

# *The Heterodyne*

*Newsletter of the West Valley Amateur Radio Association*

## **February Meeting**

### **Practical Aspects of Portable Operation**

**By George Zafiropoulos, KJ6VU**

**Wednesday February 8  
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](http://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](http://www.wvara.org/net.html).

**Visitors Are Welcome!**

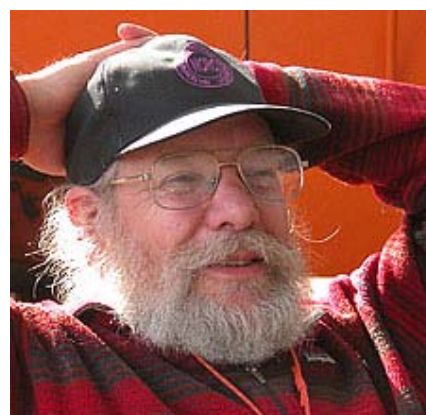
## **President's Letter**

### **Staying Legal on the Road**

I have been upgrading my car radio systems so they remain legal on the California highways. There is a new law which makes hand-held communication devices illegal. Many police agencies are interpreting this law to include amateur radio operators. If officers from any of these agencies see you with a microphone in your hand, you may be pulled over on the side of the road having an unwanted conversation.

For the IC-706MkII in my Forester, I already had an adapter to allow use of a headset. Picking up a cheap computer headset from Halted for \$9.00 was an easy way to use it in the car. If I don't put the ear pieces over my ears, I'm still legal. Not using the ear pieces is easy since I pipe the audio through the car's audio system.

In my interface, I have a separate push-to-talk switch on the adapter box (see photo). While using it might be a technical violation of the law, it is quite non-obvious, and if I want to be completely legit, I can turn on the radio's VOX system.

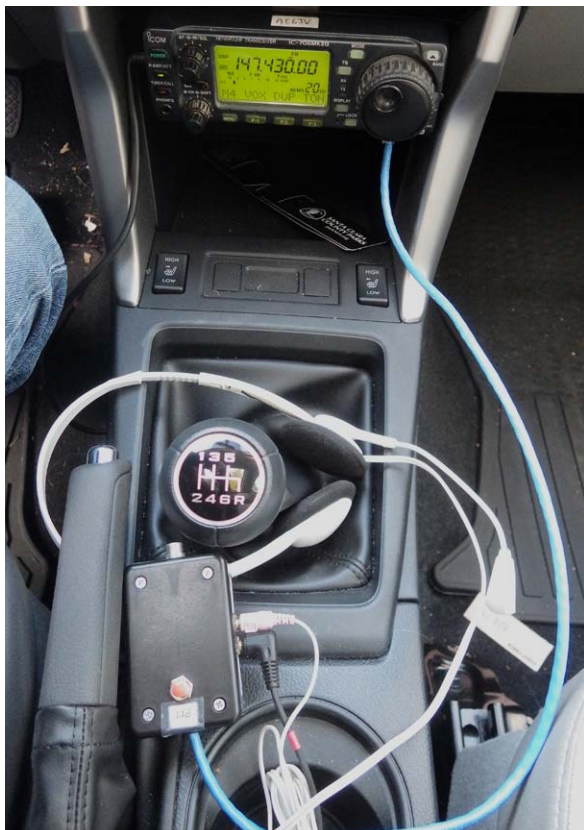


Each radio will have its own way of interfacing a headset, so you will have to look up the details for your own radio. In the case of the Yaesu FTM-10 in my Miata, I needed to buy a \$30 cable to hook up the \$9 headphones.

One place where there may be issues is if your headset requires microphone bias voltage, as most cheap computer microphones do. If your radio does not provide the bias voltage, then you will have to provide it in the interface and block the DC from reaching the radio with a capacitor.

To avoid a mess of wires, there is probably a Bluetooth solution which can be cobbled together. I didn't go with Bluetooth since it needs power and provides a few more failure points.

73 Bill AE6JV



Inside of Adapter Box

### **Callsign Change**

**Rex Vokey, formerly  
K7RJV, is now KE6MT.**

***Congratulations on obtaining  
your Amateur Extra license  
and the new callsign!***

### **New Members**

***The following new members  
joined WVARA recently:***

**Kris Server, KC6BIG**

**Kevin Server, KM6AAY**

**Clay Cougar, WC6YJ**

***Welcome!!!***

**Meeting Topic - February 8**  
**Practical Aspects of Portable Operation**  
**By George Zafiropoulos, KJ6VU**

CQ All Hams!

