



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 Morrill	N7TWT	623-925-0680	Pat Lynch	K7NFB	623-544-9282
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Randall Helfrich KD7ZAA: Editor
 email: shortskip@yahoo.com
 Club Web Page: <http://www.westvalleyarc.org>

WVARC CALENDAR

Monday	February 4	Annual Auction	St. Clement Catholic Church Social Hall 15800 Del Webb Blvd, Sun City	5:30 PM
Saturday	February 9	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

Our annual WVARC auction is February 4th. Times for seller and buyer check-ins are listed elsewhere in the newsletter. For sellers, it helps greatly to have the auction lot tickets made out prior to arriving, but we will have tickets available for you if advance ticket completion is impractical. For buyers, just register for your "paddle" number at the door and get ready to have some fun. Remember that the Auction payout to the sellers will be made by check mailed to the seller within 14 days of the auction. This will relieve much of the frustration and delay experienced at the checkout tables and things will be smooth again this year. Let's all bring our extra gear and our money and have lots of fun. Ken

Solheim, WN7DRX still needs to have some one to work with him this year so they can take over the auction coordinator next year. We need this auction to continue for the betterment of the club so we need someone to take the auction leadership over for next year or there may not be one next year. The position functions are laid out on paper to make it easier and we always have a lot of help. Thank You to all of our volunteers in advance.

I hope all that went to the Westfest on January 12th had a great time it seem like a very good turnout and being indoors seemed to be really nice specially in the Winter time.

David Morrill N7TWT

FEBRUARY PROGRAM**Monday February 4**

Doors open 5:30pm, Seller Registration at 5:30, Bidder Registration at 6:30pm, Bidding starts at 7pm Sharp!

The West Valley Amateur Radio Club annual Ham Radio equipment auction. If you would like more information please see article later in newsletter.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Joseph Chan KI6MTQ Sun City
Elizabeth Chan KI6MTR Sun City
Richard Ryman KB9QXO Sun City

CALL SIGN CHANGE

Christopher Merlau WB2IVU was K7IVU

EXPIRING LICENSES

W8FWF	George Poland	March
WB7PKW	Lloyd Purcell	April
KF4NI	Ruby Byrd	April
AH6R	Carl Huie	April

Renew after 90 days before expiration date

NOTE: CORRECTION TO JAN 2008 SHORT SKIP

New member Evelyn Yakel's call sign is KA6VMH not KA6MVH.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS/NEW MEMBERS

Year 2007 memberships will expire January 31. The fourth line of the address block of the Short Skip mail envelope shows your membership year. Members whose 2008 dues payment accompanied with an application/renewal form reach the Treasurer by the February Club meeting will be listed on the WVARC website and in the 2008 Roster Booklet mailed to members' with the April 2008 Short Skip. Members whose dues are received after that date will be listed on the WVARC web site only. Application renewal forms will be available at meetings or may be downloaded from the web and printed.

TOM WATTS NY7S IN HOSPITAL

Tom Watts who was one of the original installers of the Club's repeaters in Boswell and Del Webb Memorial hospitals is a patient in Del Webb. He will undergo surgery and in-patient rehabilitation. Note cards and letters will be welcome. Send to 19844 Mountain Shadow Drive, Surprise Arizona, 85374.

UPCOMING HAMFESTS**Friday-Saturday February 15-16**

Yuma Hamfest & Electronics Expo

Sponsor:

Yuma Amateur Radio Hamfest Organization

Yuma County Fairgrounds

2520 E 32nd St Yuma, AZ

<http://www.yumahamexpo.com>

Talk-In: 146.840- (PL 88.5)

Contact: George Scott, III, K7YMA

2408 South Greenwood Avenue

Yuma, AZ 85364-6813

Phone: 928-314-0025

Fax: 928-314-0025 (On request)

Email: k7yma@roadrunner.com

Saturday March 8

Spring Hamfest

Scottsdale ARC and ARCA

ARCA meeting 11 AM

Location:

Scottsdale Community College

9000 East Chaparral Road

Scottsdale, Arizona

Talk-In: 147.18 (no tone)

Contact: Edwin Nickerson, WU7S

902 North 73rd Place

Scottsdale, AZ 85257-4302

Phone: 480-949-5162

Email: hamfest2008@aol.com

FCC LICENSE ADDRESS

Is your mailing address correct on your FCC license? The FCC has been canceling amateur radio licenses that have incorrect addresses. You had better get those addresses updated. FCC part 97.23 Mailing address: Each license grant must show the grantee's correct name and mailing address. The mailing address must be in an area where the amateur service is regulated by the FCC and where the grantee can receive mail delivery by the United States Postal Service.

Revocation of the station license or suspension of the operator license may result when correspondence from the FCC is returned as undeliverable because the grantee failed to provide the correct mailing address.

For more information go to the FCC website at: http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/index.htm?job=cft&iid=amateur&page=cft_change_address

David Morrill N7TWT

ANNUAL HAM RADIO EQUIPMENT AUCTION Monday Evening February 4

The West Valley Amateur Radio Club annual Ham Radio equipment auction will be held at the St. Clement of Rome Social Hall, 15800 N Del Webb Blvd., Sun City, Arizona. Seller registration starts at 5:30 pm, Bidder registration at 6:30 pm and the auction starts promptly at 7:00 pm. Sellers will need to fill out a Lot Ticket describing equipment being offered. The Lot Tickets will be available at Sellers registration. Starting in January 2008 the Lot Tickets will be available at the WVARC meeting, anytime from an officer or board member and at the Thursday morning breakfast at Lou's Tivoli Gardens. Lot Tickets may be mailed to your home, email your name and USPS address to

hamauction2008@gmail.com.

