



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 Sumner NW7R (972-8733).

ATV PROGRAM SET FOR JAN 4 MEETING

The West Valley ARC will meet on MONDAY JANUARY 4th at 7:15 PM at St Clement Social Hall, 15800 Del Webb Blvd, Sun City. Those of you who found a camcorder under your tree this holiday season will be especially interested in the program.

Larry Dillie N7NOU, President of the Arizona Amateurs on TV Club, will set up a fast-scan TV station and demonstrate that mode of Amateur Radio communications by contacting other ATV stations in the Valley. Larry and other ATV gurus will be available to explain how you can become a part of this fast-growing phase of ham radio. Anyone with an interest in Amateur Radio is welcome. Doors open at 6:45.

If you are interested in monitoring some ATV transmissions, on Wednesday nights at 7:30 tune your TV set to cable channel 57 and attach an outside antenna (preferably a vertical 70cm one) to the set.

SILENT KEYS

DAVE WILLIAMS KG7PR of Sun City West passed away Dec 1. A former Chief of Police, Dave was a lunch bunch regular on Thursdays; his intelligence and humor brightened those sessions. Our sympathies are extended to his wife Martha and family..

STAN WADE W7PD of Sun City died on Dec 14 at the Forum at Desert Harbor, Peoria, at the age of 88. He was a charter member of the club from the early 60's.

CORRECTION: We apologize for misspelling the name of Silent Key Ed Banner KB7JNK in the last Short Skip.

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED AT DEC MEETING

The following club officers were elected at the December meeting and will be installed at the January session:

PRES	RALPH BARR	WODNO	582-8208
SEC	ERNIE BREWER	N7EBN	848-1875
TREAS	WALT SCHWIEBERT	K7HGZ	974-3387

DIRS:	DAVE POLLACK	KF7WW	933-8771
	BERT DAVIDSON	W2GOB	584-6260
	GEORGE WATLING	N7JSA	933-0854
	MERRILL BUTTERMAN	KF8DZ	870-3848
P PRES	FRANK SMITH	AA7FM	876-2718

At press time the Nominating Committee was still seeking a VP nominee -- someone willing to serve as President in 1994. If you have had some leadership experience in the past and are willing to help organize the efforts of many capable club volunteers, give Nominating Committee Chairman George Hands a call (974-3361).

Many favorable comments have been made regarding the December meeting. After eleven months of technical programs, the opportunity for hams to bring their spouses to a meeting full of holiday cheer and camaraderie was well received. We urge our members to bring this spirit to all of our meetings and make an effort to welcome visitors and new members. The Executive Board thanks all the folks who brought those delicious cookies and other goodies.

OBIT

BERTHA KIPPER, wife of Charles Kipper W2JHS, passed away in Johnson City, NY, last month. We offer our condolences to Kip and his family.

FCC CHAIRMAN RESIGNS

Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, Alfred E Sikes, has submitted his resignation to President George Bush, effective on January 19, the day before Bill Clinton is sworn in as President. His term of office would have run until June 30th.

In a letter to President-elect Clinton, Sikes said that in 1993 rules for a personal communications service (PCS) should be set and that local telecommunications competition should be assured. He noted that these initiatives and others "will require a great deal of time and talent within the agency at a time when crushing burdens face it", notably the implementation of cable TV deregulation. (Info from ARRL Newsletter 12/10/92)

Club Notes: A Daily Call-in Net is held at 9 AM on 145.29- MHz. Everyone is welcome to check in. Shut-ins are especially urged to join us and feel that they are part of the ham community. The Wednesday night Net at 6:45 on the same frequency keeps us up to date on the happenings in ham radio, with Newline, W5YI Reports, ARRL Letters and local QSTs.

There is an autopatch on this repeater, which is on Del Webb Hospital in Sun City West and on the 147.3+ MHz repeater on Boswell Hospital in Sun City. The club also maintains a 70cm repeater (449.8 MHz) at Boswell.

The Executive Board is in the process of preparing a booklet for members, explaining the various functions of the repeaters, as well as the many other services provided by the club. The booklet will be distributed with the rosters in the Spring.

