

VICTOR VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

THE SPECTRUM

September 2009

The VVARC Officers for 2009

President: Robert Barton, W7OE

RDBC@verizon.net

Vice-President: David Deards, KI6HVI

RadioGramp@me.com

Secretary: Christy Hunter, KB6LTY

cchunter3@mindspring.com

Treasurer: Larry Kendall, KD7ZDG

kd7zdg@verizon.net

September General Meeting

Date: September 8, 2009

Time: 7 p.m.

Program: Mike Plaziak, KO6CR
Will be providing a 20 minute presentation on NVIS antennas

- What is NVIS
- What is the advantage of NVIS over other communication means
- NVIS propagation and propagation prediction resources
- Types of NVIS antennas
- A simple backyard NVIS antenna for 80 or 40 meters
- NVIS resources for more info (internet, etc)

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 B.

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.

Route 66 on the Air Sept 12 – 20
2009 0100z – 2359z

HELP! OPERATORS NEEDED!!!

Our club is operating as **W6D** this year. We need to have operators working for part of each and every day. You work out of your own house, on your radio, anytime during the 9 days. You use the **W6D** call sign (CQ, CQ, this is W6D Route 66 Special Event Station, W6D Calling CQ, etc.)

The only "job" you have is to keep a log of your contacts in Zulu time. (If you do keep a log in local time, let us know and we can convert that information). The Halls will take care of all requests for our QSL card. If someone asks, the **mailing address** of the Club it is:

**Victor Valley ARC
P. O. Box 869
Victorville, CA 92393.**

Most of the Hams working this event will have found this QSL information from the official website for the event, <http://www.w6jbt.org/>. The event is run by the Citrus Belt ARC. Frequencies listed in their announcement of the event include 21.366, 14.266, 7.266, and 3.866, but the airwaves can be so busy that you have to operate above or below these.

If you have any questions, please call Virginia at 245-0123 or by e-mail at kd6rdc@juno.com.

Here is a small BRIBE: For every contact you make for this event, we will pay 1 cent off the cost of your dinner at the club Christmas Party, with a FREE meal for the operator who makes the most contacts. Some of the members who normally operate for us will be out of town, so we are asking for HELP. Spread the word; all Hams in our area can help us, even those who are not currently in the Club, with the same requirement for a log to be given to the Halls at the end of the event. This enables us to pass along the total number of contacts made by our group.

We will be contacting some of you by phone and if it sounds like we are begging for your help, it is only because we ARE!

Route 66 Radio Memory

While on the air during Route 66 last year, I heard a lot of people pile up to talk to a Ham in Maine operating on an island just off the shore. He could see a lighthouse nearby. The person whose call sign he selected from the crowd

started off by saying that he, too, could see a light house—only this one off the Pacific shore in Oregon. The two Hams agreed that was really a shore-to-shore connection.

Club Member News

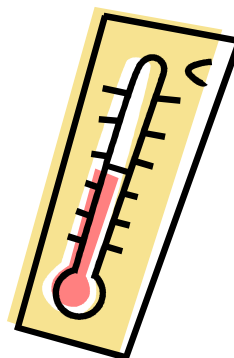


Birthdays

| | |
|---------------|------|
| Henry Barnes | 9/26 |
| Tom Hoegerman | 9/15 |
| Larry Kendall | 9/15 |
| Carolyn Schow | 9/19 |

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

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



One of our members, Carolyn Schow, whose birthday is also this month, has had a lot of trouble with her arm and elbow and has had various surgeries. Haven't had any reports lately. Hope she is better and we see her soon at the meetings.

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

Ray Warren, KF6MFK
Scott Metzger, KG6MFK
Nicole Metzger, KJ6BBJ

WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS!!!

9/6/2009

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.

Jamboree On The Air

David and Robert are organizing details on the JOTA event on Oct 17, 18. The event will be held at the Victorville County Fairgrounds. They will be having several events for the scouts to earn their badge; all day radio contact opportunity, Morse code (Jerry), satellite tracking, possible contact with ISS Saturday night, and T-hunting.

They still need members to help with sign-up booth, setup, and radio operators. Please contact Robert Barton or David Deards to signup.

