



# WEST VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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

JANUARY 1998  
VOL XXV, 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.

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### CLUB DIRECTORS

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If the new Executive Board has a familiar look, it is because all but two members have returned from the previous year. Many thanks to retiring VP Tim Hayes, whose evening schedule made it difficult to serve; Tim continues to help with Repeater Maintenance. Thanks also to long-time Treasurer Ernie Brewer, who looks forward to taking some extended trips. Welcome to new Directors Dave KB7WDD and Allan KI7NF, and thanks to those returning members, who offered to stay on because there were no other volunteers.

### CLUB CALENDAR

JANUARY 5 WVARC MEETING, ST CLEMENT SOCIAL HALL, SC, 7:15 pm  
10 CLUB BREAKFAST, TIVOLI GARDENS, SC, 8am  
10 WINTERFEST, GLENDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, by TBird ARC  
12 EXEC BOARD MEETING, W0DNO QTH, 7pm  
JANUARY 17 CARL GROUP MEETING, DeVRY INSTITUTE, 9am  
FEBRUARY 2 CLUB ANNUAL AUCTION, ST CLEMENT SOCIAL HALL, 7pm  
WEDNESDAYS 2m HAM NEWS NET, 147.30 MHz, 6:45pm  
THURSDAYS BRUNCH, FAYLENE'S in SUN VILLAGE, SURPRISE, 10:30am  
DAILY CALL-IN NET, 147.30 MHz, 9am  
Club web page (tnx Chuck W7KIV) <http://www.starlink.com/~chuckh>  
Editor's e-mail: [rwsunmer@aztec.asu.edu](mailto:rwsunmer@aztec.asu.edu)

WEST VALLEY ARC MEETS THE FIRST MONDAY of each month at St Clement Social Hall, 15800 Del Webb Blvd, Sun City. Doors open at 6:30pm; meeting begins at 7:15. The JANUARY 5th program will be about the recent DXpedition to Bora Bora and Tahiti by Paul Playford W8AEF and some W6 friends. Join us early for a cup of coffee and good fellowship. Anyone with an interest in amateur radio is welcome. Club dues are payable at this January meeting. The \$10 covers all family hams at same mailing address. Our treasurer is pleased to note that over 250 members have already paid at press time.

Spread the word! The FEBRUARY 2nd meeting is the ANNUAL AUCTION. Doors open at 6 for those with sale items. Seller must assign a minimum price. The club gets 10% of the selling price. We need volunteers to help with the operation. More details in next newsletter.

There was a good turnout at the December "Holiday" meeting, with 122 people signed in. Frank Smith AH0W gave an interesting slide show on the DX operations on Kure Island and the flora and fauna indigenous to that spot and Midway Island nearby. Frank also provided the tape of seasonal music that we enjoyed with our refreshments. Club officers were elected for the coming year.

NO LICENSE EXAMS AT DeVRY IN JANUARY.....Tests for all classes of Amateur Radio Licenses are held at DeVry Institute, 2149 W Dunlap Ave, on the 1st Saturday of every month EXCEPT holiday weekends. Next session will be on FEBRUARY 7TH. Register from 8 to 10am; no tests to start after 10. Bring photo ID, original and copy of appropriate license/CSCE. FCC Form 610 is available (September 1997 version is the only acceptable form). There is no charge for Elements 1A and 2. A single fee of \$6.35 covers all other elements taken once. Another \$6.35 fee is charged for any retest (offered if you miss by one or two questions the first time).

No candidates showed up for a test session that was scheduled for FRI-DAY NIGHT, NOV 28, at Sun City Posse HQ. The test was originally planned as the last session of the class for No-Code Technician license, which we scrubbed because of a lack of interest. A NO-CODE TECH class will be held on Friday nights February 6 thru March 27.

Nine candidates were on hand at DeVry for the DECEMBER 6th session. A total of eight applicants earned licenses (6 Tech, 1 Tech Plus, 1 Extra).

VEs who showed up for the Sun City exams were Session Manager/Liaison Rich Piggott WB2LKU, Merle Bodine KC7OGU, Jack Dow KE7ZQ, Harvey Tetmeyer K5LJM, Larry Teel KJ7QP, Hal Van Dyke KD2PH and Ray Sumner NW7R. VEs at the DeVry session were Rich WB2LKU, Jack KE7ZQ, Larry KJ7QP, Ray NW7R and the following: Ed Beyer WU7A, Doc Greene AB7BD, Jeff Johnson KJ7LO, Bob Johnson KE7LZ, Monte Nelson NX1Z, Roy Woodruff W2HTX, Dwight Yard KB7KON.

