

# *The Heterodyne*

*Newsletter of the West Valley Amateur Radio Association*



**Happy Holidays!**

**Holiday Party - Pot Luck**

**Wednesday December 11**

**Setup Begins at 6:30pm**

**Dinner 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](http://www.wvara.org/meetings.html)

## **WVARA's Field Day Team Makes It into QST**

In case you haven't yet opened your December issue of QST, WVARA's Field Day team made a real splash in this year's contest summary. Not only did we come out ranked #5 out of all 2500 participating sites, we also were privileged to have our club's photo prominently displayed.

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 9A 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, 3 HF SSB stations, an HF digital station, a Get On The Air (GOTA) station, a satellite station, and several VHF/UHF stations. In spite of being limited to 5 watts, we succeeded in making contacts all 50 states as well as Japan.

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.

Shore Points ARC				
K2B/W2HRW 91	2	15	918	SNJ
Old Friends AR Team				
NV1O	275	2	5	918 AZ
W0MG	135	2	8	912 IA
Apple City ARC				
W7TD	114	2	28	898 EWA
Elmendorf ARS				
KL7AIR	52	2	8	896 AK
Saint Lucie Co. ARES				
W4SLC (+KK4RLZ)				
506	1	15	884	SFL
MCARC / RCWA				
WX5MC	166	2	20	882 OK
Crescenta Valley RC / Glendale Em Aux				
Radio Service				
AD6IZ	166	2	15	882 LAX
Cherokee CO ARES				
KJ4GTK (+W4MXY)				
67	2	9	872	NC
N7POR	153	2	8	866 MT
Denver North Stake				
ACoMU (+KTOKT)				
55	2	30	860	CO
Seward Peninsula ARC				
KL1US	5	2	7	860 AK
Mobile Ohm Volunteer Examiners				
N9OQU	80	2	4	840 IL
Dalton ARC				
W4DRC	40	2	20	840 GA
Scott Co ARES				
N0BHC	139	2	20	828 MN
Fort Ord ARC				
K6WAE	182	2	22	822 SCV
Cold Lake ARS				
VE6YOD	326	2	4	822 AB
K9IYP	133	2	10	816 IL
Nassau Co Police ARC				
N C2PD	151	2	11	812 NLI
River Cities ARA				
K4K	74	2	22	810 KY
Henderson ARC				
W4KVK	43	2	15	802 KY
Sandia Vista ARC				
WV5X	51	2	5	752 NM
N7LYY	228	2	10	742 MT
Meyer Island Radio One				



Members of the West Valley ARA in San Jose, CA, seem happy with their 18,000 point score in the 9A (battery) category! [Jim Peterson, K6EI, photo]

K4CXS	110	2	5	482	GA
Champlain Regional Rep Assn					
VE3STP	36	2	3	452	ONE
Hamilton Co AR Public Service Corps					
K8YQJ	46	2	15	442	OH
North Platte Progressive ARC					
NE0NP	19	2	6	388	NE
Univ ARC					
N7UW	54	2	15	376	WY
Rich and Ron's Field Day					
KJ6HRO	84	2	4	368	SV

MS Valley ARA				
W9MVA (+W9FCC)				
2127	2	13	7,668	WI
South Lyon Area ARC				
N8SL (+N8AR)				
2106	2	24	7,572	MI
W5YD ARC				
W5YD (+N5F)				
1721	2	24	7,516	MS
Paducah ARA				
W4NJA (+KK4RGM)				

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/desensing. All of our site's HF stations used Elecraft K3 or KX3 transceivers. As a result, we experienced 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 included two rotatable, self-supporting 40m dipoles and 4-element monobanders on 15- and 20 meters that Dean Wood, N6DE, was kind enough to lend us.

