



# WEST VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

P.O. BOX 1573, SUN CITY, AZ. 85372

JANUARY 1997  
VOL XXIV, NO 1

## 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 Ed. Ray Sumner 972-8733.

### CLUB OFFICERS - 1997

PRES	GEORGE WATLING	N7JSA	933-0854
VPRES	TIM HAYES	KF7XY	878-1728
SEC	DON KOROUS	K9EJC	815-8067
TREASURER	ERNIE BREWER	N7EBN	848-1875

DIRECTORS:	DOC GREENE	AB7BD	876-2087
	RICH HAWORTH	W7MDQ	933-2191
	RICH PIGGOTT	WB2LKU	546-4300
	LARRY BENJAMIN	AA2SC	972-8328
PAST-PRES	RALPH BARR	WODNO	582-8208

### JAN PROGRAM: MIDWAY ISLAND DX-PEDITION

The West Valley ARC will meet on MONDAY JAN 6, at St Clement Social Hall, 15800 Del Webb Blvd, Sun City. Doors open at 6:30pm, meeting starts 7:15. Following a brief business meeting, Frank Smith AHOW will tell us about the recent DX-pedition to Midway Island (now the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge)--a presentation you won't want to miss.

Midway Atoll is some 1250 miles NW of Honolulu and consists of three islands. It served as a refueling stop for Pan-Am's "China Clipper" flights and as an air station for the US Navy. Currently it is a part of the National Wildlife Refuge System, hosting many endangered wildlife species.

The FEBRUARY 3rd meeting is the Annual Auction -- a chance to clear the shack of gear that works but that you haven't used lately. Or you may find the treasure you've been looking for. Bring your equipment to the meeting between 6 and 7pm, with a minimum acceptable bid. The club gets 10% of the final bid. You are asked to wait until the auction is over to settle your account, or a check will be mailed to you. Let's get behind this club endeavor. Tell your ham friends.

### CLUB CALENDAR

1st MONDAY, GENERAL MEETING, 7:15pm  
2nd MONDAY, BOARD MEETING, 6:30pm  
WEDNESDAYS, 2m NEWSLINE NET, 6:45pm  
THURSDAYS, LUNCH, COUNTRY BOYS, 11am  
1st SAT, EXAMS DeVRY (NONE JAN), 8am  
2nd SAT, BREAKFAST, BRANTLEY'S, 8am  
DAILY, 2m CALL-IN NET 9am, 147.30 MHz

JAN 6, WVARC MEETING, ST CLEMENT, SC  
JAN 11, 1997 WESTFEST, GLENDALE ComCol  
JAN 11, BREAKFAST BRANTLEY'S T-BIRD Rd  
JAN 13, BOARD MEETING, PREZ QTH  
JAN 18, W7ASC MEETING 9am, Az Sci Ctr.  
FEB 1, LICENSE EXAM, DeVRY, PHOENIX  
FEB 3, WVARC ANNUAL AUCTION, ST CLEM'T

### CLUB GIVES FT-990 XCVR, \$1000 TO CARL

The West Valley Amateur Radio Club has donated to the Center for Amateur Radio Learning a Yaesu FT-990 Transceiver bequeathed to the club by the late Milton Robinson WA7YWX, longtime member. Chuck Bailey W7YU will see that it is in fine operating fettle before releasing it. WVARC has also given \$1000 to CARL for the purchase of additional equipment at AZ Science Center amateur radio station W7ASC (formerly KC7LUL). Additional contributions of money/equipment will be accepted with appreciation. Call Ralph Barr WODNO 582-8208 for information.

All hams who plan to volunteer to man the station, starting in April, are invited to a meeting at 9am on January 18 in the new Arizona Science Center board room. A tour of the Center and the site of the station will follow the meeting. Those hams who are into Astronomy will be interested especially in the 60-foot dome planetarium and the new Digistar projection system. All Valley hams are welcome.

### SILENT KEYS

CYRIL (CY) ACKERMAN W7VNH of Peoria AZ passed away in November. A long time supporter of the club and member since we became West Valley ARC, Cy attended our meetings regularly. He was 88.