The CW Practice committee is reported to be making progress, and is expected to have tapes ready for a January startup date. The practice sessions will be on the 147.3 repeater.

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is eligible to join the club. Annual dues are \$10 and are payable on or before the January meeting date. All family hams at the same mailing address are enrolled for that same \$10 fee. If you can't make the January meeting, mail your check to the PO address on this newsletter's 1st page.

VALLEY CLUBS TO OBSERVE F.A.R.E. DAY

Amateur Awareness Day in 1993 is scheduled for Saturday, September 18. Len Winkler KB7LPW is spearheading an effort to hold a FAMILY AMATEUR RADIO EVENT Day on Sunday, September 19th. FARE will be held at Rawhide in north Scottsdale with all area clubs invited to set up stations in the large expanse surrounding the place. It will be a family event, with attractions for youngsters, such as clowns and rides, as well as amateur radio displays. A late afternoon dinner is contemplated, with area dignitaries present. More on this event later.

Len is the host of the "Ham Radio and More" talk show on Sunday afternoons on KFNN (1510 AM - that's amplitude modulation, not ante meridian). Len envisions this effort as a prelude to closer cooperation among the ham radio clubs in the Valley.

RADIO CLASSES

The club is planning to sponsor NOVICE and TECHNICIAN CLASSES beginning around the first week in February, and ending just prior to the test sessions at DeVry on April 3rd. Our present instructors, George Hands KE7DH and George Thompson AA7LA, may have conflicting commitments during these months. If you are willing to help out at these sessions (they are usually held in the Sun City area), please contact Ray NW7R at 972-8733.

Candidates wishing to attend these classes should also call Ray. We need a minimum of 8 students to start the programs. There is an attrition rate of about 50%, due in part to some students passing the tests ahead of schedule. There is no charge for the classes. The textbook that is used is "Now You're Talking", available at Ham Radio Outlet and Radio Shack stores.

We are also trying to get enough candidates (same minimum) for GENERAL, ADVANCED and EXTRA CLASS sessions. All classes run once a week for two hours, usually in the evening, altho' a Saturday class may be possible.

Prospective hams in SE Phoenix should contact George Cooney KQ7C at 274-6212 re Arizona ARC classes.

The West Valley ARC provided radio communications service for the Surprise, AZ, FOUNDERS DAY parade on the 11th of November. The parade was without major incident for the second year in a row. However, some problems were experienced assembling the parade at the start and keeping it together in progress.

The parade was larger than last year and the director had problems communicating with and forming the participants in the desired starting order. This year the parade was more than ten blocks long. Bill W9WFV and other operators near the start line came to the rescue and helped to line up the participants in the proper order. Bill said that next year we will provide several operators to assist in lining up the participants.

The parade route crossed Grand Ave and traffic there was too heavy to permit the police to hold up traffic long enough for the entire length of the parade to pass. The ham operators on the parade route, through net control Joe W7FPG, were able to control the pace of the parade to keep the gaps to a minimum.

Other participating stations:

JACK DOW KE7ZQ ELLIOT SILVERMAN K1FOC
TOM IVY KA7ESP WALT SCHWIEBERT K7HGZ
DON BURK KE0EU CHARLIE FRANKEL N7NYS
GENE KLEIN N7OBM GEORGE WATLING N7JSA
DICK HARRIS N7XPS CLARENCE REID K0BHJ
MARVIN WOOD N7WIE ALEX KUTCHIK W9VYG
TONY CIPOLLA W2QL LOU EINSTEIN N7RCB
FRED WARRICK KE7AK HOWIE WEGER KA3RAR
BILL MILLER N7DJV

WANTED

LOOKING FOR a Technician with test equipment for occasional service on a church audio system. (This is a Sun City church).

Call Ray Hensley W7AFG 972-1376

MOVABLE COMPUTER RACK (call for further description).

George KE7DH 974-3361

HARDLINE (1/2 ") in quantity.

OLD CW-keys, paddles, bugs.

Frank AA7FM 938-8000 h, 876-2718 w.

