



AN ARRL-AFFILIATED  
SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

# SHORT SKIP

SHORT SKIP is a periodical published monthly (every 2 months in summer) by WVARC. Deadline for items is 2nd Saturday of the month. Mail to PO Box or call Editor Ray Sumner NW7R 972-8733.

## CLUB CALENDAR

[Please mark YOUR calendar.]

1st MONDAY: GENERAL MEETING, 7:15pm.  
2nd MONDAY: EXEC BOARD, 6:30pm.  
TUESDAYS: CARL NET, 8pm, 145.35 MHz.  
DAILY: CALL-IN NET, 9am, 147.30 MHz.  
WEDNESDAYS: NEWSLINE NET, 6:45pm, ".  
FRIDAYS: TECHNICIAN CLASS, 7-9pm.  
1st SATURDAY: LICENSE EXAMS, 8am.  
2nd SATURDAY: BREAKFAST, 8am.

FEB 24: COMPUFEST '96, 9am-5pm.  
FEB 24: ICOM DAY, Ham Radio Outlet.  
MARCH 9: SPRINGFEST, SCOTTSDALE CC.  
MARCH 15: DEADLINE FOR SSKIP ITEMS.  
MARCH 20: C.A.R.L. BOARD, 7pm  
MARCH 23,24: HAM DAZE KC7LUL (CARL)

## MARCH PROGRAM: HISTORY OF ELECTRONICS

West Valley Amateur Radio Club will meet on MONDAY MARCH 4TH at St Clement Social Hall, 15800 N Del Webb Blvd, Sun City. Doors open 6:30 and session begins at 7:15pm. A short business meeting will be followed by a program on the HISTORY OF ELECTRONICS by a Motorola representative. The program was to be given in January but a midwest snow-storm delayed the speaker.

The Program for APRIL 1st is an interesting non-ham subject, the Organ Donor Network of Arizona. We'll learn about how it operates, what criteria are used and other aspects. Come early and enjoy a cup of coffee with fellow hams.

Future programs include one on the Information Superhighway and Cable, by a Cox Communications representative. Everyone is welcome at our meetings. Membership in the West Valley ARC is open to anyone with an interest in Amateur Radio. Dues are \$10/yr, and all family hams at the same mailing address are included.

## DUES

Treasurer Ernie Brewer N7EBN wishes to thank the members who have paid their dues. For those who have not paid, our 1996 Roster will be mailed with April issue. Please look at the box below for your status. If you are listed as NOT PAID, please pay by the MARCH meeting or call Ernie (848-1875) to clarify your status.

According to the Treasurer, your status is:

<input type="checkbox"/>	PAID. Thanks for your support.
<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT PAID. Tnx for past support.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Complimentary.

## FEBRUARY AUCTION WAS WELL-ATTENDED

Valley hams enjoyed the Annual Auction at the WVARC Feb meeting. Some 175 hams signed in. Financially, the club didn't fare well; many big-ticket items didn't sell, and the January hamfest at Glendale CC probably siphoned off some potential sale items. But the event does serve area hams and will be repeated if the excellent group of workers will continue to serve. Frank Smith AHOW, Paul Playford W8AEF and many helping hands did a fine job.

## NO-CODE TECHNICIAN CLASS BEGINS

Fourteen candidates for TECHNICIAN CLASS license were on hand FEBRUARY 9th at SUN CITY POSSE HQ for instructions on becoming a ham. Classes are held each FRIDAY from 7 to 9pm thru APRIL 5. There is still time to join. Textbook is NOW YOU'RE TALKING, which is available at Ham Radio Outlet or Radio Shack stores. Instructor is Larry Benjamin AA2SC. Call him at 972-8328 to register. Written elements 2 and 3A are covered. THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR THE CLASS!

Just as you're reading this, you will probably be able to work Myanmar (Burma) as XZ1R, operated by a Finnish team led by Martti OH2EH and Pekka OH1RY. If you don't get this one, do not worry; a large AZ-based team will be there in April as XZ1N. (More in the next issue.) QST XZ1R via PO Box 111, 24101 Salo, Finland.

After Burma, Martti et al are off to No. Korea P5....hopefully! This project group has been working for months on putting this exceedingly rare DXCC country on the air. Look for P51DX to come up sometime in mid-April.

