



WEST VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

P O BOX 1573 SUN CITY, ARIZONA 85372-1573

SHORT SKIP

SHORT SKIP is published monthly except July and September. Deadlines for items is second Saturday of previous month. Submission by electronic mail preferred; email: shortskip@yahoo.com. West Valley Amateur Radio Club, Inc. is an Arizona 501(c)(3) not for profit corporation. An ARRL Affiliated Club

CLUB OFFICERS				CLUB DIRECTORS		
President	David Cain	AC7CS	623-910-4191	Pat Lynch	K7NFB	623-544-9282
V-President	Steve McCully	W7TZ	602-320-8777	Ron Philips	AE6QU	602-369-4242
Secretary	Cindy Morrill	KD7JVW	623-925-0680	David Morrill	N7TWT	623-925-0680
Treasurer	Phil Walker	W1PW	623-298-5178	Stan Swartz	K7PLO	623-933-4073

Ellsworth Campbell AA7TU, Editor *in memoriam*
 email: shortskip@yahoo.com
 Club Web Page: <http://www.westvalleyarc.org>

WVARC CALENDAR

Monday	October 1	Monthly Meeting	St. Clement Catholic Church Social Hall 15800 Del Webb Blvd, Sun City	7:00 PM
Saturday	October 6	VE Exam Session	DeVry University 2149 W Dunlap Ave, Phoenix	7:45 AM
Saturday	October 13	Monthly Breakfast	Lou's Tivoli Gardens 14635 Del Webb Blvd Sun City	7:45 AM
Thursdays		Weekly Breakfast	Lou's Tivoli Gardens	8:00 AM
Daily		Call-in Net	147.300 MHz, Tone 162.2 Hz	9:00 AM

PREZ SEZ

It sounds like Phoenix is beginning to cool down a bit. From the looks of the calendar, our schedule of events is picking up for our usual fall activities. Of critical importance is the urgent need for a Short Skip Editor. Rich Piggott, WB2LKU, has filled this critical need for the summer issues, but cannot continue due to his many other WVARC club duties. Without an editor, our monthly Short Skip issues will disappear.

You will notice the announcement for Lady's Night Out and the reservation form in this issue. We greatly appreciate Cindy Morrill, KD7JVW, for volunteering as coordinator of Lady's Night Out and arranging for a menu at only \$17.00 per person. Let's have a great turnout this year!

We urgently need a coordinator for the annual auction. Some coordination needs to be started this month. Ken Solheim, WN7DRX, is willing to assist, but cannot continue to be the primary coordinator due to health problems.

Our annual auction is a key source of club funding and allows us to keep our dues at their current low rate. Please see any of the club officers if you can fill this position.

We also must have volunteers for the nominating committee. The slate of officers for 2008 must be announced in the November meeting. Besides the usual two board member positions that need filling each year, there are some officer positions that need to be filled. One of those vacancies will be the President position. Due to a number of obligations, I will not be available to run for President this next year. It will be good for the club to have someone with some fresh ideas and programs, since my idea reservoir is running dry.

For those of you who would like to contribute to the club's direction and activities, now is the time to volunteer. Apply to any of the club officers for the above urgent needs.

David Cain AC7CS

OCTOBER PROGRAM

Doors open 6:30 PM. Meeting starts 7PM

Monday October 1**INTRODUCTION TO SOFTWARE DESIGNED RADIO**

Presenter: Richard Faust K9IVB

Richard's seminar includes a presentation shown at Dayton 2007, slides and notes about the design and construction of a High Definition Software Designed Radio (HSDR). He will bring along his SDR project. Come and learn about radios put together with solder and software.

ELZIE CAMPBELL AA7TU MEMORIAL SERVICE

A memorial service for Editor Elzie will be held Saturday, October 6 at 1 PM at Lord of Life Lutheran Church 13724 West Meeker Blvd, Sun City West Arizona. Elzie died June 27 while visiting Ohio.

GEORGE HANDS KE7DH, HOSPITALIZED

George was the first president of WVARC which was incorporated in 1976. He was injured in a recent fall and will be in rehab through October. His daughter, Christine, writes that he welcomes cards and notes. Address them to him at Boswell Rehabilitation Center, Room 403-1, 10601 W Santa FE Dr, Sun City, Arizona 85351

FCC LICENSE EXAMS

Next exam session at DeVry University Saturday October 6th, 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 \$14 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.**

At the September 8th session at Arizona Science Center 11 candidates was examined. Ten earned General Class license and one failed General Class exam.

