

The Heterodyne

Newsletter of the West Valley Amateur Radio Association

WVARA Summer BBQ
Saturday August 16
11am - 2pm

At Sunnyvale's Baylands Park
Pickleweed Place
Reservation is under "WVARA"

When you get to Baylands Park,
turn **right** after going into the
main gate

Please see pages 2 and 3
for more BBQ information

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

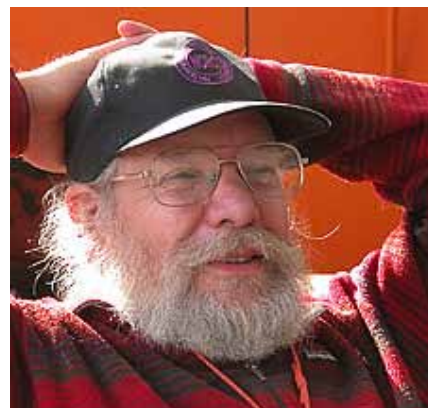
Flood!

This spring, I was teaching at the NCRC Weeklong seminar in Divide Colorado. We were monitoring the students as they performed a mock rescue in caves in Williams Canyon, just outside of Colorado Springs. Everything was going well except the weather.

Williams Canyon has a history of flooding. If a thunderstorm dumps a lot of rain in the upper section of the canyon, serious flooding follows. Just last year, a flood did severe damage in Manitou Springs, the town at the mouth of the canyon.

Several instructors were communicating on 2 meter ham radios, watching the weather from the rim of the canyon where the vehicles were parked. The students handled their own communications using FRS radios and wired telephones in the caves.

At about 6:30 PM, Colorado Springs was being pounded by a serious thunderstorm. We could observe it visually, as well as access the weather radar tracks and monitor National Weather Service (NWS) bulletins.



A little after 7:00 PM, the storm turned towards the upper sections of Williams Canyon. The NWS issued a flood warning for the area. Our students were just finishing lowering their last patient to the canyon floor. The instructors ordered them to take what was believed to be the fastest way out, by going down canyon to Manitou Springs. Meanwhile, the Colorado State Police closed the highway between Manitou Springs and Divide, where our dinner was waiting. The instructor frequency was alive with messages coordinating everyone so we could beat an orderly retreat.

We managed to get 2 large vans and a crew cab pickup truck down from the rim of the canyon and into Manitou Springs, where the students had taken refuge from the rain under the eaves of a church at the base of the canyon. Our plan was to pick them up there, and wait out the storm while eating dinner in a downtown Manitou Springs restaurant.

Well, we got them downtown, but then the police ordered us to evacuate them because of the impending flood danger. We ended up at a Safeway in Colorado Springs which was kind enough to let us inside, after closing hours, to regroup. There we found a local caver who had enough houses etc. to provide shelter for the night. A group of about 60 of us then invaded a Village Inn restaurant in Colorado Springs. Using cell phones we located an additional 10 still in Manitou Springs, and about 30 people at the Cave of the Winds visitor's center on the rim of Williams Canyon.

We made arrangements for the Cave of the Winds management to feed the people there, and with everyone accounted for, we proceeded to eat dinner. By the time we finished, the road had been reopened, so we ferried people to their cars and everyone headed back to Divide for the night. By 2 AM, everyone was back at the camp in Divide.

During the chaos of the evacuation, the ham radios were extremely valuable, covering a wide area, and keeping us aware of where people were and what the evolving plan was. Cell phones covered getting people fed at Cave of the Winds and finding a restaurant that could handle 60 people, as well as monitoring the road closure.

Good communications kept an emergency from becoming a crisis.

73, Bill - AE6JV

WVARA Summer BBQ

The WVARA BBQ will be this Saturday. This is a BYOM (bring your own meat) event and a great opportunity to have radio-related fun with other WVARA folks. We will have a portable HF station on-the-air for making SSB contacts in the North American QSO Party.

