



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 XXVII NO 4

APRIL 2000

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Club web page (tnx Chuck W7KIV) <http://home.az.rmci.net/chuckh>
Short Skip Editor Tom Peterson KK7KW: lasergraphic@earthlink.net

CLUB CALENDAR

SATURDAY	APRIL 1	LICENSE EXAMS, De VRY INSTITUTE, PHX, 8 TO 10 AM
MONDAY	APRIL 3	MEETING, ST CLEMENT SOCIAL HALL, SC, 7 PM
SATURDAY	APRIL 8	CLUB BREAKFAST, TIVOLI GARDENS, SC, 8 AM
WEDNESDAYS		2m HAM NEWSLINE NET, 147.30 MHz, 6:45 PM
THURSDAYS		BRUNCH, COCO'S, 98th Ave. & Bell Rd., 10:00 AM
DAILY		CALL-IN NET, 147.30 MHz, 9 AM

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.

PROGRAM FOR APRIL 3 MEETING:

Paul Playford will give a presentation on the operation of XZ0A DXpedition that was operated from a 5 star hotel, the Andaman Club, on Thahtay Kyun Island, Myanmar (formerly known as Burma).

They had 7 stations with amplifiers running full power on all bands. SSB, CW, RTTY, PSK31, FM, SSTV and Satellite. The antennas would be the dream of any world class contest station. A 180 foot tower that served as a ground plane antenna for 160 meters, 8 each 1/2 mile long beverages for listening on 160, four 80 foot towers that served as a 4 square parasitic array for 80 meters, a 4 square parasitic array for 40 meters, a 30m vertical, an R-7000 utility antenna, two C3's for 20, 15 & 10 meters, a 17 & 12 meter yagi, two 4 element yagi's for 10m and a 6 element yagi for 6 meters.

There were about 30 operators from all over the world; Great Britain, Spain, Mexico, Japan, Thailand and of course the United States.

Eighty thousand contacts were made with 27 thousand different amateurs from around the world.

CLUB NOTES

FCC License Expirations: N7ADB - Bob Lisk - April 2000
W6SQ - Ken Morrison - May 2000

WVARC is looking for a responsible person to open up the church on meeting nights. Contact: Ron Rasmussen, K6OP 623-546-5710 if you can help.

NEW LOCATION FOR THURSDAY'S BRUNCH

Thursday's at 10:00am there is an informal get together for brunch at Coco's restaurant at 98th ave. & Bell Rd. All are welcome. You don't need to be a licensed ham or club member to join us.

HAM RADIO LICENSE EXAMS at DeVRY April 1. Register 8 to 10am; no tests will start after 10. Bring photo ID, original and copy of appropriate licenses or CSCEs. Form NCVEC 605 is available at Registration. Fee is \$6.65; 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.

The VE Team will not accept FCC Forms 610 and 605. Applicants will be given Form NCVEC 605 to fill out at the sessions. Applicant's social security number or FCC license identification number must be supplied. After April 15, Element 1A, the 5 wpm code test will be replaced by Element 1, also a 5wpm code test. The difference is Element 1 is subject to the exam session fee. Walk-in code tests are receiving tests only. A 5 wpm sending test may be substituted if the applicant makes prior arrangements before the session date. Contact Rich WB2LKU at 623-546-4300 or email wb2lku@arrl.net.

On March 4, 48 candidates were examined. License classes earned: 6 Tech, 3 Tech Plus, 2 General, 1 Advanced, 1 Extra. 20 Advanced earned Element 4B credit; 11 Tech Plus earned Element 3B credit.

VEs on hand:

Edward Beyer WU7A	Joe Brian AB7VY	Ken Ehrhardt, KK7NU
Bob Johnson, KE7LZ	Stan Kieffer, N7QB	Robert Knight, N7PLD
Bill Kuchinski, KB7MDX	Alberta Littlepage, N8NVB	Shelly Newman, AB7LQ
Jack Richards, WA9ATV	Bill Rowell, K7JJH	Yoshi Sano, K7YS
Ray Sumner, NW7R	Harold Van Dyke, KD2PH	Glenn Wade, N7JWF
Charles Wallace, W1OSV	Dwight Yard, KB7KON	
Rich Piggott, WB2LKU, Session Manager, Liaison		

Year 2000 exam Schedule: 4/1, 5/6, 6/3, 7/1, 8/5, 10/7, 11/4, 12/2.

A note to Technician Plus Licensees

The FCC will discontinue the Technician Plus license class after April 14. Thereafter, renewed Technician Plus licenses will be issued as "Technician". Renewers will retain their HF privileges and credit for passing a 5 words per minute code exam. It will be up to the individual to keep documentary proof, so keep your current Tech Plus license until you upgrade.

