



WEST VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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

OCTOBER 1997
VOL XXIV, NO 8

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.

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CLUB CALENDAR

OCTOBER 3 START NO-CODE TECH CLASS, SC POSSE HQ, 7-9pm
 4 LICENSE EXAMS, DeVRY INSTITUTE, 8am
 6 WVARC MEETING, ST CLEMENT SOCIAL HALL, 7:15pm
 11 BREAKFAST, TIVOLI GARDENS, 8am
 13 BOARD MEETING, PRESIDENT'S QTH
 MONDAYS, FRIDAYS VACATION NET, 14.240 MHz, 10am, thru Oct 17
 WEDNESDAYS 2m HAM NEWS NET, 147.30 MHz, 6:45pm
 THURSDAYS LUNCH, FAYLENE'S in SUN VILLAGE, SURPRISE, 11am
 DAILY CALL-IN NET, 147.30 MHz, 9am

Club web page (tnx Chuck W7KIV) <http://www.starlink.com/~chuckh>
Editor's e-mail: rwsumner@aztec.asu.edu

OCTOBER PROGRAM: The West Valley ARC holds a general meeting the FIRST MONDAY of every month at St Clement Social Hall, 15800 Del Webb Blvd, Sun City. Doors open at 6:30pm; meeting starts at 7:15. On October 6th our club Handi-Ham representative Russ Iverson KJ7KN will show 4 videotapes about the Handi-Ham program and related topics and will tell about his experiences at their camps at Malibu Beach and in Minnesota. Please join us and get acquainted with your colleagues.

The subject for the November 3rd program will be on erecting towers and transmission systems. The speaker is Richard Haskey of Western Wireless. For our Holiday Season meeting on December 1, the committee hopes to have Frank Smith AH0W tell us about the DXpedition to Kure Island.

LADIES NIGHT BANQUET: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1997 at Sun City Country Club; 6pm Attitude Adjustment Time, 7pm Dinner. Menu: Chicken Marsala or Beef Rouladen. Please mail your check for \$17.70 per dinner (specify which) to our VP, Tim Hayes KF7XY, 8621 W Wethersfield Rd, Peoria AZ 85381. Let's make this event as successful as last year's.

NO-CODE TECH CLASS STARTS OCT 3. An amateur radio class for beginners is scheduled for FRIDAY EVENINGS from 7 to 9pm, starting October 3 and ending November 28 (exam night). THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR THE CLASS! Text is NOW YOU'RE TALKING. The place: Sun City Posse HQ, 10861 Sunland Dr (off Agua Fria Dr). To register, call Merle KC7OGU 546-1737 or Ray NW7R 972-8733. Exam night will be open to candidates for all classes of license.

Frank Smith AHOW will be team leader as 8 operators from 4 countries will operate from Kure Island from Sept 26 thru Oct 5 as K7K -- the first time a 1x1 callsign has been allocated for use by a DXpedition team. Kure Island is near the top on the needs list in Europe, Africa and eastern USA. Five HF stations will be on 10 thru 160m on CW, SSB and RTTY.

The team will fly to Midway, then by ship to Kure, where they will be self-sufficient (since there are no facilities on the island). All heavy gear, including 4 generators, has been pre-shipped. Four scientists from the Hawaiian Fish and Wildlife Service will join the team and conduct research on rare birds of the island.

Operators include SMOAGD, JA3IG/K1NT, UA3AB, KH7U, N9NS, KOEU, WOMY. QSL via Bob Johnson KE7LZ, 5627 W Hearn Road, Glendale AZ 85308. Frank will be looking especially for WVARC members!

