



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).

HAVE A FINE TIME AT FT TUTHILL!!

AUG 1 MEETING: ANTENNA RESTRICTIONS

West Valley ARC will meet on MONDAY Aug 1 at St. Clement Social Hall, 15800 Del Webb Blvd, Sun City. Doors open at 6:30 PM; a brief business meeting will start at 7:15, followed by the speaker of the evening, Attorney Joel Kirschbaum KB7FF, whose timely subject will address our concerns regarding ANTENNA RESTRICTIONS. Joel is a member of the ARRL Volunteer Counsel Program, who provide a free initial consultation to amateurs regarding ham radio legal problems. We look forward to his remarks. A letter in a recent issue of a local weekly newspaper said that "clutter lowers property values", referring to antenna towers. A ham considers his tower to be a thing of beauty and a joy forever. Who determines what clutter is?

The program on MONDAY, SEPT 5th (Labor Day -- another holiday!) will be the presentation by George Poland W8FWF on AUTOMATED PACKET REPORTING SYSTEM (APRS), which was originally scheduled for June. This is a fascinating new capability that hams have for determining location via a satellite program.

Many favorable comments have been made about the replacement program in June which described in detail how to attach PL-259 connectors to coaxial cables. The team of George Hands KE7DH, Paul Playford W8AEF and Tom Watts NY7S did an excellent job. Several members also appreciated seeing the latest video on Ten-tec equipment and have asked if other manufacturers have similar promotional tapes. The program on LIGHTNING AND GROUNDING prompted additional useful comment at the end. Come to a meeting; improve your knowledge.

Arizona's largest annual hamfest is held the FOURTH WEEKEND in JULY at Ft Tuthill (Flagstaff), sponsored by the Amateur Radio Council of Arizona. This year the dates are JULY 22-24. You are advised that the best swapmeet selections are available on Friday but most activity is on Saturday. Look for the West Valley ARC display promoting the club and say hello to those on hand.

We will have Membership Application Forms, copies of Short Skip and club information for non-members. See you! Dues are \$5 for 6 months (July-Dec).

LADIES NIGHT OUT BARBECUE OCTOBER 14

Mark FRIDAY OCTOBER 14 on your calendar. That is the WVARC's big social event, LADIES NIGHT OUT, where we express our appreciation to our spouses for their tolerance towards our hobby.

Three ramadas have been reserved by Bert Davidson at Beardsley Rec Center in Sun City West for another fine Western Style barbecue by the same caterer as last year. We will be entertained by vocalist Jerry Hicks, who has performed at the Sundome and in several musicals such as Fiddler on the Roof and Funny Girl. Jerry will stir our memories with selections from the '30s thru '60s.

The event is open to all club members, with/or without spouses or significant others, and ham friends. The cost is \$10 per person. We ask that you get your reservations in by Monday, October 10th. Serving will begin around 6 PM and extend to 7 for late arrivals.

To reach the Recreation Center take Bell Road to El Mirage Rd, then north to Beardsley Road and then west a few blocks to the Center.

CQ DX de FRANK SMITH AH0W/OH2LVG

After a few months' hiatus and downright lousy band condx, things are beginning to pick up nicely for DXing. For those who don't mind staying up late nights, 20m is offering up 599 signals from Europe and the Pacific at the same time.

Two big surprises came along in just the past few weeks: A group of Italian hams activated the Sovereign Order of the Knights of Malta (1A0KM) and Rudy DK7PE, one of the hobby's greatest cw operators, put the Congo on the air as TNOCW, which was a new one for almost everyone around here and definitely so on cw.

DXers are now awaiting signals from Sable Island, CY0SAB, to be operated by Wayne VE1CBK. Meanwhile, Al WA3YVN and Jan WA4VQD have announced plans to activate South Georgia VP8- in January of next year. Expected cost of the trip: \$50,000. More on this later.

