

# VICTOR VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

## THE SPECTRUM

November 2008

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### The VVARC Officers for 2008

President: Jeff LaGrange, KD6JUC

[JeffLaGrange@Hughes.net](mailto:JeffLaGrange@Hughes.net)

Vice-President: Robert Barton, W7OE

[rbarton@ci.victorville.ca.us](mailto:rbarton@ci.victorville.ca.us)

Secretary:

Treasurer: Larry Kendall, KD7ZDG

[larrykendall@charter.net](mailto:larrykendall@charter.net)

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### November General Meeting

Date: November 11, 2008

Time: 7 p.m.

Program: TBD

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.

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### 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.

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### Club Member News



### Birthdays

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL

|               |       |
|---------------|-------|
| Nick Lamb     | 11/16 |
| Tanya Mauldin | 11/13 |
| Scott Mayer   | 11/30 |
| Denny Wells   | 11/30 |

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

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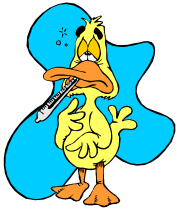
### October Meeting Winners

Half-Pot winner:

Donn Pera - \$11.00

Door prize winners:

Barbara LaGrange  
Donn Pera  
Richard Duart



Please let Sandi DeWeert, [sdeweert@verizon.net](mailto: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.

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## **New Member**

Peter Dominguez  
[hotsync@verizon.net](mailto:hotsync@verizon.net)

Let's all be sure and make Peter welcome.

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## **Members Wanted**

It will soon be time to pay club dues again, and so seems a good time to search out new members. This is just a reminder that all new members pay only \$10 to join our club. Anyone joining now will have the dues cover all of next year, too. Encourage your ham friends to come with you and join us. Coming with a friend is more fun for you both. If you are active on a local net, maybe you could mention the club for those hams in our area who have lost track of us.

Thanks for your help.

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## **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.

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## **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.

(Due to web site difficulties, contact any of your board members for the ELMER list.)

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## **Membership Drawing**

The October membership drawing was for \$30.00. The name drawn was Tom Hoegerman who was absent. November drawing will be \$40.00.

Remember you have to be an active member and be present during the drawing.

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## **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.

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## **Web Site Update**

Unfortunately, our web address of VictorValleyARC.com expired and was picked up by another party. Your Board is working hard to establish another domain name and get the web site up and running as soon as possible.

Stay tuned for further progress reports.

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

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## **Baker to Vegas News - Silent Key**

It was with a very heavy heart that I learned yesterday morning that our friend and colleague Red Payne has become a silent key. Red has served the race for many, many years and served as Stage 2 (old 3) Leader for the past 10. Richard Monroe is going to be leading the Stage 2 Crew for us this year and

he and the stage staff want to dedicate this year to Red's memory. Red had very little family and no descendants, but was blessed to have many friends and admirers among those he worked with throughout the years. Those of us who got to know him through the race count it as a privilege to have been able to be a part of Red's world. Red went out with his boots on as he was riding into the west. The only thing different from most cowboy scenes was that he was in a car and not on a horse. He had been driving from his home in Reno to San Francisco and stopped to pay the toll on the Bay Bridge. He passed away in the car at the toll plaza. Please stop by stage 2 this year and help our friends remember and honor a true friend and one of the last of the old time gentlemen cowboys.

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## **Baker to Vegas News March 14 – 15**

### **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

You have probably received your B-V signup sheet by now. If you are all still interested in volunteering (working) next year let me know. I can put you on my list and send it in electronically. Also let me know if there are any changes (address, shirt size).

I'm also looking for a few more volunteers so if you know of someone sent them my way.

Thanks for the help

[JeffLaGrange@Hughes.net](mailto:JeffLaGrange@Hughes.net)

If you're planning on attending (working), it's about time to make reservations (camping, hotel).

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## **Nominations for 2009 VVARC Board**

### **OFFICERS WANTED**

It is the time of year when the search is on for members who are willing to serve as officers of the club next year. The club formed in 1956

and all want to see it continue on in the years ahead. While our hobby seems to be dwindling in this age of new forms of communications, there is still something special about getting up on the air. Those who worked Route 66 on the Air last month know that, and the Route 66 event is an example of the activities of our club.