A revised General Class Element 3B question pool has been released for use beginning JULY 1, 1998. The new test will contain 30 questions, including five on RF safety guidelines. The questions may be found on the ARRL web site at <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/pools.html> or write ARRL/VEC, 225 Main Street, Newington CT 06111 and enclose SASE 9x12" envelope with \$1.50 in postage applied.

CLUB NOTES.....A BIG THANK YOU to Jean Rigtrup KB7VSQ, one of our cheery greeters at the club meetings, who has asked to be replaced. Jean lives some distance away and finds it difficult attending on a regular basis. Connie Muldoon N7WZA will recruit another greeter or two.

Please welcome these new members:

Bruno Berg KB0UYT Sun City West	Bob Henley W6LCH Glendale
Jim Blair WB7DQH Glendale	Blanchard Hokanson KE8L SCW
Steve De Well KB7NKB Glendale	Gerry Johnson KC0CBP SCW
Norman Gawrych N9AV Glendale	Joe Madonia NO7A Phoenix
Robert Giles KC7FWN SCW	Elaine Madonia NN7Z Phoenix
Dan Heffner WB2SQE Wickenburg	Robert Rietz KA9RSB Sierra Vista
Merton Thurston KB8MUM Sun City	Don Svardal Phoenix

The club maintains a 2m repeater (KC7KLC) on the Del Webb Hospital in Sun City West and a 70cm repeater (W7JHQ) on Boswell Hospital in Sun City. To access the 147.30 MHz autopatch: give callsign and say "Accessing patch", then dial \*83 plus the number you are calling. Release push-to-talk and when machine says "Autopatch", push and release PTT. If you do not PTT at this point, machine will read number back to you; PTT and release IMMEDIATELY after last digit is read. When finished, give your callsign and say "Clearing patch" and dial #.

To access the 449.80 MHz autopatch: Give callsign, etc, and dial \*83. Release PTT. At dial tone, dial number and release PTT. To clear patch dial #D. There is a 3-minute timeout on both machines.

ThunderBird Amateur Radio Club will hold its ANNUAL WINTERFEST on JANUARY 10th at GLENDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE (59th and Olive Aves, NE Parking Lot). For Info: Mark Fellhauer KC7BXS 931-1204.

CQ DX de FRANK SMITH AH0W/OH2LVG.....Now that the CQWW/CW contest season is behind us, DXers are turning their attention to garnering contacts on the increasingly popular 160m band. And at the same time you can read in the Jan issue of QST Magazine whether or not the sunspots are back, and in particular Dean Straw N6BV's article, "So How is Solar Cycle 23 Really Doing?" DXers interested in this subject can also check out <http://sohowww/nascom.nasa.gov/>

There is much DX on the horizon out there. If you missed the recent Libya 5A2A operation, don't worry. Beginning the first of March, YL Tina ON4CAT will join with other ONs to activate Libya. Look for 5A21 and 5A21PA.

There is currently a group from Australia operating from Nepal as 9N1BFI and 9N1NE, SSB only. Look also for American Samoa AH8 by Lawrence KS6DV/AH8LG, China BT1QH by Merv K9FD and Harold W0RI which will be primarily on the low bands, Maldives by several groups as 8Q7AA (includes operators from Arizona), 8Q7IG, 8Q7UA and more, and the Solomons H44 by Birgit DL7IQ and Holger DL7IO. And if you are working on your IOTA totals, look for Poland's Wolin Island SO5OE/1 by a group of Germans.

The Midway/Kure Foundation will soon be announcing plans for a springtime DXpedition to Rodrigues Island 3B9. This will be a full-scale all-band, all-mode operation. Details to follow in an upcoming issue of Short Skip.

Also keep in mind that the CQWW CW 160m contest is coming up on the weekend of 23-25 January.

Best 73, GD DX, GL and Happiest of Holidays.

MORE CLUB NOTES: A letter from Robert E Spencer, Director, Maricopa County Emergency Management says "Once again your Amateur Radio Club provided quality service during the Palo Verde Siren System Test conducted on November 12, 1997. The coordinating efforts of John Kornbeck WA9HBT and Joe Nowakowski W7FPG were key factors in achieving a successful test. Please relay my sincere appreciation to all volunteers who assisted in the test."