AL CORWIN W1HFJ died in Southbury CT recently (notice in Dec. QST). Al wintered in Sun City and was a member in the mid-eighties before returning to Heritage Village Southbury permanently.

BOB SHROUT W2KLG of Sun City West died in December at the age of 77. Bob was not a club member but was an active ham operator in SCW.

### WANTED

POWER SUPPLY.

John KC7QKB 815-8986

TRAPS FOR TA-33 BEAM ANTENNA.

Barry N9DXC (520) 458-9122

2m POWER AMPLIFIER (5-w in, 25+w out)

Ken KT7E 546-2834

KENWOOD 2m TR-7400 w/PL tone (or similar ICOM or YAESU) in gd cond. 10+A

Power Supply. 2m Indoor whip antenna.

Hank KE7BO 263-9367

### HOLIDAY MEETING A SOCIAL SUCCESS

Our December meeting was enjoyed by all members, spouses and friends on hand. A big TNX to those providers of delicious refreshments. The video LAST VOICE FROM KUWAIT held the rapt attention of those 100 folks who logged in and many others who did not. The main door prize, \$25 gift certificate to HRO, was won by new member Bill Ridke VE7BMW of Phoenix and British Columbia. Smaller prizes went to Fred Boughton KB2CT, Ed Carlstrom N7SPX, George Hands KE7DH, Hal Van Dyke KD2PH and Stan Kieffer N3GEZ. HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!!

### ARRL MEMBERS

Please send your ARRL membership applications and renewal forms directly to our League rep Jack Dow, 18810 N Zinnia Ct, Sun City West AZ 85375. The Club receives \$2 for each renewal, \$5 for each new ARRL member. League membership dues increase July 1; get your applications in early to avoid increase.

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CQ DX de FRANK SMITH AHOW/OH2LVG

Soon all anxious DXers will get a chance at an exceedingly rare one: Heard Island, coming up in just a few weeks. Bob Schmieler KK6EK, who is running this enormous effort, reports that the team will stop on Crozet and Kerguelen enroute, so you might be able to pick up three new ones thanks to these guys. And you can follow the progress on this one on:

<http://www.ccnet.com/~cordell/HI>

Many local DXers have worked Yemen 7O1A, which apparently is a demo project by Zorro JH1AJT (of E31A fame). So far W7's have gotten through on 20 and 40 meters.

Also Nikolai Makarov UA3YH has been busy giving out QSOs from the Amundsen-Scott South Pole station at Antarctica as KC4AAA and UA3YH/KC4. Other DX out there includes Mauritius by Laurent F5PYI/3B8, Angola D2EB, Burundi 9U by Erik SMOAGD, Sao Tome by Charles S92SS and much more.

Also, if you missed Warren Hull's MacQuarie operation, here's another chance: Tom Stoke just arrived on MacQuarie for a work assignment that will keep him there, probably for a few months. He will operate as VK0TS, usually around 14222 with some likelihood of 40 meter CW.

Finally, your DX editor wishes all Short Skip readers Happy Holidays and the very best for the New Year 1997s. 73/GL.

[MORE ON HEARD ISLAND EXPEDITION...Cost of the entire expedition has been estimated at \$320,000. (Grant of \$5000 has been authorized by ARRL Colvin Award Grants Committee, from an endowment by the late Lloyd Colvin W6KG.) A team of 20 hams, with support from about a dozen others, has been assembled. The team will depart Reunion Island on January 3, 1997 and return February 5. In addition to its ham radio activity and "radio science" the team will study the "cryptofauna" (obscure animal life) of the region. Two weeks will be spent on Heard, with brief visits to Crozet and Kerguelen also planned.....(Info from ARRL Letter December 13, 1996.)]

XYLs SHINE AT LICENSE EXAMS IN S.C.

Congratulations to Instructor Larry Benjamin AA2SC and to the five ladies in his class who passed NO-CODE TECH exam at Sun City Posse HQ on Nov 26th:

- Marilyn La Benz KC7TOH
- Betty Swartz KC7TOI
- Faye Delaney KC7TOJ
- Grace Millsap KC7TOK
- Marian Clark KC7TOL

The first four are XYLs of club hams. (Another student, Frank Torres KC7TQA, earned his license at the December 7th session at DeVry.)

