



VICTOR VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

THE SPECTRUM

March 2010

The VVARC Officers for 2010

President: Robert Barton, W7OES
RDBC@verizon.net

Vice-President: David Deards, KI6HVI
RadioGramp@me.com

Secretary: Donette Kendall
donettemk@verizon.net

Treasurer: Larry Kendall, KD7ZDG
kd7zdg@verizon.net

Board Members: Dick Stephan, KI6IXL
bdinhighdesert@yahoo.com

Jerry Grunden, WR6X
barbrieg@juno.com

March General Meeting

Date: March 9, 2010

Time: 7 p.m.

Program: Clint Bradford - K6LCS
Amateur Satellites

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.

Attendees should download his 4-page tutorial and radio programming matrix before the meeting from <http://www.work-sat.com>. Clint welcomes pre-presentation questions! His email address is clint@clintbradford.com.

Clint, K6LCS, has been a licensed amateur since 1994 and involved with public service communications. He has given his "*Working Amateur Satellites with your HT*" presentation to several clubs and Hamfests in Southern California. Professionally, he was sales manager for ADI / Premier / Pryme Communications, worked for Motorola a couple of years, and for Ham Radio Outlet and a couple more. He lives in Mira Loma with his wife, Karen, and their pets: Karen's Icelandic horse, Mjollnir, and his donkey, Edward R. Burro."

March General Meeting

(reprint of February Spectrum)

Clint Bradford, K6LCS, will be presenting his "*Working Amateur Satellites with your HT*" multimedia session.

Tentatively, we'll have a workable pass of AO-51 at 5:01PM and SO-50 at 6:35PM that evening. Come early and we'll work them from the parking lot.

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 the repeater is down, turn to 146.5350 simplex.

Club Member News



Birthdays **Happy Birthday!**

David Deards 3/28
Craig Ebright 3/30

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



Sunshine

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.

February General Meeting

Attendance: 18

Prize Winners:

Half Pot = David Deads, KI6HVI \$6.50
Door Prizes = Paul Kendall, KD7WNJ,
and Richard Durant, AF6KT
Membership Drawing = No winner *

Membership = 33 Paid

9 Lifetime
3 Free
45 Total

** Nick Lamb's name was drawn but was not in attendance. Remember, to be eligible, you need to be present.*

The Club is looking for new members. If you know of anyone that might be interested, be sure to invite them to our meeting.

New Members

David Sommers (WD6ADH)
License: Advanced

Welcome to our new members!!!! Be sure to say hi and make them feel welcome.

Where are the Ham Radio Hackers?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On the Ten-Tec Omni VII Yahoo Group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Ten-Tec-Omni-VII/>), one Ham wrote:

"If I was 17 years-old I would be hacking I-phones and other items like George Hotz, the 17 year-old from New Jersey who was able to unlock the Apple I-phone so that it could be used on other cell service networks.

When I was his age, I was hacking dial telephones. Then one day the phone company showed up at my house. My parents were not impressed with my technical abilities.

This morning there is a story that George has just hacked the 'un-hackable' Sony 3 Play Station. He says the hack was 95% software and 5% hardware.

A quick check of the modifications site run by that guy over in Denmark, shows that there are NO MODS for the O7...interesting. I just wonder how many strange and wonderful things can be done with those 36 buttons/switches on the front panel. Can the O7 be made even better?"

In my reply, I asked, "Why stop at pressing some buttons on the front panel? Why doesn't someone really hack the Omni VII and develop a completely new software package for it?" Rigs like the Omni VII and the Elecraft K3 would seem to be perfect candidates for this kind of hacking.

Sure, there is an order of magnitude difference between a \$300 iPod and a \$3,000 radio, but we're big boys, aren't we? Besides, aside from overdriving the finals, what real damage can you do to the radio? It seems to me that even if you manage to screw up the software in the rig, you can get back to square one by simply re-loading the manufacturer's software.

Ham radio operators have a long history of modifying their radios. Page through any stack of QSTs or CQ Magazines from the 1950s, 60s, and 70s, and you'll find many articles describing modifications to the popular radios of the day. About the only thing hams do to their rigs today is to clip a diode to allow it to operate out-of-band.

What does it say about the technical capabilities of today's Hams that we haven't yet done with our gear what some 17-year-old kid has done with the iPhone and the PlayStation? Why don't we have any third-party software for Omni VII or the K3? I think if a manufacturer actually encouraged third-party software development, they'd quickly gain a following and make their brand even stronger, don't you?

(Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, blogs about ham radio at www.kb6nu.com, teaches the infamous One-Day Tech Class, and operates a lot of 40m CW. E-mail him your comments and questions at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.)

Want Items

Jerry Grunden is looking for a 32V, 500 mA Hewlett-Packard "wall wart" power supply. Contact Jerry at 760-240-1260, barbrieg@juno.com.

Larry Kendall is looking for a 24V, 300 mA "wall wart" power supply. Contact Larry at 760-242-7603, KD7WNJ@verizon.net.

For Sale Items

The wife of Jim Burton, former president of VVARC who passed away 2 years ago, is trying to sell the following equipment. Please contact Christy Hunter (KB6LTY) at cchunter3@mindspring.com if you are interested:

Transceiver	Comments	Working	Age years
Kenwood TS-850S with hand Mic/ manual	Includes power cable w.fuse, optional filters; YK-88C, YG-455C installed.	Yes	18
Kenwood TM-241A 2meter/ with hand mic/ manual	Mic C35? Does not include power cable. Incl pigtail w/fuse.	Yes	?
Antenna Mobile 2m/ 70cm / mag mount/coax	Good cond		
Accessories			
Dentron – Super Tuner/ manual (copy) 1 KW CW and 1200 W PEP SSB		Assumed working	?
MFJ249 HF/ VHF SWR with manual	Does not inc 120/12V power converter. Uses 8 AA cells	Not working	?
Amp Supply LA-1000NT Amplifier with manual/inc connector cable 1200 W input PEP, 1KW CW input portable Amp	Linear Amp. Uses 4 6MJ6 tubes	Assumed working	23
Ham II/CD 44 rotor controller	accompanying rotor not incl	unknown	?

ARRL Orange Section Events Announcements

April 16 -- 18 2010 International DX Convention, Visalia -- This will be the 61st Annual DX Convention. This is a great convention where everyone has a great time. Meet new friends and old friends from around the world or from around the corner that you may have talked to on the radio, but never met. If you are new to DXing or contesting, this is the place to be.

www.dxconvention.org

September 2010 Southwest Division Convention 2010 San Diego CA -- Sponsored by SANDARC for more information and registration please visit their website <http://www.sandarc.net/Convention2010.html>.

2010 Calendar of Events

April 6 VVARC Board Meeting
6:30 pm-7:30 pm
Greentree Cafe, Victorville

13 General Club Meeting
7:00 pm- 8:30 pm
Lewis Center Mohave River Campus
D-STAR and APRS (tentative)

16-18 Baker to Vegas (support)

May 4 VVARC Board Meeting
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Greentree Cafe, Victorville

11 General Club Meeting
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Lewis Center Mohave River Campus
Program TBD

June 1 VVARC Board Meeting
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Greentree Cafe, Victorville

8 Annual Club Picnic
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Home of Donette Kendall
Apple Valley

26-27 ARRL Field Day
San Bernardino County Fairground

July 6 VVARC Board Meeting
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Greentree Cafe, Victorville

13 General Club Meeting
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Lewis Center Mohave River Campus
Ice Cream Social/Annual Auction

August Dark - No Meetings

Sept. 7 VVARC Board Meeting
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Greentree Cafe, Victorville

11-19 Route 66 On the Air

14 General Club Meeting
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Lewis Center Mohave River Campus
HAM Contesting

Oct. 5 VVARC Board Meeting
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Greentree Cafe, Victorville

12 General Club Meeting
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Lewis Center Mohave River Campus
T-Hunting & Radio Direction Finding

15-17 Jamboree On the Air
San Bernardino County Fairgrounds

- Nov. 2** VVARC Board Meeting
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Greentree Cafe, Victorville
- 9 General Club Meeting
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Lewis Center Mohave River Campus
Nomination of Officers
- Dec. 7** VVARC Board Meeting
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Greentree Cafe, Victorville
- 14 Annual Christmas Party
5:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Location TBD
Member Appreciation & Election of
Officers

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.

Spectrum

Submit any Spectrum entries to Sandi, sdeweert@verizon.net. Any comments and suggestions are welcome.

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 (KD7ZDG@verizon.net) and pay your dues through the Club. VVARC receives a commission for each renewal or new joining fee.

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.

Web Site Update – VVARC.ORG

Contact Larry Kendall, kd7zdg@verizon.net, with any comments or suggestions.