



WEST VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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

M A Y 1 9 9 8
VOL XXV, NO 5

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

Pres Ralph Barr W0DNO PHX 582-8208
VPres Doc Greene AB7BD SC 583-7584
Sec'y Don Korous K9EJC SC 815-8067
Tr Shirley Barr KB4HSP PHX 582-8208
PPres Geo Watling N7JSA SC 933-0854

CLUB DIRECTORS

Rich Piggott WB2LKU SCW 546-4300
Allan Fusler K17NF PHX 582-1044
David Cain KB7WDD PEO 561-6228
Rich Haworth W7MDQ SC 933-2191

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

CLUB CALENDAR

APRIL 25 WALK TO HEALTH, Sun City, 8am
28 ICOM VAN VISIT, 1-5pm, HRO, (see enclosed flier)
MAY 2 LICENSE EXAMS, DeVRY INSTITUTE, 8-10am
4 CLUB MEETING, ST CLEMENT SOCIAL HALL, SC, 7:15pm
9 CLUB BREAKFAST, TIVOLI GARDENS, SC, 8am
11 EXEC BOARD MEETING, W0DNO QTH, 7pm
MON & FRI VACATION NET, 14.240 MHz, 10am local, starts May 15.
WEDNESDAYS 2m HAM NEWS NET, 147.30 MHz, 6:45pm
THURSDAYS BKFST/LUNCH, LINDA L'S, SUN VILLAGE (Surprise),
10:30am (except for 3rd Thursday at 9:30am)
DAILY CALL-IN NET, 147.30 MHz, 9am

MEMBERSHIP IN WEST VALLEY ARC is open to anyone with an interest in Amateur Radio. Dues are \$10/yr, \$5 after July 1 and include all family hams at same address.

The club badges that most members wear at club meetings (black on yellow AZ-shaped badge) are available for \$5. See Ray NW7R.

MAY 4TH PROGRAM: HOW TO HANDLE YOUR RFI PROBLEMS. Ken Wakershauser N7OWP will describe the function of the club RFI committee. (Keep your neighbors happy by taking care of RFI problems immediately.) Doors open at 6:30pm; the meeting starts around 7:15. Come early and get to know your colleagues over a cup of coffee. Under new business, members will be asked to approve a yearly \$500 scholarship award to a DeVry Institute student. (DeVry Institute has allowed use of its facilities to the ham community for Amateur Radio license exams since the start of the VEC program in 1984. Recently the DeVry parking lot has been the site of an occasional ham swapmeet.)

The club meets the FIRST MONDAY of every month at St Clement Social Hall, 15800 Del Webb Blvd, Sun City. The Board is looking for additional greeters to welcome people at our meetings.

For the JUNE 1st PROGRAM Prez Ralph W0DNO hopes to have Aubrey Stewart W6ODG available to demonstrate the Kachina 505DSP HF Transceiver, said to be the future form of Amateur Radio transceivers. (See the 6+ page write-up by Larry Wolfgang in the May QST Product Review section.)

CQ DX de FRANK SMITH AH0W/OH2LVG

The DX world has busied itself with recent activity from 3 potential "new ones". Martti OH2BH, Bruce W6OSP and many others just completed activity from Temotu Island in the Solomons as H40AA, and Jim Smith VK9NS as H40AB -- possibly still active as you read this. Now Kan JA1BK and Bob W6RJ (of HRO fame) have "discovered" the Marquesas and Austral Islands (FO) as two possible new ones based on the new DXCC rule requiring open water separation of 350 km (which replaces the old standard of 225 miles). Certainly there'll be more to come.

There's more traditional DX out there including VK9L Lord Howe Island by Paul NOAH, Vanuatu by Frank JY8AA and very rare Amsterdam Island FT5Z by Rene.

Look for Chagos Archipelago VQ9 by Jim NS1L, Svalbard JW by Rag OZ8RO, Sri Lanka by Denver 4S7DA, Corsica TK by F6AXX and friends, Madagascar by SM7CIP as 5R8FU, South Shetland Islands by Stan SP3BGD as HF0POL, Cambodia by either XU3MTM or XU7MTM, Gibraltar by Martin G3RFX as ZB2FX, and once again, the Spratlys by Hans DF5UG as 9M6QQ. The month of May should also include large operations from Brandon and Agalega Islands, 3B9, by an HB9 team.

As mentioned in our last column, your DX editor is awaiting details of a multinational DXpedition effort to Bhutan A5 to include operators largely from the US, Japan, Europe. One could anticipate this rare country to be activated upon improvement in sun spots, thus allowing for more effectiveness on the upper bands.

Meanwhile we hope to see you all at the International Convention in Visalia the first weekend of May and the Dayton HamVention's DX Forum, 15-17 May. Several of the presentations at each will be given by Arizona DXers. Best 73/GD DX and CU in the pileups!

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE EXAMS ARE HELD ON THE FIRST SATURDAY on each month (except holiday weekends) at DeVry Institute, 2149 W Dunlap Ave. Sign in 8 to 10am; no tests to begin after 10. Bring photo ID and original and copy of appropriate FCC license or CSCE. Forms 610 are available at site. No charge for Elements 1A and 2; a single charge of \$6.35 for all other Elements taken once. You may repeat a test for an additional fee if you miss by 1 or 2.

