

# *The Heterodyne*

*Newsletter of the West Valley Amateur Radio Association*

## **October Meeting**

**“QRPeditions”**  
by **Dave Flack, W6DLF**  
and **Dave Crocker, W6VYC**

**Wednesday October 9**  
**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](http://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

\*The 440 repeater is down for repairs.

## **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](http://www.wvara.org/net.html) .

**Visitors Are Welcome!**



Alex Wood, VE7EIS; Dave Crocker, W6VYC; Dave Flack, W6DLF; and Hiroki (Hiro) Kato, AH6CY Operating in Death Valley

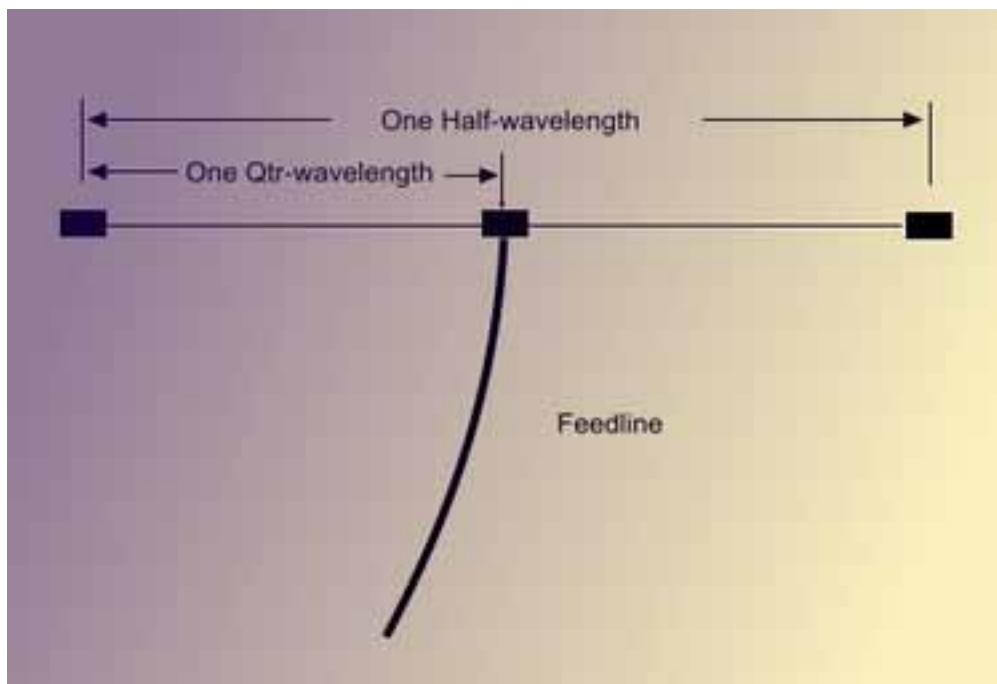
## About the Speakers

Dave, W6DLF was first licensed in 1959 and has been active in both camping and radio since then. Now that he is retired he is able to combine his interests in both. Dave and some friends take their QRP rigs and a small RV to mountains, valleys and beaches, where they try out new antenna designs and work US and DX stations using SSB and digital modes. They call these adventures “QRPeditions”, which is also the name of their presentation.

Dave, W6VYC got his license in the late 80’s after a long battle with CW (still going on, Hi Hi). He is also retired and finds portable SSB QRP ops a way to get outdoors, see new places and introduce people to Ham radio. This has also given him a great appreciation for antennas and what locations work the best. Dave will bring along his latest homebrew Bravo 5 antenna (N6BT design) and discuss other portable antennas that they use.

## DX’ing; Getting Started? by Dennis Lyden, AG6HE

Whether Technician, General, or Extra, for those that are really just getting interested in the DX aspect of the hobby, and perhaps have not even gotten on the air with HF capability, I would recommend starting with a 40M half wave dipole antenna, assuming you have the sufficient lot size and support structures available. There are of course many other options if you have greater ambitions, but I believe this is the quickest and least expensive approach, and offers a great learning experience if you actually build it yourself!