My Favorite Radio Memory

From May 2007 issue of Reminisce Extra

“Will anyone hearing this broadcast please communicate with us, as we are anxious to know how far the broadcast is reaching and how it is being received.” With those words, in 1920, radio station KDKA became the first commercial radio station in the United States. Broadcasting from a small shack atop the building of its sponsor, The Pittsburgh Post newspaper, the station encouraged listeners to write also to the Post and give their location, including the date and time.

In December, 1926, C.L. Brandon wrote in and received a Home Radio Club certificate (left) the following month. His son later gave the

certificate to me when he found I was a licensed radio amateur, or “Ham.”

By Glen G. Tucker, Lake park, GA.

My Own Favorite Radio Memory

By Virginia Hall, KD6YLT

Once when driving “down the hill,” we heard a Ham talking about his arrival at the top of Mt. Baldy, where they were building an igloo and spending the night. That was a fun conversation to hear. Early the next day, as we were driving up 395 towards the Sierras, we heard the same voice calling again. When nobody replied, we came up. We mentioned that we had heard him the night before and asked him how everything went. He reported that it had rained during the night, which melted part of the shelter. They were getting ready to climb back down that morning.

About thirty minutes later, we heard someone else calling for a radio check. We replied; turned out that he was in Death Valley. Not having any luck on his packet station, he was worried about his radio. We suggested maybe it was the early hour. Then we thought how we had talked to Mt. Baldy, such a high spot, and Death Valley, such a low spot, on the same 2m repeater, all within a short period of time.

Report from the ARRL Affiliated Club Coordinator

(Excerpts taken from correspondence to Club Board)

Here it is the end of August, a hot August with more tragic fires raging around Los Angeles and the end of my first few months as ARRL Affiliated Club Coordinator. I guess it goes without saying that it takes a while to get situated into a new position and build some tools and templates to communicate through. Microsoft Word with Mail Merge and Outlook are used to create these mailings but I

do respond to each individual reply and enjoy reading your newsletters, some very attractive news letters too. Contest?

By now most of the clubs have read my July 31 Introduction Letter and have updated their ARRL Big Club List Records at the ARRL Web site. During August twelve clubs completed updates to their information and one club emailed asking for help because their records did not update properly. If you have not done so, please make every effort to perform the update as we have found the contact and officer information is often out of date. We at ARRL feel our emails are important and want them to reach the club promptly.

Events:

Do you ever get the feeling there are no Ham radio events for a particular weekend that you might have free? It's not exactly convenient or easy right now but use the ARRL Big Club List at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/club/biglist.html> and check the web sites of neighboring clubs. Chances are someone in the vicinity is having some type of event and maybe a call to a club contact will get you an invitation to join in.

Many of the clubs who responded to my introduction letter included newsletters and activity information, not only were the newsletters and club web sites impressive, so were the activities. So, check around the vicinity, maybe a nearby club is putting on an activity too interesting to pass up.

Quartzfest Hamfest held in the desert just south of Quartzsite Arizona is an incredible event, a must do item for the ol Bucket list. Read about it at this link and I'll write more next month. <http://www.quartzfest.org/>. Remember, this is in the desert, no facilities at all, none unless you go into town so I would say the price of a small porta potti to install in the Ol Van is well worth the price of this week long event.

Repeater Nets are a main source of information for the average Ham, keep up the

good work but VHF only covers a limited area so tune to 7,250kHz ARES Net at 8:30AM daily, especially Monday for related news.

Sharing Skills and Speaker List: Many Hams have special skills needed by other clubs such as setting up APRS, Winlink, Solar Panels, or Portable emergency repeaters. Let me know if you want to make yourself available to other clubs so we can put you onto a new list to compliment the speakers list. By the way, if you consider yourself skilled on a topic, consider adding your name to the speaker list to share your experience with other clubs. The experience is very rewarding and you'll meet lots of new people.

ARRL Club Lists: My marching orders are to share all Ham information with anyone who knows which end of the Mic to speak into. As part of this effort, I'm piecing together a master list of ALL Ham Radio Clubs in the Orange Section; that is clubs in the Counties of Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Inyo (Bishop). Why you might ask; well we need better local information to serve our Ham community better. If you are aware of a club, send the full contact info to me so I can cross check it with the main list and add them to the mailing list. Everyone has a delete key so that will filter unwanted emails.

