

The Heterodyne

Newsletter of the West Valley Amateur Radio Association

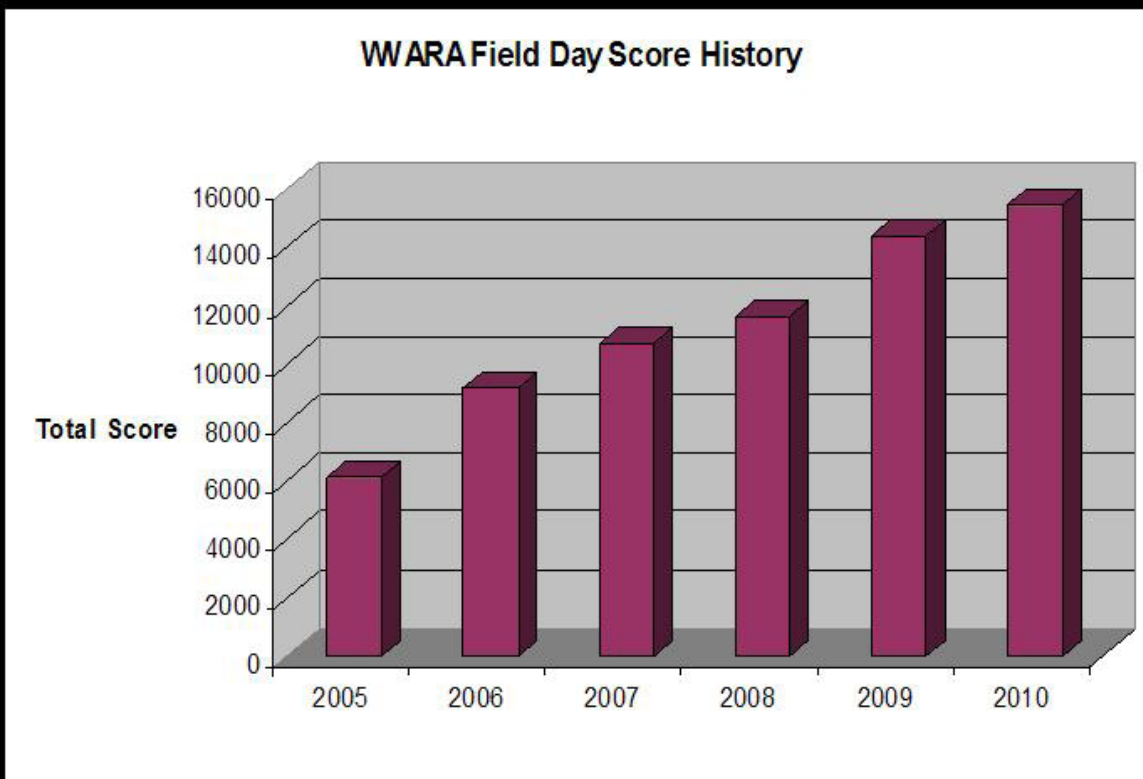
MONTHLY MEETING Wednesday October 20

Club Meetings Begin at 7pm at San Jose Red Cross
2731 N First St, San Jose (SW corner at Plumeria Dr)

WVARA Has Another Awesome Field Day!



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 7A Battery from Mora Hill overlooking Los Altos, California, from an elevation of 500 feet.