To upgrade to General class after April 14, Technician Plus licensees must pass the new Elements 2 exam. If your Technician license was issued between 3/21/87 and 2/14/91 you are entitled to code credit only; you must take the new Element 2 exam to upgrade. If your Technician license was issued before 3/21/87 you are entitled to upgrade to General class after April 14, if you hold a current license or a license that has expired less than 2 years ago. Otherwise, you will have to take the new Element 2. Also you are entitled to code credit if you had ever held a Novice license.

SILENT KEYS

DON FENTON W1JH of Sun City West died Feb 24. Don was Club President in 1989 and an active member until his lengthy illness slowed him down. We offer our sympathies to his wife Mary and family.

MARCUS CHILCOTE W7PS of Sun City died Feb 24. A longtime member of the club, Mark is survived by his wife Alta, son Jim WU7V, six grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and brother Ivan. Our condolences to Alta and the family.

JACK SCHWEITZER W7DQZ of Peoria died recently. Jack has been a club member for more than 10 years. We offer condolences to his wife Burneta and family.

We also offer our sympathy to John W7YR, whose wife ALICE ALLEN passed away on Feb 27. Alice was an active member in the community, serving as a volunteer at Boswell Hospital and participating in a number of other activities. In addition to John, she is survived by two daughters, two sons, eleven grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and sister Irene.

R. F. SAFETY CALCULATION WEBSITE

Here is a excellent website for R. F. Safety calculations which have to be made per F.C.C. Rules for every amateur radio station.

<http://www.cs.utexas.edu/users/kharker/rfsafety>

PUBLIC SERVICE NOTES

West Valley Amateur Radio Club will be furnishing communicators on Saturday, April 1, 2000 for the Sun City 40th Anniversary Parade and for the Sun City Grand Triathlon on May 31, 2000. If you would like to volunteer your assistance, please call John Kornbeck, 623-566-2018.

There were no problems to report with the Arizona Senior Olympics Millennium 2000 Games held March 4 - 5, 2000. The Sunday 20K Bike Ride was cancelled due to bad weather. The following is a list of WVARC Volunteers and others that participated with communications for the Arizona Senior Olympics Millennium 2000 Games:

Fred Jones	Tim Hayes	Tom Watts	Ed Barranger
Dan Pierson	Ted Zeblisky	Loyd Waite	Chuck Bailey
Marilyn Waite	Charles Buell	Pete Pederson	Harold Zabel
Rich Haworth	Lee Drake	Marilyn Atherton	Bob McKinney
Bert Davidson	Jean Rigtrup	Allen Heneman	J. Curtis Kovacs
Ray Sumner	Al Diebel	Bob Moyer	Bill Lewis
Shirley Moyer	Bill Carter	Joe Nowakowski	Ted Walker
Del Young	Mit Thompson	George Hands	John Kornbeck
Cal Redburn	Bob Hunt	David Smith	Reuben Deerhake
Flora Rutledge	Jack Dow		

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.

CQDX de Frank Smith AH0W OH2LVG

Just as you're receiving your copy of Short Skip, there are two new DX entities now exciting the airwaves in big way with large teams of excellent operators and big signals.

Chesterfield Reef is now QRV with an international team headed up by Martti Laine OH2BH signing TX0DX (IOTA OC-176). Aim your beam towards the New Caledonia Islands for this one. The team is QRV on all bands including 50 meters. Look at www.n4gn.com/tx0dx/ for further information.

Also a new entity is East Timor using a new prefix 4W. Look for 4W6UN and 4W6MM. In addition a team is headed that way with operators from the USA, Finland and Portugal signing 4W6DX. QSL this one via OH2BN. Your DX Editor has learned that there may also be a German team activating this new one in the near future.

The Chinese Taipei Amateur Radio League has announced a large scale DXpedition to Pratas Island as BQ9P in April headed up by Paul BV4FH.

In other DX, look for several Finnish operators from Juan Fernandez CE0Z/homecalls. Also, Western Sahara is expected to be QRV as S01A, S05R and S0RASD next month.

Look also for Burkina Faso XT by F5RJY, Togo as 5V7MN, Tunisia Iota operations as 3V9BT, Sri Lanka 4S by NZ9Z, Toten Island (Tanzania) 5I3A and 5I3B, Iran by EP2FM and EP2ES, Ilha das Canarias (SA-072) by various PS8's, Antarctica as KC4AAA, Bonaire PJ4 by HB9BCK, Willis Island as WK9WI and much more. Look also for a special event station IR0MA celebrating the birth of Roma, QRV April 21-30.

