

# 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 the second Saturday of previous month. Submission by electronic mail is preferred; email: [shortskip@yahoo.com](mailto:shortskip@yahoo.com). West Valley Amateur Radio Club, Inc. is an Arizona 501(c)(3) not for profit corporation.  
An ARRL Affiliated Club

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### WVARC CALENDAR

Saturday	April 3	VE Exam Session	DeVry University 2149 W Dunlap Ave, Phoenix	9:00 AM
Monday	April 5	Monthly Meeting	St. Clement Catholic Church Social Hall 15800 Del Webb Blvd, Sun City	7:00 PM
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> . Sat	April 10	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
Mon-Thur		Call-in Net	147.300 MHz, Tone 162.2 Hz	8:00 PM

#### PREZ SEZ

From time to time one hears the lament that Amateur Radio Just is not what it used to be. In some respects that may be true. But I wonder how much has really changed. In the early days components were direct wired to each other supported by some creative structure. Then came the printed circuit board, which allowed for more compact and safer construction. The transistor eventually replaced the familiar vacuum tube. Today we have microprocessors and surface mount components.

My father Lyttleton Ballard, the original holder of the call W3BVN, was an avid DX chaser. Having struggled to make rare DX contacts over the years, he yearned to be on the other end of the pileup at least once. Was there a place, he wondered, close to home, that had not yet been discovered by the

Amateur Radio fraternity? In 1950 the French islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, located off the coast of Newfoundland, seemed to be the answer (Ballard, Thomas B. "A 1950 DXpedition--FP8AF." *ARRL*. 17, Jan, 2001. *ARRL*, Web. 25 Feb 2010. (<http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2001/01/17/1/>>).

One might consider this an early one-man Dxpedition. It has all of the essential elements, the desire to put a rare DX entity on the air, the necessary planning, travel arrangements, obtaining the required permits and licenses etc. Today Dxpeditions are fairly common, relatively speaking that is. The Internet affords us some insight regarding the activities of these intrepid individuals of today as this image from Ducie Island shows.

(continued on page 2)  
(PREZ SEZ continued)



VP6DX- Ducie Isalnd-2008. Web. 25 Feb 2010.

It seems that Lyttleton Ballard, W3BVN was also an early QRP operator. "The transmitter put out 4 W CW and was crystal-controlled on 14.020 MHz". (Ballard, Thomas B. "A 1950 DXpedition--FP8AF." *ARRL*. 17, Jan, 2001. *ARRL*, Web. 25 Feb 2010. <<http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2001/01/17/1/>>.) . And according to the article he built his own rig. While Ballard's rig employed vacuum tubes and was large by today's standards.

There are distinct parallels in the modern equivalent. They put out about the same power, operate on a single band and are easily constructed from commonly available parts. The plethora of "modern equivalents" can be found in kit form for those who want all the parts provided in one package. Or for those who are a bit more adventurous and enjoy the hunt a parts list and schematic may be obtained thus making the project a "from scratch" endeavor.

I am sure that Amateur Radio has changed or evolved somewhat over the years. Granted, some of those changes have not been the greatest, while others have been positive contributions. However, it seems that there is a spirit and culture of adventure, creativity and ingenuity that transcends time and is present in most Amateurs. I guess that is what really makes Amateur Radio a fun and exciting hobby. After all it terms of hardware, today's cutting edge technology will be tomorrow's "boat anchors".

## UPCOMING HAM EVENTS

**Saturday April 10**

Annual Hamfest

Sponsor:

Arizona Amateur Radio Club

DeVry University (Parking Lot only)

2149 West Dunlap Avenue

Phoenix, Arizona

Talk-In: 147.060 (no PL)

Contact: Gary Hamman, K7GH

Phone: 602-996-8148

Email: [k7gh@arrl.net](mailto:k7gh@arrl.net)

<http://www.w7io.org>

**Saturday May 1**

Larry Warren Memorial Hamfest

Sponsor:

Cochise Amateur Radio Association

Green Acres

2756 Moson Road

Sierra Vista, Arizona

Talk-In: 146.76(-) PL 162.2

Contact:: Dale Chidester, NJ7C

Phone: 520-227-1823

Email: [dalechid@cox.net](mailto:dalechid@cox.net)

<http://www.k7rdg.org>

**Saturday May 29**

Yavapai Hamfest in Prescott

Sponsor:

Yavapai Amateur Radio Club

Granite Mountain Middle School

1800 Williamson Valley Road

Prescott, Arizona

<http://www.W7YRC.org>

Talk-In: 146.880 (PL 100)

Contact:: Terry Pemberton, KB7TRE

Email: [kb7tre@cableone.net](mailto:kb7tre@cableone.net)

<http://www.W7YRC.org>

**FCC LICENSE EXAMS**

Next exam session at DeVry University Saturday April 3rd. Exams start at 9:00 AM and all tests must be concluded by 11:00 AM. Check-in at the Library on the second floor, southeast corner in the school library. Bring photo ID and the original operator license and CSCEs and photocopies of each if applicable. ARRL VEC Exam Fee is \$15 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 can not make change.

