



West Valley Amateur Radio Club, Inc

P O BOX 1573 Sun City, Arizona 85372

SHORT SKIP

SHORT SKIP is published monthly (except July and September) by WVARC. Deadline for items is 2nd Saturday of previous month. Mail to Post Office Box 1573 Sun City AZ 85372. Email: shortskip@yahoo.com

CLUB OFFICERS

Pres	Don Bastien	K7UGO	623-412-0223
V-Pres	David Cain	AC7CS	623-910-4191
Sec'y	Ellsworth Campbell	AA7TU	623-975-0646
Treas	Marilyn Waite	N7DFH	623-972-0300
Past-Pres	Stan Swartz	K7PLO	623-933-4073

CLUB DIRECTORS

Phil Walker	W1PW	SC	623-815-9010
Rich Haworth	W7MDQ	SC	623-933-2191
Del Young	W7EOY	SCW	623-584-2534
Ron Rasmussen	K6OP	SCW	623-546-5710

Club Web Page: <http://www.qsl.net/wvarc>
 SHORT SKIP Editor: Ellsworth Campbell 623-975-0646
 e-mail: shortskip@yahoo.com

WVARC CALENDAR

Saturday	June 5	VE Exams, DeVry	7:45 AM
Monday	June 7, July 5	Monthly Meeting	St. Clement Catholic Church Social Hall 7 PM (15800 Del Webb Blvd, Sun City)
Saturday	June 12, July 10	Club Breakfast	Lou's Tivoli Gardens 8 AM
Wednesdays		2 meter Newsline Net	147.30 MHz 6:45 PM
Thursdays		Breakfast, Coco's	98 th Avenue & Bell Road 9:00 AM
Daily		Call-in Net	147.30 MHz 9:00 AM

PREZ SEZ ----- Don K7UGO

Is it me or is it getting HOT !!! This is the time when our winter visitors head north to cooler temperatures for the summer months. I say to them "Travel safe, 73 to all, & you will be missed until your return."

Designs for our club logo have been turned in and the Board of Directors have been working day & night without food nor sleep, for 17 days (well.., maybe not) trying to decide which designs should be selected for the members approval. at the June meeting, Club members will get the opportunity to vote on the design they think best represents the WVARC.

On April 5, 2004 Sonoran Sky Elementary School in Scottsdale made history. Call sign KA7SKY, Carrie Cunningham and 14 of her students made contact with and spoke to Michael Foale, an American astronaut on the International Space Station; call sign NA1SS; via amateur radio. It took seven years, thousands of dollars, and a lot of persistence; but it finally happened. Come to the June 7th meeting and hear her story. You will also get to hear the entire eight minute Q & A between the students and their American friend in space.

73 Don K7UGO

FCC LICENSE EXAMS

Next exam session at DeVry University Saturday June 5, Exams start at 7:45 AM and all tests must be concluded by 9:45 AM. Check-in at the Library on the second floor, southeast corner of the School. Bring photo ID and the original operator license and CSCEs and photocopies of each if applicable. ARRL VEC Exam Fee is \$12 for all elements taken once. An additional fee applies for a retest of any element. Retest is at the option of the VEs. **Pay fee by check to ARRL/VEC or exact amount in cash – Volunteer Examiners cannot make change.**

The May 1st session at DeVry – 7 candidates were examined:

- 4 earned Technician licenses
- 1 Failed Technician
- 2 earned General Credit

Administering VEs

Robert Miner KA7NPQ Liaison

VE Team:

Glenn Wade - N7JWF
Edward H. Beyer - WU7A
Harold Taylor – W7HVT
Robert Knight – N7LPD
Robert Fairfield – K7RQN
Michael Smith – K7MMB
Kenneth J. Peloquin – N7PHO
Shelly Newman – AB7LQ
David Morrill N7TWT
Joseph Cutitta W0SLL
Richard Koch - W7DIC
Dwight Yard – KB7KON

Thank you to **Glenn Wade – N7JWF** for work on our new CD Player we use for the Code Tests

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Palmer C Byrne W7NMD Surprise
Ed Davis KC7CHI Sun City

EXPIRING LICENSES

KC7CHI Ed Davis April
W6YLJ Chuck Imsande May
KA7DSY Roland Ripplinger July
WA2CDR Walter Carroll Jr July
KB0PAG John Helgesen July
KC7FWN Robert Giles Sept
KC7FQI Julie Wade Sept
KA6SPY Jack Horner Sept
W2YGT Ted Zeblysky Sept

Wanted

Aprox. 50'crankup tubular tower. Needs to tilt over at about 6' above ground. Frank Farmer N7NTT, 623-566-4591

For Sale

Cushcraft R6000 Multiband Vertical Antenna. Covers: 6, 10, 12, 15, 17, & 20 meters. Power capability: 1,500 watts. Height: 19 feet. Brand New - Still in Box. Paid \$300.00; Asking \$200.00. Contact: Don, K7UGO 623-412-0223.

