

The Heterodyne

Newsletter of the West Valley Amateur Radio Association



Field Day Photo by Kevin, KK6VF

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.

January Meeting

**“All Things Field Day”
by Jim Peterson, K6EI**

Annual WVARA Election

**Wednesday January 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

Visitors Are Welcome!

About the Presentation

If you're interested in Field Day, be sure to come to this meeting. Jim Peterson, K6EI, will review some of the highlights of our record-breaking 2013 operation. We will then brainstorm about what worked last year and what areas could be improved at Field Day this year. Bring your “outside-the-box” ideas. 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.

And for those who are hungry, several of us will be eating dinner prior to the meeting at the Red Robin at 3906 Rivermark Plaza (just off of Montague in Santa Clara) at 6:00pm. (Note: our previous dinner location, Carl's Jr, has closed.)

Hope to see you there!
Jim Peterson, K6EI

California QSO Party in Kettleman City **by Bill Frantz, AE6JV and Peri Frantz, KI6SLX**

Last October, WVARA decided to participate in the California QSO Party (cqp.org) for the first time. The QSO party is an annual contest in which hams outside California try to contact as many California counties as possible, while hams in California try to contact as many states and Canadian provinces as possible. In order to maximize our potential, we decided to operate from Kings County, which has few of its own resident operators. We also decided to use the club's W6ZZZ call sign, formerly belonging to club member Marc Ziegler(SK).

Friday afternoon, Oct. 4, Bill and Peri headed for Kettleman City, on the western side of Kings County, where they rendezvoused with Tom Dunbar at the Kettleman Inn. The evening was spent eating and planning.

Everyone arose early the following morning to deploy their radio stations in the motel parking lot. Bill and Peri were running an Icom 706 in their Toyota 4Runner with the Little Tarheel antenna mounted on the rear hatch. Tom had a minivan with an operating table replacing the back seat. He was using a Hustler antenna on top of his van along with an additional antenna draped 16 feet up between some trees and tuned with a SGC tuner.

After just a few QSOs, Bill replaced the Icom with his Elecraft K3, which he had brought along "just in case". The K3 was far better at hearing through the QRM, and the better reception was more critical than the reduced power (10 watts vs 100 for the Icom). He also deployed and tuned a portable 15 meter dipole, which gave a tad bit better performance. An Elecraft P3 Panadapter provided a view of the band, which simplified finding contest stations. That configuration remained the 15M solution for the rest of the weekend. As the day progressed, Bill operated on the 15 meter band while Peri logged his contacts, and Tom worked the 10, 20, and 40 meter bands.

As night was arriving, 15 meters faded and the three operators decided to break for dinner. Bill then set the up Icom with the screwdriver antenna for 80 meters. On those frequencies, the antenna bandwidth is about 10KHz so it needs to be frequently retuned while moving through the band. The Icom SWR meter wasn't up to the task, so it was back to the trusty K3, whose SWR meter allowed a quick tap on the tuning switch to bring the antenna back into tune.

The screwdriver antenna is really compromised on 80 meters. There were many California stations who just didn't hear responses to their CQs. However we were able to make 12 California QSOs before giving up and going to bed. Every one of them said, "Your way down in the noise, but lets try." Thanks to everyone who tried.

The next morning, 15 was open. Peri and Bill made another 17 QSOs on 15 meters before calling it around noon. Tom hung on until about 1 PM before calling it quits. Everyone enjoyed an uneventful trip back to the bay area.