The March 6th, session at DeVry – 18 candidates were examined

- 8 Earned Technician Class license
- 3 Failed Technician Class license
- 5 Earned General Class license
- 2 Earned Extra Class License

Administering VE's  
David Morrill N7TWT Liaison

VE Team:  
Robert Fairfield K7RQN  
Harold Taylor W7HVT  
Robert Gormley KS7U  
Ken Peloquin N7PHO  
Bill Martin AI0D  
Robert Miner KA7NPQ  
Richard Moore N7IYT  
Joe Cutitta W0SLI

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David Morrill N7TWT  
VE Liaison/Manager for West Valley ARC  
(623) 925-0680 Home  
(623) 680-5011 Cell  
N7TWT.NET

**Closing date for material for  
May Short Skip  
Tuesday April 13, 2010  
Email: [shortskip@yahoo.com](mailto:shortskip@yahoo.com)**

**K4T DXpedition**

The K4T DXpedition to EL84 web page (<http://aroadventures.org/>) says the team plans to include satellite operations. The DXpedition dates are March 11-15, 2010. Team Leader for K4T, Mike Forsythe, AC2V says, "One of the primary stations will be dedicated to satellite operations on a 24 hour basis. Mark Hammond, N8MH will be heading up K4T satellite operations. K4T will be using batteries, solar power, and wind power. It's a completely 'green' operation".

Mike, AC2V said, "The satellite station plans to work FM, SSB and perhaps a bit of CW. We have requested that the secondary repeater on AO51 be dedicated to K4T. As for equipment, at the primary station we are going to have redundant Icom 910 transceivers, Yaesu G-5500 rotor, LVB Tracker, ARR preamps and M2 CP yagi antennas and will be running SATPC32. We also have the option of portable operations with a Yaesu FT-817 with an Elk antenna."

Mark, N8MH said, "We're going to have a top-notch satellite station! You can expect us to be active on AO-7, AO-27, FO-29, SO-50, AO-51, VO-52, SO-67, and HO-68 (depending on the mode schedules of the satellites, of course)." In order to make it easiest to catch K4T this list of target frequencies is planned to be used as a starting point:

## Target Frequencies for K4T

11 March - 15 March 2010:

Satellite Downlink Uplink

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AO-7 145.960 USB 432.136 LSB  
AO-27 436.795 FM 145.850 FM  
FO-29 435.860 USB 145.940 LSB  
SO-50 436.795 FM 145.850 FM  
AO-51 435.150 FM 145.880 FM (primary)  
AO-51 435.300 FM 145.920 FM (secondary)  
VO-52 145.910 USB 435.240 LSB  
HO-68 435.760 USB 145.930 LSB

AMSAT, . "The Latest News from AMSAT, as of 21 February, 2010 - 1600 UTC." *AMSAT.org*. 21,FEB,2010. AMSAT, Web. 26 Feb 2010. <http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/news/>>.

While this event has already taken place, this is still informative reading. Did anyone in the club participate in it?

Submitted

*Charles Deshaies, KE7IBG*

**FOR SALE:**

WB7FJM has a 3 element high gain 10-15-20 Antenna Beam for sale - \$125. Please contact Gene Cardelli, WB7FJM, 623-972-4500

**WANTED:**

WB7FMJ would like to purchase  
1) an antenna for all bands Butternut  
2) a ham radio Kenwood TS-430S  
Please contact Gene Cardelli, WB7FJM, 623-972-4500

**WANTED: TO PURCHASE AN ANTENNA**

KA7G is looking to purchase a used antenna tower. MA-40 tubular crank-up is preferred, but will consider any other tower. Needed to support an antenna for a Sun City West/Sun City-area IRLP NODE. Please contact Jerry McManus, KA7G, at 623 523-2075 or mtsailor@cox.net.

**FOR SALE: ANTENNAS**

Antennas for sale. All with manuals from K4VM  
1) Cushcraft Ringo Ranger 2m \$35  
2) Outbacker perth 75-10M Mobile or balcony \$200  
3) Cushcraft A147-4 4 el 2meter beam \$35  
Marty Colburn, k4vm@arrl.net 623-556-0112

**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 Residential Brokerage  
602-370-1450 cell, [rahaworth@cox.net](mailto:rahaworth@cox.net)

**HELP NEEDED:**

Help is needed to assist on an antenna, 75' Tower, 7 element beam. Problem 10 unit element has moved and rotated to approximately 5 o'clock. I need help getting this fixed.  
Contact Jim Haveron, KA7UND at 623-341-3233.

**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.

**WANTED: PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER**

Public Information Officer, preferably alive, for feeding the media useful information about unclassified Amateur activities.

Sex: Male or Female  
Height: Some  
Hair: Nice but Not Required  
Eyes: Yup

This Individual is known to be armed and dangerous. Is known to carry a loaded pen and a sharpened pencil as a backup weapon. On occasion has been seen with a microphone in hand. Is able to navigate the Internet with ease. Has been spotted in numerous newspaper offices, radio stations, television stations, schools, parks and other public places. Is a smooth talker and a wordsmith.

If spotted, do not try to apprehend them yourself. Please simply observe them while contacting any Board Member.