www.wvara.org September 2012

The Heterodyne

Newsletter of the West Valley Amateur Radio Association

September Meeting

"Field Day Highlights" by Jim Peterson, K6EI

Wednesday September 12 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

Visitors are welcome!

Electronics Flea Market

www.electronicsfleamarket.com/schedule

The next flea market is: Saturday, Sep 8

The market opens around 5:00am and closes at 12:00 Noon.

This is the last electronics flea market in 2012 due to an October time conflict with Pacificon and the ARRL National Convention.

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

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 .

Pacificon October 12-14, 2012

Marriott Santa Clara
2700 Mission College Boulevard
Santa Clara, CA 95054
www.pacificon.org

Buy and Sell

Send Buy and Sell items to:
het_editor at wvara.org

In addition to Jim's "Field Day Highlights", Rick Ibarra, WE6AAI will present a Ham Radio 101 tutorial covering some of the antennas, equipment and techniques he enjoys using for low-power portable operating - see photo on following page.

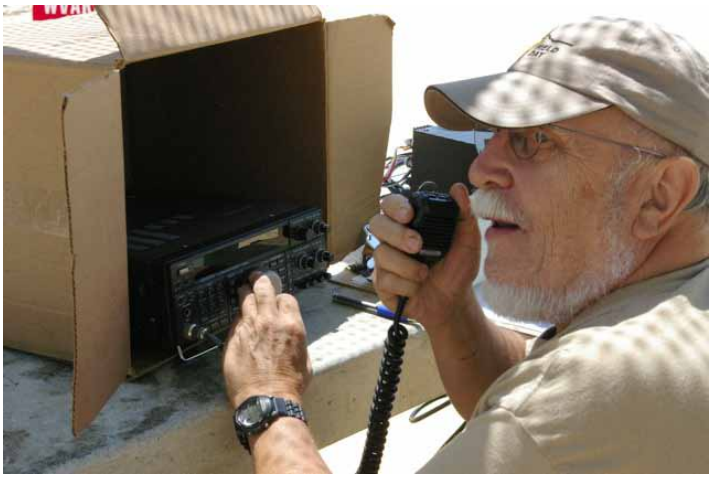
Rick WE6AAI with Portable Antenna at the WVARA Picnic

More Picnic Photos

Kevin KK6VF, Tom W6ESL, Phil W6PK, Rick WE6AAI

Bill N2RHV

Steve, KE6GDA and his baby son



Tom W6ESL

Bobby KA4VBF and his son Nick

Anita “The Cookie Manufacturer”

Field Day Photos

Our webmaster, Larry KG6ENF, has uploaded our 2012 Field Day photos to www.wvara.org. Go to the Field Day page and you will find the link below Jim K6EI’s introduction.

WVARA Folks Get Active in July's "Flight of the BumbleBee" Event
By Jim Peterson, K6EI

If you had fun at Field Day and enjoy both QRP and slow- or moderate-speed CW, then the upcoming Flight of the BumbleBees (FOBB) is another great radio event worth considering. Details of the event can usually be found at http://www.arsqrp.blogspot.com/

You can participate in FOBB as a QRP home-based station or as a portable (i.e. Bumblebee). Participants who operate portable from field locations are designated as Bumblebees. They need to get to their operating site principally under their own power by walking, biking, boating, and so on. The distance traveled to the site is at the Bumblebee's discretion. This year's event was from 10am to 2pm PDT on Sunday, July 29, and four of us from WVARA participated from various locations across the US. What follows are summaries of our four experiences:

Rick Ibarra, WE6AAI. Portable QTH: Mission Peak, California

Rick was actually too late to register for an official Bumblebee number, so instead participated ala SOTA (Summits on the Air) from the top of Mission Peak during the Bumblebee contest period. Rick found this to be a great location both for view and for purposes of exercise. Rick returned again the next morning (very early) with his XYL, but no QRP rig this time, although he did take his HT with him. Rick has now ordered a Palm Mini Paddle for field CW work. He likes a lot of its features but what finally sold him was the magnet mount base which will attach nicely the side of Rick's Ten Tec R4020. He found out that in field work he needs a stable base for the paddle. He was sending out a lot of extra dits last week because he was holding the "CW Touch Paddle" with my hand.

Greg Olsen, K6XM. Portable QTH: near Lake Tahoe

Everything started out great for Greg and his buddy Bob, W6VVQ. The weather was perfect, with just a light breeze. The view was great – Fallen Leaf Lake and Lake Tahoe. The QTH was ideal – a steep drop-off due east and 180 degree clear view. The antenna worked really well. They got a late start but ran 34 QSO's in their first hour. Then the battery went dead! (The battery was a 7 amp-hr gel cell that has run fine during each of the previous two BumbleBee events, but maybe it was getting old.)

This year Greg had actually augmented it with a 800 ma solar panel, so he hadn't expected any problems. Greg and Bob used Greg's Elecraft K3 again this year, which draws 1.1 amps in receive and about 3 amps on transmit with 5 watts, so they had expected a negative power balance, but still plenty of power for 4 hours. So after the battery went dead, they had to shut down for 40 minutes to charge back up enough juice for 1 QSO at reduce power (1 watt). They ended up with 38 QSOs and 31 BumbeBee contacts. A bit disappointing after such an awesome start.

Greg's Antenna

Bob Yee, W6VVQ

Tom Dunbar, W6ESL. Portable QTH: San Jose, California

Tom registered as a Bumblebee, but chose to operate portable from his backyard. His goal was to test his new QRP portable setup see how it would all work. Tom had a collapsible self-supporting mast/tripod that goes up 18 feet fully extended. He went over the SGC-237 remote antenna tuner's manual and looked at the various methods of using the tuner in a dipole setup, without using ladder line. What Tom chose to do was mount the tuner at the top of the mast, and it essentially became the balun/center insulator for an inverted V antenna with legs about 20 feet long. Tom didn't get it all setup until about noon, about halfway through the four-hour contest. Once the portable antenna was hooked up to his old TS-430, Tom found that it tuned to anywhere he put the dial. He used it on 40, 20, 15, and 10, and, thanks to the auto tuner, had a 1.1:1 SWR at all frequencies. Tom says he had lots of fun and is thinking of using a triangular loop in next summer's event.

Jim Peterson, K6EI. Portable QTH: Loon Lake, Washington

Jim lugged up a heavy car battery to his hilltop location -- overkill, but at least he didn't have any power problems. He was operating from a location overlooking Loon Lake in northeastern Washington State with a good view of the north, east and south. Jim had a 40m ladderline-fed dipole which he used on 20m for working the East Coast, and a coax-fed dipole with legs cut for 20m (oriented for Oregon/Calif) and 15m (for the East Coast). The only difficulty was a severe power line noise problem which is associated with a power transformer about 500 yards from his location. Even so, he managed around 54 QSOs during the 4 hour BumbleBee event (mostly on 20m with a single 15m QSO to FL) and had a great time. Jim found that having two 20m antennas was extremely useful -- the OR/CA signals almost completely disappeared when using the east-facing antenna and vice-versa. Jim hopes the utility company to repair their noisy transformer before next summer.

Jim's portable QTH at Loon Lake, Washington

2012 West Valley Amateur Radio Association Officers

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