

The Heterodyne

Newsletter of the West Valley Amateur Radio Association

March Meeting

HF Propagation
By Stu Phillips, K6TU

Wednesday March 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

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!

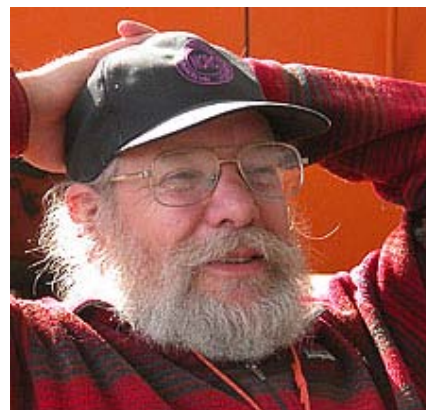
President's Letter

QRM on the Cell Phone

Several of my friends in Indiana are on the sheriff department's "go to" list of people to call for cave rescue operations. When there is a problem in a cave, they get called. Because cell phones are so handy, and can talk for long distances, they have slowly moved from using 2 meter repeaters to using cell phones to coordinate these rescues. Last December 18 they ran into a problem using cell phones.

Seven people had entered a local cave, planning on surveying about 300 feet of passage. They were all good cavers and friends of the local rescuers. This cave has a section of passage, about 100 feet long, which is very tight, taking about 45 minutes to traverse, and can flood. The weather forecast was for only about 1/2 inch of rain, which would not cause a problem.

While the surveyors were in the cave, it started to rain, and it rained a lot, about 3 inches. People on the surface were worried about the surveyors and started an effort to find out if they were all right. The normal callout system was used to put potential rescuers throughout the state on standby.



My friend Don, WB9TLI was managing the operation, using his cell phone to organize the rescue. But, as he was trying to organize a scouting team to check the cave, he kept getting calls and text messages. These calls were from people on standby, relatives of the surveyors, and even one from the press, all wanting to know what was happening. He found he couldn't use his phone to organize the rescue because it kept lighting up with incoming calls and texts.

So, he and the others decided to go back to using ham radio. They got out their 2M HTs. I wish the story ended with the priority traffic going by ham radio, and the low priority cell messages waiting until there was slack time to deal with them, but that isn't what happened. Too many of the HT batteries had run down, so they had to soldier through using cell phones.

The good news is that the people in the cave got out OK. The morals are: When all else fails, use ham radio, and keep your batteries charged.

73 Bill AE6JV

New Members

*The following new members
joined WVARA recently:*

Bob Frogner, K0FRG

Scott Anthony, KA6ZOV

Rick Hobbs, KM6HQU

Faisal Akber, VA3SFA

Welcome!!!



Field Day Planning Last Month - Photo by Mark, W6IA

Meeting Topic - March 8

HF Propagation by Stu Phillips, K6TU

At this next meeting, we'll be visited by Stu Phillips (K6TU) to hear his take on propagation predictions, and he's got quite a bit to say about them. For me, coming from a primarily VHF/UHF world, I'm very interested. We'll probably also spend a few minutes discussing (among other things) Field Day, though the May meeting will be fully focused on that event.

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 Dish-n-Dash dinner spot (at Trimble and N 1st St) seemed to sit well with those who went there last month, so we'll try that again. See you there at 6pm.

Presentation:

As Solar Cycle 24 winds down and the uncertainty of Cycle 25 approaches, there are still plenty of opportunities to work DX and build up great scores in contests. But as Louis Pasteur said, "Fortune favors only the prepared mind" — propagation predictions can give the preparation needed to maximize the DX and contesting opportunities afforded to us by the ionosphere.

Stu Phillips, K6TU has many years of practical experience using propagation and antenna modelling to assist in contest and DXpedition planning. Based on his years of experience and consulting to over 50 DXpeditions (including K1N, FT5ZM, K5P and many others), this presentation will show how to get meaningful propagation predictions that will provide a competitive edge whether your passion is DX or contesting. The presentation includes examples of how field experience correlates with planning predictions and shows how you can prepare similar predictions for your own station.

About Stu:

Stu is originally from the UK where he was first licensed as G8HQA in 1973. He moved to California in 1983 and operated as G8HQA/W6 until getting his first US call (N6TTO) in 1988.

