

The Heterodyne

Newsletter of the West Valley Amateur Radio Association

March Meeting

**“Elecraft Night at WVARA”
by Wayne Burdick, N6KR**

**Wednesday March 12
Meeting Starts at 7pm**

Meeting Location:
American Red Cross
Silicon Valley Chapter
2731 N. First Street at Plumeria Dr
(southwest corner) in San Jose
Map at www.wvara.org/meetings.html

WVARA Repeaters (W6PIY)		
Band	Frequency	PL
6 Meters	52.580- MHz	151.4 Hz
2 Meters	147.39+ MHz	151.4 Hz
1.25 Meters	223.96- MHz	156.7 Hz
0.70 Meter	441.35+ MHz	88.5 Hz
0.23 Meter	1286.2- MHz	100 Hz

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 www.wvara.org/net.html.

Visitors Are Welcome!

President's Letter

De Anza Electronics Flea Market

Saturday, April 12 is our day to run the concession stand at the De Anza Electronics Flea Market. This is our largest fund raising event of the year and the reason we are able to keep dues low and still fund things like the summer picnic and our holiday party with its drawing for prizes.

To make our day at the flea market a success, we will need a lot of help. Between 5:00 and 5:30 PM Friday we will need a crew of at least two, and preferably four people to load the truck at the Red Cross on North First Street, the same site where we hold our meetings. We also need people to pick up sodas, ice and donuts either Friday or early Saturday morning.

On Saturday, we need people, starting at 4:00 AM to collect vendor fees; set up and tear down the concession tents; sell coffee, sodas, and donuts; clean up the site; and return the equipment to the Red Cross.

Jim Peterson, K6EI has a complete list of jobs that need to be done on page 8. Please step



forward and help with these jobs. If you work on Saturday morning, there will be time to enjoy the market and visit with friends who are also enjoying the market.

For information about the flea market see: <http://www.electronicfleamarket.com/>

73,
Bill Frantz, AE6JV

About the Presentation Elecraft Night at WVARA



Wayne Burdick (N6KR) is a co-founder of Elecraft and will be speaking at this Wednesday's WVARA meeting. Elecraft is dedicated to hands-on ham radio and offers unique, high-performance transceivers and accessories. (WVARA has used ONLY Elecraft HF gear at our recent Field Day events because of their superior performance.)

Wayne Burdick is the principle designer of the Elecraft K2, K1, and KX1 transceivers. He also created the Wilderness Radio kits (NorCal 40A, Sierra, and SST), refinements of his popular NorCal QRP Club designs. Wayne and his co-founder, Eric Swartz (WA6HHQ) have both been inducted into the QRP Hall of Fame, and jointly received the ARRL's Technical Excellence Award for their transceiver designs. At this week's meeting, Wayne will be discussing Elecraft and how he approaches high-performance radio design.

The meeting is this Wednesday, March 12, and will begin at 7pm. Visitors are welcome, and of course there will be chocolate chip cookies.

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

If you haven't been to the Red Cross, "talk-in" is usually available on the Association's repeaters. Best choice would be 2m/220.

And for those who are hungry, several of us will be eating dinner prior to the meeting. This month we'll be meeting for Chinese food at Ume (2595 North First Street, at the corner of W Trimble and First St.) at 6:00pm. (Note: our previous dinner location, Carl's Jr, has closed.)

Club Web Page: www.wvara.org

Hope to see you there!

Jim Peterson, K6EI

Member of the WVARA Speaker Selection Committee



HAVING FUN IN THE ARRL 10 METER CONTEST

By Jim Peterson, K6EI

When you have a modest station, listening to the big guns on 20 meters in any of the major DX contests can be frustrating. In contrast, the ARRL 10 meter contest has several advantages for the smaller station. A simple 28 MHz yagi up 35 feet is equal in performance to a 14 MHz monobander on a 70 foot tower. And the 10 meter band is quite large, so most of the participants can spread out and be heard, in contrast to 20 meters where a smaller station (like mine) may be buried under multiple layers of stronger signals.

