



VICTOR VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

THE SPECTRUM

February 2009

The VVARC Officers for 2009

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

Vice-President: David Deards, KI6HVI
KI6HVI@arrl.net

Secretary: Jonathan McDonald
KG6tqr@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Larry Kendall, KD7ZDG
larrykendall@charter.net

February General Meeting

Date: February 10, 2009

Time: 7 p.m.

Program: Goldstone Presentation

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

Bill Baumruck	2/1
Hank McGill	2/18
Raichard Stephan	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.

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

License Classes Technician and General

See flyers attached to the Spectrum mailing.

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.

KB6NU's Column for January 2008

Class Projects
By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I have been teaching a General Class license

class for the past five years. The first year, I had five students, the next year 35! This year, I have only five again.

Not being a pedagogical genius, it never really occurred to me until last year to give my General Class students a project to work on while we slogged through the material. Last year, some of them built little QRP kits. Not only was that fun, it was educational. Some of them had never even soldered before!

Since last year's project worked out so well, I am asking this year's students to do some kind of project, but one that they choose themselves. Here's the short list that I came up with:

1. Build a kit like my students did last year.
2. Build a 2m beam. At our first meeting, one of the guys noted that while he could hear a repeater about 30 miles away from his QTH, he wasn't able to hit it with the 5/8-wavelength vertical he was using. I suggest that he build a Cheap Yagi (http://www.fredspinner.com/W0FMS/Ch_eapYagi/vjbcy.html).
3. Download some antenna simulation software and analyze a dipole or vertical antenna. MM-ANA (<http://mmhamsoft.amateur-radio.ca/mmana/index.htm>) is free and looks to be a pretty good program.
4. Learn Morse Code. Being the CW geek that I am, how could I not suggest this?

I wanted to give my students a bigger choice, so I asked the readers of my blog for more suggestions:

- Kenneth, W6KWF, replied, "Hands down the most useful and most successful projects I've built have been 2m J-poles. I've built both the 1/2-in. copper tubing and TV line variants, and use both as my primary antennas. The TV line one is nice because I live in an apartment, so when I need a good antenna, I tie a magnet to the top of it and stick it to my upstairs neighbor's balcony. It's a very forgiving antenna."
- Zeke also like the idea of building J-pole antennas. "You didn't mention the age

group/groups you are working with," he said, "but have you thought about a hands-on project such as a j-pole for 2 or 6 meters. It would give them an opportunity to feel the pride that follows an involved project. Furthermore, the J-pole is a pretty good antenna."

- John N8ZYA, said, "I like the [idea of learning CW].it's like learning to play the guitar or piano. A skill that can be used your entire lifetime!"
- Robert suggested, "How about building a 20 meter delta loop? I am very inexperienced when it comes to antenna building, but a friend suggested this for working DX on 20 meters and it worked out really well. In fact, my first contact on it was Spain!"

I would love to offer my students even more choices. If you have a suggestion, please e-mail it to me at cwgeek@kb6nu.com. Thanks!

Baker to Vegas Relay March 14 – 15, 2009

Jeff LaGrange, KD6JUC, is still looking for help staffing Stage 14 for the annual Baker to Vegas relay race. It is true that runners from over 200 teams come by the stage during the night hours, but it is a great event to watch and to participate in. This is the XXV year of the event, which seems to grow larger each year. If you want more information about what happens at the stage, come to the club meeting and get the facts!

The latest on World Radio

Bob Hall KD6RDC

Well, when I paid for a lifetime subscription to World Radio, I thought it would be for my lifetime. It seems, however, that my subscription was for the lifetime of the magazine. Our club had just paid for another

year with the magazine when the sad news came out. In lieu of the subscription cards that have been door prizes for years, we were sent a half dozen or so small publications related to Ham radio with a brief note. In fact, Virginia had prepared two subscription cards as door prizes for the Christmas party as usual, before we became aware they were of no use.

World Radio Online replaces the former magazine. This had been adapted and improved for internet presentation, and available FREE. It will continue to have human interest stories, some of the favorite columnists, and other features that the magazine had.

