

The Heterodyne

Newsletter of the West Valley Amateur Radio Association

June Meeting

**“Hands-On Construction:
Battery Status Indicator Kit”
by Bill Frantz, AE6JV**

**Wednesday June 11
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!

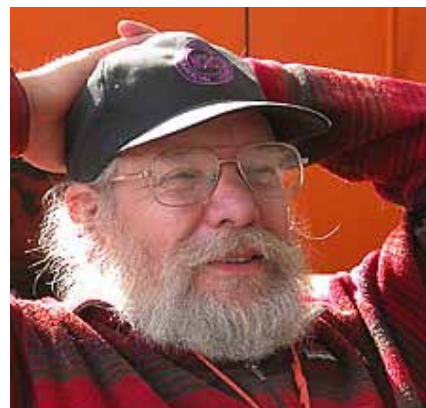
President's Letter

WVARA Field Day

I have very warm feelings about Field Day. I joined the WVARA because I was using repeaters around California and felt an obligation to directly support at least one repeater as my contribution to the general good. I didn't have much on-air experience, had never been to a field day, and had no contest or DX operating experience.

With this background, I was selected to help run the GOTA station. In a slow time, I was able to sneak away and see the rest of the operation. The CW tent was a mystery. In spite of an offer to operate for a while, my very rusty 5 WPM wasn't enough. I could at least understand what was happening in the SSB tents. But when I got to the digital tent, I found a radio environment I could be comfortable in.

With long experience in computer chat systems, I avoided the minor mic fright I had at the time. I also avoided the strong urge to run whenever I saw a CW key. Keyboards and screens were old familiar friends. Sure some of the jargon was different, and I had to click on a waterfall track to make a contact, but that was easily learned.



I made a number of contacts and resolved to go home and set up for digital operations. I got the necessary hardware and software and started operating. My log shows only one non-digital contact for the first two years.

After that I started branching out. I checked in to a SSB net, which was a lot like the repeater nets I was used to using, except it was harder to hear and be heard. I entered a digital contest. I made a CW contact with the TS5K dxpedition which was entirely digital from my end. The radio memories did all the work.

I have been active in field day ever since, including one year when I was mobile on the road. A year or so after my first field day, I was GOTA "coach" for Rich WE6AII. I thank him for bringing a straight key and kicking me into putting a lot of effort into learning CW. (I think I really learned more from him that night than he from me, but I had the title "coach".)

Field day has greatly broadened my interest in and enjoyment of ham radio.

73, Bill - AE6JV

About the Presentation

Hands-On Construction: Battery Status Indicator Kit

Mark your calendar. This Wednesday's WVARA meeting (7pm, June 11) is WVARA's first-ever DIY (Do It Yourself) hands-on kit building night and should be a real hoot. Almost a dozen of us pre-ordered 3-color LED readout battery status kits (4.5 to 16 volts) which have now arrived. We will be assembling these during the meeting. Even if you haven't ordered a kit, you can still come and share in the fun as we put these puppies together. I'm sure these units will come in handy during our Field Day weekend (27-29 June) on Mora Hill.



And speaking of Field Day, it's not too late to complete WVARA's on-line participant survey (<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NHQB8Z>) and get signed-up as part of our Mora Hill Field Day Team. (Further details on our Field Day event can be found at: [http://www.wvara.org/fd/2014/FD 14 Map Fact Sheet.pdf](http://www.wvara.org/fd/2014/FD%2014%20Map%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf))

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!

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. This month we'll

be meeting for Chinese food at Ume (2595 North First Street, at the corner of W Trimble and First St.) at 6:00pm. (Note: our old dinner location, Carl's Jr, has closed.)

Club Web Page: www.wvara.org

Hope to see you there!