At the Sun City session Charles Briery KK7DX and Ed Masters KB7MZS passed the Advanced Class test. Volunteer Examiners who worked the session were:

- Rich Piggott WB2LKU                      Al Lee W6KQI
- Fred Quarles AB5VE                      Bill Reiss AB7FA
- Leo Staley NS9Y                      Harold VanDyke KD2PH
- Ray Sumner NW7R

At the present time there are no plans for a NO-CODE TECH class in Sun City in Feb/March as in previous years. We extend our thanks to the Sun City Posse for allowing us to use their excellent training facilities for our classes. We hope to have a class there in Oct/Nov of 1997. Meanwhile, a class has been tentatively slated for Wednesday nights starting in late January at Ham Radio Outlet, with Paul Playford W8AEF as Instructor.

Those who plan taking NO-CODE TECH exams in the future should be aware that the question pool has been revised for all tests beginning July 1, 1997, with 924 questions versus the present 632! New manuals should be available at HRO and other sources around May 1st. Element 2 will have 35 questions, 3A will have 30, with 22 and 19 correct answers required respectively.

The question pool was expanded to include 5 questions on each exam concerning RF environmental safety practices. Test sessions at DeVry thru June will use the old Q & As. The Question Pool Committee will soon begin working on the General Class question pool for 1998.

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LICENSE EXAMS AT DeVRY FEB 1, NONE JAN

Amateur Radio license exams are held at DeVry Institute on the first Saturday of each month except those near holidays. There will be no exam at DeVry in January. Exam dates for 1997 (Volunteer Examiners please make note):

- |            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| February 1 | August 2    |
| March 1    | September 6 |
| April 5    | October 4   |
| May 3      | November 1  |
| June 7     | December 6  |

Walk-in registration is 8 to 10am; no tests to begin after 10. Bring appropriate original license/CSCE and copy; also a photo ID. There is a charge of \$6.25, payable ARRL/VEC; no charge for Elements 2, 1A. If you fail by one or two questions, you may retest for an additional \$6.25. FCC Form 610s are available at registration.

A total of 23 candidates were tested at the December 7th session at DeVry. Six earned their No-Code Tech license, one earned Tech Plus, one General, five (!) Advanced, and one Extra. Only two candidates took CW tests, compared with 13 the previous month; we had hoped that a renewed interest in code was making its appearance. Among those passing their Advanced test were members Dean Kramer KC7ARA and Jim Wooten KK7DS (formerly N7ZZM). New member Vernon Lewis KC5FGJ passed 5wpm and upgraded to Tech Plus.

The following Examiners participated:

- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Rich Piggott WB2LKU | Ed Beyer WU7A      |
| Jack De Witt AB7AX  | John DiSalvo NX2I  |
| Jack Dow KE7ZQ      | Bob Johnson KE7LZ  |
| Eva Karnatz KC7RY   | Bob Koons WE7T     |
| Al Lee W6KQI        | Monte Nelson NX1Z  |
| Shelly Newman AB7LQ | Jack O'Keefe WJ7N  |
| Yoshi Sano KE7NC    | Leo Staley NS9Y    |
| Ray Sumner NW7R     | Glenn Wade N7JWF   |
| Roy Woodruff W2HTX  | Dwight Yard KB7KON |
| Bob Knight N7LPD    |                    |

Exams are also held 3rd MONDAY of every month at 6pm at 7115 E Adobe in City of Mesa Utility Office (Denise 898-4066); 4th SATURDAY, 7pm, Red Cross Bldg, 6135 N Black Canyon Hwy, Phx (Gary 996-8148) 2nd SATURDAY (JANUARY only), 9am, Glendale Comm Coll, Olive/59th Aves (Mark 931-1204). TriCity ARC no longer tests.

