

The Heterodyne

Newsletter of the West Valley Amateur Radio Association

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

Wednesday May 18

Meetings Begin at 7pm at Silicon Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross
2731 N First St, San Jose (SW corner at Plumeria Dr)



Next Meeting - May 18 "All Things Field Day" by Jim Peterson, K6EI

Field Day is just around the corner:
June 25-26!

Meeting Location:
American Red Cross
Silicon Valley Chapter
2731 N. First Street at Plumeria Drive
(southwest corner) in San Jose.

At Our Last Meeting

Dean Wood, N6DE presented "Cool Writelog Features for Field Day" and Scott Emery, AD6RY presented "Ham Radio 101: Powerpole Connectors" in our April meeting. Thanks, Dean and Scott!

President's Letter:

Meeting Nights - Your Vote Counts

The next WVARA meeting will be at the usual day and time: i.e. the third Wednesday of May at 7pm.

Having said that, we are considering shifting future meetings (beginning in June) to a different night. WVARA's monthly meeting has been held on the third Wednesday of the month for as long as I can remember. Unfortunately, at least one other radio-related meeting also occurs on that evening.

We conducted an initial survey last month to identify which evenings in a given month were better for our members.

We initiated Phase 2 of the selection process a couple weeks ago based on the four most popular meeting nights from the initial survey: The 2nd Wednesday, 3rd Tuesday, 4th Monday and 4th Tuesday of each month. If you haven't yet voted, please go to the following URL and indicate the specific evenings that are best for you - we will count the votes in just a few more days:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3XRYWGG>

73 de Jim, K6EI

Upcoming WVARA Field Day Preparations

- Sat, April 30, 12:30pm** **Field Day Antenna Party #1 - Sunnyvale's Baylands Park, 999 East Caribbean. Once you enter the park, make a right turn and follow the paved road to the east end of the park.**
We'll practice setting up some of the new CW station antennas (AB-577 mast with 20m yagi, and 35ft tilt-up mast with 15m yagi).
- Sat, May 14, 9:00am** **Field Day Antenna Party #2 - American Red Cross Parking Lot 2731 N First St, San Jose.**
We'll practice setting up some of the SSB/Digital station antennas (Force12 yagi, and 40m quad on the tower trailer).

Mora Hill Site Visit Photos, April 23:



Which Way is North?

This is not encouraging



N6DE and W6PK Determine GPS Coordinates of Antenna Site

“I hope there aren’t any snakes around here”

2011 Field Day Participant Survey

In preparation for Field Day (June 24-26, 2011), we want to get an idea of who is likely to be around to assist with set-up, tear-down, and operating. *We are particularly interested volunteers who might be interested in heading up the satellite, VHF, GOTA and the third SSB station.* If you are planning to participate at Mora Hill, please complete the following survey. We want to ensure that everyone who has a desire to operate gets an opportunity.

Jim, K6EI

WVARA Field Day Coordinator

Background Information: This year’s Field Day operation will be at the top of Mora Hill (see map above) located in the San Antonio Open Space Reserve near the Madgellena exit off of Highway 280 in Los Altos Hills. This year our plan is to run 5 watts in the with 7 Alpha Battery category with 1 digital (PSK-31) station, 3 HF SSB stations, 3 CW stations, a satellite station, one VHF station, and a GOTA station (running both PSK-31 and SSB) for less-experienced operators.

Our goal is to ensure that participants are well matched to appropriate stations – for example, not putting a less-experienced operator into the chaotic band conditions of Saturday afternoon’s 20 meter when they might have a better experience on a quieter band or at the GOTA station.

By the way, here’s the official ARRL definition of GOTA: “The GOTA station may be operated by any person licensed since the previous year’s Field Day, regardless of license class. It may also be operated by a generally inactive licensee. Non-licensed persons may participate under the direct supervision of an appropriate control operator.”