It isn't just work, you know, to hold an office. It is your opportunity to steer the club towards your interests and to bring your own ideas forward. It is an opportunity to get to know a few more members better. Board meetings are monthly and can be arranged around the schedule of the new board. The President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer even get a free meal at the Christmas party, as a thank you for their service! So give it some thought. If you can't serve, maybe you can suggest someone else for consideration.

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### **A Ham Radio story: Space Race Brought the World Together**

*By William Osler, Rochester, MN, as appeared in Reminisce Extra, July 2008 issue*

October 4, 2007 was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the launching of Sputnik, the Soviet satellite that launched the space race. My father was a devoted ham radio operator (as I am) and on that day, I remember listening to the dit-dit-dit signals from Sputnik I as Dad tuned his receiver in our home in San Jose, California. I was very young, but I knew what that satellite was. Of course, like most people my age, I grew up with outer space. The astronauts were our heroes and we knew all their names, the names of their space capsules, and everything we could about those missions. We assumed that our futures would all involve space in some way.

On July 20, 1979, my family and I, like people all over the world, were glued to the television watching the crew of the *Eagle*—the lunar excursion module from *Apollo 11*—execute the first piloted landing on the moon. We were all relieved and delighted when the astronauts

announced, “Tranquility Base here. The *Eagle*” has landed.” We were even more thrilled when Neil Armstrong made his “giant leap for mankind.”

All this time, however, there was much speculation about what the rest of the world was hearing. We know now that the Chinese government never officially informed its people about the landing. There was much speculation that the Soviets would do the same—suppress the news in order to maintain their image of communist invincibility. But after all the excitement of the landing and the first moonwalk, I decided to get on the ham radio. I fired up the old receiver on one of our ham short wave bands and listened for distant stations since, at that time of the evening, signals from Asia and Europe would be common in our part of California. I heard a lot of Japanese stations; these were extremely common at the time. After a while, a station with a “UAO” call sign indicating that the operator was in Siberia popped up using Morse code.

In the days before the fall of the Iron Curtain, hams in communist countries were very limited in what they could say on the radio. Basically, anything beyond name, location, signal report and how many tubes they used in their radio was forbidden. Even a weather report might be used by “the enemy” to aid in an attack, it was said. So I didn't expect much beyond a signal report from the Siberian ham station. To my surprise, when he signed off with his usual “73” meaning “best regards,” he added, “Congrats on Apollo.” At that moment I knew that the soviet people had been informed. The race to the moon was over.

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### **Jamboree on the Air 10/18/08**

We set up outdoors, Field Day style, at the Lewis Center, and operated two radios. The only band with any action at all was 20m.

Thanks to Dave Deards (K16HVI) for planning the event and recruiting scouts, Tom Hoegerman (WB6FU) for logistics support, Jerry Grunden (WR6X), Jeff LaGrange

(KD6JUC), Robert Barton, Dick Stephan (KI6IXL), Paul Kendall (KD7WNJ), and Larry Kendall (KD7ZDG) for setup and manning the radios.

Approximately 20 scouts and their families participated in the event. The scouts who arrived early made contacts with operators and talked with scouts in Washington and Montana. After 10:30 AM, we listened to operators around the country, but poor propagation prevented us from making further contacts.

Thanks to Robert's EchoLink connection, the scouts were all able to get on the air, contacting operators in Maryland, Ontario (Canada), and the UK. A highlight was chatting with a scout leader and his troop camping in Nottingham Forest, England - at about 10 PM there time.

