www.wvara.org October 2014

# The Heterodyne

*Newsletter of the West Valley Amateur Radio Association*

## *October Meeting*

**Fun on 160M!**
**by Jim Peterson, K6EI**

**Wednesday October 8**
**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

| 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

***Pileups***

Pileups occur when many stations are trying to contact one station. We'll call that one station the DX, because pileups are common when working DX. They also occur during contests and nets. They are kind of like a scrum in rugby, where everyone is trying to get the ball.

Pileups are a place where there are significant win-win situations. The DX wants to make as many contacts as possible. Each calling station wants to be called back to complete the contact. The faster the DX operator can pick a call sign out of the pileup, the more stations can be worked and the higher the probability your station will be one of them. There are a number of strategies for both the DX and the calling stations which can improve the QSO rate.

Many DX stations operate what is called "split", because the DX is listening to a different frequency than it is using for transmitting. Split allows everyone to easily hear the DX, even when others in the pileup are transmitting.

There are some rules which are designed to make a pileup as win-win as possible (excerpted from the complete list at: <http://www.dxuniversity.com/showpage.php?id=25&title=Best_Practices_for_Courteous_and_Efficient_DXing>). If the DX is not operating split, it is especially important to follow the rules so the DX can be heard. The one basic rule is that the DX is in charge. Follow his directions.

- Know the DX call and the location of the pileup by listening carefully before calling. If you can't hear the DX, you have no business in the pileup. Knowing where the pileup is can help you get your call to the DX.
- If the DX is operating split, be careful not to transmit on the DX frequency. If you hear someone transmit "UP", double check to make sure you aren't the one transmitting on the DX's frequency.
- Never interfere with an existing exchange of information. It will only delay when the DX is able to contact you, and may annoy the DX.
- Always send your full call. If the DX can pick it out of the pileup, he can send the exchange next. Partial calls may only be used once the DX has called you, for example, DX: AE6?, Me: AE6JV, DX: AE6?, Me: JV JV. Only use partial calls if you are sure you are the only one transmitting.
- Call once and then listen. Then call again, if appropriate. Try not to call during an existing QSO.
- Respond only if the DX operator calls you. One letter or number of your call is NOT enough reason to call. Cutting down the number of responders makes it easier for the DX to copy someone's call, complete the QSO, and get on to you.
- Do not call if the DX operator asks for another geographic area. Also, sometimes the DX will ask for "sevens only". Don't respond unless your call has a seven in it. The DX is trying to make it easier to pick a call out of the pileup.
- Be courteous and efficient. I observed one incident which is an example of how courtesy can make a pileup win-win. Late one evening, a half dozen 6 and 7 area stations were trying to contact W1AW/2 in New York on 80 meters. In the beginning, when he finished his CQ, they all responded at once. After a few rounds of this, we all got smarter and each of us stayed out of several rounds to give the one that was transmitting the best chance of making the contact. This kind of behavior is common on "the gentlemen's band", 160 meters.

73, Bill - AE6JV

## About the Presentation
## Fun on 160M!

The speaker at October WVARA meeting will be Jim Peterson, K6EI. The topic will be "Fun On 160M!"

Jim will talk about some commonly held myths about 160 meters, our only MF (Medium Frequency) band. He will discuss how to get on the air and have fun on the Top Band. His talk includes one of the biggest challenges, putting up top band antennas as well as some of the things that make MF propagation quite different from HF propagation.

Meeting Location: Silicon Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross, 2731 N. First Street at Plumeria Drive (southwest corner) in San Jose. Visitors are welcome, and of course there will be chocolate chip cookies.

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.

Club Web Page: www.wvara.org

Hope to see you there!

## *Pacificon October 10-12, 2014*

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

## Software Defined Radio Lecture

***An Introduction to Software Defined Radio***
***by Jeffrey Pawlan, WA6KBL***

A Distinguished Lecturer in the IEEE MTT Society
Thursday, November 13
Location:
Building: Aristotle Room
Keysight (Agilent) Technologies
5301 Stevens Creek Boulevard
Santa Clara, California

6:00PM to 8:00PM
6:00 - 6:30PM, Networking and Snacks
6:30 - 8:00PM, Presentation
**Free Admission for All**

This lecture will begin with the definition, history and evolution of Software Defined Radio (SDR). RF/microwave engineers will find it clear and understandable because analogies will be made to conventional classic radio systems and components. The lecture will introduce the concepts of oversampling and undersampling as it applies to SDR. There will also be an introduction and explanation of the firmware and software portions of SDR. A comparison with state-of-the art conventional analog circuitry will be shown. Several live demonstrations of SDR will be presented.

Software Defined Radio (SDR) is the culmination of advances on several fronts and probably the most significant area of development in radio systems today. The entire worldwide cellular system uses SDR. NASA and the US military communications are now almost exclusively using SDR.

In addition to his more than 40 years of work experience in analog, RF, and microwave engineering, Jeffrey Pawlan has been licensed as WA6KBL for 54 years. He has loved VHF, UHF, and microwave design, construction, and operation since 1961 when he first upgraded.

| WVARA Net Check-Ins (W6PIY) | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Each Tuesday at 8:30 PM | | | | |
| All Repeaters Linked Together During Net | | | | |
| **Call Sign** | **Name** | **09/16/14** | **09/23/14** | **09/30/14** |
| AA6RB | Roy | | X | |
| AB6XS | Kevin | | | X |
| AE6JV | Bill | | | X |
| AF6AE | Bill | X | | X |
| AG6HE | Dennis | | | X |
| K6BRF | Bert | X | X | |
| K6QFO | Mike | | X | |
| KA6AMB | Mark | X | | |
| KD6VOR | Marv | | | X |
| KF6EMB | Svend | X | X | X |
| KI6SLX | Peri | | | X |
| KJ6CQJ | Dean | | X | |
| KJ6GMO | Sue | | X | |
| KJ6ZZI | Michael | X | X | X |
| KK6VF | Kevin | NET | NET | NET |
| KS6PD | Steve | X | | X |
| NU6P | John | X | | |
| W6HOC | Howard | X | X | X |
| WB6KHP | Dave | X | X | X |
| Total | | 10 | 10 | 12 |

## Morse Musings

A ready source of practice text for learning Morse code is license plates. Just say the Morse equivalent as you see the plate. The standard series of auto license plates in California only have the letters I, O, and Q in the center position.

*Found and contributed by Bill AE6JV*

## 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**

**Booton 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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## See You At The Meeting!