

The Heterodyne

Newsletter of the West Valley Amateur Radio Association

October Meeting

**Amateur High Altitude Ballooning
By Don Ferguson, AI6RE**

**Wednesday October 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!

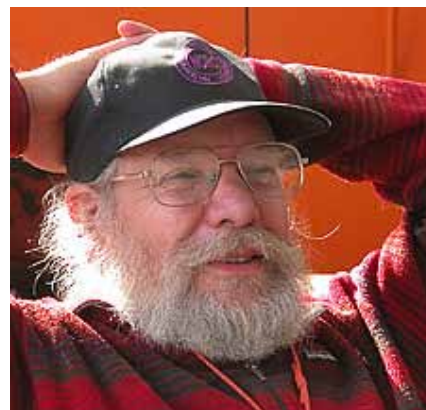
President's Letter

Club Activities

One of the topics discussed at the last executive board meeting was how to expand the range of the club's activities. Outside our regular meetings, we currently have 5 major club activities: Field Day, CQP, the January VHF contest, the Summer Picnic, and the holiday party. We would like to add some events that involve a relatively low time and travel commitment. We would also like to have some events where we can invite other clubs to come play radio with us. And, of course, we want to have events where all license classes can play.

Some of the ideas we discussed included:

- We used to have club contest on our repeaters. We could set one up again. It could be a low key introduction to contesting.
- We could activate some Summits On The Air (SOTA) peaks. There are several in the South Bay area which would make pleasant afternoon efforts.
- Greg Olsen, who joins us for Field Day, might have a site we could use. It is on a bluff



overlooking the Pacific ocean. It should be a good place for transpacific contacts. We might use it for another HF contest like All Asia.

- Further discussion brought up other activities: an antenna party, a rig check party, CPR certification, a balloon launch, a battery load/test party, a solar luncheon, another picnic with some casual operating, and a fox hunt (hidden transmitter hunt).

We have been invited to join the Foothill Amateur Radio Society (FARS) for their annual winter banquet on Friday, January 20, 2017. I had a lot of fun last year and intend to go again this year. The FARS web site has a banquet page at <<http://www.fars.k6ya.org/events/banquet>>. Signups can be either online, using Paypal/credit card, or by USPS mail.

If anyone has any other ideas for activities, really likes one of our ideas, or wants to organize an activity, please let the board know.

73 Bill AE6JV

New Member

Please welcome Jin Kim, AI6FN to WVARA!

**Pacificon 2016
Friday Oct 14 - Sunday Oct 16**

**San Ramon Marriott
2600 Bishop Drive
San Ramon, CA 94583**

www.pacificon.org

Future Events - FARS Annual Winter Banquet

We have been invited to join the Foothill Amateur Radio Society (FARS) for their annual winter banquet on **Friday, January 20, 2017** at Michael's restaurant in Shoreline park. I had a lot of fun last year and intend to go again this year.

The speaker will be Dr. Robert Schmieder, KK6EK, who will talk about the VK0EK Heard Island DX-pedition. FARS Board approved \$1,500 of raffle prizes to be given away. The banquet is open to all hams and significant others.

The FARS web site has a banquet page at <http://www.fars.k6ya.org/events/banquet>. Signups can be either online, using Paypal/credit card, or by USPS mail.

