

The Heterodyne

Newsletter of the West Valley Amateur Radio Association

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING **Wednesday March 14**

March 14 Meeting at 7pm

**“California Near Space Project -
High Altitude Balloon Launches”
by Don Ferguson, AI6RE
and Ron Meadows, K6RPT**

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

Visitors are welcome!

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 www.wvara.org/net.html.

At this Wednesday's WVARA meeting, Don Ferguson and Ron Meadows will describe their California Near Space Project high altitude balloon launches. Ron and Don are active members of the California Near Space Project <http://www.californianearspaceproject.com/>. Ron and his son Lee have been outfitting balloons with high tech electronics since 2009. They've put GPS, APRS, cameras and crossband repeaters on balloons filled with hydrogen and helium. In 2011 they set new records for both altitude and distance, beating US government agency records. The records were confirmed by the use of onboard GPS, and balloons were tracked by their APRS transmissions. They were featured in two stories on ARRL's web site at http://www.californianearspaceproject.com/arrl_cnsp-10.html and http://www.californianearspaceproject.com/arrl_cnsp-11.html.

The first record was in October 2011, when Ron's tenth balloon, CNSP-10, reached a record altitude of 136,545 feet. That's 26 miles up! Two months later, in December, their eleventh balloon, CNSP-11, cruised as high as 115,000 feet as it crossed the United States, then the Atlantic Ocean. It was tracked by a Nova Scotia coastal station to the limit of reception before it's signal

was lost to the noise. Then the faint signal was picked up from the island of St. Miguel in the Azores. Stations around the world tuned to listen to the little balloon from Silicon Valley as it headed toward Europe. The balloon eventually landed in the Mediterranean Sea, a whopping distance of 6,236 miles!

Come and hear the exciting story of these truly amazing feats of Amateur Radio and ballooning. 7pm this Wednesday, March 14.

Jim Peterson, K6EI

New Rules for 5 MHz (60 Meters)

SB QST @ ARL \$ARLB002

ARLB002 New Rules for 5 MHz (60 Meters) To Go Into Effect March 5

ZCZC AG02

QST de W1AW

ARRL Bulletin 2 ARLB002

>From ARRL Headquarters

Newington CT February 3, 2012

To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB002

ARLB002 New Rules for 5 MHz (60 Meters) To Go Into Effect March 5

On November 18, the FCC released a Report and Order (R&O), defining new rules for the 60 meter (5 MHz) band. These rules are in response to a Petition for Rulemaking (PRM) filed by the ARRL more than five years ago and a June 2010 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM). In the February 3 edition of the Federal Register, the FCC announced that these new rules will go into effect on March 5, 2012.

Details can be found at,

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/02/03/2012-2477/amateur-radio-use-of-the-allocation-at-5-mhz>

In summarizing the new rules, the FCC explained that the new rules amend the current rules to facilitate more efficient and effective use by the Amateur Radio Service of five channels in the 5330.5-5406.4 kHz band (the 60 meter band): "Specifically, and consistent with our proposals in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in this proceeding, the Commission replaces one of the channels with a less encumbered one, increases the maximum authorized power amateur stations may transmit in this band and authorizes amateur stations to transmit three additional emission designators. The Commission also adopts an additional operational rule that prohibits

the use of automatically controlled digital stations and makes editorial revisions to the relevant portions of the Table of Frequency Allocations and our service rules.”

The Amateur Radio Service in the United States has a secondary allocation on 60 meters. Only those amateurs who hold General, Advanced or Amateur Extra class licenses may operate on this band. Amateur stations must not cause harmful interference to -- and must accept interference from -- stations authorized by any administration in the fixed service, as well as mobile (except aeronautical mobile) stations authorized by the administrations of other countries.

NNNN

/EX

2012 Visalia International DX Convention

April 20, 21 & 22, 2012

<http://www.dxconvention.org/>

IDXC is one of the most popular DX conventions of the year. If you're a DXer or interested in any aspect of Ham radio, then IDXC is the place to be. Top DX operators from around the world will be there. You'll match those familiar callsigns with new faces, and shake hands with the person you have had a sched with for the past 10 years but never met.

Learn the secrets for big signals on top band. How to have fun adventures chasing IOTA, attend the contest forum, antenna forum, DX forum, or Contest Academy. There are seminars for everyone from the seasoned pro to the beginning DXer. Visit the Exhibit Hall, where you can talk to the people who design and use the best DX equipment. We have some great raffle Prizes the likes of which top even the famed Dayton Hamvention. And don't forget the "Non-Hams" who attend — we have a Special Tour for them as well.

The latest information about IDXC can be obtained via the IDXC website:

<http://www.dxconvention.org/>

- **Pre-Registration ends on March 20th**
- **The 2012 IDXC Schedule has been posted at <http://www.dxconvention.org/sched.html>**

Announcing: DX University

First Session: The Holiday Inn, Visalia, California

Friday 20 April, 2012

Press Release Nr 1

For Immediate Release

Enhance your DXing adventure! At last, here is your opportunity to directly benefit from the skills and experience of some of the world's best-known DXers.

We all know about the wonderful success of Contest University (CTU), developed in recent years by K3LR and others, and rolled out internationally. Over 1,000 testers have attended. DX University (DXU) is the twin, providing high-caliber offerings for beginning and experienced DXers alike.

The all-day program will take place on the Friday of Visalia weekend, 20th April 2012. Among the lecturers are AA7A, G3SXW, K4UEE, K9LA, N7NG, W3UR, W6OAT, W9KNI and XE1KK, many of whom are inductees of the CQ DX Hall of Fame. Learn the secrets of operating techniques for working DX, optimizing stations & antennas for DXing, about propagation, information sources, awards, and ethics, remote operating, QSLing and much more. You will also get the DXpeditioner's view of how DXers should operate to get into the log.

Student places are limited. The early registration fee is only \$50, including lunch and breaks. Sign up beginning January 2, 2012 at:

www.dxuniversity.com

Further information from Wayne Mills, N7NG@arrl.net or Roger Western, G3SXW@btinternet.com

Main Sponsor



DX University

*International DX Convention
Visalia, California - April 20 2012*

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See You At The Meeting!