After moving to Woodside, CA in 2003, Stu designed and implemented a fully remote controlled station which he uses for chasing DX and pursuing his passion for contesting. An avid "home brewer", Stu has developed several ham radio related products including the FlexRadio Systems FlexControl, the K6TU.NET propagation-as-a-service website and several iPad applications for controlling the FlexRadio Systems 6000 series radios. Honoring his inner (and one-time career choice) Propagation Physicist, he has provided consulting on site and antenna selection combined with propagation modeling for over 50 DXpeditions including FT5ZM, K1N, K9W, FT4TA, K5P, and many others including the upcoming 3Y0Z DXpedition to Bouvet.

Stu is a member of the Northern California DX Club, Pizza Lovers 259 (PL259 - a local Silicon Valley based contest club – a.k.a "The Little Contest Club that Does!") and a life member of the ARRL. He is President and a founder of Pizza Lovers 259, Past-President and Vice-President/Contest Chair of the NCCC and has participated on the organizing committees of the 2011, 2013 and 2015 International DX Conventions in Visalia California.

See y'all there!
Bobby, KA4VBF

Internet Radio Linking Project

By Dave Schultheis, WB6KHP

The Board of Directors approved installation of a 440 MHz repeater at the hospital building which includes an IRLP ("Internet Radio Linking Project") and EchoLink node. This is a computer that will allow the repeater to link with other IRLP and EchoLink nodes around the country and the world using the Internet.

An example would be if you have a relative or friend who is a licensed amateur and who lives in some other city with an IRLP or EchoLink node on a nearby repeater and you want to converse with them over the radio, you can do that.

The reason this was done is to allow members to learn about how these systems work and determine if there is enough interest among members to acquire the equipment necessary to provide node access to one or more of the Association's repeaters on a full time basis.

The WB6KHP repeater transmits on 444.700 MHz with a + 5 MHz offset and uses 127.3 Hz ctcss for access. It is an open repeater with coverage similar to that of the other West Valley repeaters.

Members can use Touch-Tone™ commands to link the repeater with other IRLP nodes and EchoLink nodes. This includes reflectors and conferences.

Members who have installed the EchoLink application on their smart phones will be able connect with the repeater over the Internet whether they are in the area or out of the area. Stand by for further details on this enhancement.

It is important to note that this repeater is NOT connected with any of the existing WVARA repeaters.

There are only three guidelines associated with this equipment. Number one is PLEASE do NOT kerchunk the repeater to see if it's there. It will be there. If you want to be sure, key the microphone, say your call sign and unkey. You will hear the repeater come back to you.

Guideline number 2 is PLEASE identify before pushing buttons. It is not necessary to ask permission to use the system, but listen for 30 seconds to make sure that the repeater is not already in use. Say your call sign, enter the numbers, unkey and wait for the connect message. When you are finished, say your call sign, enter the disconnect code and listen for the disconnect message.

Guideline number 3 is PLEASE do not discuss codes over the air.

Current Association members who wish to utilize this capability can receive the codes by sending an e-mail message: wb6khp at wvara dot org.

You may also direct any inquiries to me and I will do the best I can to answer them.

WVARA Net Check-Ins (W6PIY)					
Tuesdays at 8:30 PM					
Call Sign	Name	02/07/17	02/14/17	02/21/17	02/28/17
Total		20	17	15	12
AE6JV	Bill	X	X	X	
AF6AE	Bill		X		
AG6YL	Kevin		X		
AI6FN	Jin	X	X		
K0FRG	Bob	X	X		
K6BRF	Bert	X			
K6KWW	Kent	X			X
KE6MT	Rex	X	X		X
KF6EMB	Svend	X	X	X	X
KG6QX	Steve			X	
KI6SLX	Peri	X	X	X	
KJ6CQJ	Dean			X	X
KJ6GMO	Sue			X	X
KJ6YO	Kevin				X
KJ6ZZI	Michael	X	X	X	X
KK6HPF	Ross		X		
KK6VF	Kevin	NET	NET	NET	NET
KM6FDD	Lloyd	X	X	X	
KS6PD	Steve	X		X	
N6CPR	Trent		X		
N6FFC	Bill	X			X
N6FYR	Matt	X	X		
N6GD	Greg				X
N9CU	Andy	X	X	X	
W6DGS	Dan			X	
W6ESL	Tom	X			
W6IA	Mark	X	X		
W6MNL	Steve			X	
W6PK	Phil	X			
W9KKN	Bill	X		X	X
WB6KHP	Dave	X	X	X	X