GETTING A VANITY CALL SIGN
de Stan Kieffer N7QB

When I heard about electronic filing for vanity calls I went to WVARC's web page, then to WB2LKU and clicked on the FCC Begins Opening Gate Three Vanity Call Signs begin now. Then clicked the question Do You Want One ? Click Here which reads

www.fcc.gov/wtb/amradsrv.html

Then the application (FCC Form 610V) comes up. Read the questions carefully and fill them in. Be sure you mark box 7e, which asks that they consider your call requests in block 9. When filling in block 9 remember that you can't ask for prefixes such as WP, WH, NH, NP or AH if you live in 7 call land. When you finish your application it's a good idea to print it out before you go on to Form 159 (fee submittal form). Since you cannot submit the remittance electronically, print out the form, fill it out and send with your check (payable "FCC") via mail service to FCC, PO Box 358994, Pittsburgh PA 15251- 5994. The fee is now \$50.

VACATION NET TO CLOSE FRIDAY OCT 17

The West Valley Vacation Net meets on Mondays, Fridays at 10am AZ time on 20m (14.240 MHz). Net closes Oct 17, but some may still hold skeds.

With all the good news of rising solar flux is even a bigger increase in all kinds of DX activity.

Recently Mike Fulcher KC7V, president of Central AZ DX Assn, announced that CADXA members are involved one way or another in up to six upcoming DXpeditions including the current Willis Island (VK9WM) operation, to be followed in the next few weeks and months by Kure Island, Togo, Spratly, Maldives and Laos. More on these at later dates

The next "big one" will be the North Cook Island operation staged by the Dateline DX Assn to take place as Willis is closing. Following North Cook will be the Kure Island operation K7K, starting Sept 26th.

Two fairly rare ones were just announced: Wallis and Futuna FW by D68HC and ON4QM and Chatham Island ZL7AA by ZL2AL and team in October.

Speaking of Maldives, there is a current operation 8Q7XX by Roberto EA4DX, on SSB only, with special attention to WARC bands. Look also for Angola D2AI by CT4KO, Thailand HS0ZAR by Fred Laun K3ZO, Turkey as YM4WAG for the World Air Games (special prefix) and Cambodia XU2C by 7L1MFS and friends.

Other DX includes Guadeloupe FG/F2HE, Vietnam 3W6KA, Jordan JY8RP, Gibraltar ZG2FX, the Vatican HV4NAC (WWDX RRTY), Corsica TK/ DL4FF, Tunisia 3V8BB, Tanzania 5H3/G3SWH and Zanzibar 5H1/G3SWH, Aland Island OH0BH, Mayotte FH/DJ2BW, Benin TY1IJ, Chagos Archipelago VQ9SS.

If you missed out on the last Sable DXpedition, look for Alex VE2PIG as CY0PIG. Also look for Saint Paul Island CY9DX by JA5IJ and friends.

Start gearing up for the CQWW SSB and CW contests in October/November. More on these in the next Short Skip, including a special report on the CADXA operation to Togo. Also look for our Nordic friends operating the Scandinavian Activity Contest the weekend of Sept 26.

Best 73, GD DX and CU in the Pileups!

COUNTY PLANNING AND ZONING ACTION ON AN TENNA SUPPORT STRUCTURE ORDINANCE: Next meeting is in November. More info in next Short Skip.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE WEST VALLEY ARC is open to everyone with an interest in Amateur Radio. Dues are \$10/yr payable January; \$5 after July 1. Includes all family hams at same mailing address. Please welcome these new members:

Ralph Adair KC7WIZ Sun City
 Ellery Cadiz N7CXZ Glendale
 John Davison W0FEK Sun City
 Gordon Ericksen WB4ADM Sun City West
 Jan Maggs KA7HPM Sun City West
 Bill Maggs WB7DLM Sun City West
 Leslie Marderwald WB8EWU Sun City West
 Jean Robinson N6JCO Sun City West
 Wm (Robbie) Robinson K6HKC SC West
 Horace Seay W6CWN Sun City West
 Marcus (Frank) Shannon KC7VYV SC West
 Don Steele VE3PFC Sun City West

FCC LICENSE RENEWALS DUE SOON

Jim Koci KD7BD Oct 97.
 Esther Imsande KB6HW Dec 97.
 Cal Redburn W4ZMX Dec 97.
 Don Thomas KALCWM Dec 97.