It's time for another WVARA meeting. Please join us in Meeting Room 5 at the Silicon Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross, 2731 N. First Street at Plumeria Drive (southwest corner) in San Jose. Most of us come in through the side entrance on the southwest side of the building — look for our red WVARA sign on the side where they park all the Red Cross trucks. Cookies will be served, and of course visitors are welcome!

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. The 2m antenna was replaced recently, so I'm curious how this affected coverage at the Red Cross site. I expect it should be stronger there now.

For dinner this month, if you're interested in joining at 6pm, we'll be going to Dish'n'Dash restaurant at Trimble and N 1st St at 6pm, which is only a block or two from the Red Cross.

**February 8 — George Zafiropoulos, KJ6VU — Practical Aspects of Portable Operation**

With the WVARA member's interests in Field Day, SOTA, CQP, and general radios in the wild, I'm sure there will be some good discussion and questions.

Bio from his web site: "I was first licensed in 1972 as a Novice and upgraded to Extra over the years. I am active in repeater systems, HF QRP, portable operating, D-STAR, and my local radio club, Bay-Net. I really enjoy designing and building electronic projects and I am the co-developer of the Sierra Radio repeater control systems and the PackTenna portable HF antenna system. I can usually be found on our local club's repeater system, my favorite HF mode is CW and my favorite operating event is Field Day. This year's goals include more portable operating (think SOTA) and working on my CW skills. My main station is an Elecraft K3 and a vertical antenna and my portable station is a KX3."

Thank you,  
Bobby  
KA4VBF

**CQP Results Posted**

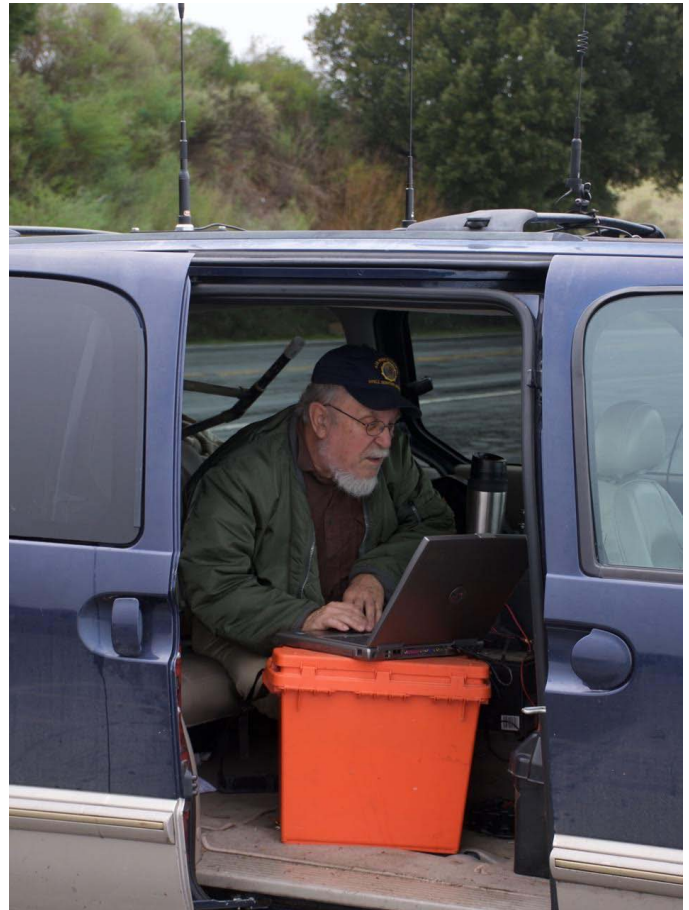
We set a new record for New record for Multi-operator/Multi-transmitter low power in Sierra county. We also hold that category record in Kings county. Nice going team.

The results of the 2016 California QSO Party are now posted <http://www.cqp.org/Results.html> on the CQP website. All 58 California counties were represented in 2016, and 936 logs were successful submitted. Sixty-two all-time records were set, with 44 plaque and 40 wine award winners. See the website for the complete details. The 2017 California QSO Party will be held October 7-8, 2017. (John, K6MM, CQP Chairman)

73 Bill AE6JV



## VHF Contest: W6ESL / K6EI active from Skyline Blvd



## Field Day Brainstorm Lunch on Saturday

Field Day is less than 5 months away! That means it's time for our annual Field Day Brainstorm Lunch. We'll be meeting at The Habit (2000 El Camino Real at the corner of Scott Blvd in Santa Clara) on Saturday (Feb 11) at 11:30am. Bring your thoughts on what you liked last year, what could be improved, and specific ideas that you'd like us to consider for 2017.

