



WEST VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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

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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

SATURDAY JAN 23	C.A.R.L. GROUP ANNUAL MEETING, DeVRY, 9am
MONDAY FEB 1	AUCTION, ST CLEMENT SOCIAL HALL, SC, 7:00pm
SATURDAY 6	LICENSE EXAMS, DeVRY INSTITUTE, PHX, 8-10am
MONDAY 8	EXEC BOARD MEETING, PRESIDENT'S QTH, 7pm
SATURDAY 9	CLUB BREAKFAST, TIVOLI GARDENS, Sun City, 8am
SATURDAY MAR 13	SPRINGFEST, SCOTTSDALE COMM COLL, open 6am

WEDNESDAYS 2m HAM NEWSLINE NET, 147.30 MHz, 6:45pm
 THURSDAYS BRUNCH, LINDA L'S, SUN VILLAGE (Surprise), 10:30am
 DAILY CALL-IN NET, 147.30 MHz, 9am

LAST CHANCE TO BE IN 1999 ROSTER. At press time some 20% of the members had not renewed their membership! At \$10/yr, it's the best buy in town. We need your support. If you don't plan to be at the FEBRUARY AUCTION, please mail your dues to the club PO address. Check your address label for expiration date; if it doesn't agree with your records, call our Treasurer.

MEMBERSHIP in WEST VALLEY ARC is open to anyone with an interest in Amateur Radio. One fee includes all family hams at same address; only one Short Skip mailed to each address. The club badges we wear (black on yellow, AZ-shaped) are available for \$5. "Emergency Communications" sign for the side of the car, identifying you as a club Public Service amateur operator, is \$7; see Ray NW7R.

The West Valley Amateur Radio Club meets the FIRST MONDAY of EVERY MONTH at ST CLEMENT SOCIAL HALL, 15800 N DEL WEBB BLVD, SUN CITY. Doors open at 6:30pm; meeting usually starts at 7:15 with a brief business session, followed by a program related to Amateur Radio. On FEBRUARY 1ST our ANNUAL AUCTION will be held and bidding will start promptly at 7pm. See enclosed flyer for details. If you GIVE equipment to the club for sale, you can obtain an acknowledgement form for charitable contributions. LET'S MAKE THIS EVENT A SUCCESS!!

Exec Board is working on program for MARCH 1st. Any ideas? Contact Ralph W0DNO (582-8208).

FCC RESTRUCTURING OF THE AMATEUR SERVICE. Opportunity for reply comments on WT 98-143, the FCC NPRM to restructure the Amateur Service, expired on January 15. Among the replies critical of the proposals of the ARRL and others was a well-thought-out response by one of our club Volunteer Examiners, Rick Tannehill W7RT, as recorded in the W5YI Report for January 15, 1999:

"None of the comments submitted to the Commission in response to this NPRM provide any substantive reason why the Amateur Service needs ANY code test at more than the minimum required to meet the ITU S25.5 requirements. The FCC is not in the business of preserving old technology, just for the sake of preservation.

"The only reasons for requiring ANY kind of knowledge to be tested for an Amateur license is to guarantee the public health, welfare and safety, especially as it applies to controlling RF interference and for electrical and RF biological safety.

"The ARRL plan...calls for allowing No-Code Technician class operators to operate Morse CW on the General CW subbands. Although this plan has some merit and the ARRL is to be commended for finally seeing the inevitable and accepting some degree of change, their plan is basically too little restructuring with too many flaws....

"(1) it does not eliminate the need for code testing waivers....the ham VEs have no business trying to determine what is an applicable disability waiver...the mere fact that waivers exist with the blessing of the Commission proves that high-speed CW testing is not a requirement for HF operation in either the 'phone' or 'cw' subbands.

"(2) The ARRL plan rewards high speed CW testing with additional 'phone' subband privileges, but NO additional CW subband privileges at the Advanced Class level. This is clear absurdity.

"(3) The ARRL plan would allow codeless Technicians to operate on the HF General CW subbands. Their rationale for this approach is that it encourages codeless hams to learn code to upgrade. However, it engenders the absurdity of proving that NO code knowledge is necessary to access HF code subbands.... What they fail to note is that much CW is now sent and received by automated (computerized) means, and that no 'sending by hand' or 'receiving by ear' may be involved at all. If this meets the requirement of S25.5, then indeed, no CW testing is required to access ANY portion of the HF spectrum, since automated CW operation is possible by anyone.

