

The Heterodyne

Newsletter of the West Valley Amateur Radio Association

Holiday Party - Pot Luck

Wednesday December 12

Setup Begins at 6:30pm

Dining 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



Membership Renewals

Did you remember to renew your WVARA membership this year? The club did not receive income from the Electronic Flea Market during for the last 2 years, so membership renewals are more important than ever. You can renew for 2012 or 2013 via Paypal, credit card or check. Please go to www.wvara.org and select the Membership link on the left for more information and Paypal links. Paypal membership is not required for credit card payments through the Paypal link. Renewals for the upcoming year can also be made. Please get your dues in and support your club!

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.

WVARA Repeater (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

Buy and Sell

Send Buy and Sell information to:
het_editor at [wvara.org](http://www.wvara.org)

Our Trip Back East by Bill Frantz, AE6JV

(Being a Long Drive, Lots of Experiences and a Little Ham Radio)

Towards the end of last year, Peri (KI6SLX) and I started making plans for the coming summer. We listed the things we had to do and discovered we were going to be in the east for a caving convention in West Virginia and a family meeting in New Hampshire. We also wanted to visit our son in Colorado, Peri's cousins in Bethesda and New York, my cousins in Maine and Newfoundland and a friend in Philadelphia. We both said, "Road Trip!"

This trip meant we would not be able to help the WVARA team on field day. The second best choice was to mount a field day effort ourselves. I mounted the Icom 706 MK2G, recently displaced from my home shack desk by an Elecraft K3, in our Toyota 4Runner and bought a Little Tarheel screwdriver antenna from a smiling Jon Kelley at Ham Radio Outlet. With the radio barely checked out, we hit the road.

We took the southern route to meet our son and about 60 of his closest friends who were camping in the Colorado Rockies. As we headed east out of Barstow California, Peri drove and I fired up the radio for its first real test. I was tuning around the SSB portion of 15 meters and heard John (Jorgen), 5Q4B working a pileup extending over both North and South America.

Well, I jumped into the pile, and by some miracle after a few calls I heard AE6JV come back over the radio from Denmark. It felt pretty good making a contact with Europe at over 100 KPH from an interstate highway in the California desert. Continuing to tune around the band, I heard Max, in Atlanta Georgia who was running 300 W into 3 element Yagi-Uda at 120ft. He is a retired trucker as I discovered during a bit of rag chewing.

By this time, it was my turn to take the wheel. My QSO experience quickly convinced me that I could not drive and operate the radio on HF SSB at the same time. I have no idea how I could add computer logging to the mix and have any chance of staying on the road.

Between social obligations, beautiful scenery, and driving I didn't have much air time during the trip. I did manage to work Brad, K6WR on 20 meters from Oklahoma. He was operating a remote rig in Las Cruces, New Mexico from his Los Gatos California condo. Even though conditions weren't great, it was still nice to hear from home.

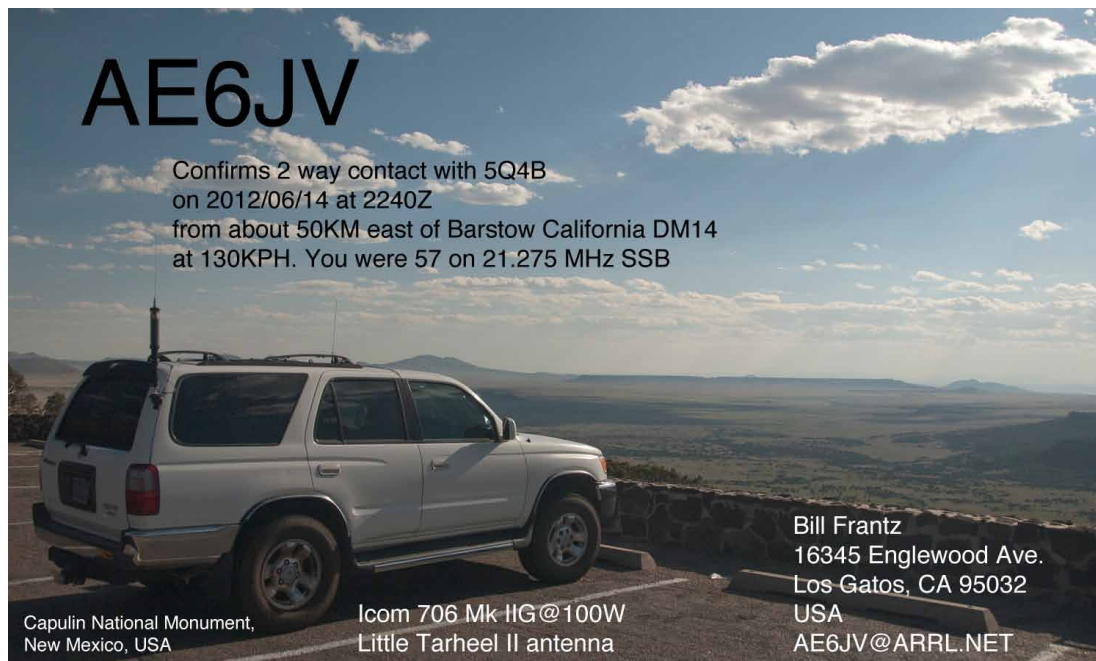
Finally Field Day arrived, a week too soon for my schedule. We had just crossed into West Virginia when the starting flag dropped and the airwaves filled with stations saying, "CQ Field Day ...". I fired up the '706 while Peri drove on the back roads of West Virginia.

Bouncing along under the power lines was not the ideal position for making QSOs. I had the laptop balanced on my lap and tried my best to hear stations through the power line QRN. I did manage to make a couple of contacts on 20 meters before we arrived at the campground in Lewisburg. After that I put up a game effort on 15 minutes and managed to log a two more contacts before friends offering beer and wine lured me away from the task of running down the 4Runner's battery.

In spite of very little operating time, my class C1 station managed to make four contacts and with the emergency power credit 158 points. I wasn't the bottom of the list in either number of contacts or number of points. The moral of the story is, "Give it a try."

Some thoughts on logging QSOs. For general logging, I used RUMlog. For Field Day, I used RUMped as a contest logger. Both programs, written by Tom, DL2RUM, are reliable and serviceable. The major problem with both, and all other logging programs I know of, is that they expect your station to be in a fixed location. While mobil, your location is continuously changing. There is no convenient way to determine or record your own location information. When someone asks you, "What county are you in?"

or "What is your grid square?" you have to look up the answer manually. Ideally, the logging program should communicate with your GPS, and automatically include all such data in the log entry for the QSO.



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2013

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See You At The Holiday Party!