A news item from a W5YI Report that was reported on one of our recent Wednesday night Nets informed us that the FCC is placing restrictions on telemarketing phone calls, especially recorded ones (which would be illegal, except where prior permission was obtained). Comments from our check-ins applauded this move.

Unfortunately, a temporary injunction has been applied to the law and the privacy of our lives will continue to be invaded by these annoying calls. A US District Court in Oregon has temporarily blocked implementation of the law, pending the outcome of a lawsuit filed by the National Association of Telecomputer Operators against the FCC.

Items from W5YI Report 12/15/92:

NEW HAM OPERATOR LICENCES BACKLOGGED

The FCC's licensing facility has a big backlog of Form 610 license applications. It is now taking up to 12 weeks for an applicant to receive an operator license. The report notes that less than half as many applications were processed in October of 1992 than in October of 1991, although more applications were probably submitted in Oct '92 than in Oct '91.

NEW NOVICE PRIVILEGES IN FCC PROPOSAL

The FCC has issued a Notice of Proposed Rule Making re 222-225 MHz that

- 1) creates a small new subband where repeaters are prohibited;
- 2) authorizes frequency privileges to Novice Class operators in the entire band; and
- 3) allows Novice Class operators to be licensees and control operators of repeaters in the 222-225 MHz band as well as in the 1270-1295 segment of the 1240-1300 MHz band.

Filing date for comments is on or before Feb 23, 1993 and reply comments on or before March 23, 1993.

NEW NOVICE/TECH EXAMS AFTER JULY 1, '93

A new question pool for Novice and Tech exams will be released to the public on May 1 and be put into use on and after July 1, 1993. The wording of EVERY question has been changed in some way. All questions are simplified so as to be on a Junior High or High School Level. The pool of questions has been reduced by 10%.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

[This is your newsletter. The editor welcomes any items that would be of interest to our ham readers. Bill Johnson W9WFV has submitted these.]

1) The Green Valley repeater 145.29 MHz in the Tucson area was S9+ at the QTH of Bill W9WFV at 3 PM (local) on Dec 10th. [This station shares the same frequency as our KE7DH repeater in Sun City West.] With his Kenwood 711 rig and Ringo Ranger II antenna, Bill monitored an amateur accessing the patch and making a telephone call. From his operating procedure it was obvious that he had not used the autopatch often, and he neglected to bring it down. Bill heard a telephone operator come in several times and finally heard an off hook tone.

Bill went to his car in the garage and turned on his Yaesu 5200. The Green Valley repeater, received on a Larsen dual band 2m and 70cm mobile antenna, was still quite strong and full quieting. Bill set power to 50 watts and pressed the # sign. The autopatch disconnected.

2) Bill talked with his insurance agent recently about coverage for his mobile equipment. His company required a rider on the normal contract to cover the ham gear and several special precautions were uncovered.

The first question they asked: is the equipment removable? Well, any

part of an automobile is removable. Thieves make a living stripping automobiles down to the frame. The best answer is to show the installation to the agent. Bill's is removable. His new Yaesu 5200 can be removed without tools; his old Kenwood 221 required at least a very small Phillips driver and some patience.

The next question: is this equipment like a CB rig? Bill's insurance company had a standard CB rider available. The important difference to get across is the cost difference. This is especially true if you have a replacement policy.

Bill also discovered that the best plan is to mount the mobile in your automobile and to take a picture of the installed equipment. Then, like all insurance claims, make sure you have a sales receipt for the unit. This procedure came to light when the agent related an incident where an insurance company (not his, of course) refused to pay a claim by a customer because they had no proof that a \$3000 stereo system was ever installed in the automobile.

If you have enough gear, maybe the best solution is to take advantage of the amateur radio insurance policy covering all of your equipment, that is available through the company that ARRL recommends.

MORE CLUB NOTES

The West Valley Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Special Service Club. Club members are not required to belong to ARRL, but we encourage your support. The club receives \$5 for each new ARRL member enrolling through the club ARRL representative, Don Fenton W1JH, 12739 W Bonanza Dr, Sun City West 85375. Make check to ARRL for \$5 less than required amount and check to WVARC for \$5, and send both to Don.

