



# VICTOR VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

## THE SPECTRUM

June 2009

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### The VVARC Officers for 2009

**President: Robert Barton, W7OE**

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

**Vice-President: David Deards, KI6HVI**

[RadioGramp@me.com](mailto:RadioGramp@me.com)

**Secretary: Jonathan McDonald**

[KG6tqr@yahoo.com](mailto:KG6tqr@yahoo.com)

**Treasurer: Larry Kendall, KD7ZDG**

[kd7zdg@verizon.net](mailto:kd7zdg@verizon.net)

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### June General Meeting

Date: June 9, 2009

Time: 6 p.m.

Program: **CLUB'S ANNUAL BBQ**

Location: The home of Virginia and Bob Hall,  
14081 Driftwood, SLV

Directions: From Bear Valley Rd, turn onto Spring Valley Parkway and drive to the very end. Turn right onto Driftwood, about 6<sup>th</sup> house on the left. Come in the side gate to the backyard.

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### Annual Club Picnic, Tuesday June 9

This is a family event, the more the merrier, so all are welcome. We have a limited number of chairs to share---BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS to be sure you have a place to sit other than on the grass!!

The club provides hot dogs and hamburgers (with all the fixings), baked beans, sodas, ice water, and coffee (and also plates, plastic silver, etc) We ask you to bring a salad, a desert, chips, etc to share. Of course there will be door prizes; also some old pictures and information to share.

We hope to have a good turnout. Remember that the evenings can get cold, even on a hot day, so a "wrap" is suggested.

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### Club Action

The Club received 100% of the proceeds from the auctioned off items this year; a total of \$199.15. Nice going guys.

Thanks again this year to our auctioneer, James Pike.

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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.

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## Club Member News



### **Birthdays**

No birthdays in June?? What happened! A buzy May I guess.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!!**

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

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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.

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## New Members

Florin Sixt, KE6TOP

Welcome Florin!!!!!!

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## Congratulations!!!

Peter Dominguez just received his Tech license, KI6YEA.

Way to go!!!!!!!!!!!!

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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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## May Prize Winners

Door Prize Winners:

Half Pot Winner:

Membership Drawing:

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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.

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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 – VVARC.ORG**

If anyone has changes, comments, suggestions, etc., contact anyone on the Board or email [larrykendall@charter.net](mailto:larrykendall@charter.net).

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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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## **A Tale of Two Tubes**

*By Dan Romnanchik, KB6NU*

A couple of weeks ago, I worked N4QR on 40m CW. I could tell by the tone of his signal that he was operating a homebrew transmitter. There wasn't any 60 Hz on his signal, and it didn't chirp exactly, but I could tell it wasn't the pure tone you get out of today's radios.

I asked him about his rig, and he told me that it was a one-tube transmitter made with a 6L6. I forgot to ask him where he got the schematic, but a quick Internet search turned up the following:

- The May 2005 issue of the K9YA Telegraph (<http://www.k9ya.org>) has an article written by N4QR titled, "The Wonderful One-Tuber," that contains the schematic for the transmitter. The K9YA folks don't make issues of The Telegraph available on their website, but I was able to get a copy of the issue by e-mailing them.
- A 6L6 Classic  
<http://www.io.com/~nielw/6l6/6L6.htm>
- WB2MIC 6L6 Transmitter Project  
[http://www.metaphoria.us/hamradio/6L6\\_transmitter\\_schematic.htm](http://www.metaphoria.us/hamradio/6L6_transmitter_schematic.htm)

The 6L6 is a pentode that, according to Wikipedia (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/6L6>), was introduced by the Radio Corporation of America (RCA) in July 1936. Apparently, it was used quite a bit in public address systems.

After the tube became successful, tube manufacturers introduced a number of variations, including the venerable 807. The original 6L6 was capable of delivering 19 W;

the latest variation, the 6L6GC is rated for 30 W. The 6L6GC is still used in guitar amps, and is still manufactured in Russia, China, and by Groove Tubes ([www.groovetubes.com](http://www.groovetubes.com)) in the U.S. They sell a number of different 6L6 variants; the cheapest is \$16, the most expensive \$180!!