Jim Peterson, K6EI

WVARA Field Day Coordinator

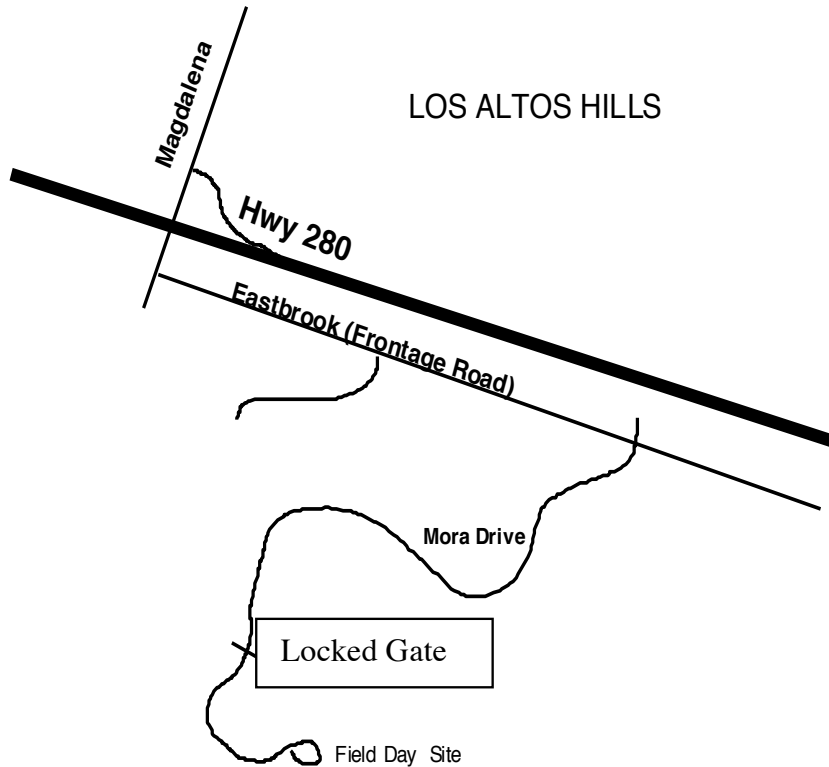
Field Day Message Traffic

One way our team gets bonus points during Field Day is by sending ARRL message traffic from our site. Tom Dunbar will be handling that task for our group, but needs ten recipients who will receive our Field Day greeting. As a result, please bring point-of-contact information for at least one message recipient to Wednesday night's WVARA meeting. The recipient can be a spouse, friend or relative, and doesn't need to be a ham. Specifically, Tom will need the following:

Recipient's Name
Mailing Address
Phone Number
Email address

| WVARA Net Check-Ins (W6PIY) | | | | |
|---|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Each Tuesday at 8:30 PM | | | | |
| All Repeaters Linked Together During Net | | | | |
| Call Sign | Name | 05/13/14 | 05/20/14 | 05/27/14 |
| AA6RB | Roy | X | X | X |
| AB6XS | Kevin | | X | X |
| AF6AE | Bill | | X | |
| AG6HE | Dennis | X | X | X |
| K6BRF | Bert | X | X | |
| K6WAR | Bill | X | | |
| KD6DIF | Terry | X | | |
| KD6VOR | Marv | | X | |
| KF6EMB | Svend | X | X | X |
| KG6SBN | Marcia | X | | |
| KJ6CQJ | Dean | X | X | X |
| KJ6GMO | Sue | X | X | X |
| KJ6ZZI | Michael | X | | X |
| KK6LVZ | Ian | | X | |
| KK6VF | Kevin | NET | NET | NET |
| KS6PD | Steve | | | X |
| NU6P | John | | | X |
| W6ESL | Tom | X | X | X |
| W6HOC | Howard | X | X | X |
| W6PK | Phil | X | | X |
| WB6KHP | Dave | X | X | X |
| TOTAL | | 15 | 14 | 14 |

WVARA Field Day, 27-29 June 2014



How can I participate?

- Join us for set-up, beginning Friday at 8am
- Come operate Saturday 11am to Sunday 11am (HF/SSB, HF/CW, HF/Digital, VHF/UHF, GOTA)
- Bring kids/friends/non-hams for the GOTA station
- Help us with tear-down beginning 11am on Sunday
- Bring a camera and record our adventure!

WHERE: This year's Field Day operation will be at the top of Mora Hill (see map above) located in the San Antonio Open Space Reserve near the Madgellena exit off of Highway 280 in Los Altos Hills.

