



# *The Heterodyne*

Bulletin of the West Valley Amateur Radio Association  
An Affiliated Club of the American Radio Relay League

West Valley Amateur Radio Association, W6PIY — <http://www.wvara.org>  
P.O. Box 6544  
San José, CA 95150-6544

Editor: Loren Singh, AD6YU — [ad6yu@yahoo.com](mailto:ad6yu@yahoo.com)

November 2008

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., November 19, 2008 at the American Red Cross,  
2731 North First Street at Plumeria (between Trimble and Montague Expressway) in San José.  
Speaker: Eric Swartz, WA6HHQ — Subject: "The Latest Products from Elecraft"

**ARRL Field Day Scores, 2008** — reported by John Miller, K6MM and Phil Verinsky, W6TQG

Class 1D — Section High Scores	
Call Sign	Section
W6RFF	Sacramento Valley
K6CSL	San Joaquin Valley
K6GFJ	Santa Clara Valley
AE6YB	San Francisco
N6AJR	East Bay

Class	Call Sign	Club or Group	Pacific Div.	Section	CA	USA
2A	K6SA	Saratoga ARC	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	1 <sup>st</sup> Place, SCV	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	17 <sup>th</sup> Place
2F	K6KP	Cupertino ARES	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	1 <sup>st</sup> Place, SCV	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	39 <sup>th</sup> Place
3A	W6CUS	East Bay ARC	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	1 <sup>st</sup> Place, EB	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	17 <sup>th</sup> Place
4A	W6ARA	Palo Alto ARA	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	1 <sup>st</sup> Place, SCV	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	5 <sup>th</sup> Place
4F	W6YX	Stanford ARC	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	1 <sup>st</sup> Place, SCV	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	1 <sup>st</sup> Place
5A	K6WC	Santa Cruz ARC	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	1 <sup>st</sup> Place, SCV	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	6 <sup>th</sup> Place
5E	K6LRG	Livermore ARG	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	1 <sup>st</sup> Place, SCV	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place
8AB	N6N	West Valley ARA	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	1 <sup>st</sup> Place, SCV	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	1 <sup>st</sup> Place

**California QSO Party (CQP), October 45** — reported by Dean Wood, N6DE

Station: N6DE — Class: SOCntyExp HP — QTH: TUOL (Tuolumne County), Bear Mountain, 5170 ft. elevation — Operating Time (hours): 23:50 — Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10M  
Total Score = 219,704.

Elecraft K3, ACOM 1010, Force12 C3S tri-bander at 40 ft., 40M and 80M inverted Vs at 45 ft., 75m inverted V at 35 ft., Yamaha EF2400iS generator, tower trailer.

Many thanks to the people who made this expedition possible:

- WVARA for the tower trailer, especially Svend, KF6EMB;
- All the people who offered antenna supports when the WVARA tower trailer prospect looked bleak: K6ENT, K6TD, N6YEU, AD6E, KX7M, and N6EM.

This appears to be the highest CQP score ever attained from Tuolumne County, regardless of category. What a memorable county expedition!

**WVARA Tower Trailer** — reported by Kevin Smith, KK6VF

The tower trailer was moved to a locked garage at 105 South Third Street in Campbell. If anyone needs access to it, please contact Kevin at [kevin.smith@sun.com](mailto:kevin.smith@sun.com).

**ARRL CW Sweepstakes, Oct. 31 — Nov. 2, 2008** — by Loren Singh, AD6YU

I enjoy HF contests not to win or to run up a big score, but just to make a few new QSOs and to exchange some new QSL cards. I am limited to 20M, and much of the time the band is “dead” except at contest time. For Sweepstakes this year, I had other activities on Friday, and could not operate. On Saturday, the band was saturated with “big gun” stations. They all sounded like kilowatts, even though most of them were probably using one or another of the usual Yaesu-Kenwood-Icom triumvirate and probably some sort of tri-bander beam on a 50-foot tower. When QSOs come easy, the temptation is not to listen for weak signals and QRP stations like mine. Such was the case. The “big guns” knew how to send “CQ,” usually with automated precision (their calls all sounded like they were being sent by a robot on auto-pilot). Never would they show any indication of listening. They would only work other “corn-fed kilowatt” stations like themselves, and walk on and splatter everyone else. I thought that I was suffering from my usual QRP inferiority complex.

I took a break from my fruitless and futile attempt to participate in Sweepstakes as a QRP station. That’s right. Running an MFJ Cub at 2 watts to a low dipole on 20M CW some consider to be sheer folly. To me, it’s fun. During my break, I went up to AA6BT/R on 2M FM with my Yaesu FT-2500M and contacted my friends from SCCARA, Lou, WA6QYS, and Don, K6PBQ. They were operating a club station across town, running a Yaesu FT-857 to a vertical. On 40M and 20M, they had a few contacts, but not many. Both of them voiced the same frustrations that I felt, and they were running higher power and were using a better antenna than me. So I didn’t feel quite so bad about the whole situation, even though I had made no contacts on my only HF band, 20M. Nevertheless, I was frustrated enough to turn the power supply “off,” and to “call it a day” on 20M.