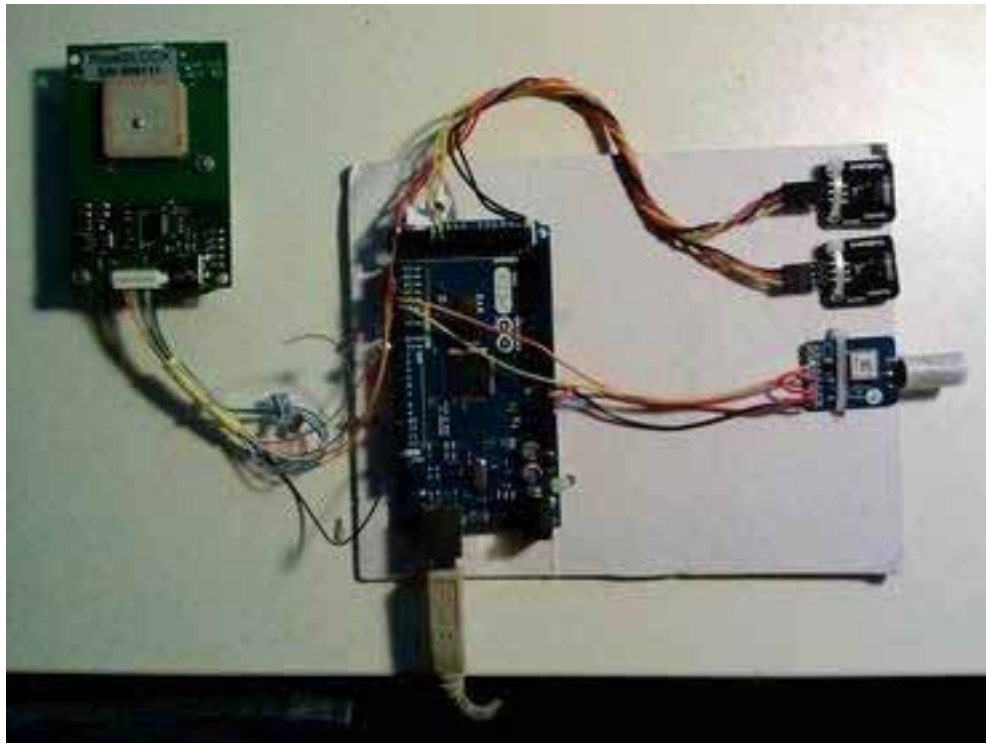
73 Bill AE6JV

About the Meeting
Amateur High Altitude Ballooning
By Don Ferguson, AI6RE



This month's meeting will be 7pm on Wednesday, October 12. Don Ferguson, AI6RE, will tell us what the California Near Space Project is up to with high altitude ballooning. Ron and his team has been outfitting balloons with high tech electronics since 2009 and has put GPS, APRS, cameras and cross-band repeaters on balloons filled with hydrogen and helium. Back in 2011, his team set a pair of international records for altitude and distance, having reached an altitude of 136,545 feet — that's 26 miles up! Two months later, another of their balloons crossed the United States, then the Atlantic, and eventually landed in the Mediterranean Sea — a whopping distance of 6,236 miles! You can read more about the California Near Space Project at: <http://www.cnspace-inc.com/>





As some of you may recall, Don previously spoke to our group about long-range ballooning back in March 2012. This will be a refresher presentation, with a few updates on his group's recent activities and equipment.

Meeting Location: 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. 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.

NEW DINNER LOCATION: And for those who are hungry, several of us will be eating dinner at 5:50pm, just prior to the meeting, at Dish n Dash at 2551 N 1st Street near the corner of Trimble in San Jose one block from the Red Cross Building — this is the same location where the Carl Jr's used to be where we met for dinner for several years. You can see their menu at:

<https://sanjose-dishndash.squarespace.com/>

We'll see you there!

Jim Peterson, K6EI

Ham Crams

The ham cram will be Nov. 12 in the Los Gatos Emergency Operations Center starting at 8:00 AM. People interested in attending should contact Peter Hertan, K6PLH <p