The reasons for recommending 40M are multiple; 1) It will also be able to operate center-fed on 15M without a tuner, because dipoles have harmonic resonances near odd multiples of their fundamental resonances and 21 MHz is the third (and odd) harmonic of 7 MHz;

2) The length of wire required (66ft) can be accommodated by most suburban lots given the right trees and/or support structures; 3) the height above ground required is not that demanding to achieve reasonable radiation pattern results; 4) 40M is a good band for DX at night (shorter range during the day) and 15M is good for DX during the day, giving you around the clock DX capability; and 5) you can achieve DXCC with this configuration while you plan for the next stage of your station, possibly involving a tower & beam antenna?!

My personal experience was to start off by putting up a 7-band OCF antenna that did offer various levels of performance on most ham bands (I worked Clipperton Island on 160M CW for an ATNO!). Your experience with such an antenna might be different but I believe this selection ultimately delayed my overall DX success by several months. It was not until I got my 40M dipole operational that I started to really see DX results, with the vast majority of my DXCC QSL's ultimately being from either 15M or 40M QSO's.

One great aspect of this approach is the antenna is very easy to construct, and inexpensive as well, probably no more than \$50! I purchased the basic Alpha Delta Antenna Hardware Kit from HRO, essentially the center conductor and two end insulators, along with coax seal, and the wire and electrical tape from OSH.

But the most fun of the whole experience was getting the wire up in the trees in my backyard! I will leave the details of this aspect of the process for another issue, but this can be challenging even intimidating at first, but a great source of accomplishment and fun once you take it on!

Please let me know if you have any DX related topics of interest!

73,

Dennis, AG6HE, DX Special Interest Group

dennislyden AT sbcglobal.net



**Gil - Courtesy Nov. 1966 QST**

Rediscovered by Tom Dunbar, W6ESL

<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>09/10/13</b>	<b>9/17/13</b>	<b>9/24/13</b>	<b>10/1/13</b>
AA6RB	Roy			X	
AB6XS	Kevin	X		X	X
AC6Z	Jeff	X			
AE6JV	Bill	X			X
AF6AE	Bill		X		X
AG6HE	Dennis	X			
K6BRF	Bert		X	X	
K6QFO	Mike			X	
K6WAR	Bill		X		X
KC6WTF	Ethan		X		
KF6EMB	Svend		X	X	X
KF6OTD	Gwen		X		
KJ6CQJ	Dean	X			X
KJ6GMO	Sue	X			X
KK6VF	Kevin	NET	NET	NET	NET
KS6PD	Steve		X		X
NU6P	John	X	X		X
W6ESL	Tom		X		
W6HOC	Howard		X	X	X
W6PK	Phil	X		X	
WA6QYS	Lou		X		
WB6KHP	Dave	X	X	X	X
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>

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

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

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

**Kenwood YG-455CN 250 CW Filter** for 455Khz IF. Almost brand new \$75

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

Contact George Williams, N6NKT, n6nkt AT yahoo.com, pickup from his QTH

Send Buy and Sell information to: het\_editor AT wvara.org

## **Wayne Green, W2NSD, SK**

Wayne Green, W2NSD, died last month at age 91. He was involved in ham and computer magazines (and was controversial). Wayne was an early one to advocate for 2 meter FM, and promoted computers with ham radio from the very beginning. Among the magazines he started were: 73, 80 Micro, Byte, Kilobaud Microcomputing. Wayne will be missed.

### **No More Electronics Flea Markets This Year**

The last flea market for 2013 was held Sept 14.

[www.electronicfleamarket.com/schedule](http://www.electronicfleamarket.com/schedule)

### **Amateur Radio Exam Sessions**

The Silicon Valley VE Group holds amateur radio exam sessions twice monthly in Saratoga. For more information, visit <http://www.svve.org>, or contact Morris Jones, AD6ZH, at (408) 507-4698 or [mojoteri@comcast.net](mailto:mojoteri@comcast.net).

### **2013 West Valley Amateur Radio Association Officers**

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Dennis Lyden, AG6HE

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**See You At The Meeting!**