



VICTOR VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

THE SPECTRUM

January 2009

The VVARC Officers for 2009

President: Robert Barton, W7OE
rbarton@ci.victorville.ca.us

Vice-President: David Deards, KI6HVI

Secretary: Jonathan McDonald,

Treasurer: Larry Kendall, KD7ZDG
larrykendall@charter.net

January General Meeting

Date: January 13, 2009

Time: 7 p.m.

Program: Guest speaker from the CHP
dispatch.

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.

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.

Club Member News



Birthdays

Lanny Creason	1/17
Tom King	1/6
Barbara LaGrange	1/6
James Pike	1/23
Joyce Pike	1/28

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.

It's YOUR Club!

First, a reminder that the club dues are on an
annual basis and this is a new year. Your
continued support is appreciated. Dues have

not changed, and remember that for new members it is only \$10 to join. Encourage your ham friends to join us.

Secondly, we are looking for input for programs in the year ahead. If you have any special interest in a topic that you would like to learn more about, pass that along to a board member. Then it can be considered for an upcoming program. If you have any items related to ham radio that would be of interest to other members, maybe you could be part of a program yourself. Again, any ideas that are received would be appreciated.

Thirdly, there are many hams in our community that are not involved in the club. Spread the word that they do not have to be a member to participate, to come to a meeting, or to maybe provide a program themselves. When you talk to other hams, mention the club and its need for more participation from the radio community. VVARC has been around since 1956, and we would like to see it stick around for many years to come. We can all be advocates for our club.

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.

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

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

New web address in VVARC.org.

If anyone has information they would like to see on the web site or any comments or corrections, notify our webmaster Dale Thompson, thomp_01@yahoo.com, or Sandi DeWeert, sdeweert@verizon.net.

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.

Free Online Ham Practice Exams and Study Materials

By K0DFNR Hamilton Carter

I just saw the VICTOR VALLEY ARC on the arrl.org web site and I noticed that you offer help for newcomers. I just created a set of free online exam practice tests that I hope hams will find useful. Within the practice tests, online study resources, (Wikipedia, NASA, ARRL, etc...), are provided for many of the questions. The list of resources available for each question is constantly growing because users can add their own favorite links to the study materials. Users can also track their test scores over time and see which sub-elements are giving them the most trouble. You can see all the practice tests at: <http://copaseticflow.blogspot.com/>.

Please let me know if you find it handy, or if you think of any ways to make it better. Also, if you think it's useful, please feel free to add a link to the practice exams at your site.

The tests were mentioned recently on kb6nu.com at: <http://kb6nu.com/new-online-test/>. You can also see comments about the practice exams on the QRZ forums: <http://forums.qrz.com/showthread.php?t=180904>

Thanks! 73

KB6NU's Column for December 2008

All I Want for Christmas Is....

When I was a kid, we had an album (remember records on vinyl?) that had a bunch of Christmas songs for kids. The song I remember most goes:

All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth,
My two front teeth, my two front teeth.

Gee, if I could only have my two front teeth,
Then I could wish you Merry Chrith-math (sang with a lisp).

Seeing as how I've had my two front teeth for nearly 50 years now, and I pretty much have everything I want, I got to thinking about what I want for ham radio for Christmas this year. Here's what I've come up with so far. In no particular order, I want:

- MORE SUNSPOTS!

- the median age for ham radio operators to actually decrease this year. This means not only recruiting kids, but also younger adults.

- the pessimists who are continually talking down ham radio to find new joy in the hobby and begin working to make it great.

- the FCC to appoint someone as effective as Riley Hollingsworth to take over as the enforcer of the amateur radio service regulations.

- the FCC to pay a little more attention to amateur radio regulations and not treat them as an afterthought.

- the silliness on 75m phone and 14.275 MHz to go QRT.

- the ARRL to work harder on making itself truly the "national association for amateur radio" and on increasing the percentage of licensed hams that are ARRL members.

- to be able to brag about all of ham radio's "purposes," not only providing emergency and public service communications. According to Part 97, these are:

- * advancing the state of the radio art;
- * improving our technical and operating skills;
- * expanding the number of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts; and
- * enhancing international goodwill.

- ham radio clubs to grow and thrive even in these tough economic times.

When I asked this question on Twitter, I got a couple of answers that were versions of a couple of wishes above, but I also got a few more:

- WORMT wants "all of us to get on the air more and act as good ambassadors for the hobby," and
- NT7S wants the hearts of ham Grinches to grow a couple of sizes.
- N!WBV wants redesigns for most ham radio websites.

I pretty much agree with all three. Happy New Year!

When not waiting for Santa to decide if he's been naughty or nice, Dan, KB6NU, teaches ham classes and blogs about ham radio (www.kb6nu.com)

Goldstone Field Trip

Note: Story and all photos courtesy of Barbara LaGrange

You would never think that out in the canyons beyond Ft. Irwin's military gates is the land of huge mushroom shaped antennas, wide desert vistas, and generations of burros that once worked the gold fields. Our October field trip to ITT's Goldstone Deep Space Satellite complex turned out with good weather and a small group of ham enthusiasts, mixed with a family with four curious children, and a Barstow college professor and his wife.