Info supplied by club statistician Rich Piggott WB2LKU. See Rich for Form.

ARRL OUTGOING QSL BUREAU MAIL SYSTEM

ARRL Members may send DX QSL cards to foreign QSL Bureaus overseas via ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau. Sort the DX QSLs alphabetically by callsign prefix and enclose the address label from your current QST. Enclose payment: up to 10 cards \$1, up to 20 cards \$2, up to 30 cards \$3, up to 1 lb (ca. 150 cards) \$4. Info from Fred S Jones KC5AC.

Note: Some 270 DXCC countries are on the League mailing list; about 60 are not.

ARRL THANKS WVARC FOR "ARCHIE" CONTRIB

Dan Miller K3UFG of ARRL's Educational Activities Dept writes, "On behalf of everyone who benefits from the Archie Comic Books, I am pleased to acknowledge your generous contribution of one hundred dollars to the Educational Activities Fund toward the reprinting of these books." Among other remarks, he points out that ARRL is a not-for-profit tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. Anyone who makes a contribution of over \$25 by the end of October will be recognized in the front of the comic book. The book is an effective recruiting tool to attract young ham prospects.

LICENSE EXAMS at DeVRY OCTOBER 4

Exams for all classes of Amateur Radio Licenses are held the FIRST SATURDAY of each month (except those with holiday week-ends) at DeVry Institute, 2149 W Dunlap Ave. Register 8-10am; no test to start after 10. Bring photo ID, original and copy of appropriate license/CSCE. There's a single charge of \$6.25, entitling the candidate to take a test in as many different Elements as desired. Another \$6.25 is charged for a repeat test of any Element. There is no charge for Elements 1A and 2.

Only 12 candidates attended the AUGUST 2 exam session. There were 3 Technician licenses earned and one each Tech Plus, General, Advanced and Extra. In all, 20 tests were taken, with only 3 fails. On SEPTEMBER 6th, 24 candidates were on hand, with 11 Tech licenses earned, and 3 General and 3 Advanced. Rich Piggott WB2LKU, Liaison and Session Manager, was on hand for both sessions. Other VEs at one or both sessions:

Ed Beyer WU7A	Merle Bodine KC7OGU
Joe Brian KK7DT	Marc Cuizon WH6CJD
John DiSalvo NX2I	Jack DeWitt AB7AX
Jack Dow KE7ZQ	Bob Johnson KE7LZ
Stan Kieffer N7QB	Bob Knight N7LPD
Bill Kuchinski KB7MDX	Doug Mason KG7OB
Shelley Newman AB7LQ	Yoshi Sano K7YS
Ray Sumner NW7R	Charles Wallace W1OSV
Glenn Wade N7JWF	Dwight Yard KB7KON

ARRL-accredited Volunteer Examiners are welcome to help at test sessions. Hams with General or higher class may become VEs; ask Rich Piggott WB2LKU (546-4300) how to become accredited.

Exams are also held on the 4th SATURDAY of the month at 7pm at Red Cross Bldg, 6135 N Black Canyon Hwy, sponsored by AZ ARC (Gary 996-8148), and on 3rd MONDAY at 6pm at Mesa Utilities Office, 7115 E Adobe Rd, Mesa, sponsored by Superstition ARC (Denise 898-4066).

NEW LOCATION FOR LUNCH BUNCH

Our weekly THURSDAY LUNCH (or brunch) is now held at FAYLENE'S RESTAURANT in Sun Village (half a mile west of Grand Ave on Bell Road) from 10:30 to noon. Turn in at the gatehouse and tell the guard your destination. Choose from the reasonably priced breakfast or luncheon menu. Also join us for 2nd SATURDAY of the month BREAKFAST at TIVOLI GARDENS, La Ronde Center, Del Webb Blvd, Sun City, at 8am. Spouses welcome.