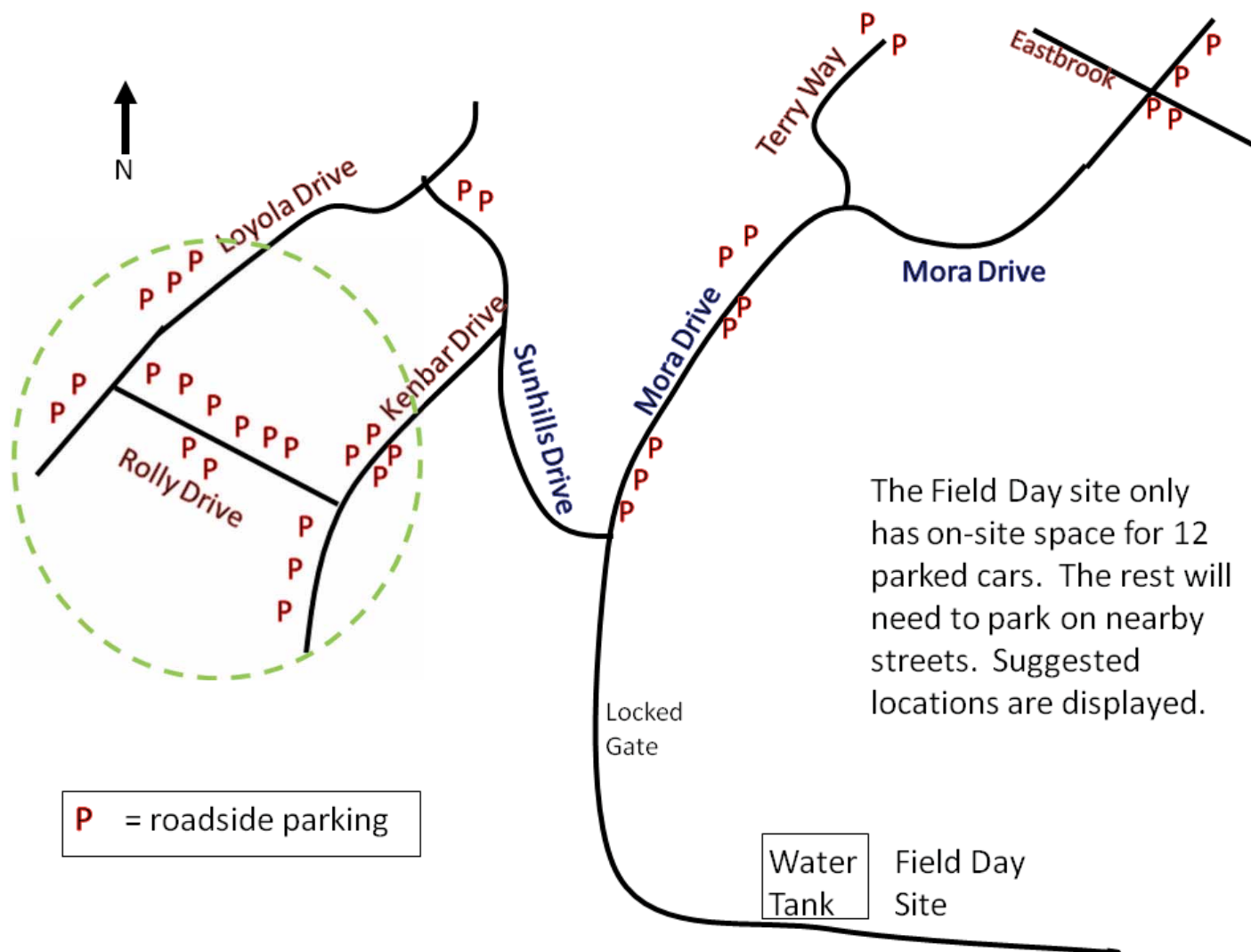
WHEN: Set up of the tents, antennas and equipment will begin at **8am on Friday June 21**. Please come Friday morning if possible – we'll need all the help we can get! Our plan is to be completely set up by evening so that we can do some recreational operating and test out the antennas Friday night. Several of us expect to spend Friday night on Mora Hill.

Final set-up activities will occur Saturday morning. Field Day operations officially begin Saturday at 11am and continue until 11am Sunday. Our goal is to keep all of the HF stations in operation the full 24 hours. Tear-down and packing activities will probably last from 11am until about 2pm Sunday afternoon. What to bring: 1) hot weather gear (straw hat, sun screen, sun glasses, 2) sturdy shoes, 3) sweater or warm coat for late night, and 4) a camera or camcorder! If you are interested doing some radio operating on Mora Hill, just show up.

Questions? Contact Jim Peterson, K6EI
408 490-1885 or via email at
CQFieldDay@gmail.com

Parking at the Field Day site is limited. As a result, we are limiting the vehicles parked at the site to individuals who bringing heavy equipment or with physical limitations. For the rest, we recommend parking down the hill on the surface street locations shown on the map. Note: Do not park within 300 feet of the gate. There are “no parking” signs in that area and they do write parking tickets. *Note that there is usually plenty of parking along Kenbar and Rolly Drive.*

Suggesting Parking Locations



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

Reminder: WVARA Field Day T-shirts

Reminder: This Wednesday's WVARA meeting is your last opportunity to order a WVARA Field Day T-shirt. The T-shirt's design is of the moon rising over Mora Hill with lettering that reads: "West Valley Amateur Radio Assoc Field Day Team". The cost per T-shirt is \$15

- Jim, K6EI



Building Night

Hello everyone,

We have 12 kits and the associated manuals etc. We have enough soldering stations to get by, giving us one for each 2 kits. (If people can bring some extra it may help speed things up.) I think we are good to go.

We will hand out paper copies of two documents. If people want to get a head start, download them from the web and review them. If you ordered a kit, you'll get a paper copy at the meeting.

The kit assembly manual:

<http://www.qrpkits.com/files/BSI_manual_v1%200.pdf>

Elecraft Soldering Tutorial:

<http://www.elecraft.com/TechNotes/N0SS_SolderNotes/N0SS_SolderNotesV6.pdf>

73 Bill AE6JV

Picnic at Baylands - August 16

It's official: We've reserved Pickleweed (next to the remote-controlled aircraft) for our WVARA Picnic/BBQ on **August 16**.

Jim, K6EI

Note: There are no regular meetings in July or August.

2014 West Valley Amateur Radio Association Board

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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.

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Dennis Lyden, AG6HE

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See You At The Meeting!