



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. Deadline 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

Saturday	March 1	VE Exam Session	DeVry University 2149 W Dunlap Ave, Phoenix	9:00 AM
Monday	March 3	Monthly Meeting	St. Clement Catholic Church Social Hall 15800 Del Webb Blvd, Sun City	7:00 PM
Saturday	March 8	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

I must say thank you to everyone that came to the auction and all of the volunteers that made it a great night. The auction went quite well and everyone had a nice time. We did not have as many items as last year, but I know that Stan Swartz, K7PLO, was really busy selling the club items from the online list. We also had a very hard storm front move thru the Sun City area just before the auction start time, giving us hail and rain to talk about.

The auction lasted 2 Hrs, 55 Min. 30 seconds, during which 189 items were offered by our auctioneers. This works out to be 55.7 seconds per item offered! Eighteen sellers (including WVARC) offered equipment to be auctioned. Sixteen sellers (including WVARC) had equipment successfully auctioned. The other two did not sell their offered equipment. There were \$2,498.00 in total auction sales that were achieved. There will be a full tally of the auction results in the next Short Skip, after our

treasurer, Phil Walker, W1PW, finishes the many hours of paperwork.

A big thanks to the set-up and cleanup crew that started at 3:30, with some working until 11:00 pm, to restore order to the hall. There was a crew of 25-30 volunteers who made this auction happen.

Special recognition and thanks to our auction coordinator, Ken Solheim, WN7DRX, for arranging for such a great crew. I also want to thank Ken Peloquin N7PHO for assisting Ken Solheim, WN7DRX, in the auction and for agreeing to take over the Auction Coordinator position for next year.

I think everyone will enjoy the program for March. The program will be about using QRP on 75 meter to communicate in the caves and to the surface. Paul Jorgenson, KE7HR, is also a VE that works with our club.

David Morrill N7TWT

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mike Beck W7EDO	Sun City West
H W Frank NN8P	Glendale
Art Heikkila KB7LOQ	Phoenix
Eino Heikkila KE7LZE	Sun City
Bob Lucas W0DXZ	Sun City
Bruce Wolf KE7QEN	Phoenix

WELCOME RETURNING MEMBERS*Former members who were not active in 2007*

Mark Barber AC7UD	Surprise
Michael Johnson KW7V	Phoenix
Monte Nelson W1MN	Sun City West

UPCOMING HAMFESTS**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

Saturday May 3 2008

Larry Warren Cochise Hamfest
 Cochise Amateur Radio Association
 Location; Green Acres
 2756 South Moson Road
 Sierra Vista, Arizona
 Talk-In: 146.76(-) (PL 162.2)
 Contact: Lee Ilse, KD7OED
 3785 Mohawk Drive
 Sierra Vista, Arizona 85650
 Phone: 520-378-1643
<http://www.k7rdg.org>
 Email: kd7oed@arrl.net
 Fax: 520-533-2165

LICENSE EXAMS*Valley of the Sun Locations***Monday February 25**

Sponsor: Sunlife ARC & Venture Out ARC
 9 AM Walk-ins allowed
Location: Greenfield Rv Resort - Pinnacle Room
 111 S Greenfield Road and Main Street
 Mesa, Arizona. Enter at Quinn Street 1 block east
 of Greenfield on Main
 Contact: Donald D Fischer: 847-942-6648
 VEC: ARRL/VEC

Monday March 17

Sponsor: East Valley VE Team
 6:00 PM Walk-ins allowed
Location: Mesa Utilities Main Office
 640 N Mesa Drive, Mesa Arizona
 Contact: Steve Gurley: 480-804-1469
 Email: kj7wk@cox.net
 VEC: ARRL/VEC

Tuesday March 18**Tuesday April 15**

Sponsor: Boy Scout Troop 127
 8:00 PM Walk-ins allowed
Location: St Francis Xavier School
 4715 N Central Ave, Phoenix Arizona
 Contact: John H Kelly: 602-264-6854
 Email: kellyj127@aol.com
 VEC: ARRL/VEC

TECHNICIAN AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE**CLASS Spring 2008**

Class starts Saturday, February 23rd 2008,
 10:00AM to 1:00PM at Mesa Community College
 (Southern & Dobson). Instructors: Bob Burleson,
 KG7QJ, Rick Checketts, KA0KZB, Robert L
 Strauss, W7JTR, and Larry Randall, KA7UIH.

Classes are on Saturdays Feb 23rd to April 19th
 10:00 am to 1:00 pm for seven 3-hour sessions.
 The Amateur License Tech test will be at the last
 class session on Saturday April 19th.