Hamfests and Swap Meets: Eventually we like to put our busy schedules aside to go find someplace to chat with other Hams, local Hamfests, Swap Meets, Koffee Klatches, and Ham Radio Stores are very important as gathering places to socialize. Get the word out, if you like to meet other Hams, let it be known that a group of you meet at local foodfest at such and such date, lets try to get our Ham population together for eye ball QSOs Keep the spark going.

By the way, here in Huntington Beach, I have a small diverse QRP/CW group who meet now and then if anyone is interested.

The Santa Barbara Convention was fun to visit, easy access, easy parking, the Ham swap was

right up front and under the trees with lots of great used gear and parts for sale. Various EmComm organizations including the Red Cross had ERVs setup at the front door to the Earl Warren entrance. I really like the setup, more country than Dayton or Pacificon. It's always fun to stop and chat to share Emcomm experience and get the latest info and updates about their organizations. Many Ham clubs are heavily involved in Emcomm, maybe we will see them there in the future. Registration was inside as were Elecraft with an excellent display of their gear and Ham Radio Outlet with product for sale. ATV was well represented in a large booth but I didn't take notes on it as the Elecraft folks were demonstrating the K3 with the new Panadapter display. There were more vendors and special interest groups inside and I noticed as time went on the crowds were getting larger. The folks did a good job and we can hope to see more next year. By the way, I was surprised to hear next to zero activity on the Catalina Repeater and APRS during the 135 mile trip up there from Orange County. Ditto for 146.52 & .55 the 2m calling freqs.

What's Old is New: An item appeared on QRZ.com that describes certain cell phone manufactures developing a newer texting language and 3 button texting device to do, guess what, MORSE CODE, doesn't that make your heart beat fast??? See www.qrz.com for more info.

Put a new wrapper around something and give it a new name. Somewhere in the last 10 years Packet and Pactor have been wrapped in new software resulting in AirMail and Winlink2000. Here in Orange County a very large Winlink implementation project is being ramped up by OCRACES making this a good time for folks to dust off old packet terminal node controllers and warm up the technology. Monitor 145.010 / .030 / .050 / 070 / .090 to see what stations are on the air. Going digital should inspire a lot of folks who like to use PCs and then fulfill the need for future digital guys who can help maintain future

Winlink and D-Star systems maybe this is a good topic when recruiting new members.

My first few months have been an exciting experience hearing from clubs and working with members, my goal is to get Hams talking by fax, phone, radio, or soup cans with strings. The Ham population is very diverse and if you think about it, part of a national treasure of skills. Let's try to keep it together, make yourself known, become visible for all Hams to see.

Regards and 73s
Bill Prats K6ACJ
ARRL Orange Section Affiliated Club
Coordinator

August Prize Winners

August was "dark" due to vacations.

August Column from Dan KB6NU

(When I posted a version of this on my blog, it was quite controversial, so be prepared)

Passing the Tech Test

I teach One-Day Tech classes. At the start of each class, I go over the following to help focus students on what to keep in mind when taking the test. It occurs to me that these are good tips no matter who is taking the test, so if you know someone who will be testing soon, please feel free to pass along this advice.

Technical Topics

The Tech test is not very technical, but there are three technical topics that you need to know:

- Ohm's Law,
- How to calculate power, and
- The relationship between frequency and wavelength.

Ohm's Law

The basic formula for Ohm's Law is voltage (E) equals current (I) times resistance (R), or $E = I \times R$. On the test, there are several questions where they give you two of the values and ask you to calculate the third. If you're asked to calculate the current, you use the formula, $I = E / R$. If you need to calculate the resistance, use the formula $R = E / I$.

How to Calculate Power

The formula for calculating power is power (P) = voltage (E) times current (I), or $P = E \times I$. To calculate the current drawn, when given the power being consumed and the voltage applied to the circuit, use the formula $I = P / E$.