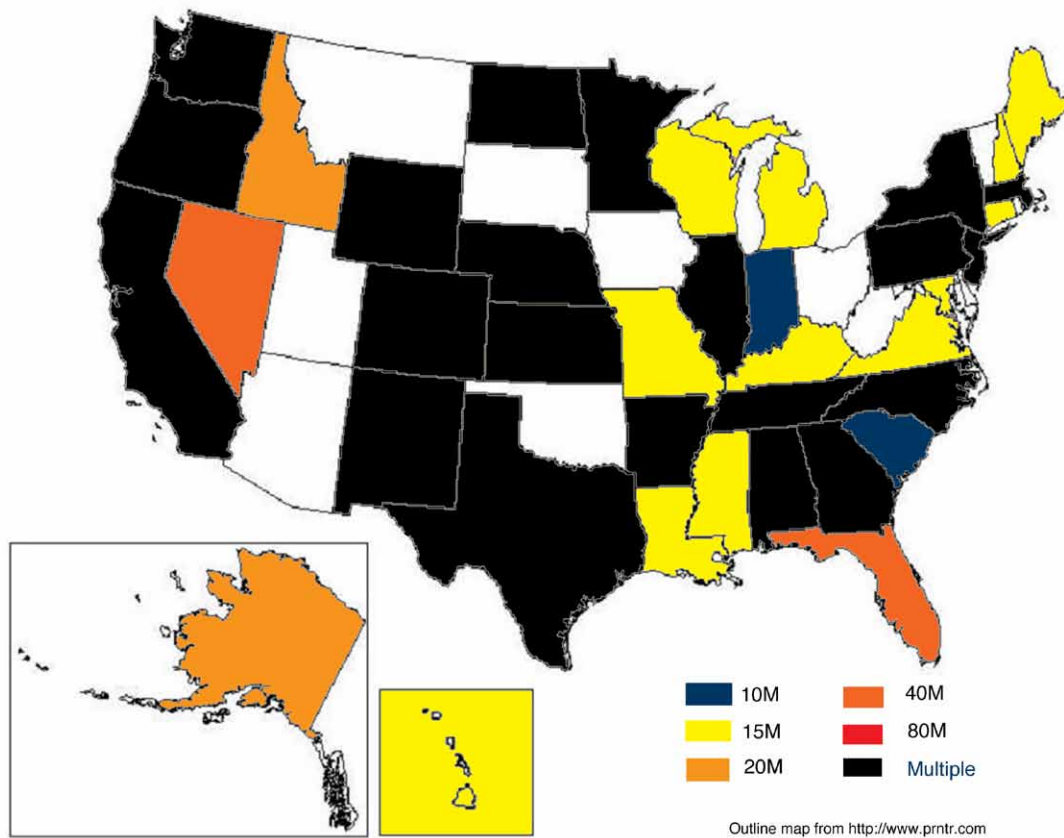
We ended up with 192 QSOs and 41 multipliers for a score of 15744. We contacted 37 states, 4 Canadian provinces, 1 station in Slovakia (on both 40M and 15M), and 32 California counties.

All in all, this exercise was a big success, and we should plan on doing it again, hopefully with more operators. The Kettleman Inn has a large truck parking area, and with advanced arrangements we should be able to obtain permission to deploy a more field-day like station. A few lessons for next

time:

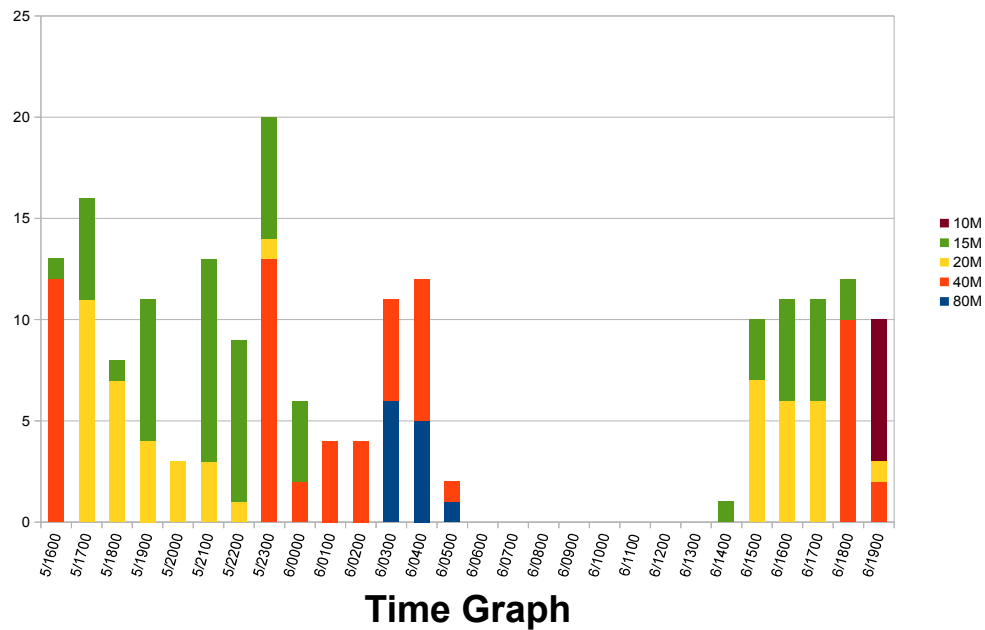
- Better antennas!
- Add radials to the screwdriver for 80 and 40 meters
- Beg/borrow/steal higher antenna supports.
- Upgrade the K3 to 100 watts or go down to 5 watts for the QRP division.