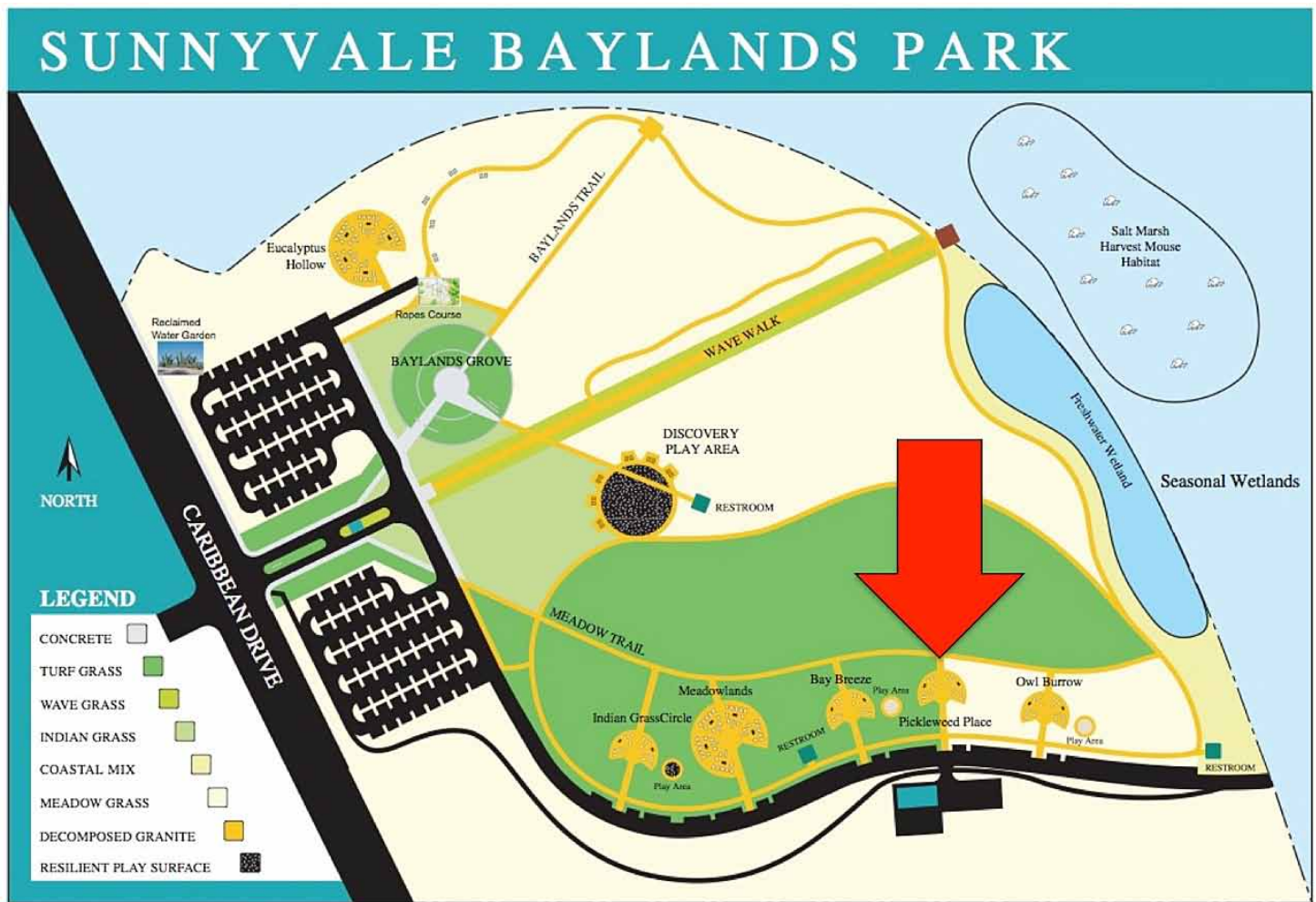
We currently have eight attendees for Saturday's BBQ:

- Kevin Smith, KK6VF: bringing charcoal and sodas
- Tom Dunbar, W6ESL: bringing paper plates, plastic ware, condiments, and an HF station
- Bobby Barnett, KA4VBF: bringing potato salad
- Dave Banas, KK6GXH and son Nicolas: bringing fruit
- Phil Verinsky, W6PK, and Anita: chocolate chip cookies (of course!)
- Rick Ibarra, WE6AAI, will likely drop by, but not for the meal

If you haven't yet signed up, be sure to let me know. We are still looking for volunteers to bring baked beans and/or buns. And it will be great if someone brings a 2m HT for monitoring the PIY repeater.

- Jim, K6EI

Map and more information is on the following page



When: 11am - 2pm, Saturday, Aug 16

Where: Sunnyvale's Baylands Park, Pickleweed Place

Note: When you get to Baylands Park, turn right after going into the main gate

Our location (Pickleweed Place at Sunnyvale's Baylands Park, the reservation is under "WVARA") includes multiple tables, grill, an AC outlet, and a covered awning for shade. There is an entry fee per car at Baylands Park, so you may prefer to carpool. We'll have hot charcoal and condiments -- please bring your own meat to grill.

Our BBQ coincides with the SSB portion of the North American QSO Party (NAQP) which means this is an ideal opportunity for a really fun portable radio operation. (NAQP Contest rules are at: <http://www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php>). We can't put up any big Field Day-style antennas at Baylands, but we can still string up an NVIS dipole and/or put an HF whip on top of the metal awning and have some fun in the contest. Let me know if you are interested in volunteering to be in charge of either of the following two tasks:

- Setting up an HF SSB station.
- Setting up a VHF station for event coordination through the WVARA repeater

- Jim, K6EI

Note: There is no regular meeting in August

Photos for Last Year's BBQ



Celeste K6LOH and Mike K6QFO - "The Noisy Kid"



Rick WE6AAI, Anita



Kartikeya KJ6TMQ, Jim K6EI, Rick WE6AAI



Phil W6PK, Kartikeya KJ6TMQ



Mike K6QFO's Portable Station

Field Day 2014

Field Day is a great opportunity to get outdoors, gain experience assembling equipment in the rough, and operate a station under challenging band conditions. This year we operated QRP in the 6A Battery category from Mora Hill in Los Altos, California, overlooking the Silicon Valley from an elevation of 500 feet.