Treasurer's Report, Jan & Feb 2017

Here are Activity and Position Reports as of the end of February. As happened last year, February shows a loss because we paid ASVARO our participation fee for the Electronic Flea Market. The fee was \$100 more than last year, to help them replenish the rain-out fund to cover rained out markets. A rare occurrence, but it did happen several times last year. Once we've had our day at the

Flea Market, we'll recoup this fee, and more. Mark your calendar for July 9, and plan on helping us run the De Anza Electronic Flea Market, and balance this year's budget.

Other than that, we are in great shape. Including family members we have 48 people who have joined for 2017, plus another 22 who joined last year. If you are one of those who paid dues last year, but not this year, please pay by PayPal or bring your dues to the March Meeting. We also received a substantial donation, from a member who wishes to remain anonymous. If you haven't paid since 2014 or earlier, you will not be on the roster.

There have been no unexpected or un-budgeted expenses to date.

See everyone at the meeting March 8, See www.wvara.org for details.

Peri Frantz
KI6SLX
WVARA Treasurer
treasurer@wvara.org

WVARA			
Statement of Activity		03/05/17	
January through February 2017			
	Jan '17	Feb '17	TOTAL
Income			
4200 — Misc. Income	10.04	0.00	10.04
4800 — Donations	0.00	133.00	133.00
4100 — Program Income			
4110 — Membership Dues			
4114 — Fam. Repeater (\$18)	54.00	0.00	54.00
4113 — Fam. Assn. (\$20)	80.00	0.00	80.00
4112 — Individ. Repeater (12)	156.00	24.00	180.00
4111 — Individ. Assn. (\$15)	315.00	45.00	360.00
Total 4110 — Membership Dues	605.00	69.00	674.00
Total 4100 — Program Income	605.00	69.00	674.00
Total Income	615.04	202.00	817.04
Expense			
5300 — Flea Market Expenses	0.00	2,400.00	2,400.00
5500 — Program Expenses			
6000 — Repeater Expenses			
6100 — Repeater Maintenance	0.00	81.07	81.07
Total 6000 — Repeater Expenses	0.00	81.07	81.07
Total 5500 — Program Expenses	0.00	81.07	81.07
5200 — Membership Expenses			
5210 — Badges	40.00	0.00	40.00
Total 5200 — Membership Expenses	40.00	0.00	40.00
5100 — Administrative Expenses			
5140 — Web Hosting Expense	0.00	59.40	59.40
5110 — Finance Fees Paid	19.34	1.82	21.16
Total 5100 — Administrative Expenses	19.34	61.22	80.56
Total Expense	59.34	2,542.29	2,601.63
Net Income	555.70	-2,340.29	-1,784.59

WVARA
Statement of Position
As of February 28, 2017

Printed 03/05/17

	Feb 28, '17
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1000 — Financial Accounts	
1900 — Cash	
1910 — Petty Cash	140.23
Total 1900 — Cash	140.23
1200 — Savings; BotW	4,494.99
1300 — Paypal	2,062.52
1100 — Checking; BotW	1,348.54
Total 1000 — Financial Accounts	8,046.28
Total Checking/Savings	8,046.28
Total Current Assets	8,046.28
TOTAL ASSETS	8,046.28
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
3900 — Retained Earnings	0.04
3300 — Unrestricted Net Assets	
3320 — Repeater Balance	2,593.70
3310 — Associaton Balance	7,237.13
Total 3300 — Unrestricted Net Assets	9,830.83
Net Income	-1,784.59
Total Equity	8,046.28
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	8,046.28

Mark Your Calendar for Microwave Update 2017

(please forward to other interested groups and hams)

Microwave Update (fondly abbreviated as MUD) is the premier microwave amateur radio conference. This year it is being hosted by the 50 MHz and Up Group of Northern California (www.50mhzandup.org).

MUD 2017 will be the last weekend of October (10/26 gathering day, 10/27-28 presentations/dinner/etc, 10/29 morning flea market and farewells) at the Santa Clara Biltmore (Santa Clara, CA, near US 101 & Montague Expy), the same place as MUD 2012.