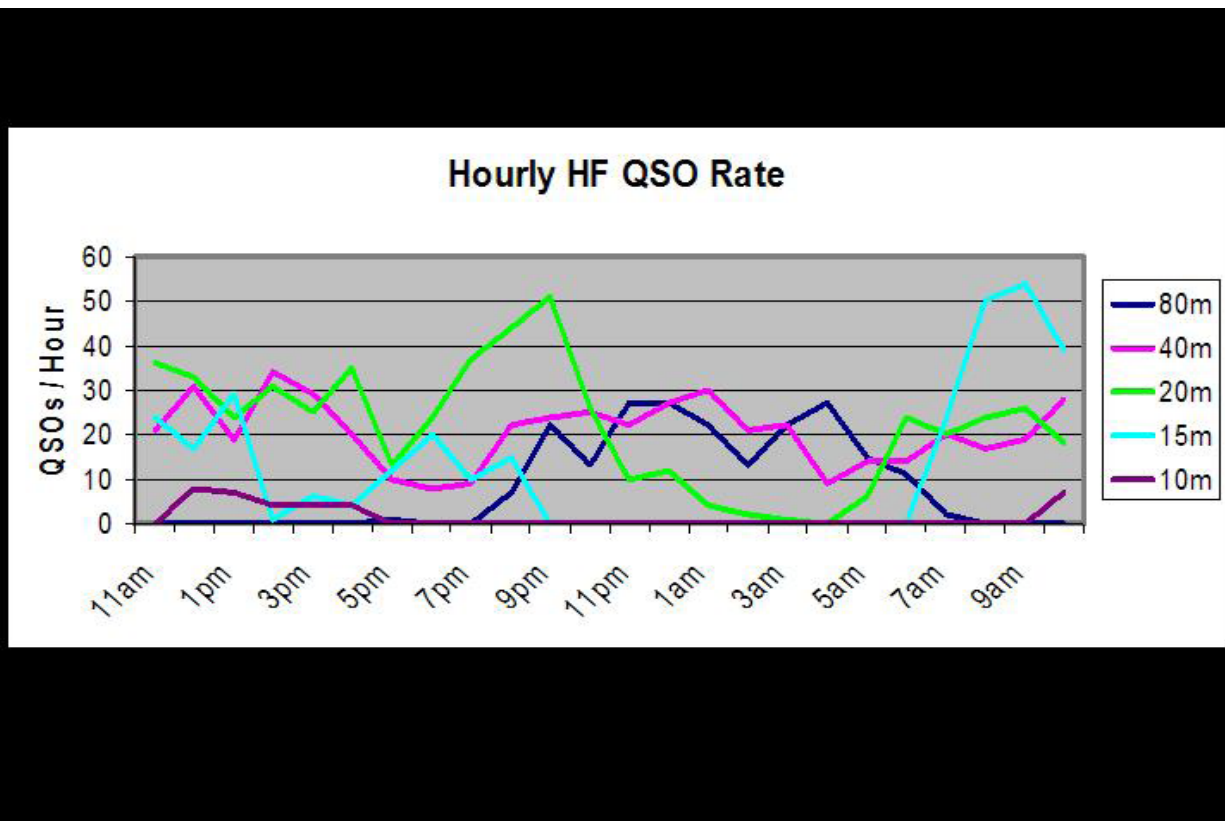
In addition to having a great time, each year we work at improving our equipment, antennas and operating skills. As a result, we have succeeded at significantly boosting our Field Day score each of the past six years. Last year found us ranked #12 in the US and Canada out of over 2500 Field Day participants, and this year's score may well lift our little club into the Field Day "Top 10".

There's plenty of preparation that goes into Field Day before the first radio contact ever occurs. That's part of the overall experience as well. Field Day also provides "improvisational opportunities", since Murphy invariably shows up and nothing ever goes quite as expected.

And of course, being outdoors means that we get to put up wild-n-crazy antennas that our spouses and neighbors might never allow back home. And with Field Day, you're doing this amongst a great set of old and new friends!



This year we had 3 HF CW stations, 3 HF SSB stations, and HF digital station, a GOTA station, and a VHF station. Our CW operators actually worked 49 out of 50 the states. (Where was Delaware?) By the way, if the US/ Canada Field Day results for 2010 are similar to 2009, our score will place WVARA in the neighborhood of #8 out of all 2500 Field Day participants.



In spite of the limited sunspots, 15 meters was surprising productive – especially on Sunday morning. And although 20 meters went dormant during the late-night hours, 40 and 80 meters kept us busy throughout the graveyard shift.