The next day, Sunday November 2, things went better for me on 20M. Operating for a period of about two hours, I was able to make seven contacts with stations both near and relatively far away. Of the nearby stations, the “usual suspects” in HF CW contests were contacted: K6XX, K6YT, and N6TV. Since my dipole is configured to give me good access to the Pacific Northwest when band conditions are favorable, the other QSOs I had were with stations in that region: K7BG, Montana; W7GKF, Washington; KL7AC, Alaska; and VE7CC, British Columbia.

So all in all, I had fun operating in this year's ARRL CW Sweepstakes. Operating QRP, every QSO is an accomplishment, and every QSO is fun. Being a ham since 1959, the thrill of making a CW contact on HF is just as much a source of joy to me now as it was back when I was a Novice with the call sign of WV6ENC, and slogging it out on the 40M Novice band with a Knight T-50 (6AG7-807-5U4) transmitter, FT-243 crystals, Knight Space Spanner receiver (12AT7-35W4-50C5), and TV twin-lead folded dipole.

**WVARA Tuesday Night Net Check-ins:**

Call Sign	Name	Oct. 7, 2008	Oct. 14, 2008	Oct. 21, 2008	Oct. 28, 2008	Nov. 4, 2008
AB6XS	Kevin		X	X	X	
AD6RY	Scott			X		
AD6YU	Loren	X	X	X		X
K6EBN	Eben		X		X	
K6QFO	Mike					X
K6WAR	William		X	X		X
K6WV	Jon		X			
KB6UDA	Micat				X	
KD6VOR	Marv		X		X	
KF6BFA	William	X				
KF6EMB	Svend	X	X		X	
KF6UTE	Casey		X	X		
KG6MYR	Harry		X			
KG6SEA	Tom	X				
KJ9U	John		X			
KK6VF	Kevin	X #	X #	X #	X #	X #
N6EEE	Ray					X
N6IPS	Roy		X			
W6HOC	Howard	X	X	X		X
W6JPP	John		X			
W6NEC	Kaz		X			
W6RLK	Ron		X			
W6TQG	Phil	X		X		
W6ZZZ	Marc	X	X	X		X
WB6KHP	Dave	X	X	X	X	X

**Notes:**

X — Checked into net

# — Net control operator

**Club Net:** Tuesday, 8:30 p.m. on our club repeaters:

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

**Amateur Television Repeater in the Valley**— by William L. Dale, N2RHV

K6BEN is an amateur television station repeater for the Silicon Valley and south San Francisco Bay Area with a 1255 MHz FM video input and 421.25 MHz AM NTSC video output (421.25 MHz is same as cable channel 57). Audio uplink is 145.510 MHz. Aim antenna (vertically polarized) towards Mt. Hamilton or east San Jose foothills.

K6BEN weekly nets are every Wednesday at 8:30 pm. Visitors are welcome and encouraged to get in the net and ask questions. Audio check-ins on 145.510 MHz simplex or 443.125 MHz plus offset, PL 123.0. The ATV crew is also planning to support this year's Veterans Day Parade, Nov. 11. For more on K6BEN, see <http://www.batnet.com/mfwright/k6ben.html>.

**Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, Appointed Assistant Director**— On October 25, ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar, N3LLR, announced that he had appointed Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, former Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau, an Assistant Director for the Atlantic Division. Hollingsworth retired from the FCC earlier this year. Assistant Directors are personal appointees of Directors who are chosen to aid in the normal routine of administering the Division; they usually have knowledge or expertise in a certain area concerning Amateur Radio. There are currently nine Assistant Directors in the Atlantic Division.

**West Valley Amateur Radio Association**

Board of Directors:		
<b>Officers:</b>		
<b>President</b>	<b>Scott Emery</b>	<b>AD6RY</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Marc Ziegler</b>	<b>W6ZZZ</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Jeanett Willner</b>	<b>KG6SVJ</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Jon Kelley</b>	<b>K6WV</b>
<b>Past President</b>	<b>Bill Ashby</b>	<b>N6FFC</b>
<b>Directors:</b>		
<b>2008-2009</b>	<b>Chuck Kamas</b>	<b>AD6CL</b>
	<b>Grant Willner</b>	<b>AD6RE</b>
	<b>Kevin Smith</b>	<b>KK6VF</b>
<b>2007-2008</b>	<b>Brian Goldberg</b>	<b>KG6BKI</b>
	<b>Dave Schultheis</b>	<b>WB6KHP</b>
	<b>Phil Verinsky</b>	<b>W6TQG</b>
<b>Appointed Positions:</b>		
<b>Net Manager</b>	<b>Terry Ridgway</b>	<b>N6ZAG</b>
<b>Heterodyne Editor</b>	<b>Loren Singh</b>	<b>AD6YU</b>
<b>Repeater Technician</b>	<b>Chuck Kamas</b>	<b>AD6CL</b>
<b>W6PIY Trustee</b>	<b>Jim Patrick</b>	<b>KB6VF</b>

-----

**WEST VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION**  
**PO BOX 6544**  
**SAN JOSE CA 95150-6544**

**STAMP**

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_