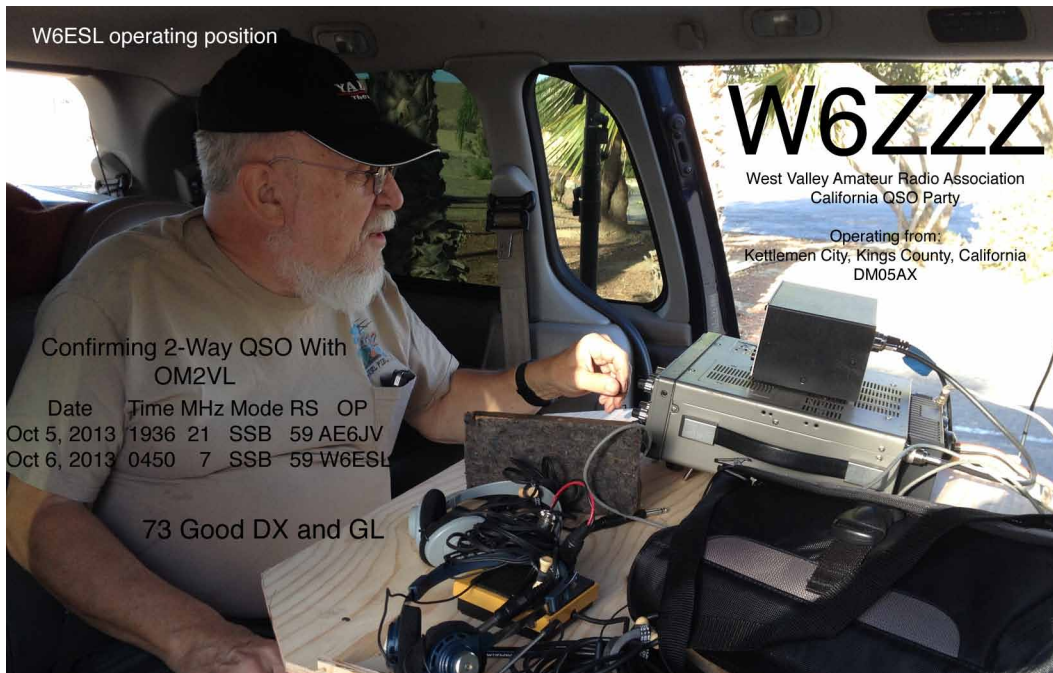
73,
Bill & Peri



States Worked

CQP QSOs 2013





CQP QSL Card With Photo of WVARA Operator Tom W6ESL

WVARA 2014 Dues Are Due

A reminder to EVERYONE that 2014 Dues are due Jan 1 and overdue Jan 31. All memberships are annualized on this date, regardless of when you joined or last paid your dues.

Please log on to our website (wvara.org) and paypal your dues. Failing that, come to the meeting and bring your cash or check. If you can't do that - send a check to our PO box address as listed on the website.

Thanks!

73, Jon K6WV
Club Treasurer

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

WVARA Net Check-Ins (W6PIY)						
Each Tuesday at 8:30 PM						
All Repeaters Linked Together During Net						
Call Sign	Name	12/10/13	12/17/13	12/24/13	12/31/13	01/07/14
AB6XS	Kevin	X	X			
AD6PA	Ron				X	
AE6JV	Bill	X				
AF6AE	Bill	X			X	
AG6HE	Dennis					X
K6BRF	Bert	X	X			X
K6WAR	Bill	X				
KD6DIF	Terry	X				
KD6VOR	Marv	X				
KE6BCS	Paul				X	
KF6EMB	Svend	X	X		X	X
KG6SBN	Marcia	X				
KJ6CQJ	Dean	X				X
KJ6GMO	Sue	X				X
KK6IPT	Patrick					X
KK6VF	Kevin	NET	NET	X	NET	NET
KS6PD	Steve		X			X
NU6P	John	X	X			X
W6PK	Phil		X			X
W6RLK	Ron		X			
WA6QYS	Lou	X				
WB6KHP	Dave	X	X	NET	X	X
TOTAL		15	9	2	6	11

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

Boonton 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



AG6HE Has a New Yagi - Happy DXing, Dennis!

Dennis: "Many many thanks to Mike K6MKF for architecting and managing this project, and to Paul N6PSE (the previous owner) for his assistance!"

Dennis points out that his current numbers of 160 entities worked, 148 confirmed, with DXCC for Mixed, Phone, 15, and the CW application in process, are all based on simple **wire antennas** in trees and many of them at 100W. So get started by putting up a wire antenna and join the fun!

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See You At The Meeting!