



a newsletter of the Verde Valley Amateur Radio Club

FEEDBACK

2010 Officers

President

Jeff Swiggers, N7ZZN

Vice-President

Jack Crabtree, W7JLC

Secretary

Jason Shultz, KE7WWQ

Treasurer

Mel Boreham, N6BDC

Member at large

Norm Vandiver, N7VF

Repeater Trustee

Mike Wingate, WA6LSE

FIELD DAY 2010

This year's Field Day will take place from 11AM **Saturday, June 26**, through 11AM **Sunday, June 27**, in the parking lot atop Mingus Mountain on Highway 89-A

There will be a **FREE BBQ picnic** for all starting just after noon. Please bring a side dish (salad, baked beans, dessert, etc.) if you would like to add to the table of goodies. The club is providing hotdogs, sausages and hamburgers for the grill and cold drinks.

Bob Rosevear, WB7RRQ, is our chief picnic planner. Please let him know how many will be coming so he can plan our food purchases. **RSVP to Bob by e-mail to:**

rosevear520@cablone.net

This year we will be attempting to contact amateur radio **satellites** with the help of **Elijah Brown, AD7ZJ**, a student at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. **Greg Allen, N6WCD**, will have his new solar powered trailer equipped with a **2 meter simplex** setup using an elevated Ringo Ranger antenna.

Steve Pearson, KC7TIL, will be setting up our club's **HF** station using a **G5RV** wire antenna and powered by Carol Hill's Solar Trailer.

We need more Ham Radio Operators, especially for Saturday night-time hours and Sunday morning. If you would like to make some after-hours radio contacts, please **e-mail Norman Vandiver, N7VF**, at:

n7vf54@yahoo.com

and he will get you on the schedule.

If you have **any questions** about the picnic, helping put up the antennas and shade tents, or helping break down the equipment on Sunday AM, please call Jeff Swiggers, N7ZZN, at (928) 237-0444 or Norman Vandiver at (928) 567-9881. You can also check with Steve Pearson, KC7TIL, at (928) 778-0502 to find out how you can help.

Thanks to All!

Let's have a fun Field Day!

NEXT MEETING

**June 23, 2010
At the Cottonwood Public
Safety Building
"Field Day
Events"**

**Future Meeting
Dates
July 21, 2010
August - no
meeting
Sept. 15, 2010**

Upcoming Events

Hamfests

July 16&17, 2010--The Williams Hamfest and ARRL Convention in Williams, AZ at the Williams Rodeo Grounds See www.arca-az.org/mainjuly_hamfest.html

July 30 & 31, 2010--Cactus Con at Ft Tuthill see pg 5 for details

Special Events

June 26&27, 2010 --Field Day at the parking lot on Mingus Mountain
June 19, 2010 - Kids Day

Check out the forum. Paul has many pc and mac tips, as well as software utilities there.

From the Webmaster

Gizmos freeware has a large variety of free tools and utilities. The freeware is all reviewed and rated. Click on any of the categories and you will see the rankings and reviews for any utility or software. Check it out at <http://www.techsupportalert.com/>

Secretary's Report

Minutes of the May 26, 2010 VVARA General Meeting

These minutes will be approved at the June meeting.

Submitted by Jason Shultz, KE7WWQ, Secretary

The May 26th, 2010, VVARA meeting was held at the Cottonwood Public Safety Bldg. conference room.

The meeting was called to order by President Jeff Swiggers, N7ZZN, at 6:55 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the members present.

Guests, new members, recent upgrades, new hams and visitors:

Visitors were Linda Plotkin, wife of Les Plotkin, KB6JIY

Treasurer's Report

Mel Boreham, N6BDC, gave the Treasurer's report. Our bank balance on May 26th was \$6,333.34 but we still had some \$819.30 of outstanding checks, leaving our actual balance around \$5,514.14. Mel asked Craig Dible, KB6LAK, to check on whether we can obtain a waiver to the monthly finance charges by the Chase Bank. Their new policy is to charge a \$20 finance charge each month if our balance drops below \$5,000.00. Craig will check on this.

\$25 was donated to the VVARA by Dick Glover, W4AOP, in consideration of the loan of our club's LCD projector for a special program by the Experimental Aircraft Association. Thank you Dick!

Secretary's Report

Jason Shultz, KE7WWQ, Secretary, read the minutes of the March 24th VVARA general meeting. A motion to approve these minutes, as corrected, was made by Mel Boreham, N6BDC, and seconded

by Art Swiggers, KF7FPB. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were approved. Bob Smith, WB6ODR and Mel Boreham, N6BDC then moved to table the April meeting minutes as Starla Thompson still had the notes for the minutes when she was acting secretary for the April 28th meeting.

Old Business

The William's Hamfest will be held July 16, 17 and 18. Mike Wingate and Steve Pearson will be manning a table at the ham fest to sell several boxes of donated items and to promote the VVARA radio club. The Scorpion QRP ham club has indicated that they will have their Ft. Tuthill campout and tail gate get-together about a week after the William's Ham Fest.

New Business

Mel Boreham updated us on how, through his efforts and phone calls, we were able to reinstate our 501 (3) (c) non-profit tax exempt status with the IRS. We had been in a "cannot contact" status since our last correspondence dated April, 1992! After Mel called on May 4th, they were able to put our club back into an active status as long as we submitted the required 990-N form within 30 days of the call and continue to do so each year. If this had not been done, we would have lost our IRS non-profit status.