To register call MCC Community Education at 480-
 461-7493 Section NC 500 0770. MCC Fee is \$27.
 The text is the ARRL "HAM RADIO LICENSE
 MANUAL" level 1 for Technician. It will be available
 at the 1st class for \$20. If you have any questions
 please contact Bob Burleson, KG7QJ.

MARCH PROGRAM***Using Ham Radio Underground***

I have been a ham for 25 years and have been going underground in caves for 35 years. I found a way to merge the two hobbies and have been using ham radio to communicate between the underground and the surface. There were reports of radio being used underground in some technical papers from the cavers but the equipment and power supply problems really kept it from being a viable communications alternative. For rescue work or other communications needs, cavers have been relying on military field telephones - very heavy, with long runs of wire. With the advent of really portable HF radios, penetrating through hundreds of feet of rock is now possible and even practical.

I first took a portable radio receiver with me in my cave pack. Tuning around on the AM broadcast band, I was able to get a signal! Weak, but readable. This sparked the further developments of using HF and even VHF radios to communicate with different teams of cavers. We have achieved quite long distances and fairly deep depths by using commercially available, off the shelf, ham gear. Some homebrew gear has also been used to try and soften the blow to the pocket book in case a radio is damaged in the tough conditions underground.

At the March 2008 meeting, I will describe the different radios and antenna combinations that have worked to communicate underground. I hope to see you there!

Paul R. Jorgenson, KE7HR

<p>Closing date for material for next issue of Short Skip is Saturday March 8, 2007 email: shortskip@yahoo.com</p>

ARIZONA OFFICIAL OBSERVERS NEEDED

If you are in Arizona and would like to become an ARRL Official Observer, you are invited. The Official Observer program has been sponsored by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) for more than 50 years to help amateurs help each other. OO appointees have assisted thousands of amateurs to maintain their transmitting equipment and operating procedures in compliance with the regulations. The object of the OO program is to notify amateurs by mail of operating/technical irregularities before they come to the attention of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

The OO performs his function by listening rather than transmitting, keeping an ear out for such things as frequency instability, harmonics, hum, key clicks, broad signals, distorted audio, over deviation, out-of-band operation, etc. The OO completes his task once the notification card is sent. In hard-core rule violation cases, OO's refer problems to higher echelons of the Amateur Auxiliary, and may be requested to gather evidence for possible FCC enforcement actions.

Requirements:

- 1) *Must take and pass an exam to be certified as a member of the Amateur Auxiliary, an FCC requirement, based on study of the ARRL's Amateur Auxiliary Training Manual.*
- 2) *Must be an ARRL Full Member and have been a licensee of Technician Class or higher for at least 4 years.*
- 3) *Must report to the OO Coordinator regularly.*
- 4) *Maintain regular activity in sending out advisory notices as needed. 5 hour min. monthly.*

Amateur Auxiliary Information

http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/org/am_aux.html

Official Observer Application

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/forms/fsd187/form.html>

Carla Ackley, KD7JGJ Official Observer
Coordinator, Phone 623-587-9499

**DESERT STORM RALLY
MARCH 14-15, 2008**

Amateur Radio Operators are needed to provide a Health & Safety Net for this rally, to be held near Blythe, CA and Quartzsite, AZ.

The equipment needed: 40-50 watt dual band mobile radio, roof mount gain antenna, with a portable mast preferred, and APRS tracking equipment.

The organizers are still working on the specifics, but we do know this rally has especially challenging communications issues, long stages run on fast roads in terrain rough and scenic areas. The stages will be run in La Paz County in western AZ just across the state line from Blythe, CA. Because of the distances involved, those of you with higher gain antennas and portable masts should definitely plan to bring them with you. Mobile radios and clear, concise communications skills will be necessary.

This is going to be a very busy rally with two days of racing and lots of individual stages, so we're going to have our hands full and we really need your help.

Headquarters and hotel will be the Comfort Inn & Suites, 545 E. Hobson Way, Blythe, CA 92225.

Volunteer by signing up at www.rallydata.com . Click on Desert Storm – March 14/15, 2008 and follow the instructions for signing in.

Additional information can be found on www.desertstormrally.com.

Communications chief is Dale Johnson, KF6SBD, 626-353-4223, e-mail - dalepsi@verizon.net.

YEARS AS A HAM

I received my ham license at age 14 on October 18, 1941, 66 years ago. On July 12, 1976 I upgraded to Extra Class and then selected by present callsign W9BB. Are there any other WVARC members that have been licensed for over 66 years or am I the only one?

Bill Simons W9BB

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.