League members should also renew through the club. WVARC gets \$2 for each renewal. Make check to ARRL for \$2 less than required amount and \$2 to WVARC and send to Don. The club appreciates your support.

Area hams meet for lunch EVERY THURSDAY at 11:15 (most are there by 11:00) at Denny's Restaurant on Bell Road in Surprise (one block west of El Mirage Rd). Some 20 hams and some spouses are usually in attendance.

The monthly club breakfast is also held at the same location at 8 AM on the SECOND SATURDAY of each month. It is well attended, with spouses again welcome. Order from their regular menu at both events.

Get to know your colleagues at one of these sessions. Many technical problems are straightened out over a cup of coffee and an inexpensive meal.

Headlining our DX report are a couple of surprises that recently delighted the world of DX when everyone else was complaining that the bands were dead. Baldur DJ6SI activated Uganda, signing 5X5WR, and Romeo 3W3RR activated North Korea - finally - probably giving many Honor Rollees their last needed DXCC country.

Romeo and other UA's signed P5RS7, certainly an odd-looking call. All accusations of this being a "slim" operation were dispelled when Stu WA2MOE of Phoenix and this writer, yours truly, worked Romeo on phone in what was apparently the first and second QSO of Romeo's to North America. Romeo was, after all, on my DXpedition to M-V Island in October and I certainly know his voice, and he jokingly came back to me using my Finnish call sign, sent greetings to my wife, etc. After that, DX packet clusters were buzzing with the news that Romeo's friends in Phoenix were verifying that it really is Romeo! Following this, the pileups got started with the operator's QSX spread occupying 50 kc's. What a high!!!

With the entry of our troops into Somalia, luck would and does have it that our military includes a few hams. USMC Commander Pete Eaton KH6HBZ was among the first to land in Somalia, having equipped himself with an entire HF station. Listen for him and many others signing with the Somalian prefix T5.

NO VEC TESTS AT DeVRY IN JANUARY

The next VEC exams at DeVry Institute, 2149 W Dunlap Ave, will be held on FEBRUARY 6. VE's please mark your calendars. Exams will also be held there on the FIRST SATURDAY of every month EXCEPT MARCH, JULY and SEPTEMBER. Registration begins at 8:30 AM; no tests will start after 11 AM. The fee is \$5.60, with no charge for Novice tests. No pre-registration required. For more info: Ray 972-8733.

Scottsdale ARC holds exams quarterly (MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER, DECEMBER) at Senior Citizens Center. Call Ed N7JOR 952-9596 for info.

Italian hams are going to the Maldives late December and early January signing 8Q7BX. QSL via Carlo Amorati 14ALU. Also planned for early 1993 is a DXpedition to Navassa KP1. Organizers are hoping to recruit more operators. Any volunteers from WVARC? Contact Vance W5IJU if interested.

Mike K9AJ is going full bore with plans to activate Baker-Howland KH1 in early 1993. The pileups will be red hot on this one, but we in Arizona should find this an easy QSO.

Other upcoming DXpeditions include Bangladesh S21ZG (operator Eric WZ6C), Vietnam 3W1K, Desecheo KP5/NOTG, Rotuma 3D2AG, Rwanda 9X55AB, Western Samoa 5W1XY, Marshall Is V7, and Mongolia JU830C (special call).

For those interested in RTTY, the ARRL RTTY Roundup is set for January 2nd and 3rd. Mark your calendars for February 20-21 and March 6-7 for the ever popular ARRL CW and SSB DX Contests. These are great opportunities for the dedicated to earn DXCC in one short weekend. Good luck.

In the meantime, keep listening to all bands. Forty and eighty meters have been very productive, but in the past few weeks even ten meters has awakened with nice DX offerings for all.

Best 73 in '93! de Frank AA7FM/OH2LVG

VEC tests are held on the THIRD SATURDAY of each month at the Tempe Library. Call Roger AA7QY (838-2005) or Dave WA7GPF (963-3527) of TRI-ARC for info.