It's not too think about writing up your winter microwave projects ... we will be issuing a call for paper and presentations.

We haven't set up the www.microwaveupdate.org site for 2107 yet ... coming soon.

73 and BCNU at MUD 2017

Mike Lavelle, K6ML

Jim Moss, N9JIM

MUD 2017 conference co-chairs

After more than 25 years of service...revised photo

The following two photos were included last month in the article “After more than 25 years of service...” by Kevin, KK6VF. However the antenna labels were missing. The photos are reprinted below, with antenna labels included in the second:

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).

Ham Radio Outlet - Operational Store Announcement

Dated: March 1st, 2017 - Walnut Creek, CA

Effective at the end of the business day on March 22, 2017, we will be permanently relocating our Sunnyvale sales facility to our Oakland California location at 2210 Livingston St. Oakland California 94606.

It is our goal to provide the absolute best service and best prices on the items we sell at Ham Radio Outlet. With this in mind, we have decided that the best way to serve Northern California is to consolidate our retail operations to a single location.

We are currently performing some extensive remodeling in our Oakland facility and will be moving all outbound shipping activity for our customers in Northern California to our Oakland facility in late March.

Steve Gilmore - National Sales Manager for Ham Radio Outlet stated "We needed to make some changes in our Northern California locations. Some of the costs associated with operating in the Sunnyvale location have absolutely skyrocketed and the traffic and parking availability in our current Sunnyvale location has become seriously problematic."

Robert Ferrero - President of Ham Radio Outlet, indicated "We have a vested interest in providing the highest level of service and product availability to our Northern California customers as well as our customers in the United States and abroad. In order to maximize our efforts and provide a more effective shopping experience for our Northern California customers, we must make some changes to alleviate some of the roadblocks which have arisen and directly related to our operation of our current Sunnyvale location."

We at HRO sincerely hope that this consolidation effort will provide a better shopping experience and minimize any possible inconvenience of additional travel to get to our Oakland facility. It is our goal to have a larger inventory and a far better chance of having the items you desire in stock when you need them at our consolidated location in Oakland, California.

We will announce a Grand Reopening of our Oakland Store location in late March 2017. During this event we will have a visit from various vendors. During this Grand Re-opening, refreshments will be served and prize drawings will occur throughout the event.

Please direct any questions you may have to Steve Gilmore - National Sales Manager Ham Radio Outlet. He can be reached at 800-444-4799 or via email at ws1va@hro.net

Petition on Calif. AB1785 (Mobile Radio Usage While Driving)

To: All California Amateur Radio Clubs

From: Norm Lucas (WB6RVR)

I am communicating with you in this fashion to advise you of a new law that was passed and implemented by the California State Legislature that, effective January 1, 2017, makes it illegal to use any sort of mobile device while driving, unless it is "blue toothed" enabled, and was installed as part of the vehicles equipment as it left the factory. This would include amateur and commercial mobile radio operations. The simple use of picking up and keying a push to talk microphone while driving would now be considered a violation of this new law.

I am referring to Calif. Assembly Bill 1785, the full text of which appears below. When it was initially drafted, this bill pertained only to cell phone usage. During its journey through the legislative process, it went through a number of rewrites and amendments, such that we are now saddled with a new law that prohibits all mobile operations (amateur and commercial) while driving.

The first violation/citation carries with it a \$20.00 fine. The second violation would be \$50.00. At this time, it is unknown if the receipt of any citation for violation of this new law would affect your drivers license record, or insurance rates. An amateur radio operator using his mobile radio in Palo Alto, has already received a citation for violating this law.

Initial contacts with several Chiefs of Police in various jurisdictions throughout California have given us feedback that is all over the map, ranging from "we are going to enforce it," to "we won't bother." The CHP position on this is to apparently enforce the law at the officer's discretion.

We have been in contact with the ARRL, and it is unknown at this time if they will lend their support, or take a leading role to amend this law. At this point, "finger pointing" or any laying blame is pointless and will not serve to get this law amended. To be clear and as of now, the ARRL is not in any way sanctioning or participating in this effort.

A small group of amateurs (myself included), have taken up the task to at least try and do something.

