



VICTOR VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

THE SPECTRUM

February 2008

The VVARC Officers for 2008

President: Jeff LaGrange, KD6JUC
balag@sisp.net

Vice-President: Robert Barton, W7OES
rbarton@ci.victorville.ca.us

Secretary:

Treasurer: Larry Kendall, KD7ZDG
larrykendall@charter.net

January General Meeting

Date: Tuesday, February 12

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: Club meetings are held at the Mojave River Campus of the Lewis Center.

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 C.

Program:

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 that the repeater is down, turn to 146.5350 simplex.

Also, the Club needs volunteers to help run the Net. If you are interested, please contact any of the Board members.

Technician Class

Technician class license sponsored by the City of Victorville, Office of Emergency Services, is scheduled for March 1st, 8th, & 15th from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The class will be held at Fire Station #311 located at the County Fairgrounds on 7th Street in Victorville.

The cost is \$20.00 per person which includes the study manual and study guide.

For reservations contact our Vice President, Robert Barton, W7OES, Emergency Services, (760) 955-5232.

There will also be FCC testing located at the same site following the class at 12:30 p.m.

A Note from Tom King

I was issued my Commonwealth of Dominica amateur radio license yesterday. My call sign is H79VZH.

I plan a visit in March, as a representative of FAIRS. See www.fairs.org

A DXpedition is in the planning stage. Come visit us on 14.31850 at 2400Z Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays when you get the change.

I am also into WINLINK 2000 AIRMAIL 3 for ARES use.

Best regards. Tom

Planning for Emergencies

We all know that we should be prepared for an emergency and most of us have made some efforts to do so. Emergency preparedness doesn't have to be expensive. It's easy to assemble a basic 72 hours Emergency Survival Kit. If you already have one, now is a good time to check it out and replace old water, old batteries, and old food. If you store canned goods, be sure you have a mechanical can opener as well. While commercial emergency kits have water packets, larger supplies are recommended. Your goal should be a gallon of water per person per day. While commercial kits provide Mylar space blankets, tarps are better shelters and even large (33 Gallon or more) garbage bags might serve well as a poncho or sleeping bags. We all know WHAT we should do, but this is a reminder to do it.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Santa Barbara South County, put out a summary of information on Energy Bars. In general, the best bars are low in sugar, 5-6 grams, and moderate in carbohydrates, in the range of 1 – 12 grams. Sugars should account for half the grams, i.e. a bar containing 38 grams of carbs shouldn't have more than 19 grams of sugar. Ingredients that get the "green light" are fiber, soy protein, whole grains and oats, brown rice, and flax seed. The article also says that in an emergency situation, the rush of adrenaline will often cause your body's appetite to shut down, even if you burn a lot of energy. Snack often with healthy foods and don't forget your need for water.

PS. It is wise to have a tool that turns off the gas to your home placed by the gas meter. After the earthquake, you don't want a fire!

By Robert Hall

SCDXC

The Southern California DX Club is now in its 60th year. Meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of most months. The April meeting is replaced by the IDXC in Visalia, the June meeting by the annual Club Picnic, and the December meeting by the Holiday Party.

The meeting agenda generally includes introduction of club members and visitors, a short discussion of club business, DX information of general interest, a program of interest to Dxr's and finally a raffle.

Meetings are held at Syd Kronenthal Park, 3459 McManus Ave, Culver City, CA (Four blocks W of La Cienega Blvd and 3 blocks S. of Washington Blvd)

By Robert Hall

How's Your To-Do List?

HAM radio is a very interesting hobby. My list of what I want to do next never seems to get shorter. I'm always looking for new things to try or experience in HAM radio. Here's a few that you may find interesting.

1. Ham radio high altitude ballooning. Arizona Near Space Ballooning is an interesting part of the hobby and is part of the college engineering program for HAMS at Arizona State University. They launch the high altitude balloons that make it to over 100,000 feet. <http://www.kd7lmo.net/ansr/ansr.html> They launch a balloon about once a month. Payloads include digital cameras, APRS, and PSK31 capability. You can listen in on 20 meters.

2. Stay on top of the YouTube.com HAM radio videos. There are a lot of interesting ideas that HAMs post on that website. Some items are fun to watch, technical and in-between!
3. Make a refined J-Pole jig for mass producing J's for new HAMs that may have a limited budget.
4. Make a DVD to go along with the jig to explain how to use it.
5. Get my station back together. I've downsized into a mobile home park. There are no antenna restrictions! However, the neighbors are all seniors and have antenna issues. To keep peace I have to be careful about "making the place look like a dump". They do have "tidiness guidelines".

What are your plans for HAM radio this year?