CQ FD

73 Jim K6EI



## ARLB006 Amateur Radio Parity Act Speeds to U.S. House Passage, Heads to U.S. Senate

SB QST @ ARL \$ARLB006

ARLB006 Amateur Radio Parity Act Speeds to U.S. House Passage, Heads to U.S. Senate

ZCZC AG06

QST de W1AW

ARRL Bulletin 6 ARLB006

From ARRL Headquarters

Newington CT January 26, 2017

To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB006

ARLB006 Amateur Radio Parity Act Speeds to U.S. House Passage, Heads to U.S. Senate

Just 10 days after being introduced, the 2017 Amateur Radio Parity

Act legislation, H.R. 555, passed the U.S. House of Representatives this week on unanimous consent under a suspension of House rules. The bill's language is identical to that of the 2015 measure, H.R. 1301, which won House approval late last summer after attracting 126 co-sponsors, but failed to clear the U.S. Senate last fall as the 114th Congress wound down. The new bill, again sponsored by Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), was introduced on January 13 with initial co-sponsorship by Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT) and Rep. Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), who chairs the influential House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

H.R. 555 can be found on the web at,  
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/555?r=27> .

"The grassroots effort of Amateur Radio operators across this nation in support of the Amateur Radio Parity Act has been remarkable, nothing like we have ever seen before," ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, said. "To all hams, keep going! Now is the time to charge forward with that same momentum to the Senate. We can do it!" The bill arrives in the U.S. Senate with ample time in which to garner its approval through an education campaign.

"We're very encouraged by the speed with which this bill made it through the House. It's amazing that this happened," said ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, who has been at the forefront of the legislative initiative. "With the help of ARRL members, we believe we can get this done," Lisenco continued. "We came within a hair's breadth last time, with 110,000 e-mails to members of both houses of Congress, as well as letters and telephone calls. Member participation in this final push is critical."

H.R. 555 calls on the FCC to establish rules prohibiting the application of deed restrictions that preclude Amateur Radio communications on their face or as applied. Deed restrictions would have to impose the minimum practicable restriction on Amateur Radio communications to accomplish the lawful purposes of homeowners association seeking to enforce the restriction.

NNNN  
/EX

Forwarded by John NU6P

<b>WVARA Net Check-Ins (W6PIY)</b>					
<b>Tuesdays at 8:30 PM</b>					
<b>Call Sign</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>01/10/17</b>	<b>01/17/17</b>	<b>01/24/17</b>	<b>01/31/17</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>17</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>25</b>
AA6RB	Roy				X
AB6XS	Kevin	X	X		X
AE6JV	Bill				X
AF6AE	Bill			X	X
AI6FN	Jin		X	X	X
K0FRG	Scott??				X
K6BIB	Bodan				X
K6BRF	Bert		X		
K6KWW	Kent	X	X	X	X
K6QFO	Mike	X			
K7RJV	Rex	X		X	X
KF6EMB	Svend	X	X	X	X
KG6QX	Steve	X			
KI6SLX	Peri		X		X
KJ6CQJ	Dean		X	X	X
KJ6GMO	Sue		X	X	X
KJ6ZZI	Michael	X	X	X	X
KK6VF	Kevin	NET	NET	NET	NET
KM6ABF	Scott	X	X		
KM6AMF	Scott				X
KM6AZX	Brandon				X
KM6DAC	Cameron	X			
KM6FDD	Lloyd	X	X	X	X
KM6GVO	Eric		X		X
N6FFC	Bill		X	X	
N6FYR	Matt	X	X		X
N9CU	Andy	X		X	
NU6P	John		X	X	X
W6DGS	Dan	X			
W6IA	Mark	X	X		X
W9KKN	Bill	X	X	X	X
WB6KHP	Dave	X	X	X	X
WC6YJ	Clay				X

## Treasurer's Report - Jan 2017

We're off to a good start for the year. The budget was approved at the January meeting and we've already collected 70% of our budgeted income, although it won't hurt to exceed that income. Dues and donations are our major income source. 41 people have paid 2017 dues or are family members whose master member has. There are over 30 who paid in the last 2 years, but haven't paid for 2017 yet. If your dues are still outstanding, you can pay via PayPal or bring them to the Feb. 8 meeting. See the membership information on wvara.org for details. Or contact me at treasurer@wvara.org. As the accompanying January reports show, our only expenses to date are the finance fees to PayPal and badges for new members. If you still need to collect your badge, or want a replacement, see me at the meeting.