Any entrance into Goldstone starts with license and ID checks at the Ft. Irwin gate, followed by a second gate check at Goldstone and ID badges given out to guests. We waited for everyone to catch up and met the family with children, and the couple. Our first view of the complex started with a peek of sites 27, 28 and 13 through a narrow canyon side road. We just drove by. This was just a tease. However, a few miles deeper brought us to the first complex at Echo Site. The austere white dish structure stands high and wide above the muted colors of the desert. This is the hub of the daily operations with admin buildings, museum, office buildings, a full cafeteria, and Maser lab. Here is where they receive the GAVRT signals for the Lewis Center to allow students from around the world to sturdy radio waves. Go to: <http://www.lewiscenter.org/gavrt/> for more info.

Karla Warner, Goldstone's museum and Outreach liaison, and Jeff LaGrange, 25-year employee, were our guides for the event. Karla gave us an overview of the complex and a timeline tour of the satellites and probes down through its 50-year history. A walk through the museum proved entertaining for the kids who played with dials and levers simulating a rover control station. Us big kids entered the Maser Lab where Jeff showed the group the cryogenic amplification equipment that he maintains to help bring quiet uncluttered signals in from deep space unmanned satellites. His daily work brings him in contact with cooling mechanisms that reach Kelvin degrees, a level of below zero cold that most techs don't deal with.

Our tour continued with a long drive out to another canyon at 14 or Mars, the main control room for all data collections. I bet you didn't know you could drive to Mars. As the hub of research, Mars houses huge banks of computers, backup systems, generators, and the means to send this data down to JPL in Pasadena. It's a 24-hour operation with groups of college teams and scientists coming and going. The control room is set up similar to Mission Control in Houston. The satellite dish itself is 70-meters and a giant among the others scattered throughout the canyons.

Off again, our caravan passed a small herd of burros that have spent years in a relatively unthreatened lifestyle. Often seen crossing the roads in the morning, some herds have as many as 30 members. Goldstone was chosen as a low-noise unobtrusive complex in 1958 due to its remote location, individual pan-shaped canyons, and stark quiet as far as signals were concerned. It had the least amount of interference in signal quality, sending and receiving.

Entering Apollo Valley, we could easily spot the sharp white edges of more dishes. These were beam wave guide antennas, 24 and 25, close together, and 26 the last in the series where our group spent time for a quick break.

Before we ventured back to Echo for lunch, we learned about the progress of the remote Pioneer site 11 and its fate. Now that the military war games have ramped up to fight Al Qaida guerrillas, more territory was needed to practice maneuvers and for hide-and-seek training. The buildings in this remote canyon where Pioneer is now, will be taken over soon. In order to save this first site and its historic value for future generations, ITT's Goldstone facility is working with JPL, Barstow College, and fundraising groups to salvage Pioneer's dish and move it to an onsite science complex at Bartow College, called COSAT – Center of Science and Technology. In the center the plan calls for labs, radio studies, tech advances, high-end funding for research, and a museum/gift shop using the dish as its biggest draw. The dish will stay decommissioned but will serve as an icon of our progress in space and science.

Our trip concluded with a sack lunch back at Echo, and some lively conversation about the fate of Pioneer and the evidence that our continued support of deep space will depend on funding and the atmosphere of a new political agenda at the Whitehouse.

Speaking of Clubs: Poly Tech Radio Club

Taken from the June 1929 yearbook of Benson Poly Tech HS in Portland, Oregon

Radio: The purpose of the Radio Club, one of the oldest clubs in this school, is to advance shortwave or amateur radio. The club meets on the first and third Fridays of every month, and at each meeting one of the members gives a talk on some phase of radio. Code classes are organized for those members who wish to learn the code and get an operator's license. Eleven members of the club have operator's licenses; of these eleven, eight have stations and each of the other three will soon have one. The club's transmitter, W7YK, may be operated by any member having an operator's license.

Baker to Vegas March 2009

Many club members support the annual Baker to Vegas relay race. In the past years, a group of us volunteers at Stage 14 which is east of Pahrump on Blue Diamond Road. Our own Jeff LaGrange is the person in charge of the hams there. This year the event is early, in March, and Jeff is still looking for help. If you would like more information or are thinking about doing this event, Jeff would be happy to talk to you!

Input for the Spectrum

Virginia Hall as a contributor and Sandi DeWeert as Editor continue to put out this newsletter. We can add anyone who wishes to get the Spectrum to our mailing list. Also, we continually make an effort to find little bits about ham radio that crop up in unexpected places. If YOU happen to notice something interesting like that as you read, travel, or talk to fellow hams, pass it along. We want to make this a newsletter where everyone can find something to enjoy. Any help appreciated. You can e-mail me to kd6rdc@juno.com.

Route 66 and the Rose Bowl Parade

On New Year's Day, we watch the Rose Bowl Parade. This year the float from New Mexico was a great and humorous display of the Roadrunner and Coyote. There they were, on the float, running down a hilly road which clearly displayed the well known logo for Route 66. Thanks again for those of you who helped our club participate on Route 66 on the Air this last Sept, but we are still just about on the bottom for the number of contacts. So, here is an early appeal for more participation this Sept; we would like to continue our support of this annual Special Event.

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.

Now, 2009 has just arrived
VVARC has still survived
Come to a meeting
You'll get a warm greeting
And from it, some pleasure derived

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

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 _____