Volunteer Examiners helping at the December 5th test session included Ed Blaszczyk N7EB, the club's ARRL VEC Liaison, and:

Merrill Butterman KF8DZ	Al Lee W6KQI
Bob Johnson KE7LZ	Larry Clark KF7PC
Charlie Hall WB7E	Jack O'Keefe WJ7N
Ray Sumner NW7R	Leo Staley NS9Y
Bob Menefee K7HQR	Roy Woodruff W2HTX
Verlin White WX7N	Hal Van Dyke KD2PH

WVARC AND PROJECT GOODWILL ALBANIA

The West Valley ARC is now the collection point for donations to Project Goodwill Albania -- a ham radio humanitarian project organized by Martti Laine OH2BH and Frank Smith AA7FM with assistance from hams in Japan and doctors in the Phoenix area including K5VT and KF7AY. Thanks to the success of this project Albanian ham Marenglen Mema, "Geni", ZA1B, will be coming to Phoenix for crucial medical treatment.

With approval of the general membership of the WVARC, our club is collecting all USA based donations for Geni, to help pay for his ancillary medical care. His initial treatment at Valley Lutheran Hospital in Mesa is being donated, as is his roundtrip journey from Tirana to Phoenix (which Swiss Air is donating).

It was Geni who was responsible for the success of the ZA1A project that brought ham radio out of its decades of dormancy and gave this badly needed DXCC country to the world of Amateur Radio. Now in the fine tradition of ham radio, amateurs worldwide are chipping in to help Geni get back on the road to better health.

Geni has spent over 2 decades in the service of the Albanian Defense

Ministry in its telecommunications division. This combined with his love of English literature made him the right person to translate weeks of training classes that the ZA1A team (OH2BH, N7NG, JA1BK and OH1RY) conducted prior to the Albanians ever getting on the air for the first time in over 30 years. Martti Laine feels strongly that without Geni, ZA/Albania would have never gone on the air for years.

Short Skip readers can read more about this interesting story in the January issue of WorldRadio Magazine (cover article) as well as in the November issue of the DX Magazine. The same article has appeared in England and will soon be published in Japan and several other foreign-language amateur publications.

The West Valley Amateur Radio Club is pleased to have the opportunity to play a supporting role in this international goodwill project. It is hoped that, depending on Geni's medical recovery, there will be an opportunity for club members to meet him while he is in Arizona.

Club members wishing to help in this project, please contact Frank Smith AA7FM at 876-2718.

FOR SALE

YAESU FT-757GX Mk II 9-band xcvr, like new in box; \$700. KNWD mic MC-50; \$25. HD POWER SUPPLY, 6-15V, 22 amps; \$100. YAESU mic MD-1B8, new in box; \$50. SHURE mic w/preamp; \$15. ICOM IC-2SAT (2m), w/mic/case; \$100. KNWD 2600A (2m); \$50. KNWD TM201A (2m), w/spkr & remote freq contr; \$50. HEATH SB620 SCANALYSER SCOPE; \$15. Dummy Load 1 KW w/oil; \$10.

Wally AE7Y 933-7011

HY-GAIN TH3MK3-S Thunderbird 3-element antenna (10-15-20m); \$100.

Don KB7ORP 938-5181

COLLINS 390 Rcvr; KENWOOD TS-520 HF Xcvr, CUSHCRAFT AOP-Oscar Pak satellite antenna pair.

Frank AA7FM 938-8000 h, 876-2718 w.

Two 8' 2m arrays, vert polarized, with spreader bar (6 reflector each array). One HD Rotator with Philco controller w/compass face. Cables for rotator (4 wire ribbon) and beam (prob. RG-8). One K3CH-MTS-ITT Kellogg Cinderella 2-way 2m K30H Xmtr (rockbound), conv to 110 AC power supply w/complete P/L. All for \$225.

HEATH 2m HH Xcvr HW-6502 and 25W HEATH mobile console Xcvr HWA-6502-2 (matched) w/manuals; asking \$200.

Jud W0BRB 933-6624

HAM IV ROTATOR and late style Control Box, w/instructions; \$135
COMMODORE C-64C COMPUTER, complete w/Monitor, Disk Drive, Printer and AEA Pakratt digital prog. cart. and RS232 interface for digital oper'n. No TNC.
Tom NY7S 972-6589