I generally only operate in a couple contests each year, with one of them being Field Day. In past years I've tended to put the rest of my contest energy into the ARRL 160 contest. The downside of that event is that after pulling two all-nighters on Top Band, I tend to be fairly wiped-out for the following week. The sunspots this past month were quite healthy, so I decided to shift my focus this December to the ARRL 10 meter contest. Since the 10 meter band in December is generally only open for 12- or 13 hours per day, this also meant that I could get a good night's sleep while making full use of the band's DX openings.



The K6EI Antenna Farm: a 2-el 10m monobander pointing at the East Coast, and a tribander on a rotor for chasing DX

I enjoy CW contesting and Tom Dunbar, W6ESL, prefers SSB, so this year we teamed up and participated in the contest's low-power (150 watts or less) multi-operator / single-transmitter category from my QTH. I already have a basic three-element tribander with a rotor up 40 feet that we could use to chase DX. We decided to upgrade the site into a "poor man's contest station" by adding a 2-element 10-meter yagi pointing at the East Coast. (The 2-element 10-meter monobander was constructed by cannibalizing a discarded a Hygain tribander and was put on a 30 foot pushup mast.) This way, when the Pacific is open in the late afternoon, the tribander could be pointed west and used for Asian multipliers, while the 2-element yagi could continue to pick-off Midwest contacts without the need to swing the bigger antenna around.