Laptop Computer IBM ThinkPad Pentium II, Windows ME. Works great - No sound card \$200. Ron K60P, 623-546-5710

Tower MA40 WMAF40 Tilt \$300, HT RS202 w/charge \$50, Ant. Mag Mount 2 M \$5.00; Key Autronic bug \$20; Key (like Speedex) \$5.00; Headset Sony DR5A \$15; HT Icom IC2AT w/dc1 no ant \$20; HT IC3AT w/bp3 bat no ant \$20.

Tower may be seen at 10902 Oakmont, Sun City. Call Dan Koontz for appointment (623)374-4021.

Other Items Call Stan K7PLO (623)933-4073.

SERVICES

Towers and antennas removed by Bob Pistone, K1KIV. Call 623-546-3646. (He's equipped; most of us are not).

New Summer Hours at W7ASC!

Since the "Snow Birds" are starting to leave for cooler climates we will be going to 10:00AM - 3:00PM shifts starting Memorial day (Monday May 31) through to Labor Day (Monday September 6th). Only one shift per day and two volunteers per shift. This will reduce our coverage from 54 hours per week (during the School year) to 35 hours (Summer schedule). Even with this we need new volunteers. Spread the word at your Ham Club! Call Bob at 480-961-1109 and volunteer now! A Volunteer sign-up page is available at www.w7asc.org.

NEEDED Net Control Operators for the Morning West Valley Call In Net!

Please take a little time and become a Net Control Operator on the 9:00 AM daily West Valley Call In Net held on the 147.300 MHz West Valley repeater. Call Lee Chrisman AB7HW 480-483-6584 or email me at ab7hw@arrl.net.

West Valley Radio Club members need your help so volunteer today!

NOTE--Deadline for providing input to the next Short Skip is Friday July 16

SUMMER CONVENTIONS

There will be lots of Ham meetings at really scenic Arizona places in June, July, and August

Take your RV to the White Mountains the first weekend of June. There are also good and plenty overnight accommodations in Show Low and Pinetop. If you missed the announcement in the May Short Skip here it is again:

Second Annual White Mountains Hamfest. Sponsor: Kachina Amateur Radio Club, Friday, Saturday June 4, June 5 Location: Blue Ridge High School Lakeside Arizona, Between Show Low and Pinetop Admission \$1.00 per person. Free RV parking. Website: www.whitemtnhamfest.com

Spend Independence Day week end in Williams, the self proclaimed "Gateway To The Grand Canyon". The ARRL **Arizona State Convention and Hamfest** will be held at the Williams Rodeo Grounds. The gates open 2 PM, Thursday, July 1; the Commercial Hall opens at Noon Friday, July 2. Activities end 1 PM Sunday. License examinations, drawing and a barbeque dinner are some of the events. And there will be a Ladies Refuge if needed. The Central Arizona DX Association will host a hospitality suite at the Holiday Inn on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday beginning at 4 PM. The historic city is delightful. Motels have offered special rates to convention visitors. The RAILSIDE RV RANCH offers dry camping for \$15 for the weekend. Get a full hookup for about \$25 a day. The Grand Canyon Railroad runs right by the campground. And Route 66 is close by so you can get your kicks!
Website: <http://www.arca-az.org/arca/>

Filing FCC Applications

All amateur applicants must have and use an FRN when filing a Form 605 with the FCC. Applicants attending VEC test sessions can still supply a Social Security number, which will result in automatic Commission Registration System (CORES) registration.

Applicants not yet registered in CORES and filing on paper will need to file FCC Form 160, CORES Registration to obtain a FCC Registration Number (FRN). The completed Form 160 goes to a unique Washington, DC, FCC address to obtain the applicant's FRN. Once the FCC issues an FRN to the applicant, this number must be used when filing FCC Form 605, which goes to the FCC's Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, office. The two forms may **not** be mailed to Gettysburg together.

Form 605 is available via the FCC's Fax Information System, 202-418-0177. You can also obtain paper copies of Form 605 from the FCC Forms Distribution Center by phone, toll-free, 800-418-3676.

For more information or assistance, contact the Federal Communications Commission, 1270 Fairfield Rd, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245, call the FCC Consumer Center, toll-free, 888-CALLFCC (888-225-5322) and select option 2, or e-mail FCCDMD@fcc.gov.

You may avoid filing Form 160. ARRL members may submit a Form 605 to ARRL/VEC. Others may send the form to W5YI POBox 565101 Dallas TX 75365 with a \$6.00 application fee. *From ARRL Letter April 12, 2004*

AMSAT Oscar-E project (ECHO) is still planned for launch this summer. The proposed frequencies for the FM voice repeater mode will be: uplink 145.920 MHz with a 67Hz PL tone and 435.225 MHz downlink, one watt minimum. The transmitter power is controlled automatically by software and may be as high as six watts output when sufficient DC power is available.