WVARC shall retain 10% of the selling price for auction items sold for the general benefit of the club. Sellers of items successfully auctioned will be paid their net proceeds by WVARC club check sent via mail within 14-days of conclusion of the auction. P.S. As in every year, we will need the help of volunteers. To help out, please email Ken Solheim (WN7DRX) at the above address or call 623-544-2827.

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; KE7JXQ at L.E. Purchase Computer Consultants, Inc. 1-888-922-9295 or 602-863-0502

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.

ANNUAL LADIES NIGHT WAS A SUCCESS

Eat, drink and be merry was the order of business for the Ladies Night Out Dinner held on Friday, November 9th at the Iron Works Restaurant off of Bell Rd. We had 43 club members, their spouses and family members join us for an evening that started at 6 p.m. And went till 8:45 p.m. We visited for about an hour and then dined on steak, chicken and two fish choices. Something for everyone. Our dinner was finished off with a velvety cheesecake.

Julian Dulge entertained us with soft music while we dined and at the end of the meal we enjoyed a sing along. It was fun for all and was hosted by Cindy Morrill and her two trusty helpers, Rosemary Kydd and Ken Peloquin. The ladies were treated to gifts of Cookies and Bars in a Jar.

At the end of the evening the Ham of the Year was announced. David Morrill and Cindy Morrill were the first team Hams of the Year. David was in the hospital so Phil Walker and Stan Schwartz were able to connect with him via cell phone, making it possible for him to listen to the award being announced.

It was an evening of fun, enjoying friends and family and making new friends. Ladies Night Out is a time to treat the ladies in the family that work with and or put up with the amateur radio hobby. So if you did not get to join us this year come enjoy this event next year.

Cindy Morrill KD7JVW

ARRL ARIZONA SECTION NEWS

After 32 years as WB7NXH, I broke down and applied for a vanity callsign that I really liked. The great news is that I got it. My new callsign is K7DF. Update your address books to k7df@arrl.org.

*Thomas J. Fagan, K7DF
ARRL Arizona Section Manager*

Closing date for material for next issue of

Short Skip is Saturday February 9, 2007

email: shortskip@yahoo.com

CYCLE 24 HERE, EXPERTS SAY

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With the appearance of Sunspot 981 -- a high-latitude, reversed polarity sunspot -- on Friday, January 4, experts at NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) said that Cycle 24 is now here. "This sunspot is like the first robin of spring," said solar physicist Douglas Biesecker of the Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC), part of NOAA. "In this case, it's an early omen of solar storms that will gradually increase over the next few years."

Solar physicist David Hathaway of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama concurred, saying that new solar cycles begin with a "modest knot" of magnetism, like the one that appeared on December 11 on the east limb of the Sun: "That patch of magnetism could be a sign of the next solar cycle. New solar cycles always begin with a high-latitude, reversed polarity sunspot." The region of magnetism that appeared back in December achieved high latitude (24 degrees North) and was magnetically reversed, but no supporting sunspot appeared until 25 days later. Reversed polarity describes a sunspot with opposite magnetic polarity compared to sunspots from the previous solar cycle. High-latitude refers to the Sun's grid of latitude and longitude. Old-cycle spots congregate near the Sun's equator; new-cycle spots appear higher, around 25 or 30 degrees latitude. Sunspot 981's high-latitude location at 27 degrees North and its negative polarity leading to the right in the Northern Hemisphere are clear-cut signs of a new solar cycle, according to NOAA experts. The first active regions and sunspots of a new solar cycle can emerge at high latitudes while those from the previous cycle continue to form closer to the equator. While experts vary in their predictions on when the solar cycle will peak and how strong it will be, NOAA, in April 2007, in coordination with an international panel of solar experts, predicted that the next 11-year cycle of solar storms "would start in March 2008, plus or minus six months, and peak in late 2011 or mid-2012." In the cycle forecast issued in April 2007, half of the panel predicted

a "moderately strong cycle of 140 sunspots, plus or minus 20, expected to peak in October 2011. The other half predicted a moderately weak cycle of 90 sunspots, plus or minus 10, peaking in August 2012. An average solar cycle ranges from 75 to 155 sunspots. The late decline of Cycle 23 has helped shift the panel away from its earlier leaning toward a strong Cycle 24. The group is evenly split between a strong and a weak cycle." NASA's Hathaway, along with colleague Robert Wilson at a meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco last month, said that Solar Cycle 24 "looks like it's going to be one of the most intense cycles since record-keeping began almost 400 years ago." They believe the next solar maximum should peak around 2010 with a sunspot number of 160, plus or minus 25. "This would make it one of the strongest solar cycles of the past fifty years -- which is to say, one of the strongest in recorded history." Four of the five biggest cycles on record have come in the past 50 years. "Cycle 24 should fit right into that pattern," Hathaway said. According to Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, "As for improvement in propagation on the higher bands, we still have a way to go before that happens, and it depends on the magnitude of Cycle 24. The Solar Cycle 24 Prediction Panel has published predictions for Cycle 24, but unfortunately the panel did not reach one consensus prediction. If the larger of the two predictions comes true, we should expect consistent F2 propagation on 10 and 12 meters to start toward the end of 2009. If the smaller prediction comes true, this will be delayed about one year."

Luetzelschwab, who writes the column "Propagation" for the National Contest Journal (NCJ), continued: "While we wait for improved high band conditions, don't forget the low bands. Around solar minimum and for the next year or so, the Earth's geomagnetic field is at its quietest. This is good for low band propagation. Thus, right now is the time to start (or add to) your 80 and 160 meter DXCC efforts." According to NASA's Tony Phillips, many forecasters believe Solar Cycle 24 will be big and intense. "Solar cycles usually take a few years to build to a frenzy and Cycle 24 will be no exception. We still have some quiet times ahead," says Hathaway.