Nineteen candidates were tested on April 4. Nine earned No-Code Tech and one earned Tech Plus. Another five passed Element 2. Members of Jean Desloover's NO-CODE TECH CLASS were among the successful candidates. There will be ANOTHER CLASS in October/November. Call Merle Bodine (546-1737) or Ray Sumner (972-8733) if you know of any prospective ham candidates. Classes are held twice a year at Sun City Posse HQ on Friday evenings, 7 to 9pm.

VEs taking part in the April test session:

Ed Beyer	WU7A	Merle Bodine	KC7OGU	Marc Cuizon	KH6CJD
Jack Dow	KE7ZQ	Jeff Johnson	KJ7LO	Yoshi Sano	K7YS
Ray Sumner	NW7R	Rick Tannehill	W7RT	Dwight Yard	KB7KON
Rich Piggott WB2LKU, Session Manager and Liaison					

The DeVry sessions are sponsored by WVARC and DeVry ARC. All ARRL-accredited Examiners are most welcome to participate. Other Valley test sites are: THIRD MONDAY at 6pm, Mesa Utilities Office, 7115 E Adobe Road, Mesa (Denise AB7KG, 898-4066; Superstition ARC). 4th SATURDAY 7pm, Red Cross Bldg, 6135 N Black Canyon Hwy (George KQ7C, 272-6212; Arizona ARC).

MARICOPA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ANTENNA SUPPORT STRUCTURE ORDINANCE.....[This is a follow-up to the presentation on tower permits and installation given at the April club meeting by Paul Playford W8AEF and Rich Haworth W7MDQ, as reported by Rich.]

At the April meeting, Bob Thompson K0USJ of Sun City talked about his efforts to obtain a county permit to erect a tower. He had made two visits to the county substation in Sun City West and was told, among other things, that he needed to keep the tower at least ten feet away from his house. This would have given him installation problems because of the existing trees and shrubs that were in the way of tilting over the tower.

Bob went to the county office in Phoenix the day after the club meeting and found that the requirement to keep the tower ten feet away from the house was not correct; he could put the tower right up against the house. Although he only requested authorization for a 40 foot tower, he was told that his layout permitted him a 55 foot tower. Thus we have confirmation that the County Planning Department interprets the ordinance in the same way that Paul and I did at our meeting. Bob came away with the permit for the tower he wanted!

A key to his success was his preparation. He had a scale drawing of his lot and its main landscaping features, showing the placement of the house on the lot. He also had a transparent overlay showing the turning radius of the beam, so that he could show various positions for the tower on the property by moving the transparency around.

Lessons from Bob's experience are (1) prepare thoroughly with scale drawing and overlays and (2) at least for the present time, work only with the people in the downtown county offices until the substation is up to speed on the new ordinance.

ARIZONA SCIENCE CENTER HAM STATION GETS SOME PUBLICITY. There is an article about Station W7ASC in Brian Milesosky N5ZGT's YOUTH FORUM column in the May 1998 issue of WorldRadio. He mentions the 500,000 visitors to the Center this past year and the hands-on experience that many of them enjoy in the ham shack. He describes the equipment and staffing of the station and urges hams in the Phoenix area to consider volunteering some of their time to this important project. Also, the April QST had half a page of pictures of the Science Center and its ham radio station. Meanwhile, CARL Chairman Ralph Barr echoes the plea for more volunteers for the summer months especially. Call Ralph at 582-8208 if you'd like to team up with one of the regular operators for an occasional 4-hour shift.

The daddy of all Science Museum ham stations, W3AA at Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, appears to have survived a possible closing. The station was originally licensed as W3TKQ in 1952 and is operated by the Phil Mont Mobile Radio Club. Recent reports indicated that the Institute was considering other uses for the space currently occupied by the station, but Club President Russ Stafford W3CH says that in discussions with Institute executives it seems likely that the station will remain available to visitors at the museum.

CLUB NOTES. March 22, 1998 marked the 50th anniversary of FCC type approval of a "personal, short range two-way radio service", granted to Citizens Radio Corporation of Cleveland OH. The Model 100-B transceiver was authorized to operate in the 460-470 MHz range at 3W. Manufactured by the company's subsidiary, Gross Electronics the civilian "walkie-talkie" weighed slightly over 2 lb with batteries. Today "personal wireless" communications is a multi-billion dollar industry. The Model 100-B's inventor, Al Gross W8PAL, is a WVARC member. His wife Ethel says that Al did the right thing at the wrong time. He continues to receive many honors for his contributions in the field of electronics. Al is Senior Principal Engineer at Orbital Sciences Corp in Chandler.