In addition to these, if band conditions stage an overall improvement, we can expect to work some very rare ones: Chad TT8PS, Angola D2TT, Glorioso FR5ZQ/G, Iran EP2DL and EP 2ASZ, Nigeria 5N0/DL9GMM, Sri Lanka 4S7/ON4IPA, Tokelau ZK3, Vanuatu YJ0, Wallis-Futuna FW/AA6LF, Aves YV0, Morocco CN2VA, Djibouti J28FD, Cambodia XU and many more. As of this writing, certain DX friends of mine are making serious attempts at the Andaman and Laccadives VU7.

Ghana should be quite easy to work in the next few months. Randy Martin K0EU (Dayton DXer of the Year) is re-

turning next month as 9G1XA. During a very long stay there last year, Randy virtually worked this country out. And if you don't work Randy, 4X4MS will be active there for a full year. Several Phoenix hams are also planning up to 3 or 4 trips that direction to participate in various contests.

Now, a comment on Palestine. With the return to Gaza and Jericho of the PLO, the DX world might expect this one to be the next possible DXCC country (actually renewal of prior DXCC status). While I would mention that there are probably at least three different DXpedition teams attempting to activate Palestine, so far it appears unlikely that Palestine would qualify for various reasons. Depending on the autonomy that eventually evolves in the region, Palestine may very well qualify, but probably not this year. Unfortunately, the ITU has rejected various proposals from the Palestinians that would have given them telecommunications authority as well as the issuance of a Palestine prefix.

Area DXers will soon have the opportunity to welcome more Russian hams to Phoenix. Andy UA3AB, Romeo AH0M/3W3RR and Ed "the Red" NT2X/RV7AA who were with me at 4J1FM in 1992 will be joining with Igor "Harry" RA3AUU ex-YA0RR, XY0RR, (etc.) prior to our departure to a fall contest DXpedition that will be announced soon. Our team includes VKs and JAs and everyone's friend Victor XE1VIC from Mexico City.

In the meantime, stay tuned, keep hunting, best 73 and CU in the Pileups!

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE NOMINEE MEXICAN HAM

Bishop Samuel Ruiz XE3AXS, well known Mexican amateur, has been nominated to receive a Nobel Peace Prize, according to an announcement by Sergio Valdes Sada of the Assn of Radio Amateurs of the Republic of Mexico. Ruis, 69, was nominated for his work among the Chia-

pas indian tribes and for the intermediary role he has been playing in trying to negotiate a solution to the conflict between the Chiapas and the Mexican government. Final decision and awarding of Nobel prizes will take place in October.

CT VERSION 9 NOW AVAILABLE

The long-awaited release of K1EA CT contest logging software, version 9, is now here. This upgrade of a very popular logging program includes more than a dozen new features and enhancements. It requires a 386- or 486-based PC. (Won't run on XT, AT or 286 PC.) Substantial discount for prior CT owners; for info contact Harvard Radio at (508) 460-8873.

WANTED

"OPAQUE PROJECTOR" Bob WE7T 972-7749
TS-520 or TS-530, Tom NY7S 972-6589
MORSE CODE PROGRAM for MACINTOSH
Bert W2GOB 584-6260
HARDLINE in quantity; old cw keys and bugs. Frank AH0W 876-2718
TUBE TESTER, Al KF5BH 486-3514

NOMINATIONS FOR CLUB HAM-OF-THE-YEAR

Each year at the LADIES NIGHT OUT event in October, the West Valley ARC Ham-of-the-Year is announced. Members should send their nominations to Frank Smith, chairman of this year's committee, by October 1st.

Previous recipients include: 1993 Frank Smith; 1992 Sam Lewbel (posthumously) and Bert Davidson, 1991 Tom Watts, 1990 Bill Johnson, 1989 Ray Sumner.