In addition, CQ is being sent to Hams that had issues of World Radio coming to them. If you were surprised to get the CQ magazine in your mail, check out page 10 on the Feb issue to learn more about the changes that have occurred to World Radio.

Wonder Boys

Reported by Randy Hatfield

Quinn is 13 and Liam is 10. They logged their study time. For the last exam the total was 241 hours.

All the best



Digital TV Converter Boxes

New TVI Danger reported in Feb issue of CQ magazine.

In the op-ed page, it was reported by Bill Prats, K6ACJ, that digital TV converter boxes may present a new source of television interference for Hams. "Many of the new DTV converters might easily overload with a strong Ham transmission on VHG or UHF near the box or the over-the-air antenna," said Bill, "causing the TV screen to either freeze or go black." So if your neighbor says his/her screen goes blank whenever you get on 2 m or 440 Mhz, an overload of the box is the likely culprit. While you can try to explain that the problem is in the poor shielding of the converter, your best bet first is to try reducing your power level so as not to overload the neighbor's box.

Bendable battery made from Paper

reported by the Associated Press

It looks like a piece of paper and can be bent or twisted, trimmed with scissors, or molded into any shape needed. While the battery is only a prototype a few inches square right now, the researchers at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute who developed it have high hopes for it in electronics and other fields that need smaller, lighter power sources. Robert Linhardt, professor for the Center of Biotechnology and Interdisciplinary Studies RPI, explained it is an integrated device, not a combination of pieces. The battery uses paper infused with an electrolyte and carbon nanotubes that are embedded in the paper. The carbon nanotubes form the electrodes, the paper is the separator and the electrolyte allows the current to flow.

Students at the school in Troy, NY, were the inspiration for the work; Linhardt's students were working on methods to dissolve paper and cast it into membranes for use in dialysis machines. Meanwhile, students in the RPIE materials science department were trying to make carbon nanotube composites using

polymers. The two groups got together and realized they could use paper instead of polymers and combine the two projects. Then came other students at RPI who said that the project—a thin sheet black on one side and white on the other—looked like an electrical device. Over a period of about 18 months, the groups of students developed the projects into a battery, a capacitor, which stores electricity, and a combination of the two.

A potential use is in combination with solar cells; perhaps layers of the paper batteries could store the electricity generated until it is needed. Perhaps it could be scaled up and shaped into something like a car door, offering moving electrical storage and power when needed. “The advantage of a flexible device would be that you could roll it in a film or a sheet. However, carbon nanotubes are very expensive.”

Humor: Math Problems

A somewhat advanced society has figured out to package basic knowledge in pill form. A student, needing some learning, goes to the pharmacy and asks what kinds of knowledge pills were available. The Pharmacist says, “Here’s a pill for English Literature.” The student takes the pill and swallows it and has new knowledge about English literature! “What else do you have?” asks the student. “Well, I have pills for art history, biology, and work history.” The student asks for these, shallows them, and has new knowledge.

Then the student asks, “Do you have a pill for math?” The Pharmacist says, “Wait just a moment.” He goes back into the storeroom, brings back a whopper of a pill, and plunks it on the counter. “I have to take that huge pill for math?” inquires the student. The pharmacist replied, “Well, you know that math always was a little hard to swallow”

Investment Tips:

If you have any money left, here are a few expected mergers. Maybe you can get in on the ground floor and make some BIG bucks.

1. FedEx is expected to join its competitor, UPS, and become: FedUP.
2. Polygram Records, Warner Bros, and Zesta Crackers join forces and become: Poly Warner Cracker.
3. 3M will merge with Goodyear and become MMMGood.
4. Zippo Manufacturing, Audi Motors, Dofasco, and Dakota Mining will merge and become: ZipAudiDoDa.
5. Hale Business Systems, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Fuller Brush, and W.R> Grace Co will merge and become: Hale, Mary, Fuller, Grace

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.

The limerick has a simple beat
To make one up is an easy feat.
My ideas are tired
My brain is now mired
It’s **YOUR** turn to make a poem
complete.

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 _____