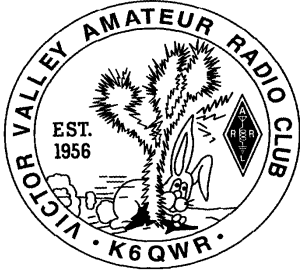


The spectrum



VVARC 2012 OFFICERS

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General Meetings:

7:00 P.M. the second Tuesday of each month
at the Mojave River Campus of the Lewis
Center

NOTE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

CQ,CQ,CQ

I would like to say hello to all the returning club members and welcome all new club members. I am looking forward to a new year filled with events and programs of interest to all. I would like to welcome our new board members Larry Miller KJ6MYV, Greg Rickerl KI6YEI, and Al Acevedo KJ6MYP. I would also like to say thank you to the board members who have stayed on with us in this new year.

We hope to be doing more events with the scouts and the community this year and will be looking for volunteers through out the year to help with these events. If you would like to volunteer please do not hesitate to contact me or one of the other board members. The club will be having our normal events such as Field Day, Picnic, Ice Cream Social/ Auction, and JOTA to look forward to.

In closing I would like to thank our out going board members and everyone who volunteered and helped make our last year successful.

73, Dave
President

ARRL TEACHERS INSTITUTE

Teachers Go Back to School

“This summers, the ARRL offered five sessions of the Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology (TI). Veteran instructors Miguel Enriquez, K7RPP, and Nathan McCray, K9CPO -- along with newcomers Tommy Gober, N5DUX, and Matt Severin, N8X -- led the instruction.”



Larry Kendall, K6NDL, is poised to confirm a QSO via satellite during a TI session.

(Read the entire article in QST October 2011 Issue, page 81)

What to take to bed with you - not a joke

Put your car keys beside your bed at night.

Tell your spouse, your children, your neighbors, your parents, your Dr's office, the check-out girl at the market, everyone you run across. Put your car keys beside your bed at night.

If you hear a noise outside your home or someone trying to get in your house, just press the panic button for your car. The alarm will be set off and the horn will

continue to sound until either you turn it off or the car battery dies.

This tip came from a neighborhood watch coordinator. Next time you come home for the night and you start to put your keys away, think of this: It's a security alarm system that you probably already have and requires no installation. Test it. It will go off from most everywhere inside your house and will keep honking until your battery runs down or until you reset it with the button on the key fob chain. It works if you park in your driveway or garage.

If your car alarm goes off when someone is trying to break into your house, odds are the burglar/rapist won't stick around. After a few seconds, all the neighbors will be looking out their windows to see who is out there and sure enough the criminal won't want that. Remember to carry your keys while walking to your car in a parking lot. The alarm can work the same way there. This is something that should really be shared with everyone. Maybe it could save a life or a sexual abuse crime.

P.S. I am sending this to everyone I know because I think it is fantastic. Would also be useful for any emergency, such as a heart attack, where you can't reach a phone. My Mom has suggested to my Dad that he carry his car keys with him in case he falls outside and she doesn't hear him. He can activate the car alarm and then she'll know there's a problem.

Submitted by David Deards

KB6NU, DAN ROMANCHIK

FOR NOVEMBER

Carving Out Time for Ham Radio

On a recent episode of This Week in Tech (www.twit.tv), Leo Laporte, W6TWT, mentions ham radio, and a guest asks him how much time he is spending on the air. Leo, who just recently got his Tech license says “Zero!” and laughs.

This is not uncommon. Lots of people seem to get a ham radio license and then do very little with it. I think one reason for this is that they don’t take into account how much time the hobby really can eat up.

They get their ticket because it seems like a cool thing to do, but then they have to carve out some time to actually be a ham radio operator. Even if you don’t make any of your own gear, setting up a station takes time, and then there is the operating time, of course. Carving time out of busy schedules—and I would guess that Laporte has a pretty busy schedule being the owner of TWiT—is a challenge.