RFI TIP FROM BILL JOHNSON W9WFV. Here's a tip for a simple solution to an interference problem caused by haphazard placement of AC power leads, audio cables and antenna leads from TVs, stereo amplifiers, CD players etc, resulting in EMI problems from any nearby transmitter. I have observed several homes where leads were wound around each other, almost guaranteeing an EMI problem. Make 3" diameter coils in each lead as close as possible to the unit picking up the RF and fasten with wire ties or tape. Make sure to separate each coil from antenna or TV cable leads and from one another. This provides a simple common mode choke in each lead and reduces coupling between the leads which have the most RF pickup.

SILENT KEYS. Old-timers will remember two long-time club members who died recently. JOHN T (JACK) SCHAEFER ex-W7HQA died in Sun City on April 14th. He was 90 years old. Jack was a member of the club throughout the 70s and 80s. We extend our sympathy to his wife Wanda and family. CARL MOORE W7YQ died April 13. He was also active in the club in the 70s and 80s. His wife Audrey passed away several months ago. Carl was 88 years of age. We offer our condolences to his son Carl and family.

FCC LICENSE RENEWAL TIME. JULY 1998: George Poland W8FWF, James P Smith KE7OK; AUGUST 1998: Al Divan KD7ZS, Tom Fenton W1IUC, Richard Gamel N7DCJ, Wally Hebertson AE7Y, Paul McCorkle KA0YMK. The new FCC Form 610 (Sept 1997), for renewals/address changes/etc, is available from Sec'y Don Korous, ARRL Liaison Rich Piggott or your editor.

Please add the following members to your roster:

N7QMU Dennis Dannemiller, Glendale	N7IVA Chris Heiberg, Peoria AZ
N7QHA Eric Dannemiller, Glendale	WH6FH Peter Scriven, Meredith NH
KD7BJI Ed Hahn, Sun City	K0USJ Bob Thompson, Sun City
KB6UK Jerry Whitehead, Sun City West	

AZ STATE CONVENTION (FT TUTHILL HAMFEST), JULY 24-26, 1998. It's not too soon to make your reservations for this one. Tailgate \$15 before June 1, \$20 after June 1; camping/night, \$8. Admission FREE. Dinner \$15. Reservation Info: Voice Mail (602) 779-2722; E-mail, arcathill@aol.com

FOR SALE.....Heathkit RF Probe, Electronic Keyer, Oscilloscope 01-1, VTVM (IM-11), RF Signal Generator, SWR Meter; Kenwood 7400A 2m XCVR: Belden 8-strand cable (1/2 roll); Swan SWR/Power meter; Astron RS7A Power Supply; Commodore 64, 64C, 1541 Disk Drive, 1526 Dot Matrix Printer; Kantonics Interface II Packet Modem; Micronta Reg 12V Power Supply; Muffin fans, Speakers, etc. Also, TRISTAO 40' CRANK-UP TOWER w/TH3 triband beam and HAM-M rotator, 40m sloper, cables, etc; \$1000. Jim K4JB 584-3446

YAESU FT-900 XCVR 10-160m 100W, mint condx, w/MH-31 hand mike; \$1000.
ICOM IC-730S XCVR, HM-12 mike, spkr, \$400; ICOM PS-15 POWER SUPPLY, \$75.
KENWOOD AT-230 ANT TUNER w/DRAKE DL-300 DUMMY LOAD, \$75.
REALISTIC PRO 2009 SCANNER, \$15. PANASONIC LIGHTED MODEL CLOCK, \$5.
NYE BRASS STRAIGHT KEY, \$10. CODE PRACTICE KEY, BUZZER (batteries), \$8.
REALISTIC SWR METER, \$5. TWO STEEL MAST SECTIONS (2", 20'?), \$5.
DRAKE WATTMETER (20, 200, 2000w), SWR Meter, remote pickup; \$25.
CDR AA-22XL ANTENNA ROTATOR (for small beams); \$35.
CB NAVAJO XMTR (40ch) w/mike; \$25. CB Tripod Roof Mount antenna (buyer remove - call for appt); \$5. Chuck W7YU 977-7427

23-ELEMENT ANTENNA (ARRL version of Rutland), works fine; \$40.
100 Ft FLEX1-4XL very low loss COAX; \$100. Mit K9CCX 974-5618

PK232 PAKRATT, \$100. MFJ 422B ELECTRONIC KEYS PADDLE, \$100.
SF RADIO DESK, 50" WIDE x 28" DEEP, 3 Shelves, Blk enamel steel; \$100.
DIGIMAX FREQ COUNTER, \$100. PALOMAR RX NOISE LIMITER; \$20.
Gene K7SXJ 584-2461

STURDY TRIPODS: One, 33 1/2" HIGH; \$15. One, 22" HIGH; \$10. With lag bolts for mounting to roof, evap cooler, etc. Bob W9EXG 972-6090

DRAKE TWINS - R4A RCVR & T4X XMTR w/Power Supply, \$250.
TEKTRONIKS DUAL-TRACE OSCILLOSCOPE, \$250 (offer considered).
Murray W7XY 933-1132.

HEATHKIT DX-40 TRANSMITTER (80-40-20-15-11-10). ASTATIC JT-30 MIKE.
HAMMARLUND HQ-150 COMMUNICATIONS XCVR. BEARCAT IV FM MONITOR RCVR.
RICK W8JFR 972-9716