Barry Fletcher ZS1FJ/G3MFW will be on Chatham Island ZL7 the first part of March, postponed from an earlier date. Don't be surprised to hear a group of Finns on this island just before Barry's trip. QSL Barry's operation via Phyllis Davis KALJC (Florida CBA address).

Russian ham Sergei R1FJZ is very active from Franz Josef Land on 80 and 160 between 1100 and 1200Z. According to NT2X/RV1AA, the Russian government may shut Franz Josef Land down, so work it now if you need it.

For nightowls like WVARC's AA2SC and W8AEF, listen for Warren Hull around 1000-1100Z on 7007 CW if you need MacQuarie Island VK0WH. QSL via VK9NS, but if you want an "instant" confirmation, call me and I'll find out if you worked Warren or the infamous Mr Slim who has been signing the same call.

Other good DX to listen/work: Gambia C5/DL2RUM, Svalbard JW2TAA, Chad TT8FT, Crozet FT-W/FR5HR, Cocos Keeling VK9CR, Monaco 3A/ILYRL, Trindade PY0TI, Uganda 5X/ON6TT, Western Sahara S020R, Mauritius Island 3B8CF, Sao Tome S92SS, Easter Island CE0A, and much more, including Midway Island KH4/NH6D (QSL via KL7H).

You'll also have a chance to work Tony Rogozinski N7BG as either TU/N7BG or TU5A from the Ivory Coast in the ARRL DX Contest and probably for a few days afterwards.

Speaking of contests, get your station ready. Hopefully you worked a lot of new ones on the ARRL CW Contest Feb 17-18, but if not, the CQWW 160m SSB Contest will be held Feb 23-25, the ARRL SSB Contest on Mar 16-18, the BARTG WW RTTY Contest Mar 16-18, CQWW WPX SSB Contest Mar 30-31 and others. It is very possible to work your DXCC in the course of one of the contests, so for newcomers to DXing, dive in!

Visalia International DX Convention is on Apr 19-21, and once again our own Chuck W7YU will be honored as the only ham with 100% attendance since its inception decades ago!

LICENSE EXAMS at DeVRY: MARCH 2nd

Examinations for all classes of Amateur Radio licenses are held on the FIRST SATURDAY of every month (except holiday weekends) at DeVry Institute, 2149 W Dunlap Ave. Registration 8 - 10am; no tests will begin after 10. There is no charge for Elements 1A, 2 (Novice); a single charge of \$6.05 is made for any and all other tests taken once. A second \$6.05 is assessed for any repeat test. Bring original and copy of appropriate license and/or CSCE. Photo ID is required (e.g., auto license). FCC 610 forms are available at registration.

Because test sessions are available at a number of valley locations each month, attendance at DeVry exam sessions has dropped. Only 19 candidates were tested on Feb 3rd. The following Volunteer Examiners were on hand:

Ed Beyer WU7A	Mark Cuizon WH6CJD
John DiSalvo NX2I	Jack Dow KE7ZQ
Bob Johnson KE7LZ	Jeff Johnson KJ7LO
Stan Kieffer N3GEZ	Monte Nelson NX1Z
Shelly Newman AB7LQ	Jack O'Keefe WJ7N
Bill Reiss AB7FA	Yoshi Sano KE7NC
Ray Sumner NW7R	Rick Tannehill W7RT
Roy Woodruff W2HTX	Dwight Yard KB7KON

Ed Blaszczyk N7EB has been Liaison for this VE team since January of 1992. He has asked to be relieved of this assignment because of poor health. The job involves reviewing the paperwork and submitting the test results to ARRL. If you are willing to take on this responsibility, please call VE Contact Person Ray Sumner 972-8733.

A TIP OF THE HAT TO.....

GEORGE KAFKA W7ISS. George is President of MENDED HEARTS, a local support group whose members visit heart patients before and after surgery at Boswell Hospital for the purpose of comforting and reassuring them. All members have undergone heart surgery. George had a quadruple bypass ten years ago and more recently had a shunt installed in an artery. A number of members of our club have had similar experiences and more surely will. If you are facing such prospects and would like reassurances, call George 972-7900.