I see things like this all the time. At one ham radio club meeting that I attended, the club vice president asked, “OK, here’s the question of the month. How many of you actually got on the air in the past month.” Less than half of those in attendance raised their hands. Geez, I thought to myself, why do they even bother to come to meetings if they don’t get on the air?

Making time for ham radio. So, if you’re a busy person, how do you make time for ham radio? Well, being the Internet geek that I am, I Googled, “making time for things you

love.” I got a lot of links to sites that talked about work-life balance and some new-age blogs, but none of them offered much in the way of concrete advice.

Then, I Googled “make time for hobbies” and right off the bat, I found two good articles—7 Creative Ways to Make Time For Your Creative Hobby! (<http://www.exploringwomanhood.com/homelife/hobbies/maketime.htm>) and 5 Ways to Make Time for Your Hobby (<http://o5.com/5-ways-to-make-time-for-your-hobby/>). Both articles offered very similar advice. Here are four points that both made:

1. Schedule it. Set aside a specific time during which you’re going to do ham radio. Don’t let that time get pre-empted.
2. Designate a place in your home for ham radio. Having to set up your radios or dig out your tools every time you want to operate or build something is not much fun and wastes a lot of time. Having a “shack” and a workspace designated for your projects will let you spend more time on the fun stuff. Partner up. Arranging to work with another ham will make it harder to blow off ham radio for some other activity. Besides, it’s a lot of fun to do things with other hams. If you’re a newly licensed ham, find an Elmer. There really are plenty around who would be willing to help you.
3. Create a project plan. Setting up an amateur radio station is no small feat. Breaking it down into smaller chunks will make it seem more doable, and you’ll get a feeling of accomplishment when you meet your in-between goals.

There's so much to learn and do in amateur radio that it can seem quite overwhelming. I think that's one reason why so many Techs never really get into the hobby and why some experienced hams drift away. I think if you follow the advice above, though, you'll not only find the time to pursue amateur radio, but get a lot more out of it.

Note: When he's not down in his shack, working with a friend on yet another amateur radio project, Dan writes amateur radio study guides. You can find them on his website at www.kb6nu.com/tech-manual. Make some time to e-mail him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

ARRL - SOUTHWEST DIVISION CONVENTION and YUMA HAMFEST February 17-18

2012 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention, to be held in conjunction with the Yuma Hamfest. This event is less than three months away, being held Friday and Saturday, February 17-18, 2012 at the Yuma County Fairgrounds in Yuma, Arizona.

Now in our eighth year and one of the largest hamfests in the ARRL's Southwestern Division, the Yuma Hamfest is one of the few multi-day convention-style hamfests held in Arizona. We feature commercial exhibitors and vendors, tailgating, on-site RV camping, free parking, seminars held in parallel tracks in two separate buildings, amateur license testing, DXCC card checking, antenna clinic and transmitter hunt, our famous "Buzzard BBQ" dinner, grand prizes worth \$10,000, great hourly door prizes, a hospitality area, the

"Country Store" consignment sales area, and much more. Unlike many division-level conventions, admission will be only \$5, tailgating spots are \$20 for the weekend, and we offer a food concession manned by a professional chef. Our now-famous "Buzzard BBQ" dinner is only \$10 and has sold out for the last two years. We are giving away an iPad 2 as a registration prize to someone just for attending. You should mark the third weekend of February on your calendar and plan on attending the Yuma Hamfest and 2012 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention.

Please check our website at www.yumahamfest.org for more information. If you prefer, you can contact us directly at info@yumahamfest.org or by phone at 928-305-1034. We are also taking proposals for seminars at this time and welcome volunteers to assist us in putting on the Convention. Please contact us in either case.

Roger D. Hunt
7MEX
Director, Yuma Hamfest

ARRL ORANGE SECTION

2012 NEWS

Section Manager: Carl H Gardenias
WU6D
wu6d@arrl.org

Events:

February 2012

Yuma Hamfest - 2012 SWD Convention

This is the convention that rotates through the sections and is conventionally held in September. The event will be at the Yuma County Fairgrounds, 2520 East 32nd Street, Yuma, Arizona.