LICENSE EXAMS AUG 6th; NONE SEPT 3rd

Tests for all classes of Amateur Radio licenses will be held at DeVry Institute, 2149 W Dunlap Ave, on SATURDAY, AUG 6; walk-in registration at 8:30 AM. No tests will begin after 11 AM. A fee of \$5.75 will cover all tests taken at this session. At present there is no charge for Element 1A (5 WPM code) or Element 2 (the Novice written test). Bring original and copy of appropriate license or CSCE and latest FCC Form 610 (available at registration desk). Bring photo ID. NO TEST SEPT 3 (LABOR DAY WEEKEND).

Tests will be held on FIRST SATURDAY of OCT, NOV, DEC. Volunteer examiners please note.

Tests also available at TEMPE PUBLIC LIBRARY, SW corner Rural Rd and Southern Ave, starting 9:30 AM on these dates: Aug 20, Sept 17, Oct 8, Nov 5, Dec 17. Call Roger AA7QY (838-1215) of Tri-City ARC to confirm.

SCOTTSDALE ARC usually holds exams the 2ND SATURDAY in September. Call Eddie N7JOC (952-9596) for location and time.

Tests at Ft Tuthill Saturday July 23. Also San Diego Saturday Aug 27.

Candidates who took their tests on Apr 1st in Sun City and Apr 2nd in Phoenix received their licenses on or about July 16th. Some of this time was spent in local processing and at VEC HQ at ARRL, but the FCC apparently took its fully allotted 90 day. However, there are encouraging reports about the new FCC computer system which may allow for electronic submittals from VECs at some time in the near future.

WVARC OFFICERS -- 1994

PRES RALPH BARR	WODNO	PHX	582-8208	
VP PAUL PLAYFORD	W8AEF	SCW	546-2119	
SEC GEO WATLING	N7JSA	SC	933-0854	
TR WALT SCHWIEBERT	K7HGZ	SC	974-3387	
DIRS BILL PAULEY	KB7RRE	PHX	938-6163	
	JOHN KORNBECK	WA9HBT	PEO	566-2018
	CLARENCE REID	K0BHJ	SC	876-8780
MERRILL BUTTERMAN	KF8DZ	PEO	878-4651	
PPRES FRANK SMITH	AHOW	GLD	876-2718	

WVARC BREAKFAST, LUNCHEON SESSIONS

Summer doldrums have reduced our numbers at the club's breakfasts to around 25-30 and luncheons to around 20-25. Let's help to keep these enjoyable get-togethers going until the winter crowd returns. Spouses are welcome and would enjoy a spell away from the kitchen. These pleasant sessions are held at Country Kitchen, 12535 W Bell Rd, Surprise, on the 2nd SATURDAY of the month at 8 AM and each THURSDAY at 11:30 AM. Open menu.

FOR SALE

AEA IsoLoop 10-30 HF Antenna S/N 3739 w/Manual Loop Controller S/N 3739 and IT-1 Automatic Tuner S/N 174; \$350.

J-COMM Magic Notch Audio Heterodyne Filter; \$50.

All mint condx. Leo W6JWZ 584-6018

HF2V vertical antenna (40 and 80/75m). Rohn (25) tilt-over tower (68') w/guys. Atlas 210X HF XCVR w/speaker deck. IC-735 HF XCVR w/internal cw filter, keyer, mic. Frank AHOW 876-2718

VACATION NET

The West Valley Vacation Net meets every Monday and Friday at 10:15 AM (MST) through mid-October with Chuck Bailey W7YU as Net Control and Eva KC7RY as first alternate. A dozen or more hams have checked in from time to time. Chuck even persuaded a Chicago-area retiree to come down and check out the Valley area; Don Koros K9EJC has now bought a home in Sun City.

The frequency: 14.240 MHz; be there.

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

Not much activity in the Public Service area on these hot days. Four members served as parking and traffic control monitors for the baseball game and fireworks display at Sun City Stadium on July 4th: Bruce Stuart KB7ZFF (net control), Hal Zabel N7KXZ, Rick Jenkins N7ZZV and Chuck Bailey W7YU.