We had 3 HF CW stations, 2 HF SSB stations, an HF digital station, a Get On The Air (GOTA) station, and a VHF/UHF station with satellite link capabilities. In spite of being limited to 5 watts, we succeeded in contacting all 50 states as well as Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Sweden.

Our GOTA station was particularly popular with plenty of drop-in visitors including a good number of kids. In addition to having a great time, each year we work at improving our equipment, antennas and operating skills.

In order to minimize interference within our site, we took care to have HF transceivers with well-designed front-ends in order to minimize spur transmissions and receiver pumping/de-sensing. All of our site's HF stations used Elecraft K3 or KX3 transceivers. As a result, we experienced almost no mutual interference between our transmitters – even though at times we had four transmitters (CW, Digital, SSB and GOTA) all active on the same band at the same time. We did set up our antennas in a line, all pointed at the East Coast, so the side lobe rejection helped reduce interference.

Being outdoors also meant that we got to put up wild-n-crazy antennas that our spouses and neighbors might never allow back home. We used two HF triplexers to simultaneously share a pair of HF tribanders between multiple stations on 10- 15- and 20 meters. If you'd like to build one for your club, you can learn how to build one in K6KV's article in the June 2010 issue of QST. Other antennas at our site included 4-element monobanders on 15- and 20 meters and three rotatable, self-supporting 40m dipoles.

Band conditions were fine, although not as great as two years ago. Sunspots numbers were relatively poor during the weekend at 78, but with relatively stable geomagnetic conditions and a mid-latitude A-index of 4. Thanks to the relatively low A-index, D-layer absorption wasn't bad, and late night conditions on 40- and 80m were pretty good. 20 meters was clearly the sweet spot for FD2014, with 40 meters a close second. Fifteen meters was good, but 10 meters was totally dead. There was plenty of VHF activity to keep us busy on the 6-, 2- and 70 cm bands – including a 50 MHz contact with Colorado. And for the second year in a row we made a satellite QSO – not bad for QRP!

In summary, FD2014 was a real hoot! Be sure to let us know if you'd be interested in getting involved with our team in 2015.

- Jim, K6EI
WVARA Field Day Coordinator

Field Day 2014 Photos



Evening Antennas



Group Photo



Setup



Admiring the VHF Antennas



Svend Sets Up Antenna



Visitor Operating the GOTA Station

Contribution

West Valley Amateur Radio Association thanks member Larry Goodwin, KG6ENF for his recent very generous contribution to the club. Larry moved from the Bay Area to Alvin, Texas a number of years ago. From there he continues to serve as our webmaster. Thank you Larry!

WVARA Net Check-Ins (W6PIY)								
Each Tuesday at 8:30 PM								
All Repeaters Linked Together During Net								
Call Sign	Name	07/01/14	07/08/14	07/15/14	07/22/14	07/29/14	08/05/14	08/12/14
AA6RB	Roy			X				
AB6XS	Kevin		X	X				
AE6JV	Bill	X						
AF6AE	Bill		X	X			X	X
AG6HE	Dennis	X	X	X	X	X		X
K6BRF	Bert	X		X	X	X	X	X
K6EI	Jim							X
K6QFO	Mike			X				
K6SCC	Brian		X					
K6WAR	Bill					X		
KA6AMB	Mark	X	X			X	X	
KF6EMB	Svend	X		X	X	X	X	X
KG6SBY	Bob						X	
KI6SLX	Peri	X						
KJ6CQJ	Dean		X			X	X	
KJ6GMO	Sue		X			X	X	
KJ6ZZI	Michael		X	X		X	X	X
KK6GXH	Dave		X					
KK6GXH	David	X				X		X
KK6HAY	Nickolas					X		X
KK6IXU	Brian				X			
KK6VF	Kevin	NET	NET	NET	NET	NET	NET	NET
KS6PD	Steve				X	X		
NU6P	John	X			X			X
W2GQA	Bill	X						
W6ESL	Tom		X	X				X
W6HOC	Howard				X	X	X	X
W6PK	Phil	X	X				X	
WB6KHP	Dave	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
TOTAL		12	13	11	9	14	12	13

Items For Sale By George, N6NKT:

Hy-Gain TH-7DX, 7 Element, Tri-Band, 10/15/20M \$300

Manual available at <http://www.hy-gain.com/support.php?productid=TH-7DX>

Down from Palo Alto ARC office, disassembled and located in Cupertino

KLM KT-34, 4 Element, Tri-Band, 10/15/20M \$200

Boonton 92EA RF Voltmeter \$200

Contact George Williams, N6NKT, n6nkt at yahoo dot com

Send Buy and Sell information to: het_editor at wvara dot org

2014 West Valley Amateur Radio Association Board

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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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See You At The BBQ!