"(4) The ARRL does not propose to sunset Morse CW testing when ITU S25.5 is repealed. This leads to the suspicion that there is a 'hidden agenda' to throw a 'small bone', a 5 WPM General Class, to those opposed to continued code testing, while secretly trying to 'lock in' continued high speed CW testing for as long as possible....Their agenda would appear to be to 'encourage' more CW operation by future, younger hams, rather than eliminate it. The amateur service does not need continued high speed code testing for any reason."

[Editor's Note: The ITU requirement (S25.5) referred to in Rick's response states: " (1) Any person seeking a license to operate the apparatus of an amateur station shall prove that he is able to send correctly by hand and to receive correctly by ear, texts in Morse code signals. The administrations concerned may, however, waive this requirement in the case of stations making use exclusively of frequencies above 30 MHz." No changes in this requirement are expected to be acted on until the World Radiocommunications Conference in 2001 or later.]

E-MAIL ADDRESSES. Those who have not included their email addresses on the club membership application and renewal form, please send info to Rich WB2LKU at noble@starlink.com or use the interactive information server: click on the animated mailbox on the WVARC roster page. The last email addresses that we have for the following members were invalid. Please send latest address to Rich; mark subject line "email correction": KB00OK, W0LY, W6JWZ, WA8KFC, KJ7LO, N7QB, W1MN, W8PAL, WA0AAM, W7EOY, W7ELO (juno), KF2QA.

WVARC SPONSORS NO-CODE TECH and GENERAL CLASSES. No-Code Technician Classes will be held on FRIDAY EVENINGS in February and March from 7 to 9pm, beginning February 5th and ending March 26th, at Sun City Posse HQ, 10861 Sunland Drive, Sun City. Instructor Dan Pierson W6NTX is hoping for a large turn-out but is willing to teach a small class of dedicated students. Leonard Weiss, Bill Wittkoetter and Carlos Meza have signed up so far. We also hope to recruit some of the members of the last class who had scheduling difficulties.

There is also sufficient interest to start General Class instructions (Element 3B) at the same location on WEDNESDAY EVENINGS, starting February 3rd and ending March 31st. Instructor Ted Torrence KB7MMT has taught this class with much success in the past. So far, the following have signed up for General Class: Dan Aldrich, Lew Bowsher, Bill Charvat, Dale Christensen, Alex Cost, Chris Cost, Tom McFadden, Ron Regnier, Bill Wellendorf. Call Ray NW7R (972-8733) to register for General or Tech Class.

We are grateful to the Sheriff's Posse of Sun City, who have provided their excellent training room for our classes since 1992. Posse HQ is on Sunland Dr (off Agua Fria Dr). From Bell Rd, south on Del Webb Blvd 2 blks to Hutton Dr, west one mile to Sunland; from Grand Ave or TBird Blvd north on Del Webb to Meade Dr, west on Meade to Agua Fria, right 3 blocks to Sunland.

LICENSE EXAMS at DeVRY ON FEBRUARY 6th. Amateur Radio License Exams are given at DeVry Institute, 2149 W Dunlap Ave, on the FIRST SATURDAY of every month, except holiday weekends. Registration begins at 8am; no tests to start after 10am. Bring photo ID and original and copy of appropriate licenses/CSCEs. The fee is \$6.45. (You may take a test in as many different Elements as desired for this one fee. If you miss by one or two answers, you may repeat a test in a given element for an additional fee.) There is no charge for Elements 1A (5 wpm) and 2 (Novice Written Test). Tests are held in the Library, 2nd floor east hallway, unless otherwise posted.

ARRL-Accredited Volunteer Examiners are welcome to help at these sessions. If you wish to become accredited, contact Rich Piggott WB2LKU at 546-4300.

SCOTTSDALE SPRING HAMFEST, SATURDAY MARCH 13, SCOTTSDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE,
9000 E CHAPARRAL RD (INTERSECTION OF LOOP 101 NORTH AND CHAPARRAL RD)
RV PARKING. TABLE FEE \$5. PARKING \$2. TALK-IN FREQUENCY 147.18 MHz.
OPEN 6 AM. MORE INFO? CALL ROLLIE W9OBU 391-3946.