Administering VEs

David Morrill N7TWT Liaison

Kenneth Peloquin – N7PHO

Robert Gormley – WA1MHZ

Robert Miner KA7NPQ

Joe Cuttita W0SLI

Kelvin Graham KE7MCU

*David Morrill N7TWT***Expiring Licenses**

W4NKB	Kent Byrd	September
KA3RAR	Howie Weger	November
KC7ZZU	Charles Poulton	January
W1UGX	Joel Ekstrom	January
KC0XZ	June Snyder	January

Renew after 90 days before expiration date

SPECIAL EVENTS

Since the band conditions have been so poor, many of us wonder why should I even turn on the HF rig! That's what I thought, until I discovered Special Events (SE). After working a few I was hooked, it is as much fun as working DX or a contest. I find most of my information in QST magazine or on the ARRL web site (www.arrl.org) click on "operating activities", then "special events", and then click on the month. They will list the date, time of operation, the group and their call, operating frequencies, the reason for the special event, and the QSL information.

Another source for information is QRZ (www.qrz.com); but I found that you have to hunt for information on this site.

There are many different types of SE, some are group events such as "Museum Ship Weekend" mostly of the WWII area, Lighthouses on the air (LOTA), Islands on the air (IOTA) Jamboree on the air (JOTA), Route 66 weekend, many military open houses and air shows, and groups or clubs celebrating birthday's or anniversaries of their club, an event in history, or some famous person.

Here are some of the SE stations that I will be looking for in October: The Rocket Boys Festival, Historic Navy Ships, Birth of Daniel Boone Anniversary, Chisholm Trail Anniversary, National Wildlife Refuge Week, and Farm History Week.

Most of the SE stations will issue QSL cards and/or certificates with a SASE. I have received some nice 8.5x11 Photos as certificates. The last certificate I received was an 8.5x11 photo of the roll out of the new Boeing 787 Dreamliner.

So on weekends when you turn on your rig, seek out these Special Event Stations waiting for your call; work them and have fun!

Bruce Kabana WB7SRC

Share the pleasure of Ham Radio.

Write an article for Short Skip.

SATELLITES

The last quarter of 2007 starts in October, and also marks the 50th anniversary of the launching of Sputnik 1, the world's first artificial satellite. It was launched by the Soviet Union, October 4, 1957. The satellite weighed about 180 pounds, and was the size of a basketball. Sputnik 1 orbited the earth every 98 minutes on an elliptical path. Carrying a 1 watt transmitter, it lasted three weeks on three silver-zinc batteries. Amateurs around the world monitored the 20 and 40 MHz beacons. Signals from space were tuned in with a general coverage receiver at 20.005 Mhz, and were easily found next to the 20Mhz WWV signal. The United States successfully launched Explorer 1, on January 31, 1958, which was the beginning of NASA, and the "Space Race".

Amsat Oscar – Eagle

The next generation of high earth orbit amateur satellites is Eagle. It's now under construction by Amsat – North America, at a cost of \$600,000. The P3E satellite will provide many new and reliable communication services, on bands previously not available. Projected launch date: March 2009.

Amateur satellite status summary:

AO – 27: Semi-Operational

SO – 50: Operational

AO – 51: Operational

Satellite Orbit Data: Heavens-Above.com

Oscar satellite status: Oscar.dcarr.org/

Robert Fairfield K7RQN

Amsat – NA Satellite Area Coordinator

NEED COMPUTER HELP? (Ad)

Computer consultant: in-home tutoring, problem solving, hardware and software installations, virus detection and removal. Patient, professional with 30+ years in the computer field. Call Larry at L.E. Purchase Computer Consultants, Inc. 1-888-922-9295.

HAM HOME REAL ESTATE (Ad)

Are you or someone you know looking for a Ham Home? I can help you find a home with a tower or one where a tower can be added. Call or email me to get started. Richard Haworth W7MDQ Coldwell Banker Success Realty 602-370-1450 cell, rahaworth@cox.net

Wanted: Heathkits, (Amateur Radio related), and Manuals, Robert, K7RQN, 623 566-2320.

HUNTING AND FISHING FOR DX QSOs

Ever since I was a high school teenager I've been chasing DX stations on the HF bands. What got my blood rushing was the love of contacting people from different cultures with different ways of believing and perceiving the mystery of life!

My first DX QSO was as a novice on 15m CW when my very slow CQ was answered by SM6CAW¹. Wow! I could not think of anything more exciting in the world!

Now about 40 years later I still enjoy both hunting and fishing for DX QSOs. I go hunting by slowly tuning up and down the HF bands looking for signals that are generally weak and have QSB or have a bit of flutter to the signal. I go fishing for DX QSOs by finding a clear frequency and calling CQ DX. It is always fun to see who might come back to my CQ from some far away land.

There is a lot of good information on the Internet regarding finding and working DX stations. From my viewpoint there is no better way then to build your own experience base by getting on at different times, different bands and trying a combination of both hunting and fishing for DX.

