



# 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](mailto:shortskip@yahoo.com)

CLUB OFFICERS				CLUB DIRECTORS			
Pres	Don Bastien	K7UGO	623-412-0223	Phil Walker	W1PW	SC	623-815-9010
V-Pres	David Cain	AC7CS	623-561-6228	Rich Haworth	W7MDQ	SC	623-933-2191
Sec'y	Ellsworth Campbell	AA7TU	623-975-0646	Del Young	W7EOY	SCW	623-584-2534
Treas	Marilyn Waite	N7DFH	623-972-0300	Ron Rasmussen	K6OP	SCW	623-546-5710
Past-Pres	Stan Swartz	K7PLO	623-933-4073				

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

## WVARC CALENDAR

Saturday	May 1	VE Exams, DeVry	7:45 AM
Monday	May 3	Monthly Meeting	St. Clement Catholic Church Social Hall 7 PM (15800 Del Webb Blvd, Sun City)
Saturday	May 8	Club Breakfast	Lou's Tivoli Gardens 8 AM
Wednesdays		2 meter Newsline Net	147.30 MHz 6:45 PM
Thursdays		Breakfast, Coco's	98 <sup>th</sup> Avenue & Bell Road 9:00 AM
Daily		Call-in Net	147.30 MHz 9:00 AM

### PREZ SEZ ----- Don K7UGO

First of all I would like to welcome the newest member of the Board of Directors; Marilyn, N7DFH, as our new Treasurer. She has several years experience as a Treasurer from another organization similar to ours so she will be a great asset to the club. Welcome aboard!

Did you know that our club does not have a club logo? Well, we are having a club logo design competition in order to come up with a logo that would best represent the WVARC. Look inside this newsletter for the details or you can go to the club web site at <http://www.qsl.net/wvarc>.

Our program for May will be a presentation about ham radios and the country of Nicaragua. The presenter is John Jackson, N9BTM. Nicaragua is the poorest country in Central America; the per-capita income is less than \$1,000 a year. He will be talking on how vital amateur radio equipment and communications are in order to help these people survive. For example; trying to locate medicine for someone in a remote village and provide the only communications for the local fire department. It should be interesting.

73 Don K7UGO

# WVARC

## Club Logo Competition

1. Design must be submitted on 8 1/2" x 11" paper. Be sure to have your name and call sign on it.
2. Final design can be any shape which fits within a 6" x 6" square. (Round, square, triangle, oval, etc.)
3. Design must have at least one of the following within it:
  - a. "West Valley Amateur Radio Club".
  - or
  - b. The initials "WVARC".
4. Something that shows we are an Amateur Radio Club should be within the design.
5. Submit your designs at or before the May 3rd members meeting. You can turn in your designs to any Board member.
6. WVARC Board of Directors will narrow down the number of designs to six entrants. Then, at the June 7th members meeting, the members present will vote on the design that they feel would best represent the West Valley Amateur Radio Club. The person who created the winning design will receive a \$25.00 gift certificate for Chili's Restaurant.

Good Luck.

### FCC LICENSE EXAMS

Next exam session at DeVry University Saturday May 1. 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 for 2004 remains at \$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 revised Element 3 (General Class Written exam) question pool will be used after June 30, 2004 at exam sessions.

The April 3 session at DeVry – 9 candidates were examined:

- 1 Passed Element 1 Code
- 2 earned Technician licenses
- 2 earned General
- 1 earned General Credit
- 1 earned Extra license
- 1 earned Extra Credit
- 1 Renewal

### Administering VEs

Robert Miner KA7NPQ Liaison

### VE Team:

Edward H. Beyer - WU7A  
 Harold Taylor – W7HVT  
 Robert Fairfield – K7RQN  
 Glenn Wade - N7JWF  
 Michael Smith – K7MMB  
 Robert Knight – N7LPD  
 Richard Koch –W7DIC  
 Charles R. Wallace – W1OSV  
 Shelly Newman – AB7LQ  
 Richard Piggott – WB2LKU  
 Kenneth J. Peloquin – N7PHO  
 Joseph Cutitta – W0SLI  
 David Morrill – N7TWT

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Larry D Cummings	KD7YMI	Sun City
Barbara Lewis	N8KGF	Sun City
Bob Lewis	W8RCL	Sun City

Consult online Roster for address/phone.

### ADDRESS CHANGE

Ted Walker KJ7V Sierra Vista AZ  
 Consult online Roster for address/phone.