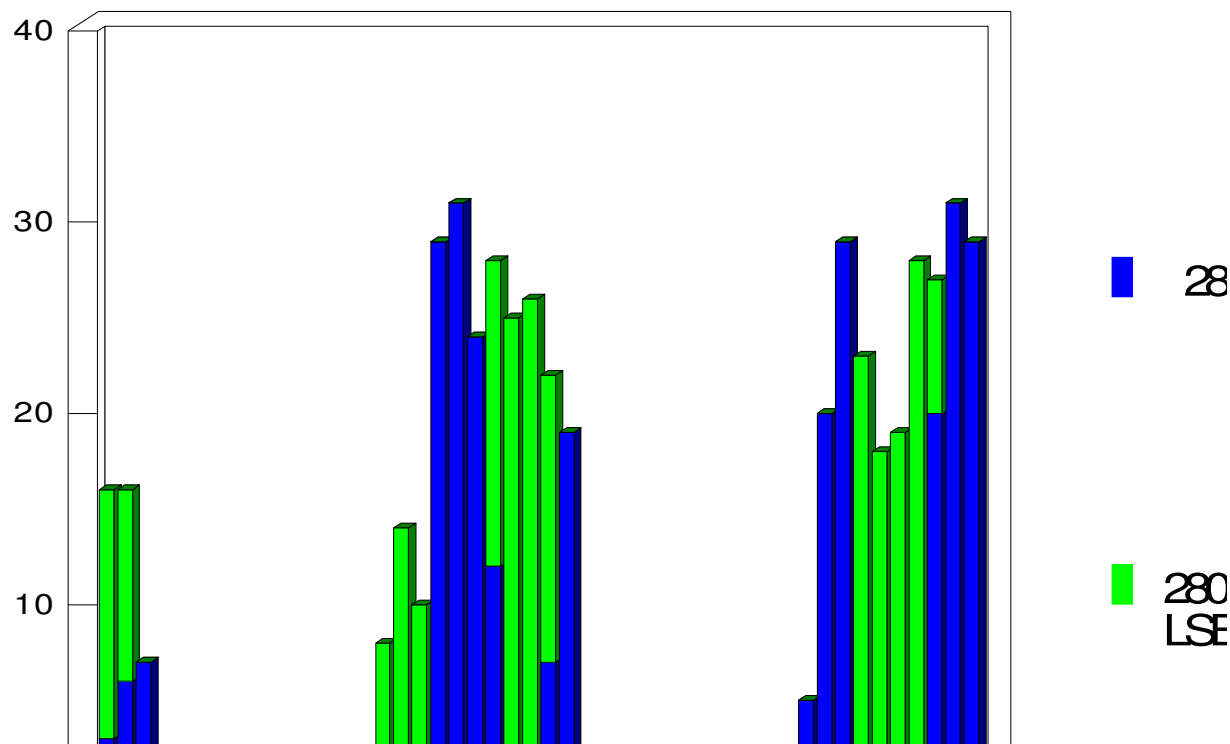


Tom, W6ESL, on SSB during the ARRL 10m contest

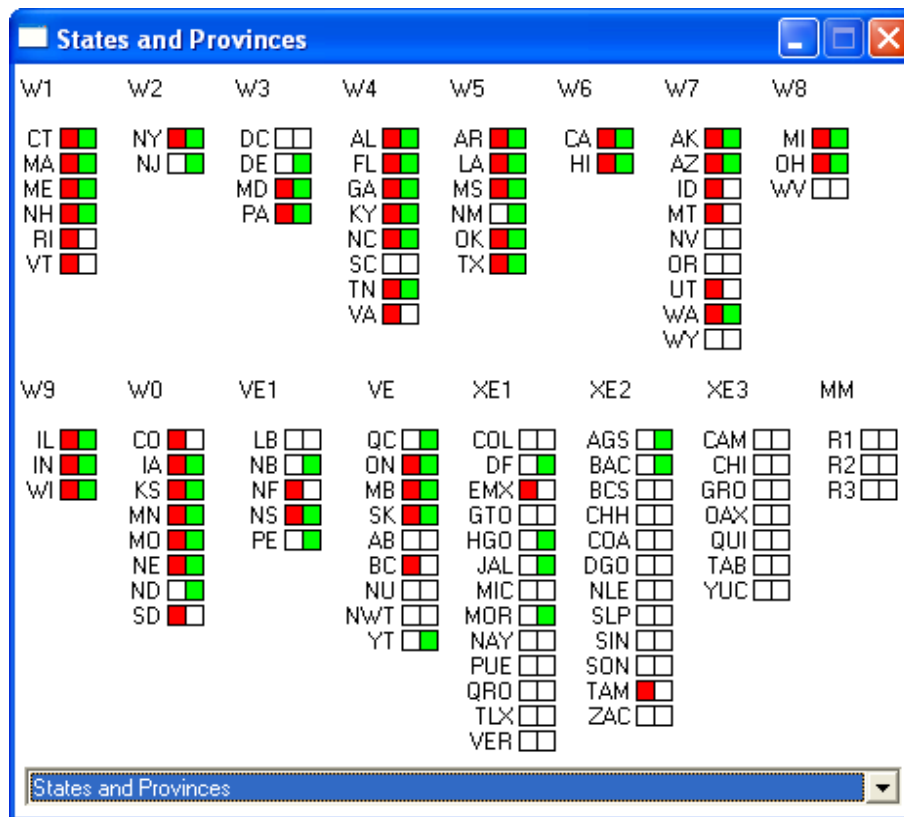


Jim, K6EI, on CW during the ARRL 10m contest

QSO Rate



This year's contest was a real hoot. Band conditions were great with geomagnetic conditions quite stable. (The planetary A index on Friday through Sunday was 3, 16 and 7 and mid-latitude A index was just 3, 10 and 5.) Tom and I worked in tag-team mode with each of us taking alternate ~3 hour shifts (him on SSB and me on CW). Our QSO rates for the two modes were similar.



States and Provinces worked (red = CW, green=SSB)

The sunspots were quite healthy and provided plenty of openings to Europe, Asia, and the South Pacific. (The solar flux during the contest was in the neighborhood of 158-162.) We worked a fair number of Europeans between 6 and 8am and plenty of Asian and South Pacific stations between 3 and 6pm. Midday, we kept busy working stations on the East Coast and the Midwest. We ended up working roughly the same number of multipliers in both CW and SSB.

ARRL10m2013 - Write...				
File Edit View Entry Radio Bands				
Setup Tools Contest Window Help				
Score: 244,920				
	QSO	Pts	Sec	Dx
10M CW	275	1100	49	34
10M PHO	230	460	51	23
Total	505	1560	100	57
WriteLog for Windows				

By the time the dust settled on Sunday afternoon, we found we had made a respectable showing with an estimated score of almost 245,000 points – well above our previous personal record of 178,000 in 2011 (which currently is the Pacific Division record for the multi-op low power category.)