## Top 10 Claimed

Call Sign	Score	Class
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W3AO	33,724	29 A
W6ZE	21,258	12 A
K5UZ	20,696	2 A
W4IY	19,924	9 A
K6EI	18,885	9 AB
W4EZ	17,675	9 AB
K4LRG	17,392	5 A
NA5NN	16,750	5 A
W6YX	16,074	9 F
K4FC	15,954	7 A

Band conditions weren't as great as last year. Sunspots peaked during the weekend at 137, with geomagnetic instability resulting in a mid-latitude A-index between 13 and 17. Due to the elevated A- and K- indexes, D-layer absorption was worse than normal, and as a result our 80m results were more limited. Fifteen meters likewise didn't approach last year's numbers, and 10m was rotten. But 20m meters was clearly the sweet spot for FD2013 and we did very well in all three modes (CW, SSB and Digital). In addition, for the first time in several years, we made a couple satellite QSOs – not bad for QRP! And so, in spite of the challenges, we had a load of fun.

## January's WVARA Meeting

If you'd like to get involved in Field Day 2014, be sure to come to WVARA's January meeting on Wednesday, January 8. Jim Peterson, K6EI, will review some of the details of our 2013 operation, and we will spend some time brainstorming about what worked last year, what areas could be improved at Field Day this year. "Outside-the-box" ideas are welcome. Visitors are welcome, and of course there will be chocolate chip cookies.

Meeting Location: Silicon Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross, 2731N. First Street at Plumeria Drive (southwest corner) in San Jose. 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.

73,  
Jim K6EI

## Membership Renewals

Did you remember to renew your WVARA membership this year? You can renew for 2013 or 2014 via Paypal, credit card or check. Please go to [www.wvara.org](http://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!

<b>WVARA Net Check-Ins (W6PIY)</b>				
<b>Each Tuesday at 8:30 PM</b>				
<b>All Repeaters Linked Together During Net</b>				
<b>Call Sign</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>11/19/13</b>	<b>11/26/13</b>	<b>12/03/13</b>
AA6RB	Roy	X		
AB6XS	Kevin	X		
AE6JV	Bill			X
AF6AE	Bill		X	X
AG6HE	Dennis		X	
K6BRF	Bert		X	X
K6QFO	Mike		X	
KD6VOR	Marv			X
KF6EMB	Svend	X		X
KJ6CQJ	Dean		X	X
KJ6GMO	Sue		X	X
KK6GXH	Dave		X	
KK6VF	Kevin	NET	NET	NET
KS6PD	Steve	X		X
NU6P	John	X		
W6PK	Phil		X	
WB6KHP	Dave	X		X
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>

### **Hy-Gain TH-7DX Antenna Needs a New Owner**

I have a **Hy-Gain TH-7DX** antenna that is coming down from a tower in the very near future. This **7 element, tri-band Yagi** is in need for a new QTH. Please feel to to email me directly about the antenna. I am able to send an image of the antenna sitting on top of the tower.

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

Contact George Williams, N6NKT, n6nkt at yahoo dot com, pickup from his QTH

### **Items For Sale By George, N6NKT:**

**LMR600 200ft with N Connectors \$225**

**Helper Instruments Sinadder Model S-101 \$50**

**Boonton 92EA RF Voltmeter \$200**

Contact George Williams, N6NKT, n6nkt at yahoo dot com, pickup from his QTH

Send Buy and Sell information to: [het\\_editor at wvara dot org](mailto:het_editor@wvara.org)

## **Collection of Collins, Drake and Other Old Ham Radio Gear**

Shannon Johannes (shannon at thebluesheet dot com) has inherited a large collection of old ham radio gear she is interested in selling. The collection includes some Collins and Drake gear. I have been helping her test some of the radios to see if they are working. The three I have tested so far (a TenTec Delta II 536, a Rockwell-Collins KWM-380, and a Yaesu FT-990) have all worked more or less.

There is a whole bunch of other equipment I haven't had time to test.  
If anyone is interested in any of this gear please email Shannon.

Cheers - Bill, AE6JV

## **West Valley Amateur Radio Association Board**

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Vice President: John Glass, NU6P  
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Club address:  
West Valley Amateur Radio Assn  
P.O. Box 6544  
San Jose, CA 95150-6544

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Dennis Lyden, AG6HE

**See You At The Holiday Party!**