73 Bill AE6JV

WVARA Net Check-Ins (W6PIY)									
Tuesdays at 8:30 PM									
Call Sign	Name	8/16/16	08/23/16	08/30/16	09/06/16	09/13/16	09/20/16	09/27/16	10/04/16
Total		19	11	18	14	8	15	11	15
AA6RB	Roy	X		X	X				
AB6XS	Kevin		X						
AE6JV	Bill			X	X		X		X
AF6AE	Bill	X	X		X		X		
AG6YO	Kevin	X		X		X	X		X
AI6FN	Jin	X			X	X	X	X	
K6BIB	Bodan	X	X	X	X				X
K6BRF	Bert	X	X	X		X			X
K6GTX	Dan						X		
K6KWW	Kent	X	X	X					
K6SCC	Brian	X		X					
K7RJV	Rex								X
KF6EMB	Svend		X				X	X	X
KG7KGE	Ben				X				
KI6SLX	Peri			X	X		X		X
KJ6CQJ	Dean						X		
KJ6GMO	Sue						X		
KJ6ZZI	Michael	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
KK6VF	Kevin	NET	NET	NET	NET	NET	NET	NET	NET
KM6AMQ	Matt	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
KM6DAC	Cameron	X							
KM6EOU	Don			X					
KN6AZI	Nate			X					
KS6PD	Steve	X							
N9CU	Andy	X		X				X	X
NT6S	Tom	X							
NU6P	John							X	
W6ESL	Tom		X					X	X
W6IA	Mark	X			X	X	X	X	X
W6PK	Phil	X		X	X				
W9KKN	Bill	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
WB6KHP	Dave	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
WR3K	Greg			X					

WVARA CQP Photos, Courtesy Bill AE6JV



Amateur Radio Parity Act

From my own personal experience many of you have shown your support for this legislation in the past. Thank you! We're making great progress and the time has come again for my to ask for your support.

We have an opportunity to positively affect Amateur Radio for years to come. H.R. 1301, the Amateur Radio Parity Act, has unanimously passed the House of Representatives and moved on to the Senate for consideration. All you need to do is spend two minutes of your time to send an email to your two Senators supporting the Bill. By doing so, you will have helped the future of Amateur Radio by guaranteeing our ability to have an effective outdoor antenna in a deed-restricted community.

The number of people living in such communities grows exponentially each year. Often, a ham homeowner has no choice but to live in a community restricted by covenants. There are nearly 3/4 of a million licensed hams in the United States, more than ever before. But that may change if we are forced to live in a community that refuses to allow an antenna.

Help yourself and help your fellow hams. Go to this link:

<https://arri.rallycongress.net/ctas/urge-senate-to-support-amateur-radio-parity-act>

Enter your zip code and follow the prompts. The letters are there. All you need to do is fill in the blanks, hit save, then send.

That's it. Under 2 minutes and you're done.

If you haven't yet done so, please do so today. Your voice counts!

ARRL Santa Clara Valley Section
Section Manager: Brandon J Bianchi, NI6C
ni6c@arri.org

WVARA BOD Meeting Sept 22, 2016 7PM

Present: Bill Frantz AE6JV, Peri Frantz KI6SLX, Dave Schultheis WA6KHP, Jim Peterson K6EI, John Glass NU6P, Jon Kelley K6WV, Bobby Barnett KA4VBF, Kevin Smith KK6VF, Phil Verinsky W6PK, Chuck Kamas AD6CL, Svend Jensen KF6EMB

Agenda:

Financial Status

- Future of De Anza flea market, alternate fundraising
- Nominating Committee: officer/board candidates
- Repeater upgrades: (power, data connectivity, antennas, gateway, hardware, other plans, etc)
- 220 repeater

Contests we can do as a club (FD, CQP, VHF etc.)

Speaker topics: APRS? Nets? MARS/ARES/RACES? More interactivity? Things that lead to activities?

Activities: antenna party, rig check party, CPR cert, balloon launch, battery load/test, solar luncheon, Holiday party plans

Club to club interactions (c.f. FARS Winter Banquet) can we sponsor something?

1. Financial Status

1. Treasurer Report - Peri KI6SLX – We are currently running ahead of budget plan. The actual numbers were published in this month's Heterodyne newsletter. We didn't budget for the new Tower Trailer but we were able to pay for it ok. Questions about whether we made money at the Flea Market – Yes we made about \$1200.
2. Future of ASVARO flea market, alternate funds raising - discussion about how ASVARO owns the direction of this but we can help by making suggestions about new locations. WVARA should continue participation while we are still making money. Also, we need to notify ASVARO that we want to attend the next ASVARO meeting.