Relationship Between Frequency and Wavelength

There are several questions that require you to calculate the wavelength of a signal or some fraction of the wavelength. The reason for this is that antennas are often a fraction of a wavelength.

The formula that describes the relationship between frequency and wavelength is wavelength in meters = $300 / \text{frequency in MHz}$. One question asks for the approximate length of a quarter-wavelength vertical antenna for 146 MHz. To figure that out, you first calculate the wavelength:

wavelength = $300/146 = 2.05$ m or about 80 inches

One quarter of 80 inches is 20 inches, and the antenna will actually be a little bit shorter than that because radio travels more slowly in wire than it does in free space. The correct answer to this question is 19 inches.

That's all there is to the technical part of the test!

Safety

There are lots of questions on the test about operating safely and being safe when working on antennas. My advice when answering these questions is to always choose the most

conservative answer. The two exceptions are when asked what is the lowest voltage and current that can hurt you. For these questions, the correct answer is the second lowest choices.

Emergencies

There are lots of questions about what to do in emergencies. There are two things to keep in mind when answering these questions:

- You should do whatever you can to help someone who is in an emergency situation.
- You can even break the rules to help someone in an emergency situation. This includes operating on frequencies you are normally not allowed to operate on and communicating with other stations in other radio services.

Miscellaneous Tips

Here are a couple of other miscellaneous tips:

- The answer is 'D' if one of the answers to a question is, "D. All of these answers are correct". Chances are that is the correct answer. There are 18 questions with this option, and of those 18 questions, there are only two questions--T3B06 and T5B03--where that is not the correct answer.
- Long-Answer Rule. Where one answer is a lot longer than the other options, chances are that this is the correct answer. I haven't done an exhaustive study of this, but when one answer is very long, take a good, hard look at it.

That's all I have. Good luck on the test!

Victor Valley Repeaters

| Frequency | Offset | Call Sign | PL | Location: |
|--------------------|--------|-----------|-------|--------------|
| 145.2 | - | WR6AZN | 131.8 | Wrightwood |
| 145.420 | - | WW6Y | | Victorville |
| 146.115 | + | K7GIL | 91.5 | Victorville |
| 146.385 | + | KE6TZG | 146.2 | Keller Peak |
| 146.940 | - | WA6EFW | 91.5 | Victorville |
| 147.120 | + | K7GIL | 91.5 | Victorville |
| 147.195 | + | W6NVY | 141.3 | Victorville |
| 147.300 | + | KD6OLD | 91.5 | Hesperia |
| 223.840 | - | K7GIL | 156.7 | Victorville |
| Linked to Condor | | | | |
| 223.960 | - | WR6AZN | 156.7 | Wrightwood |
| 224.020 | - | KC6JAR | 100.0 | Wrightwood |
| 224.260 | - | N6TFF | 156.7 | Pinon Hills |
| 224.480 | - | | 100.0 | Wrightwood |
| 224.560 | - | WA6TJQ | 100.0 | Twin Peaks |
| 445.620 | - | KN3ICK | 141.3 | Apple Valley |
| Coming online soon | | | | |
| 447.000 | - | KC6OPU | 136.5 | Hesperia |
| 447.200 | - | WR6AZN | 94.8 | Wrightwood |
| 447.560 | - | KR1IS | 100.0 | Adelanto |
| 449.700 | - | W6NVY | 141.3 | Victorville |

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.

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.

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.

Radio Limerick for the Month

A Limerick with Memory Question????

This is an effort to get one of you readers out there to pass along a story. Send to kd6rdc@juno.com and it will be put into an upcoming newsletter.

We Hams can talk without a rest.
Of all the contacts, which one was best?
Send a story my way
Brighten my day!!
I need some more help, no contest.

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.

Web Site Update – VVARC.ORG

Web site is back up!!!! Yeeeeee!

Thanks to Larry, AGAIN, it should be updated minus some Field Day pictures.

Keep checking. Larry is hoping to get the pictures posted soon.

If anyone has changes, comments, suggestions, etc., contact anyone on the Board or email KD7ZDG@verizon.net.

Spectrum

Submit any Spectrum entries to Sandi, sdeweert@verizon.net, by the last week of the month. Any comments and suggestions are welcome.