson from an outside phone, Bill called the team captains, and within about ten minutes the first volunteers with HTs arrived at the hospital. They were stationed at various locations around the facility to relay outgoing telephone messages to fixed monitoring stations ready to make the calls. Two mobile stations were sent to Del Webb to provide inter-hospital communications. The problem was found at the Glendale exchange, and normal communication was restored some 90 minutes after the outage began.

Both 2m repeaters were used, but the need for 70cm HTs (which none of the early volunteers had) was evident by the spotty communications. Bill will conduct performance tests at the site in the near future.

Volunteers: Bill W9WFV, George N7JSA, Hal KF7JO, Charlie K0VEB, Don W1JH, Tom KA7ESP, Al W7KAP, Jack KE7ZQ, and Art WA0RFJ. By the end of the emergency 14 amateurs were monitoring the net, prepared to make calls or relieve the above volunteers.

2) On March 11, Bill W9WFV was joined

by Team Captains Jack Dow KE7ZQ, Joe Nowakowski W7FPG, Oliver Grieve W7WGW and John Kornbeck WA9HBT at Maryvale Hospital/Medical Center to test various frequencies and repeaters in order to determine the best emergency communications options for that hospital and location. Hospital disaster director Luella Quijada and Security director Steve Dettman were also present.

Best option was simplex in and out of the hospital on either 2m or 70cm to a mobile relay station outside. The mobile was then able to reach any of the club repeaters easily.

3) The Senior Olympics bike races held in Sun City West on Feb 22nd were monitored by a communications team from the WVARC, with Bill W9WFV as Net Control. Over 200 riders participated, including a US National Olympics and a British champion, and the events finished at 1:30pm.

Other volunteers: Jack KE7ZQ, Howie KA3RAR, Don W1JH, Art WA0RFJ, Charlie K0VEB, Norm N7JAQ, Joe W7FPG, Ed WK7L, Russ K6CLK, Tony W2QL, Bert W2GOB.

4) On Feb 4th at a luncheon at Ritters, the Northwest Valley Exchange Club enjoyed a twenty minute slide presentation by Bill W9WVF, covering activities of the West Valley ARC in Public Service and in Radio Frequency Interference trouble shooting. Bill was invited by Mark Chilcote W7PS.

NOTES FROM THE SCOTTSDALE HAMFEST

The Scottsdale ARC did its usual fine job hosting the Spring Hamfest at Scottsdale Community College on Saturday March 21. Even the weather cooperated.

Enjoyed seeing ARRL SW Div Director Fried Heyn and XYL Sandi, and our Section Mgr Bernie Sasek and XYL Karen at the League booth. Hope they signed up some new members. Bernie and Fried are guest speakers at the Prime Rib dinner of the Kingman-Bullhead City-Lake Havasu City amateur radio clubs to be held in Kingman on April 16. Everyone is welcome at \$18 per. So that's what it takes to get them to visit your club!

Must have been a hundred candidates in the line for VEC exams put on by Superstition ARC, and that did not include those taking a crash course in another room. Had we known about the session, they would have had more. Two

weeks earlier, Scottsdale also had a big turnout at their VEC exams. Ham radio is growing at a great rate.

Saw one of our newly licensed members buying a cap with his brand new call. I should have warned him that they aren't accepted as trade-ins when you upgrade. I have some, mint condx.

Cochise ARA members reminded us of their Springfest, May 2-3, in Sierra Vista. More details in next issue.

Fliers are also out for the ARRL National Convention at the Los Angeles Airport Marriott Hotel, AUG 20 - 23. Mark your calendar.

Len Winkler was raking in raffle contributions at the Scottsdale Club booth and reminding all who came near to tune in to his ham radio talk show on 1510 kHz on Sundays at 1pm. He must be doing something right; the show will be a year old in April.