Currently there are several LEO satellites awaiting launch: KiwiSat from New Zealand, BlueSat from Australia, VUSat from India. I anticipate that more LEO satellites will be developed in the near future.

73's Robert K7RQN AMSAT-NA

INTERNATIONAL INVOLVEMENT!

At the May members meeting our guest speaker, John Jackson - N9BTM, did a presentation on ham radio equipment needs for some of the small villages in the country of Nicaragua. If you have any amateur radio equipment; such as spare antennas, cable, radios, towers; or extra tools that you think might come in handy for those amateurs in Nicaragua, contact John Jackson and make your donation. The next shipment to Nicaragua; via the Wisconsin Partners; will be in July. You will receive a letter stating the donation has gone to a non-profit organization, John Jackson - N9BTM Home: 602-938-0801. Work: 602-436-4794 Email: john.jackson6@honeywell.com

RADIO COMMUNICATIONS TEST

Wednesday morning, April 21, the radio communications test was conducted. The locations that the hospital assigned to use all worked out with no communication problems. In May or June we will be called on again to do a similar test at Boswell Hospital.

The hospitals take these tests very seriously, which means we need volunteers to do these tests.

The following people were present.

Donald Bastien	K7UGO
Jerry Ferguson	WF7F
Richard Haworth	W7MDQ
Paula Jones	KD7TNB
Dick Murphey	W7DIC

BOOK REVIEW

Signor Marconi's Magic Box: The Most Remarkable Invention of the 19th Century & the Amateur Inventor Whose Genius Sparked a Revolution

Gavin Weightman, 291 pages plus photographs;
© 2003 Da Capo Press, ISBN 0-306-81275-4

The sentence-long title shouts Weightman's assessment of Guglielmo Marconi. The author is an English documentary filmmaker and a journalist. He presents extensive results of his researches to argue that Marconi was not a scientist but an experimenter who did not understand electromagnetic radiation principles but had the good fortunes to be born at the right time, to the right parents, and to make the right guesses. Weightman shows that Marconi was a talented and careful craftsman, and a dedicated entrepreneur who put business enterprises before family. Weightman also regrets Marconi's avid support of Mussolini.

The right time: In 1893, Professor Oliver Lodge showed that a coherer could detect Hertzian waves. He became more interested in spiritualism and further research reached a dead end. Telegraphy over wire using Morse code had been instituted and undersea cables were in place.

The right parents: Marconi's father was a wealthy Italian landowner; his mother was the daughter of the wealthy Irish distiller of Jameson's Irish whiskey. He was tutored in both Italian and English languages and spoke English with an upper class accent. His physical appearance and speech gave him an air of credibility in Europe and anglophile North America.

Hertz had announced the existence of so called Hertzian or electromagnetic waves in 1887 when Marconi was 13 years old. The teenager was caught up in the widespread interest in electricity and began reading what was published and experimenting in an attic laboratory in his father's villa.

Marconi envisioned the possibility of telegraphy without wires. The coherer would light a lamp when a pulse of e-m hit it. The lamp remained lit after the pulse was gone because the particles remained clumped. He added a hammer to tap the particles apart and so extinguish the lamp. Now a sender

could transmit pulses of dots and dashes through the air – a receiver could display them for decoding. Marconi developed a working receiver by 1896. Devices built by or for him were notable for careful craft and attention to pleasing appearance.

Marconi's vision was not informed by the science of the time. His aim was to exchange telegraphic messages between stations separated by thousands of miles. Ships at sea could always be in contact with shore stations. He built powerful transmitters to drive physically large antennas mounted on high towers sited on high hills to improve the separation distance. He was bemused by the observation that signals could be sent further at night than during daylight hours.

Contemporaneous scientists opined that since e-m waves traveled in straight lines signals would only be close to the earth's surface for tens of miles. However electrical engineer Arthur Kennelly and physicist Oliver Heaviside explained the observation by suggesting there might be a reflective layer in the upper atmosphere and conductive seawater also reflected e-m waves. Marconi had made a good guess.

Telegraphic communication among land stations and sea-going stations was Marconi's only interest. In 1908 Hugo Gernsback packaged a spark gap transmitter and a coherer receiver and sold it for \$7.50 as the Telimco Telegraph Outfit. Boys and young men snapped them up, got on the air, and started a new hobby. Many hobbyists later became operators at Marconi installations.

More good fortune: In 1909, the ocean liners Republic and Florida collided 175 miles east of Ambrose Light with 3600 passengers aboard. The Republic was severely damaged below its waterline and in danger of sinking. The shipboard Marconi radio operator broadcast the distress call "CQD" and the ship's position. Nearby ships heard the call and rushed to assist, shore facilities were made ready to deal with needs of the rescued people. No lives were lost. Everyone heaped praises on Marconi and came to see radio as a necessary device for ships. The non-scientist Marconi was awarded the Nobel prize for Physics that year.

The Marconi family was to sail on the Titanic. Because of the son's illness they had to forego the sailing. From shore, the disappointed children watched the lucky passengers sail away.