2011 Field Day Participant Survey:

Name & Callsign: _____

- 1) I plan to help set-up on Friday, June 24, 11am-4pm [y/n] or _____
- 2) I plan to help tear-down between 11am and 1pm on Sunday, June 26 [y/n] or _____
- 3) I am available to go pick up pizza for the team at 5:30pm on Friday [y/n] or _____
- 4) I am available to go pick up burgers for the team at 5:30pm on Saturday [y/n] or _____
- 5) I am available to bring up bagels and coffee for the team at 7am on Sunday [y/n] or _____
- 6) I am interested in helping to run a station during Field Day (either as an operator or as a QSO logger) [y/n] or _____
- 7) I am generally available to help operate/log during the following time windows:
 - a. 11am – 5pm Saturday [y/n] or _____
 - b. 5pm – 10pm Saturday [y/n] or _____
 - c. 10pm—2am [y/n] or _____
 - d. 2am – 7am Sunday [y/n] or _____
 - e. 7am – 11am Sunday [y/n] or _____

Comments: _____

8) If you indicated yes to Question 6, please rank your mode preferences and whether your preference is to be an operator or to assist with QSO logging:

HF-SSB	_____
HF-Digital	_____
HF-CW	_____
VHF	_____
Satellite	_____
GOTA / PSK	_____
GOTA / SSB	_____

9) If you prefer CW, what is the maximum code speed at which you feel comfortable running QSOs?

10) If you have a preference for operating HF/SSB, do you consider yourself to be:

A) an experienced SSB contest operator [☐]

B) a casual SSB operator [☐]

C) a bit rusty at SSB operating [☐]

D) relatively inexperienced at HF SSB [☐]

E) a beginner at HF SSB [☐]

Comments? _____

11) If you have a preference for digital, have you operated PSK-31 before in a contest? [y/n]

12) Are you interested in being a station band captain? (If yes, indicate whether your preference is for CW, SSB, Digital, GOTA, VHF or Satellite) _____

13) Any other comments or suggestions? _____

Electronic Flea Market Schedule

Saturday, May 21	Hosted by Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association (3rd Saturday)
Saturday, June 11	Hosted by Southern Peninsula Emergency Communications System
Saturday, July 9	Hosted by Foothills Amateur Radio Society
Saturday, Aug 13	Hosted by Silicon Valley Emergency Communications System
Saturday, Sep 10	Hosted by West Valley Amateur Radio Association
Saturday, Oct 8	Hosted by Silicon Valley Chapter, American Red Cross

More information at <http://www.electronicfleamarket.com/>

15 Meters is Open

You know 15m is open when ... on heading 240 degrees you're calling CQ VK ZL and get called by an I2 off the back of the beam ... worked him too! - Mike, K6MKF, April 27

New Call Sign

Rick Ibarra, previously KJ6MVI, is now WE6AAI - a good CW call!

Club Net

WVARA's club net is on the W6PIY repeaters each Tuesday at 8:30 pm. All repeaters are linked together during the net. The net script can be found at <http://www.wvara.org/net.html>.

2011 West Valley Amateur Radio Association Officers

President: Jim Peterson, K6EI
Vice President: Bill Ashby, N6FFC
Secretary: Jeannett Pispisa, KG6SVJ
Treasurer: Jon Kelley, K6WV
Directors:
Chuck Kamas, AD6CL
Scott Emery, AD6RY
Svend Jensen, KF6EMB
Brian Goldberg, KG6BKI
Kevin Smith, KK6VF
Phil Verinsky, W6PK
Dave Schultheis, WB6KHP
Heterodyne Editor: Phil Verinsky, W6PK
Internet Postmaster: Phil Verinsky, W6PK
Meeting Refreshments: Kevin Smith, KK6VF
Repeater Trustee: Chuck Kamas, AD6CL
Webmaster: Larry Goodwin, KG6ENF
Club URL: <http://www.wvara.org>

Club address:
West Valley Amateur Radio Association
P.O. Box 6544
San Jose, CA 95150-6544

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WVARA Repeater (W6PIY)

Band	Frequency	PL	Status
6 Meters	52.580- MHz	151.4 Hz	Operating
2 Meters	147.39+ MHz	151.4 Hz	Operating
1.25 Meters	223.96- MHz	156.7 Hz	Operating
0.70 Meter	441.35+ MHz	88.5 Hz	Operating
0.23 Meter	1286.2- MHz	100 Hz	Operating

Dear All,

Jeanette KG6SVJ, is currently putting a Base Station together and is Very Interested in getting her Yaesu 910 up and running on 2m/440 as soon as possible. To accomplish this, she has recently purchased a Ventenna (and 100' of Coax) to use as her Base Station Antenna.

However, she doesn't have anyone to climb up onto her Roof to slip it over a vent, and is looking for a Volunteer to install her new acquisition.

IF YOU Might be interested/Available, Please Contact Jeanette @ 408-605-1961.

Thanks for your help!

Take Care and 73,
Bill, N6FFC