WANTED

HAM BAND CRYSTALS, FT-243 Mounts.  
Gord KB7GSQ 584-2495

A WORD TO THE WISE: Speed limit on Bell Rd west of Sun City has been lowered to 40 mph (was 50). Watch your speed when attending Thursday Luncheons at Denny's.

CLUB OFFICERS - 1996

PRES GEORGE WATLING N7JSA 933-0854  
VPRES JOHN KORNBECK WA9HBT 566-2018  
SEC MERRILL BUTTERMAN KF8DZ 930-5534  
TREASURER ERNIE BREWER N7EBN 848-1875  
DIRECTORS: TIM HAYES KF7XY 878-1728  
RICH HAWORTH W7MDQ 933-2191  
BRUCE STUART KB7ZFF 412-0694  
LARRY BENJAMIN AA2SC 972-8328  
PAST-PRES RALPH BARR WODNO 582-8208

SILENT KEY

BARNEY SIMONS WA7ONH died Jan 26 in Sun City West. Barney joined the club in 1994, when he moved here from the state of Washington, where he had been a professor at the University of Washington. We offer our condolences to wife Ellen and family.

SOLAR CYCLE NEAR BOTTOM

Despite earlier reports that the current sunspot cycle had bottomed out, it could be another year before things begin to look up. Solar prognosticator Tad Cook KT7H reports that solar activity is still very low. Latest projections for the solar flux indicate that the minimum will be reached during January or February of 1997.

Other projections based on direct observations of sunspots show the sunspot number reaching minimum during April to June of 1996, and a big increase starting late in 1997.

Cook believes that the solar flux is a more reliable indicator of how solar activity will affect HF propagation on earth. [Info from ARRL Letter, 2/9/96.]

BARRY RIETZ N9DXC ON WAY TO TINIAN

At press time we had heard no reports on the progress of West Valley member Barry N9DXC, who is believed to be on his way to Tinian Island as skipper of a thirty foot vessel. Barry was to set sail from San Diego in late January and expected to check into the Pacific Maritime Net on 14.313 MHz (or 14.300) at 0100 to 0300Z. Apparently band conditions have made it difficult to pick up the Net. Barry's trip will take two or three months, so listen for him.

COMPUFEST '96 by PARADISE COMPUTER CLUB  
Paradise RV Park 10950 W Union Hills Dr  
FEB 24th, 9am - 5pm; Vendor/Club Booths  
Door Prizes, Seminars. PUBLIC WELCOME.  
(WVARC Packet Radio Booth manned by  
Larry KJ7QP and Larry AA2SC.)

ARIZONA AMATEUR LICENSE AUTO PLATES

Senate Bill 1018, which has been approved by the AZ State Senate, would eliminate the \$25 renewal fee for Amateur Radio Call Sign license plates. We would still pay the initial \$25 to have the plates made, but not the renewal fee or \$12 transfer fee (to another vehicle). The House Transportation Committee has not acted on this bill at press time. The House Second Regular Session is scheduled to end 4/19/96. SB 1018 must be passed and sent to the Governor before then.

Jerry Overton of District 15 [Sun City West, Sun City (Phase I), Litchfield Pk Surprise etc] is Chairman of the Transportation Committee: Phone 542-5894, Fax 542-0140. Urge him to bring Senate Bill 1018 before his committee for consideration. Other West Valley representatives on the Transportation Committee are Jean McGrath (Dist. 17) 542-3255; Becky Jordan (Dist. 16) 542-3376. Call, or write at House Wing, 1700 W Washington St, Phoenix AZ 85007.

WVARC Secretary Merrill Butterman has written to Representative Overton on behalf of the club, expressing our interest in having the Senate Bill 1018 brought before the House Transportation Committee for action.

You can follow the trail of this bill in the web pages of ALIS - the Arizona Legislature Information Service. URL is <http://www.azleg.state.az.us>  
[Info from Rich Piggott WB2LKU]

VANITY CALLS DELAYED

ARRL has learned that the FCC may delay until mid-1996 the announcement of when it plans to open the first gate(s) of the Vanity Call Sign Program. A spokesman says the FCC first wants to deal with remaining Petitions for Reconsideration it has received. Form 610V is now available, but the FCC will not accept completed forms until it opens the appropriate filing gates.