Please go to the following link and sign the "on line" petition, which will formally record you as being in support of amending this law.

https://www.change.org/p/california-state-house-qualify-or-repeal-ab-1785-re-immersive-v-passive-devices?recruiter=17018523&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=share_email_responsive

If you are personally acquainted with someone that owns and operates a tow truck company, cab company, utility company, etc., please share this communication with them, as this law directly affects them, too. Otherwise, it would be appreciated if you shared this with your membership and ask them to give it the widest circulation possible.

Again, the full text of the new law is attached below.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

73,
Norm Lucas (WB6RVR)
27 Casey Court
Sacramento, CA 95838
916-284-3737
wb6rvr@aol.com

Forwarded by John NU6P

BILL NUMBER: AB 1785 CHAPTERED BILL TEXT CHAPTER 660 FILED WITH
 SECRETARY OF STATE SEPTEMBER 26, 2016 APPROVED BY GOVERNOR SEPTEMBER
 26, 2016 PASSED THE SENATE AUGUST 17, 2016 PASSED THE ASSEMBLY AUGUST
 23, 2016 AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 3, 2016 AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 30,
 2016 AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 27, 2016 AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 5, 2016
 AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 28, 2016 INTRODUCED BY Assembly Member Quirk (Coau-
 thor: Assembly Member Frazier) FEBRUARY 4, 2016 An act to repeal and add Sec-
 tion 23123.5 of the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles. LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST AB
 1785, Quirk. Vehicles: use of wireless electronic devices. Existing law prohibits a person from driv-
 ing a motor vehicle while using an electronic wireless communications device to write, send, or read
 a text-based communication, as defined, unless the electronic wireless communications device is
 specifically designed and configured, and is used, to allow voice-operated and hands-free operation,
 as specified. A violation of these provisions is an infraction. This bill would instead prohibit a person
 from driving a motor vehicle while holding and operating a handheld wireless telephone or a wireless
 electronic communication device, as defined. The bill would authorize a driver to operate a handheld
 wireless telephone or a wireless electronic communications device in a manner requiring the use of
 the driver's hand only under specified conditions. By changing the definition of a crime, the bill would
 impose a state-mandated local program. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse
 local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions estab-
 lish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that no reimbursement is re-
 quired by this act for a specified reason. THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT
 AS FOLLOWS: SECTION 1. Section 23123.5 of the Vehicle Code is repealed. SEC. 2. Section
 23123.5 is added to the Vehicle Code, to read: 23123.5. (a) A person shall not drive a motor vehicle
 while holding and operating a handheld wireless telephone or an electronic wireless communications
 device unless the wireless telephone or electronic wireless communications device is specifically de-
 signed and configured to allow voice-operated and hands-free operation, and it is used in that manner
 while driving. (b) This section shall not apply to manufacturer-installed systems that are embedded
 in the vehicle. (c) A handheld wireless telephone or electronic wireless communications device may
 be operated in a manner requiring the use of the driver's hand while the driver is operating the vehicle
 only if both of the following conditions are satisfied: (1) The handheld wireless telephone or electronic
 wireless communications device is mounted on a vehicle's windshield in the same manner a portable
 Global Positioning System (GPS) is mounted pursuant to paragraph (12) of subdivision (b) of Section
 26708 or is mounted on or affixed to a vehicle's dashboard or center console in a manner that does
 not hinder the driver's view of the road. (2) The driver's hand is used to activate or deactivate a fea-
 ture or function of the handheld wireless telephone or wireless communications device with the mo-
 tion of a single swipe or tap of the driver's finger. (d) A violation of this section is an infraction punish-
 able by a base fine of twenty dollars (\$20) for a first offense and fifty dollars (\$50) for each subsequent
 offense. (e) This section does not apply to an emergency services professional using an electronic
 wireless communications device while operating an authorized emergency vehicle, as defined in Sec-
 tion 165, in the course and scope of his or her duties. (f) For the purposes of this section, "electronic
 wireless communications device" includes, but is not limited to, a broadband personal communica-
 tion device, a specialized mobile radio device, a handheld device or laptop computer with mobile data
 access, a pager, or a two-way messaging device. SEC. 3. No reimbursement is required by this act
 pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may
 be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime
 or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the
 meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the
 meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

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
40+ Vendors
Great Raffle Prizes
QSL Card Checking
Optional Bus Tour

**Complete Program &
Registration
Information at:**

dxconvention.org

*Sponsored by the
Northern California DX Club*

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