### LICENSE EXPIRATIONS

KC7CMM	Bob Moyer	May
W6YLJ	Chuck Imsande	May
KC8PJ	Steve Early	May
AC7CS	David Cain	May
N7CXZ	Ellery Cadiz	May
K7VCI	Richard Jackson	June
AB7HW	Richard Lee Chrisman	June
N7DFH	Marilyn Waite	July

KA7DSY	Roland Ripplinger	July
WA2CDR	Walter Carroll Jr	July
KB8ZL	Tom Cain	July
KB0PAG	John Helgesen	July
N7DFH	Marilyn Waite	July
KA7DSY	Roland Ripplinger	July
WA2CDR	Walter Carroll Jr	July
KB8ZL	Tom Cain	July
KB0PAG	John Helgesen	July

**A NEW MORSE CHARACTER**

The "@" character was added to the International Morse Code character set by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) last December. The new character, to be known as the "commat", combines the letters "A" and "C" sent as didadaditdadit. Telegraphers can now send e-mail addresses. Morse code has been around since the 1830s when Samuel Morse invented the telegraph. Individual countries and industries developed their own codes and 1866 the International Telegraph Convention agreed on the International Morse Code for landline telegraphy. A wireless convention was held in 1904. The ITU became the current International Telecommunications Union in 1934 and a United Nations agency in 1947. The commat is the first change to the code in more than 75 years

Digital communication technologies - cell phones, satellites, and the Internet - have replaced the Code in world communications. "There's really no reason to use it anymore," says Robert Colburn, a researcher for the History Center of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. However, Morse Code communication is still a vital part of Ham Radio.

**LEARNING THE CODE, BEFORE THE PC**

Learning the code primarily consisted of drills in receiving series of characters. The challenge usually was finding some one or some device to send code sequences to the trainee. Most individuals probably started out with a self-training course on a set of phonograph records. One could very quickly memorize the records and find his progress halted. Since there were many different courses, one could trade his course for a different course another trainee might have.

Before World War 2, before phonograph courses for the Ham market, code courses were offered with tape machines. An ad for the Instructograph first appeared in QST in 1934. The company advertised in ARRL publications until a little after 1980. The Instructograph Company was located in Chicago and Los Angeles. Their machines had trained thousands of telegraphers for the military and commerce since 1923.

**Learn Code the EASY Way**

*Beginners, Amateurs and Experts alike recommend the INSTRUCTOGRAPH, to learn code and increase speed.*

**MACHINES FOR RENT OR SALE**

Learning the INSTRUCTOGRAPH way will give you a decided advantage in qualifying for Amateur or Commercial examinations, and to increase your words per minute to the standard of an expert. The Government uses a machine in giving examinations.

Motor with adjustable speed and spacing of characters on tape permit a speed range of from 3 to 40 words per minute. A large variety of tapes are available - elementary words, messages, plain language and coded groups. Also an "Airways" series for those interested in Aviation.

**MAY BE PURCHASED OR RENTED**  
The INSTRUCTOGRAPH is made in several models to suit your purse and all may be purchased on convenient monthly payments if desired. The machine monthly may be rented on very reasonable terms and if when renting you should decide to buy the equipment the first three months rental may be applied in full on the purchase price.

**ACQUIRING THE CODE**  
It is a well-known fact that practice and practice alone constitutes ninety per cent of the entire effort necessary to "Acquire the Code," or in other words, learn telegraphy either wire or wireless. The Instructograph supplies the thirty per cent. It takes the place of an expert operator in teaching the student. It will send slowly at first, and gradually faster and faster, until you are just naturally copying the fastest sending without conscious effort.

**BOOK OF INSTRUCTIONS**  
Other than the practice afforded by the Instructograph, all that is required is well directed practice instruction, and that is just what the Instructograph's "Book of Instructions" does. It supplies the remaining ten per cent necessary to acquire the code. It directs one how to practice to the best advantage, and how to take advantage of the few "short cuts" known to experienced operators, that so materially assist in acquiring the code in the shortest possible time. To receive the Instructograph, the tapes and the book of instructions is everything needed to acquire the code as well as it is possible to measure it.



*The Instructograph*

**ACCOMPLISHES THESE PURPOSES:**

**FIRST:** It teaches you to receive telegraph symbols, words and messages.

**SECOND:** It teaches you to send perfectly.

**THIRD:** It increases your speed of sending and receiving after you have learned the code.

With the Instructograph it is not necessary to depend on your friends. It is always ready and waiting for you. You are also free from QRM experienced in listening through your receiver. This machine is not as valuable to the licensed amateur for increasing his speed as to the beginner who wishes to obtain his amateur license.