Club Member News



Birthdays

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL

Bill Baumruck	2/1
Kathy Jacoby	2/2
Hank McGill	2/18
Ron Rosenberg	2/26
Richard Stephen	2/1

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



Please let Sandi DeWeert, sdeweert@verizon.net, know if you hear of any of our members that may be under the weather or just need a little lift from friends in the Club.

New Members

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.

ELMERS

An Elmer is kind of like a mentor for amateur radio operators. New operators need the experience, knowledge, and guidance passed on to 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.

The list of ELMERs is located on our web site at www.VictorValleyARC.com.

2008 Membership Drawing

Be sure and attend the general meetings for your chance of winning the membership drawing.

To be eligible to win, you need to be current in your Club dues and be present at the general meeting when the drawing takes place.

2007 members' names will remain in the drawing through the February meeting, but will be removed if membership dues are not paid by the March meeting.

Dues for 2008

Dues for the Club are on an annual basis. We appreciate your continued support. The dues remain the same as last year, \$18 for individuals, \$23 for families, and \$10 for youths, and new members.

We are continuing to offer a free membership to new HAMs.

Volunteers and Ideas Needed

Our Club is only as good as the membership makes it. Volunteers are always needed. Contact your new Board if you can help.

Also, if you have any ideas for programs, activities, club projects, etc. speak up. Pass your thoughts along to the Board members. They are always open to any suggestions.

VE Testing in the Victor Valley

The first Saturday of every odd-numbered month there is a GLAARG (Greater Los Angeles Amateur Radio Group) test session in Hesperia. Tests are held at the Fire Station at the corner of Olive and H. Registration starts at 8:30 AM. The cost is \$4.00. Walk-ins are welcome. Testing is available for all classes of license. All candidates must bring a picture ID, and if you are upgrading, you need the original and a copy of your amateur license and any CSCEs you hold. For more information, you can contact Jim MacRay, KW6V, at 244-1396. Directions to test site: From I-15 take Main Street, Hesperia exit. GO east on Main St. approx. 5 miles. Turn south on "H" to Olive.

Also, the Inland ARC tests on the 4th Thursday of each month, at 5 PM at 25541 Barton Rd, Loma Linda. Contact person is Sam Eller, AD6UE at (909) 796-2996. Location from going south on I-10: Exit Mountain View Ave, right on Barton, Left on Loma Linda Dr, Civic Center complex. Take driveway to your left immediately past the fire station.

Web Site Update

If you have any suggestions on what you would like to see, feel free to let Steve know, steve.ostrander@dcma.mil.

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 (larrykendall@charter.net) and pay your dues through the Club. VVARC receives a commission for each renewal or new joining fee.

New VVCG website

I am currently building the new Victor Valley Communications Groups website, address <http://victorvalleycom.googlepages.com/home>.

I am still adding things to the website. If you have any information of interest to the radio community let me know and I will add it to the site.

The Victor Valley Communications Group will be moving our net to Thursday Nights on 449.700 - PL: 141.3 starting February 7th due to the San Diego Six Shooters Net on Friday Nights on the N6LXX linked repeater system. Also starting February 7th, Kris Wyrick will also add audio news to our net so check it out!

Nicholas E. Nixon,KN3ICK / WQHB653
Work: 760-241-1700
Personal Cell: 760-713-2104

Reported by Steve Ostrander

Radio Limericks

We try to resolve with the New Year
And here is a good one, I fear.
 The "Big One" might come
 So, don't be dumb!
Take time now to check out your gear

Note: We invite you all to create your own little limerick and send it along. It isn't that hard to play around with little rhymes. Give it a try.

E-mail to Virginia at kd6rdc@juno.com.

Calendar of Events

February 12: General Meeting; 7:00 p.m.

March 1: Day 1 Tech License Class
 8 am to 12 noon
 County Fairgrounds
 Fire Station #311

March 8: Day 2 Tech License Class
 8 am to 12 noon
 County Fairgrounds
 Fire Station #311

March 11: General Meeting; 7:00 p.m.

March 15: Day 3 Tech License Class
 8 am to 12 noon
 County Fairgrounds
 Fire Station #311

FCC Testing
12:30 p.m.
County Fairgrounds
Fire Station #311

Victor Valley Amateur Radio Club

P. O. Box 869
Victorville, CA. 92393

Membership Application

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Date: _____

Check One: New Member New HAM: Renewal: Member Since _____

Check # _____ Cash Receipt # _____

ARRL Member No Yes If yes, since (date) _____

Membership Type:

Individual (\$18) Family (\$23) Youth (\$10) New (\$10)

Name _____

Birthday _____ Call Sign _____ Class _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Work Phone (____) _____

Fax (____) _____ E-Mail Address _____

Spouse Name _____

Family Membership:

Name _____ Birthday _____

Call Sign _____ Class _____ Email _____

Name _____ Birthday _____

Call Sign _____ Class _____ Email _____

Packet Home BBS _____

Repeaters Operated _____