CLUB NOTES

REPEATER VANITY CALL SIGN STATUS. The trustee for the club 70cm Repeater on Boswell Hospital is Tom Watts NY7S. He reports that he tried to get W7JHQ (Silent Key Sam Lewbel's call) for the repeater, under the Vanity Call Sign program. Sam was the previous trustee for the station. W7JHQ had not been removed from the active list and was not available. The FCC in its wisdom assigned a call that was not on Tom's request list and our KC7KLA station is now W7SHQ until W7JHQ is deactivated and another filing can be made.

George Hands KE7DH is trustee for the KC7KLC 2m Repeater on Del Webb Hospital and he reports that the club Executive Board decided not to change the 2m call sign.

ROSTER INFO: Our club roster is mailed with our April Short Skip and contains limited information (call/name/address/phone). Rich Piggott WB2LKU is undertaking a project that will provide more roster information from a data base for those with Windows 3.1. Fields will be available for two e-mail addresses, two seasonal addresses, suffix, and perhaps info such as ham activities (HF/ATV/DX etc). We understand that subscribers (a tentative fee of \$3/yr has been suggested) will be given a working disk and will be sent monthly binary updates via email. Money realized from this project will help fund VE activities.

More information will be sought as additional fields are selected, but if you have e-mail addresses, send them to Rich (noble@starlink.com) as first step in a lengthy process.

2-METER NETS: Our Daily Call-In Net on 147.30 MHz has 20 or more check-ins on most mornings. We took a page from the Coffee Clutch Net and introduced trivia questions each day, generally provided by Jerry Basso W9JIF. Join us at 9am. The Net is seeking Control operators, no experience needed.

The ARRL Letter is one source of news for our Wednesday night Newslines net. The Letter is sent via e-mail to NW7R, so the League's announcement that it is discontinuing US Postal Service mailing of the Letter will not affect us. The ARRL Letter is available free of charge from ARRLWeb page (among other sources)

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter>

CLUB DUES

Club dues (\$10) are payable by the JAN meeting. Please bring your renewal form and check to the meeting or mail to the club PO address. Treasurer Ernie N7EBN reports that 250 have renewed at press time! Your support is appreciated.

Please indicate on your form if you are an ARRL member (Y) or not (N). As ARRL affiliated club we need to report the percentage of League members; you need not belong to ARRL to be a club member, but you are encouraged to support the League and its efforts to save our frequencies.

FOR SALE

KNWD TS-120; \$375. Dave N7IHI 979-9141.

TOWER, WILSON TT45 Self-supporting, foldover, w/RBRF Base raising fixture; \$400. Rotor, CDE HAM III Series 2; \$90.  
Ray WOMZ 977-4063

PAKRATT 232, all connectors, software; \$100. George KE7DH 974-3361

MILLEN 90651 GRID-DIP METER; \$40.  
HEATH GD-10 GRID-DIP METER; \$15.  
Both in gd cond, w/instructions.  
Al W8PAL 814-6387 wkday AMS

2m ICOM P2T (HH) like new in box; \$150.  
Wally AE7Y 933-7011

TT45 CRANK-UP TUBULAR TOWER w/concrete rotary base fixture -- rotor fits on base at ground level; half-price!  
Bill Weaver AA7RM, 205 E Lamar Blvd  
Goodyear AZ85338

TELEX HY-GAIN TH3JR-S 3-el TRIBANDER, 10-15-20m; \$125.  
ALLIANCE HD73 ROTOR, cable, dual speed control, azimuth indicator; \$95.  
Jack KE7ZQ 584-5284

DRAKE TR-4 XCVR, Power Supply, MS4 Spkr external VFO, mike, spare tubes; \$150.  
B&W ANT SWITCH 5-pos, KW size; \$15.  
ANTIQUÉ "BALDIE" PHONES, TYPE C; \$25.  
ITEMS \$10 EACH: Johnson lowpass filter; Heath grid-dip meter; phone patch; CW electronic keyer (Heath) w/spkr; mike (Astatic), desk type.  
ITEMS \$5 EACH: Swan HH mike; Astatic HH mike; solder guns; SWR meter; VTVM; Heath oscilloscope; e'tronic keyer.  
Chuck W7YU 977-7427