MEMBERS WHOSE FCC LICENSE EXPIRES SOON.....Barbara Miller WB6EVJ (March), June Snyder KCOXZ (March), Mark Chilcote W7PS (April), Dwain Mitchell WB8YQK (April), Bill Weston WB7UFG (April). FCC 610 Forms are available from Don Korous K9EJC, Rich Piggott WB2LKU or Ray Sumner NW7R.

WVARC has received a check for \$150 from the Family Amateur Radio Event group. For several years this group, spearheaded by Len Winkler KB7LPW, held a ham radio swapmeet at Rawhide in Scottsdale, intended to appeal to the entire family. This noble idea failed to generate much support and the group has decided to disband. The check represents our club's pro rated participation in the project. Len has also given up his weekly Ham Radio and More radio show because of lack of financial support. The program was on the air for nearly seven years and kept us up to date on ham radio topics. We wish him well in his new venture Table Tennis and More, a Phoenix table tennis club.

GATE 4 ATTRACTS HUNDREDS.....The FCC does not expect to begin processing Gate 4 [vanity call sign] applications until after the first of the year. A spokesman at the Gettysburg office said the current plan is to run the first-day applications on or about January 7.....The FCC reports it got more than 800 electronic applications on Dec 2, the first day of Gate 4. Another 120 electronic applications showed up on Dec 3. A count of paper applications is not yet available. [ARRL Letter, December 12, 1997.]

CARL GROUP TO MEET AT DeVRY JANUARY 17.....The Center for Amateur Radio Learning group will meet at DeVry Institute, 2149 W Dunlap Ave on SATURDAY JANUARY 17 at 9am. CARL is the group that operates and maintains Amateur Radio Station W7ASC at the Arizona Science Center. The group met in October of 1994 for the first time. Chairman Ralph Barr hopes to be able to contact everyone who has participated since that first meeting. All of them share in the success of the project. The concept originated with West Valley member Dave Pollack KF7WW, but it was the work of hams throughout the valley that brought the concept to fruition. All valley hams interested in supporting the ham station at the Science Center are invited to attend this meeting and hear about the plans for improving the operation.

NOTE FROM TECHNICAL ADVISOR BILL JOHNSON W9WFV re SPEAKER LEADS.....For a number of years it has been a common practice to add a capacitor across speaker terminals to reduce RFI interference. This cure was suggested in a number of interference reduction text books. Some suggested that the capacitor be added at the speaker and others suggested adding at the amplifiers.

The switch to transistor amplifiers has changed the situation. A number of transistor amplifiers were reported to have been destroyed when the capacitor caused the amplifier to go into full oscillation.

The latest issue of the ARRL RFI publication now recommends a two section filter to reduce RF interference. The filter consists of a .01 microfarad capacitor across the two leads, with a 100 microhenry inductor in series with one of the leads connected on the amplifier side of the capacitor. The two components form a simple lowpass filter and the inductor prevents the possibility of the amplifier going into oscillation.

For use by the club's RFI committee I made up several circuit boards with two filters on each board that have four pigtailed to connect to the amplifier terminals, and a Radio Shack four terminal push connector to attach the two speaker leads. The inductor was made by winding 13 turns of #22g enameled wire on a F50-43 ferrite toroid. I am opposed to adding capacitors external to audio or video equipment to reduce RFI problems.

FOR SALE

- ....2m 4-el BEAM (new); \$25 obo  
70cm 17-el BEAM; \$25 obo  
Ron K6OP 546-5710
  
- ....40' TRISTAO TUBULAR TOWER, TRIBAND YAGI ANT., ROTATOR; \$500.  
HEATH 220 POWER AMP (w/10m); \$500. KENWOOD 820S; \$400.  
Fred W7LOL 933-6771 (Estate of Bob Mulstay N7CS)
  
- ....DO YOU WANT QSTs ('83 THRU '97)? Call Fred N6LWX 977-6683
  
- ....KENWOOD TS940 STATION (Includes SM-220 station monitor,  
SP-940 spkr, MC-80 mike, PC1A phone patch); \$1500.  
ALPHA 76A LINEAR AMPLIFIER; \$1200. PAKRATT PK-232; \$125.  
MFJ-422B ELECTRONIC KEYSER PADDLE; \$80. YAESU FT-727R HT,  
(dual band), with tone access, extra battery and more; \$275.  
ICOM IC-3TA 13.5V VDC Power Supply; \$50.  
Gene K7SXJ 584-2461
  
- ....BUTTERNUT BUTTERFLY HF5B COMPACT BEAM (10-12-15-17-20m); \$150  
Brian KC7QKD 439-3281