



WEST VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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

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 Tom Peterson (days) 602-233-3068 - (evenings) 623-872-3013.

VOLUME XXVI NO 7

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 1999

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Club web page (tnx Chuck W7KIV) <http://www.starlink.com/~chuckh>
Short Skip Editor Tom Peterson KK7KW: lasergraphic@earthlink.net

CLUB CALENDAR

WEEKEND	JULY 23-25	FT TUTHILL HAMFEST, FLAGSTAFF
MONDAY	AUGUST 2	MEETING, ST CLEMENT SOCIAL HALL, SUN CITY, 7pm
SATURDAY	AUG 7	LICENSE EXAMS, DeVRY INSTITUTE, PHX, 8-10am
SATURDAY	AUG 14	CLUB BREAKFAST, TIVOLI GARDENS, Sun City, 8am
MONDAY	SEPT 6	MEETING, ST CLEMENT SOCIAL HALL, SC, 7pm
SATURDAY	SEPT 11	CLUB BREAKFAST, TIVOLI GARDENS, Sun City, 8am
WEEKEND	OCT 1-3	ARRL SW DIV CONVENTION, LONG BEACH CA (QUEEN MARY)
FRIDAY	NOV 12	WVARC LADIES NIGHT BANQUET, LINDA L RESTAURANT
MONDAY & FRIDAY		VACATION NET, 14.240 MHz, 10am (ends Oct 15)
WEDNESDAYS		2m HAM NEWSLINE NET, 147.30 MHz, 6:45pm
THURSDAYS		BRUNCH, LINDA L'S, SUN VILLAGE (Surprise), 10am
DAILY		CALL-IN NET, 147.30 MHz, 9am

MEMBERSHIP IN WEST VALLEY ARC is open to anyone with an interest in Amateur Radio. One \$10 annual fee includes all family hams at same address; only one Short Skip mailed to each address.

Arrangements for the PROGRAMS FOR AUGUST & SEPTEMBER have not been completed at press time. One possibility is a program on the new mode PSK31 -- a remarkable digital operation resembling RTTY that produces almost perfect results even with low power. Several members have checked out this mode; some are more enthusiastic than others. If your computer has a sound card, you may find PSK31 useful and inexpensive.

We thank Paul Playford W8AEF for his presentation on Receiver Sensitivity Evaluations at the July meeting. Several of us had glazed looks viewing the charts but the technically oriented members hung in there, and some offered to let Paul add their models to his ratings. Attendance at the session was around 50 sign-ins.

ARIZONA HAS 15,137 HAMS as of June 1, 1999, according to an item in the W5YI Report for July 1, 1999. They include 749 Novice, 5100 Tech, 2832 TechPlus, 2412 General, 2389 Advanced and 1655 Extra Class. Total US hams: 675,376. Another approximately 45,000 names are in the two-year "grace period" where an expired license may be reactivated without retesting.

PUBLIC SERVICE NOTES

No Public Service events are scheduled for the near future. Rich Haworth W7MDQ is making a list of volunteers for New Year's Eve availability for emergency service at Del Webb and Boswell Hospitals in the event of a failure due to Y2K problems. Call him soon if you think you can help. Year 2000 is the 40th Anniversary of Sun City's founding. A big parade is planned for April 1st, with floats, bands and as many golf cars as can be recruited. WVARC has been asked to help coordinate the assembly and release of the parade contingents. About 30 stations will be needed. John Kornbeck WA9HBT will have more information as plans are formulated.

Club "Emergency Communications" magnetic signs for the side of your car are available for \$7 each. Club badges (black on yellow, AZ-shaped) are \$5. See Ray NW7R to order.

CLUB NOTES

Banquet Chairman Ron Rasmussen K6OP has promised us an entertaining evening for our Ladies Night Out banquet at Linda L Restaurant in Sun Village on Friday November 12th. Good food at a reasonable price and an opportunity to express our thanks to our spouses for their put-uppance with our hobby. Mark your Calendar. Most snowbirds should have returned by then.

FCC License expirations: Jean Good KA6EDX, 5/99.
 Stan Swartz K7PLO, 10/99.

Congratulations to Ken Ehrhardt KK7NU, who upgraded to EXTRA CLASS recently.

Prez Ralph Barr W0DNO needs volunteers for a Nominating Committee to present a new slate of officers for year 2000. He is also seeking ideas for programs for our regular meetings.

DeVry Institute has acknowledged with thanks the club's check for \$500 for a scholarship at the Institute. The recipient will be announced when regular sessions resume.

Eva Karnatz KC7RY has been doing a great job as Net Control for the West Valley Vacation Net on 14.240 MHz Mondays and Fridays at 10am. A large number have checked in, including regular Net Control Operator Chuck Bailey W7YU, who is on a motor trip with Hal Zabel N7KXZ. They hope to make eyeball contacts with a snowbird or two, notably Cliff Fay K7BQ at his place on Washington Island, WI. The net will continue through the middle of October. Check it out!