Doors are open from noon to 5 PM on Friday, February 17, and from 8 AM to 5 PM on Saturday, February 18. Seminars will include an ARRL Forum at 3:30 on Saturday, where you will have an opportunity to hear about current Amateur Radio happenings as well as express your thoughts on ARRL activities.

website: www.yumahamfest.org **April 20 - 22**

63rd Annual International DX Convention Visalia CA. sponsored this year by the Southern California DX Club. On Friday the DX University will be having an all day "How to" in DXing.

website: www.dxuniversity.com

On Saturday visit the exhibitors/vendors, seminars, and forums. Saturday tour for those who would like a change of pace, Saturday Banquet, Sunday Breakfast.

website: www.dxconvention.org

June

ARRL yearly Field Day operations to fine tune your skills.

July/Aug

Get ready and wait for more information on the Orange County Fair. Why? Amateur Radio for many years has been apart of this great fair, sponsored by OCCARO Clubs within the Orange County area and other area clubs, and we are looking to be there once again.

General Club News

General Meetings

Date: Second Tuesday of each month
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Program: EchoLink
 Presented by Matt MdGaha
Location: Mojave River Campus of the LewisCenter
Directions: From Apple Valley Road, turn west on Tuscola (toward the river). Take the very first right turn, which is Mana. The campus is located at the very end of Mana Rd. We meet in Building B.

Sunday Night Net

Remember that every Sunday at 7PM the Club conducts a Net on the 146.940 repeater.

Get the latest club announcements and reminders.

In the event the repeater is down, turn to 146.5350 simplex.

Elmers

An Elmer is a mentor for amateur radio operators. New operators need the experience, knowledge, and guidance passed on by those that have been practicing for some time.

Thank you to those members that have stepped forward and volunteered to help members with questions. Feel free to contact anyone on our ELMER list when you have questions.

Check out the web site, www.VVARC.com, for a list of Elmers.

First Quarter Birthdays

Tom King	1/6
Barbara LaGrange	1/6
John Hanson	1/14
Lanny Creason	1/17
Rod Zeka	1/17
James Pike	1/23
Joyce Pike	1/28
Richard Stephan	2/1
David Sommers	2/6
Larry Miller	3/10
John Love	3/15
David Deards	3/28

If we missed anyone, let us know. Our records probably need to be updated.

Membership

Membership is currently 62 members:

- 10 Lifetime
 - 39 Paid
 - 13 Free
-

New Members

Ed Shannon, WA6JMR. Family includes Gary and Carrie Foster.

To new HAMs

Are you aware of the ARRL? QST magazine?

In order for our Club to be an affiliated organization, we need to maintain 51% membership to the ARRL. The ARRL pays our Club a commission for new and renewing memberships.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact your Board members.

From the ARRL *Reminder*

Address or phone number change???

“The FCC requires you to maintain a valid current mailing address in their database at all times. This is so that they can contact you by mail if needed. If you move or even change PO boxes, be sure to update your information using the FCC ULS online system. If you do not maintain a current address and mail to you is returned to the FCC as undeliverable, your license can be revoked and removed from the database.”

Don't forget if you need to renew your membership or join the ARRL, contact Larry Kendall (KD7ZDG@verizon.net) and pay your dues through the Club. VVARC receives a commission for each renewal or new joining fee.

Events Calendar 2012

February
EchoLink - Matt MaGaha

March
TBD

April
TBD

May
Fox Hunt - Larry Kendall

June
Annual Club Picnic
Field Day

July
Annual Ice Cream Social and Action

August
Dark

September
Satellite - Larry Kendall
JOTA

October
TBD

November
Nominations

December
Elections
Annual Christmas Party

Website Update - VVARC.com

Contact Dick Stephan, bdinhighdesert@yahoo.com with any comments or suggestions.

Spectrum

Submit any Spectrum entries to Sandi, sdeweert@verizon.net. Any comments and suggestions are welcome.