HAPPY 125TH BIRTHDAY, HIRAM P MAXIM

On Sept 2nd the ARRL will celebrate the 125th birthday of its co-founder,

Hiram P Maxim. From 0000Z Sept 2nd to 2400Z Sept 12th, all ARRL volunteers, elected officials and staff will be invited to add "/125" when signing their calls to celebrate this occasion. Hams who work at least 25 of these stations are eligible for a nice certificate endorsable in increments of 25 up to 125. Contacts may be made in any mode and on any band. Stations signing "/125" will also exchange their ARRL position (Section Manager, Asst Director, etc). One outcome will be to publicize the League volunteers, who they are and what they do.

ALSO HAPPY BIRTHDAY, VEC PROGRAM

On July 21 the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator Program will celebrate its 10th anniversary. More than 30,000 Volunteer Examiners have been accredited by the ARRL/VEC and they have administered more than 400,000 exams. There are another 10 or so Volunteer Examiner Coordinators, notably W5YI, who add to these numbers. The program has been a big success in spite of some unprincipled VEs who have been caught cheating. Before the program, FCC officials would have test sessions 2 to 4 times a year in the Phoenix area. If you failed, you had a long wait for your next try. Today there are 3 or more sessions a month, all well attended.

AMATEUR LICENSE CLASSES START IN OCT.

There have been a number of prospective hams who have recently asked about our radio classes. Present plan is to hold them on TUESDAYS (GENERAL CLASS) and FRIDAYS (NOVICE/TECH CLASS) beginning OCT 11th. We use the ARRL license manuals, including "Now You're Talking" for Novice/Tech. ADVANCED and EXTRA CLASS sessions will be held if numbers warrant. Call Ray Sumner NW7R at 972-8733 to register for class OR TO VOLUNTEER TO TEACH. We have a video course (3 tapes) for the beginners. More details in October Short Skip.

Those studying for the GENERAL CLASS license, are reminded that the Question Pool has been revised and the new pool is being used, effective July 1, 1994.

COMING EVENTS

AUG 26-28 SW Div Convention, San Diego
(Your editor has registration forms and details of activities, including Forum and Tech Sessions, DX breakfast, Banquet, Dinner cruise, etc.)
Bob (619) 278-4284

SEPT 17 FAMILY AMATEUR RADIO EVENT
RAWHIDE, 23000 N SCOTTSDALE RD.
Swapmeet opens 6 AM; Other events begin at 9; many children's activities. Parking \$2/Tailgating \$5/Admission \$2. (Advance admission \$1 -- see club rep Merle Buttermann at WVARC meetings.)
Info on F.A.R.E., Len 861-0303

OCT 8-9 NW AZ TRI-CLUB, BULLHEAD CITY
Chamber of Comm Grounds Rte 95, "
Swapmeet starts 6 AM; Jerry 855-1418
(Easy access to Laughlin casinos)

OCT 16 OPRC Swapfest, Tucson at DeAnza
Drive-in Theater, 22nd & Alvernon.
Scott 295-4631

DEC 3 Superstition Hamfest, Mesa CC,
Dobson & Southern. Tom 671-0635

NUMBER OF LICENSED HAMS DROPS SHARPLY

Prior to 1984 amateur licenses were issued or renewed for 5 years. Starting in that year licenses were issued or renewed for 10 years; in fact, if you upgraded or changed your address, etc, your license was extended for 10 years from that date. (FCC intends to change that policy so that modified licenses (including upgrade to a new class) will now carry the original expiration date.)

In 1994 the first of the 10-year renewal licenses are coming due. The W5YI Report for July 1 states that for the first 3 months of this year 12,823 amateurs have failed to renew their licenses. Many of these are believed to be Silent Keys. In the same period the number of renewals was 7982. In short, of those who became hams or renewed in the first quarter of 1984, over 60% are no longer licensed hams!

The one bright spot is that the average age of new licensees is much lower than the average age of all hams and that should reduce the percentage of Silent Keys in the next ten years.

W5YI quotes John B Johnston, Chief of Personal Radio Branch of FCC, as saying that most Novice applicants are between 11 and 16 years of age.