Please welcome new members:

Harold Polk	N3HP	14301 W Heritage Dr	Sun City West AZ 85375-5962
Russ Warren	W7JUS	17818 N 134th Ave	Sun City West AZ 85375-4921
Gary Avery	K5LKM	9257 W Cholla St	Peoria AZ 85345-5563

Change of Address:

Fred Boughton Jr	KB2CT	2104 Howard Place	Prescott AZ 86301-5339
Steve Drews	KB7TBZ	9025 W Villa Chula St	Peoria AZ 85382-1805
Sandra Drews	KB7ZHM	9025 W Villa Chula St	Peoria AZ 85382-1805
John Lacy	KC7GBZ	17906 W Legend Dr	Surprise AZ 85374-2944

SILENT KEYS

ED MASTERS KB7MZS of Sun City West died June 8th in Sun Health Hospice. He was 83. Ed was cornet soloist for the Marine Corps Band for more than 20 years. He was an active member of the club since it expanded to include Sun City West. Our sympathy is extended to his wife Lois and family.

HAAKON BANG WA7TMH of Peoria died in Boswell Hospital on June 16 at the age 94. Hokie was a prime mover in the installation of the club repeaters on Boswell and Del Webb Hospitals, having served on the board of the Sun Health organization. He ended his QSOs with "This is WA7 Take Me Home." We offer our condolences to his wife Lucile.

Bernard Kligfeld N7JIC died on July 10 in Simsbury CT, where he had gone to live after retiring as rabbi of Temple Beth Shalom in Sun City. Bernie would check into the 9am 2m net from his car as he headed for his visitation rounds at Boswell Hospital. We'll miss his humor and kindness. He is survived by daughters Alisa and Adina and son Michael.

HAM RADIO LICENSE EXAMS at DeVRY AUGUST 7th, NO EXAMS ON SEPTEMBER 4th. Register 8 to 10am; no tests will start after 10. Bring photo ID, original and copy of appropriate licenses or CSCEs. Form 610 (or Form 605, if activated) is available at Registration. Fee is \$6.45; please have correct change. For this fee you are entitled to one test in all desired Elements; a second charge is made for a repeat test in any Element. No charge for Elements 1A, 2.

On May 18 tests were administered to members of Boy Scouts of America Explorer Post 599 at DeVry Institute. Eight examinees were served. Three earned TECH License; others earned partial credit towards a license. VEs on hand:

Willie Berry KB7STF	Ed Beyer WU7A	Joe Brian AB7VY
Ken Ehrhardt KK7NU	Bill Gadbois KC7JR	Bert Littlepage N8NVB
Jack Richards WA9TV	Ray Sumner NW7R	Rick Tannehill W7RT
Glenn Wade N7JWF	Dwight Yard KB7KON	
Richard Piggott WB2LKU, Session Manager, Liaison		

At the regular monthly test session on June 5th, 28 candidates were served. License classes earned included one Novice, 11 Technician, one Tech Plus and 3 Extra. Others earned partial credit towards a license or upgrade. Administering Volunteer Examiners:

Ed Beyer WU7A	Joe Brian AB7VY	Bill Gadbois KC7JRY
Bob Johnson KE7LZ	Robert Knight N7LPD	Bill Kuchinski KB7MDX
Shelly Newman AB7LQ	Lynn O'Dell WI0W	Jack Richards WA9TV
Yoshi Sano K7YU	Ray Sumner NW7R	Rick Tannehill W7RT
Glenn Wade N7JWF	Dwight Yard KB7KON	
Richard Piggott WB2LKU, Session Manager, Liaison		

ARRL-accredited VEs are most welcome to help in these sessions, which are sponsored by the DeVry ARC and West Valley ARC.

Tentative plans are being made for a TECHNICIAN CLASS instruction session at Sun City Posse HQ on Friday nights in October/ November. At least eight candidates are needed to make this effort worthwhile. TBird ARC may have classes tentatively at AutoNation at 16406 N 26th Ave on Thursday nights in the same timeframe. Call Ray NW7R (623-972-8733) or Dan W6NTX (623-546-2131) to enroll in the Sun City class. If you are interested in any upgrade class, let Ray or Dan know.

Monsoon Returns and SKYWARN Spotters Ready!

On July 5th, the monsoon season storms returned to the valley of the sun. In a matter of a few hours, the afternoon thunderstorms developed over the Mogollon Rim country and the Superstition Mountains. During the early evening hours, the weak easterly winds aloft, typical of the monsoon season, pushed the storms westward off of the higher terrain, into the east valley. Dramatic television coverage from traffic helicopters provided pictures of the advancing dust storm. The trained volunteer SKYWARN Spotters were on the job that evening providing essential wind and blowing dust reports to National Weather Service (NWS). The SKYWARN reports validated what the NWS warning forecasters were seeing on the Doppler weather radar. Dust storm and severe thunderstorm warnings were issued in a timely manner. NOAA Weather Radio, local television and radio stations, broadcasted the warnings immediately, and no doubt about it - the NWS mission to protect lives and property was achieved. SKYWARN Spotters have proven themselves to be the star players on the NWS warning team. On behalf of the National Weather Service, Phoenix Office, I thank you for your participation and I encourage each of you stay alert and to participate in this program. Your neighbors and your community benefit every time you submit a report to NWS! Lastly, remember that SAFETY comes first, if you are driving and a dust storm occurs, lowering visibility to near zero, pull as far off the road as possible and turn your lights off wait for the dust storm to weaken and visibility to improve.