FOR SALE

CUSHCRAFT R-7000 (40-30-20-17-15-12-10m), needs matching network; \$100 or bo.
Joe W7FPG 584-6117

KENWOOD TS-930 XCVR w/many extras, exc cond; \$750.
UNIVERSAL TOWER, 32', w/all hardware, heavy duty rotor, cable, etc; \$350.
Will sell both for \$950. Buyer must take down tower.
Art KI7ZR 995-9198

CUSHCRAFT R-7000, buyer must take down.
Bernie N7JIC 972-6719

CUSHCRAFT A-3S 3-el BEAM (20-15-10m); \$50.
Bob KC7CMM 520-684-1219 (Wickenburg), will deliver PHX area.

CLUB NOTES: "Awesome" was the description many members used in describing the antique radios on display at the QTH of Bob Stout KE7RD. Bob was the program speaker at the January meeting and the two radios he brought to the meeting were just appetizers. There were some 200+ restored radios, victrolas, juke boxes and ham gear in excellent shape and working condition. Bob is deservedly proud of his handiwork and if you missed the event, he may be persuaded to have another open house in the future.

At the meeting, the first ticket for the door prize was that of Don Thomas KAlCWM, who had won the previous month. (For those who can't put a face to the call, Don is pictured in the January QST on p.71 along with some other Section Managers meeting in Denver: Don is North Texas SM.) Don graciously declined the prize, and Roy Dunlop KB7HBQ was the winner of \$26 (half the ticket sales). Second prize was a subscription to WorldRadio, courtesy of Paul Playford W8AEF; it was won by Dan Heffner WB2SQE.

Members whose FCC licenses must be renewed soon: April: Ralph Barr WODNO. May: Roy Dunlop KB7HBQ, Jean Good KA6EDX, Sam Macdonald N7MUV.

The increase in first-class postage by one cent was small compared with the increase in the non-profit rates for our newsletter. A year ago we paid 11.7 cents for mail to 853** zip code; it is now 14.2 cents - a 30% increase. Our bulk rate to 850** and other areas increased from 13.5 to 16.9 cents (36% increase).

Please welcome the following new members: Hank Hankinson KC3QU, Surprise; Lynn O'Dell WIOW, Glendale; Bruce Pickering N5CBK, Surprise; David Sundquist N0GRL, Sun City West; Samuel Van Sandt W7ELO, Sun City West; Ted Walker KJ7V, Sun City; Doug Willoughby K7GJX, Apache Junction.

Larry Teel KJ7QP and XYL Nancy KC7FKT are in their new home at 812 Sandringham Dr, Friendswood TX 77546-4762 (SE of Houston), near Larry III. KJ7QP was our Slow-Scan TV expert as well as in other fields.

W Sydney Dack KA7OCN writes that he had a tough transition healthwise in moving to his new place at 3051 Rio Dosa Dr, Apt 332, Lexington KY 40509; temperatures below zero. "Christmas and New Year went by and I didn't see them." But he's pleased to be near his son. He sends 73 to all of us.

Bernie Kligfeld N7JIC, spiritual advisor to some and good friend to many of our members, will be moving to a full-care center in Simsbury CT around the end of February, to be near family. He plans to be on the air as soon as he is settled. We hope to have his address in the March roster.

Paul McCorkle KA0YMK, long time member and winter visitor, has sold his place at Paradise RV Resort. His permanent address is 701 Oak Hill, Sac City IA 50583-2621. Many will remember Paul's description at one of our meetings of his trip across the North Pole in a Russian icebreaker a few years ago.

On the bright side, Dwain Mitchell WB8YQK and XYL Deanna KB8YXA, neighbors of the McCorkles in the Paradise Resort, have moved to 12621 W Brandywine Dr, Sun City West, and expect to be more active in our ham community.

CARL GROUP (W7ASC) GENERAL MEETING at DeVry Institute, SATURDAY JAN 23, to elect new officers and hear annual reports. Presentation on ATV in PHX area by John Leslie KOATV. Address by John Ekiss AA6HA: How Are We Doing? Rick Horwitz AB7FH and Char Horwitz KB7TKQ: Goals for Next 12 Months. Everyone interested in the Amateur Station at the AZ Science Center is invited. There will be door prizes!