The tip I hope to pass on is that you can work DX stations even if you don't have a great setup. Just get on the air and hunt or fish for DX. Sure the better your antenna system is then the easier it is to work DX. I QSO with many DX stations in Asia, Europe and South America that are running low power, between 5 watts and 100 watts, and only use a simple antenna such as a dipole, ground plane, or ground mounted vertical. The point I hope to make is that the important thing is to spend time getting on the air rather than thinking that you cannot work DX stations because you don't have the right equipment or antennas. I know many hams that have worked hundreds of countries using low power and simple mobile antennas, or antennas hidden up in their attic.

73, and Good DX, my friends,

Scotty W7SW

1. Ingemar Jakobson, Sweden

Closing date for material for next issue of

Short Skip is Saturday October 13, 2007

email: shortskip@yahoo.com

HAMFESTS & SWAPMEETS**Saturday October 20**

Annual Swapmeet opens at dawn

ARCA Meeting 11:00 AM

Sponsor: Old Pueblo Radio Club

Kino Sports Park, 2500 East Ajo Road

Tucson, Arizona

Talk-In: 147.30+ (PL 110.9)

Contact: John Clor, N7SQQ

Phone 520-400-6446

E-mail w7gv@aol.com

Saturday December 1

Sponsor: Superstition ARC

Contact: Ron McKee, AJ7T

773 West Tumbleweed Road

Gilbert, Arizona

480-539-5596, aj7t@cox.net

Talk-In: 147.12 (PL162.2)

Mesa Community College

1833 West Southern, Mesa Arizona

FIELD DAY 2007 AT W7ASC

Submitted by Bob Burleson KJ7QJ Vice-President C.A.R.L.

As all hams know, Field Day is intended as a demonstration and test of emergency communications that can be provided by the Amateur Radio community.

At the W7ASC Arizona Science Center Ham shack, now in its 11th year, we have an additional mission - to show guests to the Science Center a snapshot of Amateur radio and to provide a bit of the Ham radio experience.

So Field Day at W7ASC is something of a challenge to the 40 volunteers who man the shack. The W7ASC exhibit had an information table at the lobby entrance. Signs announced the Field Day event, and the Ham volunteers were available to greet every guest with handouts explaining the event, how they could participate, and information on obtaining their own Amateur License. A U.S. map displayed contact information in "real time" by map pins.

Two licensed Ham operators stopped by to experience the exhibit for the first time. 23 guests were 'awarded' the completion of their own contact and provided certificates and mementos to commemorate the event. The guests made contacts by voice and PSK digital modes. Coaching and scripts were provided by the 'old time' operators. Guests of all ages had the opportunity to try their "fists" at Morse code on the W7ASC shack code practice oscillators.

The Ham Shack operated 2D AZ, the "Attached to power lines" category, which is a disadvantage if one is trying to accumulate mega-points, or even bonus points for an info booth! The objective was to keep the action interesting to non-ham guests. As one volunteer operated the rigs, other volunteers were able to explain the situation and point out the many contacts that were being made. We all found that explaining the real QSO's was more meaningful to non-Hams than to try to explain a hypothetical scenario. And it worked! Guests were intrigued to see and hear actual contacts, and see the pins being placed on the map, representing the locations of the distant stations. Band conditions were far from ideal, but that did not matter when one considers the reason for having W7ASC in the Science Center. The score attained was far from the competitive range, but all operators knew that they had contributed to the Science Center mission, when the day came to a close.

Support from ASC staff hosts excelled. All wore little plastic ducks (Rubber Duckies) on the antennas of their portable staff radio antennas and "Happy Face" stickers to give to the kids that asked about the "Duckies".

A big "Thanks" to the Ham volunteers: Rick, KA0KZB; John, KC7KML; Jean, W4CIH; George, W7BXW; and Ralph, KV0R and to everyone on the Arizona Science Center staff for helping to make W7ASC Field Day a resounding success.

*Jean, W4CIH and Rick, KA0KZB
with editing by Bob KG7QJ*

C.A.R.L (CARL) NOTES

WVARC member Dave Pollack KF7WW started CARL in 1996. Ralph Barr W0DNO, a former WVARC president was CARL's first president. Members of Valley Ham clubs were welcomed to public organizing and planning sessions. Arizona Science Center officers did not believe the Ham station would be active more than six months. Volunteers are needed to staff the station that will be relocated to new, larger space in the Science Center. Help keep the Ham Shack going another ten years. To volunteer, contact: www.w7asc.org/signup.html.

SERVICE OFFER (Ad)

I can work for you doing antenna and tower work or as a Handyman doing odd jobs, and I am willing to take used equipment, if you prefer, as payment. I also buy used electronic and radio equipment. Please call Scotty Rathjen W7SW at (623) 214-3303 or send an email to w7sw@arrl.net