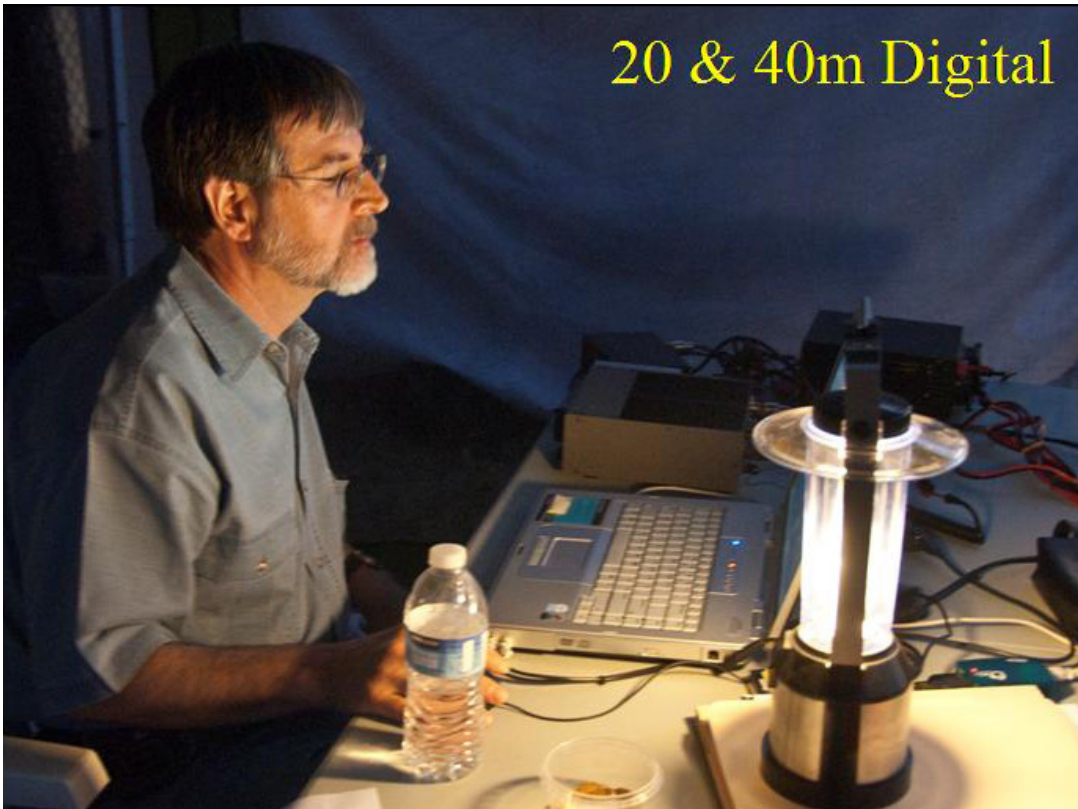


20m SSB



Scott, AD6RY, and his lovely wife

20 & 40m Digital



Phil, W6TQG

Late Night 40m SSB



Jon, KFWPR and Jon, W6PI



Kenneth , W6KWF, before and after his all-nighter in the HF/Digital tent.



While we like collecting FD points and setting new records, we also want to have fun and share the experience with others.

Our GOTA coaches, Bill (AE6JV), Bruce (KE6FBE), and Kevin (KK6VF), were skilled at snagging visitors and getting them on the air.





Cool Technology: Last year, Gary (K6KV) brought two homebrew HF triplexers that allowed us to simultaneously share each HF tribander between three stations running on 10- 15- and 20 meters. If you'd like to build one for your club, you can read all about how to do it in the June 2010 issue of QST.

This year, Gary installed a full-size rotatable 40m dipole that performed amazingly well.





Svend (KF6EMB) deployed a helium balloon-supported full-wavelength loop antenna on 80 meters. This antenna is based on WU0I's award-winning QST article from July 2007, and give new meaning to that old 5th Dimension song from the 1960s: "Up, Up and Away with my Beautiful Balloon."



The WVARA Team Celebrates a great weekend!

2010 West Valley Amateur Radio Association Officers

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 Club URL: <http://www.wvara.org>

Club address:
 West Valley Amateur Radio Association
 P.O. Box 6544
 San Jose, CA 95150-6544

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 <http://www.wvara.org/net.html>.

The Heterodyne is published monthly by the West Valley Amateur Radio Association and sent to all club members via the web. Please obtain permission from the author to re-publish any article in this publication.

See you at the next meeting!