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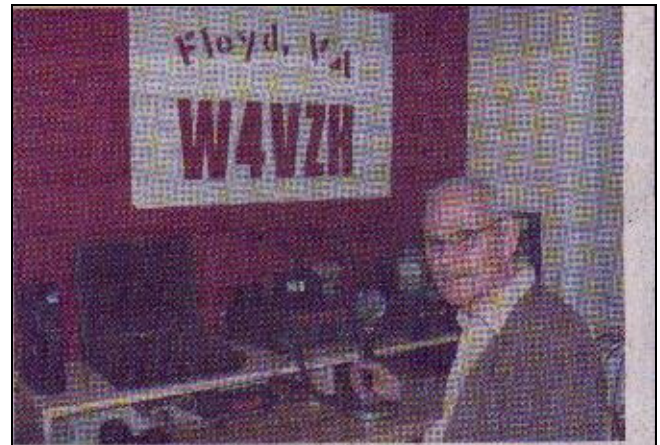
## **Floyd Gateway**

*Daily Press Article*

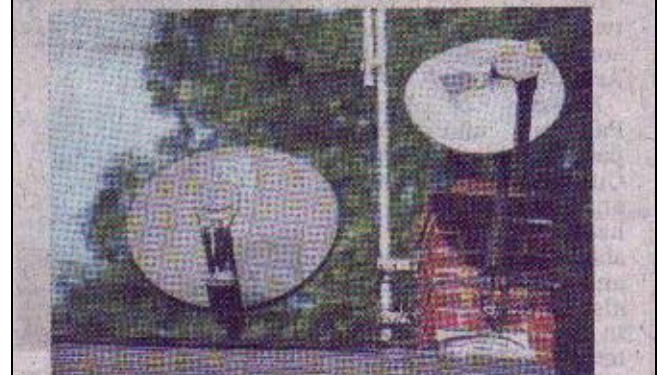
Tom King (W4VZH), Floyd County AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE (ARES) Emergency Coordinator announces the inauguration of *Floyd Gateway*, which provides an emergency link via satellite to ground stations all over the world

This Floyd Gateway facility is capable of furnishing worldwide digital communication via satellite using specially equipped amateur radio stations. The gateway links other similarly equipped amateur radio stations throughout southwestern Virginia. The satellite then links to other ground stations throughout the world.

It is planned that this form of communication will be utilized by local emergency services as an augmentation when other systems fail. The latest use of WINLINK, [www.winlink.org](http://www.winlink.org), occurred during the aftermath of hurricane Ike in the Houston, Texas area. Our on scene operator was Glen Sage (W4GHS) of Hillsville.



Tom King (W4VZH) at the controls of WINLINK and other emergency equipment. The station is independent of AEP electrical and Citizens telephone service.



The uplink/downlink gateway dish is shown at left. It is slightly larger than the television version.

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## **Plan Ahead: Christmas Party, Dec. 9**

Yes, the annual club Christmas Party has been scheduled for 9 December, the second Tuesday of that month and will again be at John's Incredible Pizza. Prices will be the same as last year and will be given in next month's newsletter. As in the past, do not pay at the front, but come back to the room that we have reserved; payments are collected there.

We will have lots of door prizes and no family goes home empty handed. Also, this is the only month when the membership drawing is done until a winner is present. We will continue with a gift exchange for those who wish to participate. You will receive a gift for

each gift brought. We suggest that you do not spend more than \$5.

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## **Radio Limerick for the Month**

We continue with this little part of our newsletter, striving to be clever. Again, you are invited to join in! We will give you credit—or you can be anonymous if you wish! Help wanted.

Save December 9, a Tuesday  
Our annual event is that day  
Prizes galore,  
Good food and more  
You like a good party, you say!

Now my limericks get rather lame,  
But you have only yourself to blame.  
The efforts of mine  
Can't all be sublime,  
Add your own little rhyme to the game

E-mail to Virginia at [kd6rdc@juno.com](mailto:kd6rdc@juno.com).

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## **Calendar of Events**

### **November**

- 11 General Meeting, 7:00 p.m.  
Program: 2009 Office Nominations  
Lewis Center Mohave River Campus

### **December**

- 2 Board Meeting, 6:30 PM  
Green Tree Inn Coffee Shop  
9 VVARC Christmas Party & Election of  
Officers

# Victor Valley Amateur Radio Club

P. O. Box 869  
Victorville, CA. 92393

## Membership Application

.....  
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 \_\_\_\_\_