David Runyan, Warning Coordination Meteorologist
National Weather Service Phoenix Office

FREE E-MAIL - US West is offering free e-mail that can be sent or retrieved from any computer with internet access. You can set up as many e-mail accounts as you need and can have attachments up to 2.5M. To sign up visit www.uswestmail.net

CQDX de Frank Smith AH0W OH2LVG

DXers are pleased to learn of plans by Tony EA5BY to activate Annobon as 3C0R in mid September. Annobon is among the top ten most wanted DX entities. The team plans a multi-band operation on CW, SSB and RTTY. More details in the next issue of Short Skip.

Your DX Editor just learned of a DXpedition planned for the Laccadives VU7 by an international team of DXpeditioners to take place possibly as early as September 2nd. Details on this are not yet released, so hopefully there will be more information in both the next Short Skip as in traditional DX bulletins.

DXers in Sweden have been issued the callsign SI9AM to be QRV along with the opening of the Thai Pavillion in Ragunda, Sweden in honor of King Chulalongkorn. Look also for a special issue French call TM5FDH.

Karl Leite PS7KM, has finalized plans for his long-awaited-for DXpedition to St. Peter and Paul Rocks, as ZX0SK and ZX0SP. This will take place the end of September and will run for ten days, 80 through 6 meters.

And just in case you haven't made plans yet, the New Orleans International DX Convention will be held 27-29 August at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in the heart of New Orleans' French Quarter on Bourbon Street. This is fast becoming the most popular international DX convention. Presentations this year include an ARRL DXCC update by Bill Moore NC1L, Six-meter DXing by Ned Stearns AA7A, 160 meter DXing by Garry Shapiro NI6T, Marshal Islands V7 by Tom Harrell N4XP, Wake Island KH9 by Mike Mraz N6MZ, Pratas Island QB9P by Paul Pai BV4FH, Erirea E30GA by Vance LePierre N5VL, and Cambodia XU1A and Rodrigues Island 3B9R by yours truly. Also featured is a special session on the cost of DXCC by W6SL, WA5VGI, NC1L and W5FKX and a special presentation on IOTA by Buzz Jehle N5UR.

Also, the 1999 DXer of the Year award will be presented to Yasuo "Zorro" Miyazawa JH1AJT at the gala Jazz-banquet followed by a hospitality suite on the Bourbon St. Balcony hosted by DX Magazine's editor Carl Smith N4AA.

For more information, see: <http://www.gnofn.org/~w5ru/>

In the meanwhile, GD DX, Best 73 and CU in the Pileups!

'SUNBURN' THREATENS CELL PHONES

Cell phone users may get "burned" as the 11-year-long solar cycle of sunspots heads towards its climax. This "solar maximum," which could arrive as early as this summer and last through January 2001, is expected to be one of the strongest ever seen. Radio waves emitted by the sun, known as solar radio, can jam radio signals on earth and cause massive interference for cell phone systems.

The link between solar radio waves and cell phones was discovered earlier this year when Lucent Technologies' Bell Labs found that, as the sun rises, the side of a cell phone site pointing to the sun "saw" solar radio bursts as interference. As a result, 9 percent of the cell phone calls going through the network at a given time were "dropped," meaning that a user was cut off during a conversation.

Submitted by: Bob Gormley WA1MHZ

ARIZONA STATE CONVENTION at FT TUTHILL (Flagstaff) JULY 23-25, 1999. I-17 Airport Exit 337 to County Fairgrounds. Free Admission, Huge Swap, major vendors, dealers, exhibits, seminars and forums (ARRL, AMSAT, APRS, QRP, New Hams). License Exams 9am Saturday. Saturday Night BBQ. Info: Norm KC7FNK 520-297-9562.

CARL GROUP needs additional operators to man Amateur Radio Station W7ASC at the Arizona Science Center. Two operators serve each 4-hour shift (9am - 1pm, 1pm - 5pm). Won't you help promote Amateur Radio with our young (and older) visitors by volunteering for one 4-hour shift a month? Contact Bob Burleson KG7QJ 480-961-1109 or kg7qj@home.com. Visit W7ASC online at www.W7ASC.org

WANTED

"Wanted - Used or to rent - TRX-80 US Tower Raising Fixture.
Del Young W7EOY (602) 584-2534. Email: W7EOY@aol.com

Wanted- Light weight tower for my Force 12 beam.
Flora Rutledge WA0AAM 975-0023

FOR SALE

5" OSCILLOSCOPE Leader Electronics LBO-513A DC-15 MHz w/Operator Instructions like new; \$125.

KEITHLEY MULTI-RANGE ELECTROMETER w/Instruction Manual, measures dc volts - 0.001 to 100V, currents - 10 minus 14 to 0.3 amps, resistance - 100 ohms to 10-14th ohms, charge - 10 minus 12 coulombs to 10 - 5 coulombs, with cords, accessory, connectors; \$200.

AI W8PAL (602)-814-6387 (weekday mornings)