RFI NOTE de Bill Johnson W9WFV

MFJ is marketing a 300 ohm high pass filter that includes two separate 75 ohm coax to 300 ohm baluns in one package, to install in the feedline of a receiver having a 75 ohm antenna input. This filter combination is by far the most effective in reducing severe EMI interference in TV, VCR and FM receivers. It is effective since it reduces both the differential mode EMI in the coax and the common mode EMI carried on the coax shield. Our WVARC RFI team has used this filter approach since the committee was formed in 1990.

Someone may ask why not just ground the shield to get rid of common mode EMI. I do not recommend this unless the receiver manufacturer agrees. Today some receivers are designed without isolation transformers and with other design shortcuts which could result in serious problems. Also consider that the shield of a coax of a half wavelength on your operating frequency, grounded at one end, can make a fine receiving antenna to pick up EMI. Finally, the length of the wire to reach a good RF ground could add to the problem.

The release of this MFJ filter was very timely for the club RFI committee. Until now the team had to use one of two different 300 ohm highpass filters combined with two Radio Shack 75 ohm coax to 300 ohm transformers. At first we used up my supply of old Drake 300 ohm highpass filters, then for about two years Radio Shack manufactured a 300 ohm filter which, at the time of my last purchase, they planned to stop making. The last of our Radio Shack filters were sold to complainants, so another solution had to be found.

The MFJ-711 filter is advertised to have a passband of 51-550 MHz, a cutoff frequency of 50 MHz and attenuation -55 db at 20 MHz. MFJ also provides instructions on how to interconnect the three components, using a male to male adapter provided, so it can be used with receivers using 300 ohm antenna input. The filter is available at HRO.

SILENT KEY: We are saddened to note the passing of Ray Van Skiver W7LQM on August 17th, after a lengthy illness. Ray joined the club in 1983 and served as Awards Manager for several years. He came to Arizona from South Dakota.

ARIZONA SCIENCE CENTER'S W7ASC A HIT

The ham radio station at the Science Center continues to be a popular attraction for young visitors, thanks to area hams who respond to W7ASC's CQs on 2m. West Valley hams who monitor 147.30 MHz have been very cooperative.

The CARL group (Center for Amateur Radio Learning), composed of volunteers from all Valley locations, needs additional Control Operators willing to put in an occasional 4-hr shift at the Center. Call Charlotte KB7TKQ at 561-8405 (evenings) to be assigned to work with a regular volunteer once or twice until you are accredited. Help to stimulate the interest of young people in Science and Amateur Radio.

RACE TO HEALTH IN SUN CITY WEST SEPT 27

WVARC Public Service team members will monitor the route of the Race to Health activities (5K runs and walks, one mile Fun run and walk) on Saturday September 27 in Sun City West. Team captains will call members until all stations are assigned.

Club Note: Remember to renew your ARRL membership through club rep Jack Dow. The club gets \$2 for each renewal. Send check for \$2 (payable WVARC) and check for \$2 less than billed (payable ARRL) to Jack Dow KE7ZQ, 18810 N Zinnia CT, Sun City West 85375. DO NOT SEND TO CLUB PO BOX, since this delays action several days. WVARC gets \$5 for each new ARRL member; use same routine as above.

TRANSMITTER PEP THRESHHOLD POWER LIMITS

Section 97.13 (in part)

The licensee must perform the routine RF environmental evaluations if the transmitter PEP exceeds these limits:

40, 80, 160m	500 Watts
30m	425 "
20m	225 "
17m	125 "
15m	100 "
12m	75 "
10, 6, 2, 1.25m	50 "
70cm	70 "
33cm	150 "
23cm	200 "
13cm, all 1.2-9cm	250 "
All 6mm and shorter	250 "

[from W5YI Report, Sept 15, 1997]