

# *The Heterodyne*

*Newsletter of the West Valley Amateur Radio Association*



## **Holiday Party - Pot Luck**

**Wednesday December 9**

**Setup Begins at 6:30pm**

**Dinner at 7:00pm**

At Our Regular 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

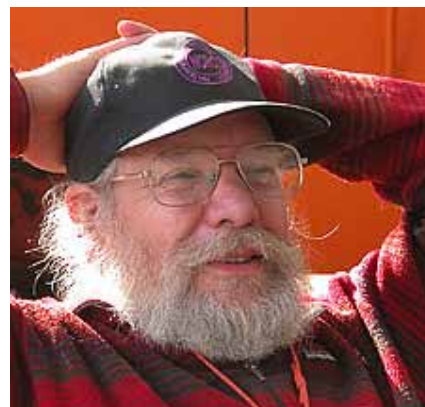
### **Club Net**

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).

## **President's Letter**

### ***The National Park On The Air (NPOTA) Event***

In 2016, the ARRL is running a year long event to help celebrate the 100th anniversary of the National Park System (NPS). During this event, amateurs are challenged to contact as many national park units as possible on any band except 60 meters. They are also encouraged to activate the various units. A ham will be considered for an activator award with at least 10 QSOs from the unit.



Only one chaser QSO per NPS unit will be credited for NPOTA award credit. There will be no tracking of QSOs by band or mode. To count, a QSO must be entered into Logbook of the World (LoTA). The 2016 release of TQSL 2.2.x will allow users to create station locations that include an NPS unit. That release should be out by mid-December 2015.



There are several strategies for activating a unit. The simplest is to take a mobile rig and operate from the parking lot. Another is to camp in a campground and use a portable mast. One can also set up a full field day type operation, perhaps using a group campground. The ARRL has a "Five Star Activator" category for this kind of operation, seeing them as a public outreach operations. As the complexity of the activation rises, there will be a point where the park unit will want a special use permit. I would recommend asking the park first about any activation beyond a low key campground or mobile station.

Currently, there are 434 units in the system. A number are located in California, Nevada, and Oregon. The ones I know something about are:

Lava Beds, California: Lava Beds has a nice campground with good site-lines to the distant horizon and is RF quiet. A campground activation should work well.

Muir Woods, California: Muir Woods is located in a canyon and doesn't have a campground. The main parking lot is at the bottom of the canyon and may offer difficult RF propagation. A backpack portable operation from up near the canyon rim is possible.

Death Valley and Joshua Tree, both in California: Large areas of desert, with 4WD camping away from the major roads offer a chance to set up a station. There are also conventional campgrounds.

Kings Canyon, California: The road accessible areas are down in the canyon. Backpack portable can get you to the Sierra crest.

Lassen Volcanic, Pinnacles, Sequoia, and Yosemite, all in California: They all have campgrounds which might be good for activations.

Golden Gate, California: Golden gate is near urban areas making campground reservations hard to get. Mobile or backpack portable seem like good possibilities. With the necessary permits, a well located public outreach station could attract many visitors.

Great Basin, Nevada: Located in the far eastern edge of Nevada, the Wheeler Peak campground is just below 10,000 feet and should offer good propagation. It also offers great star gazing.

Point Reyes, California: Home of K6KPH, the Marine Radio Historic Society station. It is not clear to me that K6KPH will actually qualify as an activator. It appears that some of their equipment is outside the NPS boundary, so Point Reyes may need activation.

The rest of the bunch: The ones marked \* are particularly sensitive and require consultation with park management for any activation:

Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front, Richmond, California

San Francisco Maritime, California

\* Eugene O'Neill, California - Reservations and shuttle bus required

Fort Point, California

John Muir, California

\* Manzanar, California

\* Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial, California - On a military base, Reservations required

Cabrillo, California

\* Cesar E. Chavez, California

Devils Postpile, California

Channel Islands, California

Redwood, California

Mojave, California

Santa Monica Mountains, California

Whiskeytown Unit, Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity, California

Tule Springs Fossil Beds, Nevada

Lake Mead, Nevada-Arizona

Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve, Oregon

Crater Lake, Oregon

Lewis and Clark, Oregon, Washington

John Day Fossil Beds, Oregon

I think people can have fun, both as activators and as chasers. I know I intend to try to make some QSOs. For more details, see <<http://www.arrl.org/NPOTA>>

73 Bill AE6JV

### **Howard Califf, W6HOC, SK**

With great sadness, we report the passing of Howard Califf, W6HOC on December 6 in his sleep. Howard was a past president of WVARA and worked at HRO in Sunnyvale, which many of his fans considered to be “Howard’s Radio Outlet”.

WVARA Net Check-Ins (W6PIY)					
Every Tuesday at 8:30 PM					
Call Sign	Name	11/17/15	11/24/15	12/01/15	12/08/15
AA6RB	Roy				X
AB6XS	Kevin	X	X		X
AD6CL	Chuck			X	
AE6JV	Bill	X			
AF6AE	Bill			X	
K6BRF	Bert	X	X		
K7RJV	Rex	X			
KF6EMB	Svend	X		X	X
KG6KXD	Jason	X			
KJ6CQJ	Dean	X	X		X
KJ6GMO	Sue	X	X		X
KJ6ZZI	Michael	X			
KK6HWN	Paul			X	
KK6VF	Kevin	NET	NET	NET	NET
KS6PD	Steve	X			X
KX6B	Dick				X
W6ESL	Tom	X		X	
W6HOC	Howard	X			
W6IA	Mark	X	X	X	X
W6MNL	Steve			X	X
W6RLK	Ron				X
W9KKN	Bill		X	X	
WB6KHP	Dave	X		X	X
TOTAL		15	7	10	12

## Ham Radio Outlet Founder Robert G. Ferrero, W6RJ, SK

12/07/2015

[UPDATED 2015-12-08 1323 UTC] Ham Radio Outlet ([HRO](#)) Founder Robert G. “Bob” Ferrero, W6RJ (ex-K6AHV), of Danville, California, died on December 4 after a period of ill health. He was 78. An ARRL Life Member, Ferrero was a California state trooper and US Navy veteran when he acquired Ham Radio Outlet in Burlingame, California, in 1971. He characterized the original store as a “little radio emporium on a wooden train platform.”

“[T]hrough decades of hard work and commitment to his customers, [he] turned it into the largest Amateur Radio retail chain in the world, with 14 stores now throughout the United States,” said Chip Margelli, K7JA, in a Facebook post.

Ferrero took part in several DXpeditions, including the first DXpeditions to Kingman Reef in 1974 and to the Austral and Marquesas Islands (FO0FI and FO0FR). He also operated as 9J2RA, TJ1GB, and

to the Austral and Marquesas Islands (FO0FI and FO0FR). He also operated as 9J2RA, TJ1GB, and W6RJ/Z2, as well as from HZ1AB in the 1980s and early 1990s.

Ferrero was inducted into the CQ DX Hall of Fame in 1997 and into the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame in 2005. He was a member of the A1 Operators Club. In 2009, the editors of CQ, in conjunction with the Visalia DX Convention, recognized Ferrero “for his many contributions to Amateur Radio.”

He was among the initial patrons and a significant supporter of the Northern California DX Foundation ([NCDXF](#)).

Among his survivors is his son Robert, W6KR, a co-owner of HRO and a DXpedition partner. — *Thanks to Chip Margelli, K7JA, and [The Daily DX](#)*

From <http://www.arrl.org/news/ham-radio-outlet-founder-robert-g-ferrero-w6rj-sk>. Republished by permission of the ARRL.

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