Tube #2

One of the reasons I was interested in the 6L6 is because about a year ago I came across a schematic for a transmitter using 6A6 dual triode. I had just come into possession of a couple hundred tubes, and while I didn't have a 6A6 (at least I haven't found one yet), I do have a couple of 6J6 dual triodes. They're not quite as high power as the 6A6, but I'm still thinking about building a little transmitter with one.

As you might expect, there's a bunch of information on the Internet about this tube:

- The Jones Push-Pull Transmitter ([http://wv7g.home.mindspring.com/jones\\_6j6.html](http://wv7g.home.mindspring.com/jones_6j6.html)), was built with a 6J6 instead of a 6A6.
- Another schematic can be found on the AK0B website (<http://www.qsl.net/ak0b/>).
- 6J6 data sheet (<http://www.gargnas.net:3000/tubedata/6J6.pdf>) from the GE data book.

One interesting fact about the 6J6 is that IBM used it in the 604 computer. Unfortunately, they found it to be not as reliable as they wanted it to be, but at first none of the tube manufacturers were interested in making a more robust version. This led IBM to set up a tube-making laboratory where they could experiment with designs. They developed a more reliable version of the 6J6 and finally convinced RCA to manufacture the tube. According to the author of the history of the 604 (<http://ed-thelen.org/comp-hist/IBM-604.html#new>), part of the concern is that IBM would decide to get into the tube business.

So, the next time you hear a signal that doesn't sound so perfect, remember that there just might be a story behind it. Ask the op about his transmitter, and listen to what he or she has to say.

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## **Arnie Shatz, N6MC Makes Radio Rivista**

*From the ARRL Section Newsletter,  
[www.orange-arrrl.org](http://www.orange-arrrl.org).*

The story below was told in the April 09 issue:

In the Orange Section, one of our own, Arnie Shatz, N6HC, made the Dec 2008 issue of the Italian magazine *Radio Rivista*. The article title, loosely translated, was "The secrets of the doctor of the expedition." Arnie was on a DXpedition to St. Brandon Island in 2007 as a CW operator. He was praised for his hard work setting up antennas and teardown. He was also praised for his excellent and most professional CW operator. When the time came, and accidents do happen, Arnie (Arnold ShatzMD) performed a small procedure on a wound requiring sutures for one of the participants. In the magazine there was a two page article which goes on explaining all the equipment that was brought, including the medical emergency kit required for this long expedition.

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## **Big numbers put into perspective**

Hopefully the stimulus package will help the economy recover and the increased debt won't be more than we can bear, but... If you spent a million dollars a day every single day since Jesus was born, you still wouldn't have spent as much as Congress has spent in the stimulus bill. Now, quadruple that amount and we will have the cost of the Iraq war.

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## You Might be a Ham Operator if...

You always schedule the last full weekend in June for vacation.

You walk through the plumbing section at the hardware store and see antenna parts.

Removing snow from the roof of your car requires working around the antenna and wires.

The real estate agent scratches his head when you ask if the soil conductivity is high, medium, or low.

When your doorbell rings, you immediately shut down the amplifier

Your family doesn't have a clue what to get you for Christmas, even after you tell them.

Your girlfriend or wife asks, "You're going to spend \$XXXX on what?"

You have pictures of your radio equipment as wallpaper on your computer's desktop.

The first question you ask a new car dealer is "What is the alternator's current output?"

You have tapped out Morse code on your car's horn.

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## Radio Limerick for the Month

In **May**, I went to the "Meet"  
And all of the Hams I did greet,  
Put a bid on a rig  
That I happened to dig,  
But I outbid myself in defeat!

*Submitted by Barbara LaGrange*

**June** ninth's the Club's picnic affair  
At the Hall's —plan to be there  
Bring food to share,  
And also your chair  
'Tis good fun, as you are aware.

*Submitted by Virginia, inviting you to  
COME!*

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.

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