2. Nominating Committee: officer/board candidates – The Nominating Committee will consist of Bobby KA4VBF and Bill AE6JV.

3. Repeater upgrades: (power, data connectivity, antennas, gateway, hardware, other plans, etc)
 1. New power has been installed. We have 2 20A services at the repeater. One is a duplex receptacle, the other is a quadplex receptacle. (these are on the Hospital's emergency power service (generator)).
 2. data connectivity – we will be allowed to run and have WIFI so we can log in. The objective is controlling the repeaters remotely. We have to build out our own computer system (gateway, etc.)
 3. Fixed the 440 antenna – stabilized it
 4. Discussion about 6M repeater desense for low power
 5. Looking at an IRLP node on 440. For testing, we can use a separate standalone machine – separate radio, controller, antenna. Dave WB6KHP already has this package – IRLP hardware, computer, antenna, power supply, etc. Dave & others will perhaps give a presentation on IRLP and using it. Also, Dave has a line on a used equipment rack for this repeater. Motion made & passed to Allocate \$50 for the purchase of this cabinet.

6. Discussion about cleaning up our repeater installation. Installing crow-bar circuit, DC power distribution, etc.
7. Our 220 repeater is currently not healthy. We have had to disconnect the amplifier thus limiting its performance. We probably should replace the repeater. Currently, Bridgecom is probably the recommended replacement. \$1100. Motion made and passed to allocate \$1100 to replace the repeater. Chuck AD6CL to place the order.
4. Contests we can do as a club (FD, CQP, VHF etc.)
 1. FD & CQP are fun but are big efforts. We need to do more smaller efforts that can also attract Techs. Discussion about how we used to have club contest on our repeaters. We will bring this topic to the next Club meeting for club feedback.
 2. SOTA is another possibility – George? Greg Olsen (comes to FD with us) might have a sight we could access for another HF contest like All ASIA.
5. Speaker topics: APRS? Nets? MARS/ARES/RACES? More interactivity? Things that lead to activities?
 1. October – Ballooning presentation is scheduled
 2. IRLP
 3. Plea to identify speakers if you attend PACIFICON. We have had success identifying some speakers from the Forums. Keep eyes open for potential candidates.
6. Round table discussion about other potential club activities: antenna party, rig check party, CPR certification, balloon launch, battery load/test, solar luncheon, picnic with some casual operating. Perhaps we could do a fox hunt?
7. Holiday party plans
 1. December 14 date. Bill to followup on volunteers.
8. Club to club interactions
 1. FARS Winter Banquet - can we sponsor something?
 2. example – SVEC's breakfasts
 3. Make announcements on Net and Heterodyne about events like this.

Adjourn 8:50 PM

Treasurer's Report

September was a busy month. On Sept. 22 the BOD (see minutes elsewhere in this Heterodyne) authorized the purchase of a new 220 repeater, to replace the aging machine that has been giving us endless problems. Chuck, AD6CL, immediately placed an on-line order and was reimbursed (\$1100) on the spot. We also authorized \$50 for a used repeater cabinet. These purchase exceeded our budget, and will lead to a net loss for the year. However the repeater fund is flush from past underspending, so the cash flow is not a problem.

Other routine spending included reimbursing Jim Peterson for Field Day expenses, and renewing our PO Box.

(continued on next page)

On the income side, dues continue to trickle in. Welcome to new member Jin Kim, AI6FN.

Dues for next year are due by Jan 2. Any dues received from here on out will be applied to 2017.