Keep in mind that the Visalia International DX Convention will be held April 14-16 and the Dayton HamVention will be May 19-21. Once again, our own Chuck Bailey W7YU will be honored as the only person to attend all Visalia Conventions since its inception. Congrats again Chuck!

In closing, there was an interesting note by Carl Smith N4AA, Editor of QRZ DX? and the DX Magazine, honoring Bob Denniston as the "inventor of the DXpedition" and former president of both the ARRL and IARU. Bob recently was QRV as VP2VI/52 to celebrate the 52nd anniversary of his 1948 DXpedition to the Bahamas. He used much of the same equipment as in 1948, including the same key and rigs. That DXpedition had its own name, in fact, which was "Gon Waki". Some of Bob's friends contended that he had "gone wacky" to make such a distant trip all for ham radio!

Best 73, GD DX and CU in the Pileups!

SOME SORT OF LOGICAL APPROACH TO ELIMINATING TVI

NOTE Many good books are out there discussing interference. I have found the FCC bulletin CIB-2 Interference Handbook and the Interference Handbook by: William Orr and William Nelson excellent resources. You may want to include these in your shack's library.

You are experiencing TVI, what do you do? Well, here are a few ideas to help you reduce or eliminate the problem.

The process is time consuming and irritating to non-Hams that you recruit to help you. But keep going in a logical one step at a time process. Document your successes and failures, this will help you decide what needs to be eliminated or replaced or what filters to buy.

1. Disconnect all TV's from any interior or exterior antennas, cable systems, satellite systems, VCR's, etc. In other words, only have the tv connected to power.

*******IMPORTANT*******

Have you installed any new gadgets? Fish tank warmer, pump, light dimmer, water softener, heater timer, lighting, new environmentally friendly lights etc ect. These items may exacerbate the interference. If possible determine if any of the non-ham gadgets may be the source of your problem?

2. Turn on all the TV's and transmit as you would normally do on your problem frequency or frequencies.
3. Determine if you are getting TVI with only the TV's on. If you do, try reversing the AC line cord if not polarized. You can also try an AC line filter.
4. This step is also important...examine your radio station carefully. Look for: loose or corroded coax connectors, bad coax, a mess of cables hanging off the table (CLEAN IT UP!) Organize your rat's nest of cables into 3 bunches, power, audio, and RF. Check your antenna system, good grounds? That's dc, ac, and rf grounds. Enough radials? How far from the TV antenna? or signal entrance? Swr ok? A random wire antenna with a tuner Produces more TVI than any other type. Ok you get the idea...
5. You now have a choice. If you do have TVI at this point, you can either try a low pass filter at the transmitter, or move to the high pass filters.
6. Back to the TV's. Connect the closest set to your station. While operating determine if you have TVI. Remember you still do not have any antenna connected to the TV under test. With the broad tuning and plastic non rf shielding in today's TV's you may become frustrated ...but hang in there. If you do have TVI, adjust the low pass filter, and/or retune your antenna. If using a high pass filter [I suggest the MFJ-711] hook it up now. If the TVI goes away, try all you other TV's When all the TV's are tested, hook up your exterior antenna or cable system to one of the "clean" TV's. Start testing again...and so forth.
7. When your TVI is eliminated at one TV, keep going. Add one item at a time until you have all your Tv's and accessories connected.

Each situation is different due to the many variables such as length of TV cables run, type TV etc. Ham gear used etc. So, good luck and be sure to share your successes with us and your local Ham Club tech committee.

SUGGESTED FILTERS:

MFJ-711 high pass filter
Bencher high & low pass filters
TCE labs 830-4575 BX-2 filter
Ventronics LP-2500

73, Marty, KA7GKN [the arm chair troubleshooter]

WANTED: Don't throw away your old or obsolete computer, monitor, dot matrix printer, mother boards or misc. hardware. A group in Sun City West will repair and see that it gets to some young person as their first home computer. Call the coordinator, Bill Nelson, 623-214-0112 for information; they will pick up.

FOR SALE:

TRIPPLITE Model PV-1000FC DC to AC Inverter, frequency controlled. 1000 watt capacity 12/13.8 Volt DC to 110/117 Volt AC Brand New, never out of the original carton. Complete with instruction booklet and schematic. NOTE: This unit is NOT designed for use with devices having capacity start motors. Firm price is \$ 50.00
Contact Bert Davidson - W2GOB at (623) 584-6260.

Miscellaneous vacuum tubes

For more information contact: Sid Wugalter at (602) 266-7721