**Postal Card WILL BRING FULL PARTICULARS IMMEDIATELY**

**THE INSTRUCTOGRAPH CO.**

5071-N NORTH BROADWAY  
4700-N S. CRENSHAW BLVD.

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60640  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90043

41

Ad from the ARRL Handbook 1969 courtesy AE0Q

The Instructograph machine taught both the International Morse and American Morse Codes. International Morse uses a tone oscillator and American Morse uses a telegraph sounder that produces clicks. The ad shows the machine rigged for instruction of International Morse as used for wireless messaging.

The company sold and rented the machines. Each was shipped with ten spools of perforated tape that comprised the code for the course. The perforations opened and closed a pair of contacts that keyed the oscillator or sounder. Tape was transported by a 110 VAC motor or a spring wound phonograph motor. Code speed could be varied from 5 to 45 words per minute. The machine could be ordered with an AC line or battery powered oscillator or the student could supply his own tone unit. Two keys could be hooked up for sending practice between buddies. The 48 page manual gave directions for using, adjusting, and maintaining the machine. Instructions on how to study and a printout of the lessons were included.

More reminiscences about code trainers can be found at [www.qsl.net/ae0q](http://www.qsl.net/ae0q) and [www.n4mw.com/cpo.htm](http://www.n4mw.com/cpo.htm).

**NOTE--Deadline for providing input to the next Short Skip is Saturday May 15**

### Dan Pierson W6NTX puts Ham Radio on the front page!

We're assuming that if you take the *Daily News-Sun* you saw the front page full color picture of Dan in his "shack", and read the accompanying lengthy article. Most of the article dealt with the FCC's newly approved BPL (broadband – over-power - lines) data transmission. Thanks for introducing this issue to the public, Dan, and for the very positive face you put on Ham Radio!

### CONGRATULATIONS TO UPGRADERS

Earl Woody KD7ZXU Technician

### AN EXPRESSION OF THANKS

The WVARC extends its thanks and appreciation to Steve Mack, KA7AXT for the cash donation April 3.

### HAM FESTS

CARA Spring Hamfest May 1  
Cochise Amateur Radio Club  
Moson Road Sierra Vista AZ  
[www.qsl.net/k7rdg/Hamfest2004.htm](http://www.qsl.net/k7rdg/Hamfest2004.htm)

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.  
[www.whitemtnhamfest.com](http://www.whitemtnhamfest.com)

### SELECTED SPECIAL EVENTS

W1AW/90 - The Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial station at ARRL Headquarters, W1AW, will sign with a special designator "/90" through the rest of 2004. The call sign reflects the 90th anniversary of the League's founding by Maxim and Clarence Tuska in 1914. Operation as W1AW/90 began on April 3. All possible modes, including RTTY, PSK31, Satellite and Hellschreiber will be used.

10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW May 1-May 2  
[www.ten-ten.org](http://www.ten-ten.org)

Indiana QSO Party May 1-May 2  
<http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/>

New England QSO Party May 1-May 2  
<http://www.neqp.org/>

### NOT YET A MEMBER OF WVARC?

For a membership application go to our website: [www.qsl.net/wvarc/](http://www.qsl.net/wvarc/), select "join" and then "application" Print out the Membership Application blank, fill it out, then mail it as directed or bring it to any Club meeting. Dues are \$15./yr.

### TECHNICIAN LICENSE CLASS!

This class, which will be taught by Dan Pierson W6NTX, will take place on nine Fridays, April 2 to May 28, from 7:00 – 9:00 PM. Classes will be held in the Sun City Sheriff's Posse building. There is no charge for the class. For further information call Dan at 623-546-2131.

### 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](http://www.w7asc.org).

Finally some progress on the satellite setup! John, WB2DIH, brought home the satellite controller and gave it an extreme cleaning and greasing as well as new ball bearings. Thanks to all of John's work (and some WD-40), the Rotor is repaired and will be reinstalled at W7ASC on Saturday April 17. We plan to have the Satellite setup fully functional early May. Updates to follow in the next ADAW!

A BIG THANKS to Ralph, KV0R and Roger, W9NCQ and others for their work in cleaning up the W7ASC Ham Shack (it was starting to look like MY shack ;o). Magazines and papers are organized and the wiring is now cleaned up under counters.

CARL is planning to have a table at the Williams Hamfest. If there are any W7ASC Volunteers that would like to help out manning the table please contact Ralph at 480-837-2183.