Bottom Line: You don't need big antennas and tall towers to have a load of fun in this contest. And teaming up with a friend can make the contest even more of a kick.

WVARA Net Check-Ins (W6PIY)					
Each Tuesday at 8:30 PM					
All Repeaters Linked Together During Net					
Call Sign	Name	02/11/14	02/18/14	02/25/14	03/04/14
AA6RB	Roy			X	
AB6XS	Kevin		X	X	
AE6JV	Bill				X
AF6AE	Bill	X			
K6BRF	Bert	X	X	X	X
K6WAR	Bill	X		X	
KD6DIF	Terry	X			
KF6EMB	Svend	X	X	X	
KF6OTD	Gwen				X
KG6SBN	Marcia	X			
KJ6CQJ	Dean	X	X	X	X
KJ6GMO	Sue	X	X	X	X
KK6GXH	David			X	
KK6HAY	Nickolas			X	
KK6HPF	Ross		X		
KK6IXN	Tim				X
KK6VF	Kevin	NET	NET	NET	NET
KS6PD	Steve	X	X		X
N6BO	Chuck	X			
W6ESL	Tom	X	X		X
W6HOC	Howard	X	X	X	X
W6PK	Phil		X		
W6RLK	Ron		X		
WA6QYS	Lou	X			X
WB6KHP	Dave	X	X	X	X
TOTAL		15	13	12	12

WVARA 2014 Dues Are Due

A reminder to EVERYONE that 2014 Dues are due Jan 1 and overdue Jan 31. All memberships are annualized on this date, regardless of when you joined or last paid your dues.

Please log on to our website (wvara.org) and paypal your dues. Failing that, come to the meeting and bring your cash or check. If you can't do that - send a check to our PO box address as listed on the website.

Thanks!

73, Jon K6WV
Club Treasurer

DeAnza Flea Market Update

It's just one month until our club's big fund raiser of the year. WVARA will be in-charge of the De Anza Flea Market on Saturday, April 12, and we need your help! Below is a list of tasks that need to be done. Send me an email indicating which jobs / time slots you can do, and thank you for pitching in.

Jim, K6EI

k6ei at earthlink dot net

DeAnza Doughnut Committee Member

Truck Rental	Load the truck	Buy sodas etc.	Fee Collecting @ Entrance		Pick Up Doughnuts	Set-up	Doughnut/Coffee sales		Teardown	Site Clean-Up	Offload truck
Friday / Saturday	5-5:30pm Friday	Friday evening	4-6am Saturday	6-9am Saturday	5am Saturday	5:30-6am	6-9am	9-noon	noon - 12:30	12:30-1:30pm	12:30-1pm
	Red Cross Bldg, First St. San Jose	Costco	DeAnza College	DeAnza College		DeAnza College	DeAnza College	DeAnza College	DeAnza College	DeAnza College	Red Cross Bldg, First St. San Jose
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	2	2	2 ASVARO rep	2 ASVARO rep		2	2	2	2	2	2
						3	3	3	3		
						4			4		
						5			5		
						6			6		



KK6VF Antenna

Unfortunately a car crashed into Kevin KK6VF's house and knocked down the antenna and tower. A news article about the bizarre incident is at: www.mercurynews.com/crime-courts/ci_25235740/cambell-man-rams-car-into-house-faces-attempted#

Morse Musings

Morse characters are made up of units each of which is either a dit or a dah. There are 30 characters of one to four units 26 of which are the letters. Certain foreign languages use the rest of the letter characters for accented characters.

Found and contributed by Bill AE6JV

Items For Sale By George, N6NKT:

Hy-Gain TH-7DX, 7 Element, Tri-Band, 10/15/20M \$300

Manual available at <http://www.hy-gain.com/support.php?productid=TH-7DX>

Down from Palo Alto ARC office, disassembled and located in Cupertino

KLM KT-34, 4 Element, Tri-Band, 10/15/20M \$200

Boonton 92EA RF Voltmeter \$200

Contact George Williams, N6NKT, n6nkt at yahoo dot com

Send Buy and Sell information to: het_editor at wvara dot org

2014 West Valley Amateur Radio Association Board

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See You At The Meeting!