For those who may be curious, I'm still waiting for NARCC (The Northern Amateur Relay Council of California) to cash the dues check we sent them last year. They lost access to the PO Box, and are still trying to untangle the resulting problems.

See you all at the meeting - Peri, KI6SLX

### WVARA

#### Statement of Activity

January 2017

	<u>TOTAL</u>
Income	
4200 — Misc. Income	10.00
4100 — Program Income	
4110 — Membership Dues	
4111 — Indiv. Assn. (\$15)	315.00
4112 — Indiv. Repeater (12)	156.00
4113 — Fam. Assn. (\$20)	80.00
4114 — Fam. Repeater (\$18)	54.00
Total 4110 — Membership Dues	<u>605.00</u>
Total 4100 — Program Income	<u>605.00</u>
Total Income	615.00
Expense	
5100 — Administrative Expenses	
5110 — Finance Fees Paid	19.34
Total 5100 — Administrative Expenses	<u>19.34</u>
5200 — Membership Expenses	
5210 — Badges	40.00
Total 5200 — Membership Expenses	<u>40.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>59.34</u>
Net Income	<u>555.66</u>



WVARA						
Statement of Position						
As of January 31, 2017						
						Jan 31, '17
ASSETS						
Current Assets						
Checking/Savings						
				1000 — Financial Accounts		
				1100 — Checking		3,642.61
				1200 — Savings		4,494.91
				1300 — Paypal		2,108.74
				1900 — Cash		
				1910 — Petty Cash		140.23
				Total 1900 — Cash		140.23
				Total 1000 — Financial Accounts		10,386.49
				Total Checking/Savings		10,386.49
				Total Current Assets		10,386.49
TOTAL ASSETS						10,386.49
LIABILITIES & EQUITY						
Equity						
				3300 — Unrestricted Net Assets		
				3310 — Associaton Balance		7,237.13
				3320 — Repeater Balance		2,593.70
				Total 3300 — Unrestricted Net Assets		9,830.83
				Net Income		555.66
				Total Equity		10,386.49
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY						10,386.49

### **After more than 25 years of service...**

“Santa Claus” left WVARA a Christmas present this year in the form of a new 440 antenna. We had noticed our existing 440 antenna was “sounding noisy” and we believed some of the internal connections were becoming a bit temperamental (corrosion, cracked solder joints, etc.) from being blown around in the wind for many years.

To put Santa’s present to quick use, Svend (KF6EMB) and I went to Good Sam to install it. While there, we also wanted to take a look at the 2m antenna as we suspected it may have gotten water in a trap or the coax connector during the storm that came through the first week of January. We had done an SWR check (1.3:1) which was not wonderful, but not bad either, so we were expecting to do a little TLC on the antenna to see if it just needed a bit of tightening of loose hardware.

We got up to the roof, unpacked the new 440 antenna and began the process of assembly. All was going to plan until Svend noticed the 2m antenna seemed a bit shorter than usual. The top half of the antenna was laying on the roof, caught by the rails on it’s way over the side. Upon inspection, we noticed a very large amount of internal corrosion indicating this section had not been functioning for quite some time, likely a couple of years. It just so happened, the breakage point happened to be at a location where the antenna stayed somewhat resonant although the radiation effectiveness was

significantly reduced.

Svend finished the 440 installation while I made a quick trip to HRO for replacement as having 2m off the air would impact a great many users of the system. While traveling to the store, Tom (NT6S), Dave (WB6KHP), and John (NU6P), and I were discussing and shopping so when I arrived, I knew exactly what we wanted (of the stock that was available at the Sunnyvale store). The replacement antenna does not have the same gain as the old 2m antenna, but is providing much better coverage that the broken version we had been using. We may ultimately replace this in the future with a new version of the antenna that failed as it has significantly more gain.

As you can see from the picture below, we had a complete mechanical failure during the storm and the level of corrosion indicates the electrical connections failed long ago. In the second picture, you can see the bottom section of the old 2m antenna in the lower right laying on the roof. The top section is next to Svend.



Thanks to Svend (KF6EMB), Tom (NT6S), Dave (WB6KHP), and John (NU6P) for their help.  
Kevin (KK6VF).

**Please Join Us!**



*68th Annual  
International  
DX Convention  
April 21-23, 2017  
Visalia, California*



**Full 2.5 Days!**  
DX & Technical Seminars  
DX Forum  
Contest Forum  
YL Forum  
Contest Academy  
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*Sponsored by the  
Northern California DX Club*

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Jim Peterson, K6EI, 2017-2018  
Svend Jensen, KF6EMB, 2017-2018  
Kevin Smith, KK6VF, 2017-2018

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