[ARRL Bulletin 11, 2/15/96]

ARCA SPRINGFEST, SATURDAY MARCH 9, 1996  
SCOTTSDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Chaparral and Pima Roads  
SWAPMEET, COMMERCIAL EXHIBITS, FORUMS,  
CLUB BOOTHS, RAFFLES AND DOOR PRIZES,  
ARCA MEETING, REPEATER OWNERS MEETING.  
License exams to be given.

ARRL has proposed changes to the rules applied to amateur Spread Spectrum use, in order to encourage hams to experiment in this field. Spread Spectrum is a technique that spreads a signal over a wide bandwidth using a predetermined sequence of frequencies (frequency hopping), or similar method. Spread spectrum receivers reject conventional SSB, narrow band FM and CW emissions, whose signals may be considerably stronger.

The League asks that SS transmissions be permitted between US hams and others whose countries permit such emissions. ARRL also asks that hybrid frequency hopping and direct sequence emissions not currently permitted by the Rules be included.

Cost of Spread Spectrum equipment had been a limiting factor in amateur use, but Personal Communications Services, cellular phones, and other devices now use SS, so less expensive gear should be available. Are any club members into Spread Spectrum experimentation?

Your editor ran an article on the origin of Spread Spectrum emissions in the June/July 1990 issue of Short Skip. The facts are worth repeating. One Hedwig Kiesler conceived the idea of radio signals spread sequentially on a number of predetermined frequencies, as a means of preventing jamming of our radio-controlled torpedos during World War 2. George Antheil suggested the method: a perforated roll similar to a player piano roll, selecting the frequencies in the transmitter and receiver synchronously.

Antheil was a classical-jazz composer. His symphonic composition Ballet mécanique featured a player piano, as well as car horns, electric bells, aeroplane propellers etc. Kiesler is better known as movie actress Hedy Lamarr -- still alive, we understand, at the age of 80. They received no remuneration for their patent. [The information is from a Forbes Magazine article, 5/14/90, by Fleming Meeks.]

BOSWELL REPEATER NOT WORKING

Our 70cm repeater (449.80- MHz) on Boswell Hospital requires major repairs. It will probably be off the air for a long period of time.

Dave Pollack KF7WW, the club rep to the Center for Amateur Radio Learning project, reminds us that the CARL ham radio station will be on the air from the AZ Science Center on March 23 and 24 as a HAM DAZE Special Event Station (KC7LUL) and you are invited to the Center on Adams & 2nd Streets for the activities (Saturday 9 to 5, Sunday noon to 5). The station will be on the 10m Novice phone band, as well as 15 & 20m. ATV will be demonstrated. Hams who work the station will receive an attractive QSL card and certificate. Other activities will also be taking place at the site. Station manager is Bob Burleson KG7QJ of Chandler.

Please welcome the following new members to the club:

David Cooley	KC7LIV	Glendale
Dick Delaney	KG7MR	Youngtown
Chuck Hayes	AI9M	Peoria
Bill Nelson	----	Glendale
Matt Parmeter	----	Peoria
Cal Redburn	W4ZNX	Surprise
Alex Sapyta	N7XQH	Sun City
John Sapyta	N7XLQ	Sun City
Keith Swalley	KC7NKD	Glendale
Joe Vinyard	----	Sun City
Charles Wallace	KC7GHK	Glendale

West Valley hams meet for BREAKFAST on the SECOND SATURDAY of every month at Brantley's Steakhouse, 8706 W Thunderbird Rd, just west of Loop 101, Peoria. ACOUSTICAL TILE IS BEING INSTALLED in our meeting room. Please join us at 8 o'clock for an excellent breakfast at a reasonable price. We are pleased with the number of Sun Cities members who attend but would like to see more from areas like Peoria, Glendale, Phoenix. Other club events include a LUNCHEON at 11am at Denny's Restaurant on Bell Rd in Surprise, just west of El Mirage Rd, EVERY THURSDAY. Spouses are welcome at both events.

Your Short Skip Editor has regular FCC 610 Forms for members who wish to make a change of address, take a test, etc. For RENEWAL of FCC license, the Commission is mailing Form 610-R to licensees three months prior to expiration. If there are no changes in your license as shown on this renewal form, sign and return it as indicated.