See everyone at the October meeting. Peri

Peri Frantz

KI6SLX

WVARA Treasurer

treasurer at wvara dot org

WVARA

Statement of Activity

January through September 2016

	Q1	Q2	Sep '16	Q3	TOTAL
Income					
4100 — Program Income					
4110 — Membership Dues					
4112 — Indiv. Repeater (12)	180.00	72.00	12.00	24.00	276.00
4114 — Fam. Repeater (\$18)	108.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	108.00
4111 — Indiv. Assn. (\$15)	375.00	105.00	15.00	30.00	510.00
4113 — Fam. Assn. (\$20)	140.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	160.00
Total 4110 — Membership Dues	803.00	197.00	27.00	54.00	1,054.00
4150 — Flea Market Reciepts	0.00	3,809.15	0.00	0.00	3,809.15
Total 4100 — Program Income	803.00	4,006.15	27.00	54.00	4,863.15
4800 — Donations	210.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	213.00
4200 — Misc. Income	0.12	0.12	0.00	0.08	0.32
Total Income	1,013.12	4,009.27	27.00	54.08	5,076.47
Expense					
5200 — Membership Expenses					
5210 — Badges	16.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16.00
5240 — Summer Picnic	0.00	85.00	0.00	0.00	85.00
Total 5200 — Membership Expenses	16.00	85.00	0.00	0.00	101.00
5100 — Administrative Expenses					
5110 — Finance Fees Paid	18.18	7.02	1.08	2.16	27.36
5140 — Web Hosting Expense	59.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	59.40
5150 — PO Box Rental	0.00	0.00	70.00	70.00	70.00
5160 — Officer Awards	0.00	29.33	0.00	0.00	29.33
Total 5100 — Administrative Expenses	77.58	36.35	71.08	72.16	186.09
5300 — Flea Market Expenses	2,300.00	232.58	0.00	19.98	2,552.56
5500 — Program Expenses					
5520 — Field Day Expenses	0.00	0.00	392.58	392.58	392.58
5540 — Misc. Expenses	0.00	979.71	0.00	0.00	979.71
6000 — Repeater Expenses					
6100 — Repeater Maintenance	0.00	243.21	0.00	0.00	243.21
6999 — Repeater Misc.	0.00	0.00	1,150.00	1,150.00	1,150.00
Total 6000 — Repeater Expenses	0.00	243.21	1,150.00	1,150.00	1,393.21
Total 5500 — Program Expenses	0.00	1,222.92	1,542.58	1,542.58	2,765.50
Total Expense	2,393.58	1,576.85	1,613.66	1,634.72	5,605.15
Net Income	-1,380.46	2,432.42	-1,586.66	-1,580.64	-528.68

WVARA
Statement of Position
As of September 30, 2016

10/07/16

Sep 30, '16

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

1000 — Financial Accounts

1100 — Checking 2,740.66

1200 — Savings 4,494.79

1300 — Paypal 2,880.06

1900 — Cash

1910 — Petty Cash 120.23

Total 1900 — Cash 120.23

Total 1000 — Financial Accounts 10,235.74

Total Checking/Savings 10,235.74

Total Current Assets 10,235.74

TOTAL ASSETS 10,235.74

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity

3300 — Unrestricted Net Assets

3310 — Association Balance 7,315.51

3320 — Repeater Balance 3,448.91

Total 3300 — Unrestricted Net Assets 10,764.42

Net Income -528.68

Total Equity 10,235.74

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 10,235.74

2016 West Valley Amateur Radio Association Board

President: Bill Frantz, AE6JV

Vice President: Jim Peterson, K6EI

Secretary: Jon Kelley, K6WV

Treasurer: Peri Frantz, KI6SLX

Directors:

Chuck Kamas, AD6CL

Bobby Barnett, KA4VBF

Svend Jensen, KF6EMB

Kevin Smith, KK6VF

John Glass, NU6P

Dave Schultheis, WB6KHP

The Heterodyne is published monthly by the West Valley Amateur Radio Association and sent to all club members via the web. Please obtain permission from the author to re-publish any article in this publication.

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Scott Emery, AD6RY

Jim Peterson, K6EI

Jon Kelley, K6WV

Phil Verinsky, W6PK

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