Mike Wingate WA6LSE went over the new features that will be added to our club repeater on Mingus Mountain following the installation of the new repeater controller boards that we just received from Link Communications in Montana.

Club Meetings: We were notified last month that outside groups would no longer be able to use the Public Safety Building for meetings, etc. beginning in July, 2010. Mel, N6BDC, submitted a letter requesting an exception to this policy, explaining that our mission

includes public service and provision of emergency communications for the Cottonwood



community. After considering our request, we received approval from the Police Chief and Cottonwood City Manager to continue to meet at the Cottonwood Public Safety Building in the future. However our June meeting is still scheduled for June 23rd to go over our Field Day plans per our current schedule. Mel Boreham N6BDC moved to approve the move our VVARA meetings to the 3rd Wednesday beginning in July, 2010 and Bob Smith, WB6ODR, seconded the motion. It passed with voice vote. We will meet here on July 21st for our general meeting. No meetings will be held in August. Our VVARA meetings resume here in September on the 3rd Wednesday.

Jack Crabtree asked for volunteers to assist as an instructor for the upcoming Technician Class on June 5th. Dave Drown, WN7L, said that he would be glad to help with the class.

Mel announced that Peggy Funk told him that she had decided to resign from the refreshments committee and would no longer be able to provide cookies and coffee for our meetings. We will need a volunteer to take on

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this job. We thank Peggy for her many years of serving as our refreshments chairperson.

A motion was made by (?) to adjourn the business meeting which was seconded by Bob Smith WB6ODR.. Motion passed and the business meeting was closed at 7:43 p.m. Following a break for cookies and coffee, we reconvened the meeting at 7:50pm.

50/50 Raffle

The 50/50 raffle was run and Mike Wingate, WA6LSE won \$25. Jerry Lawson, KF7FPD, won an very nice ARRL antenna book donated by Craig Dible, KB6LAK.

Presentations

Tonight's presentation was given by Jack Crabtree, W7JLC, titled "Arizona at The Edge of Space", which covered several of the high altitude balloon launches done by Jack and students from various schools in Northern Arizona. Both slides and videos taken from the balloons were shown along with Jack's photos taken during the launches and retrieval of the scientific payloads dropped from the balloons by parachute.

Meeting Adjourned

A call for a Motion to close the meeting was made by Marsha Rosenbarger, N6SNW, and seconded by Ed Tucker, KL7DU. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed.

Meeting closed at 8:45 p.m.

Tune in to the Nets on the repeater :Every morning at 7am join the Knobby Knee Net. A different net control every day and many varied topics are discussed

Every Thursday at 7 pm -all lady hams (guys, too) are encouraged to participate in the Golden Girls Net

The Young and New Hams of Yavapai County meet every Sunday evening at 7pm. While new and young hams can check into any net, this net is a way for young and new hams to gain experience.

Meeting Minutes of the Verde Valley Amateur Radio Association 4-28-2010

Meeting was called to order by President, Jeff Swiggers, N7ZZN at 7:02 PM. First time attendees recognized; Tim, KF7FOX, Wayne, WA7IGI and his xyl, Becky. Visitors included Will, AD7WW and friends of Carol Hills, Jane and Ray from Congress
Secretary's Report- Due to the absence of the secretary, a motion was made by Carol, KA7LKW, and seconded by Bob, K8EQC, to approve the minutes at the next meeting. Motion passed on a voice vote.



Treasurer's Report- Mel, N6BDC, reported the balance at present is approximately \$6345 in the bank account.
Old Business- Jeff, N7ZZN, reported that the trade name has been released.
New Business- A proposal was made by repeater trustee Mike, WA6LSE, through Jeff to upgrade the repeater controller boards from RCL to RCL1+. Bob, K8EQC, reported on some of the features of the upgrade such as an anti-kerchunk feature, offsite monitoring of voltages and increased security features. The macros have already been written. Steve, KC7TIL, made a motion that we buy both boards that are needed at a cost of \$275 each, plus applicable shipping, handling and taxes. Seconded by Carol, KA7LKW. Motion passed on a voice vote.

The 7th Area QSO Party to be held on May 1. Steve KC7TIL is unable to coordinate. Jeff, N7ZZN asked for volunteers to coordinate. No one volunteered so we will not participate this year.
 Field Day- Norm, N7VF, and Jeff, N7ZZN, are coordinating this year. Field Day is the weekend of June 26-27, 2010. Norm gave an overview of this year's activities. Plan is to have a 2 meter, HF and satellite station. Norm asked for volunteers to assist in coordinating stations and to assist in other activities. He also mentioned other point generators such as operators younger than 18, traffic handling, the WWV bulletin and elected official visiting. A sign up sheet was available. See Norm if there is a way you can help.

Williams Hamfest- July 16-18th Steve, KC7TIL and Mike, WA6LSE, are coordinating a table. Details to follow.
 Ted, WA8ULG wants the club to be aware of the scQRPion club Cactus Con to be held at Ft. Tuthill in July. Norm, N7VF stated they have been around a long time and promote QRP activities as well as provide activities for hams to build equipment to be used for QRP. Bob, K8EQC suggested maybe the club could donate to the ScQRPion club to assist this activity. Motion made by John, W5VJH, to donate \$150 to the ScQRPion club for this hamfest. Seconded by Dan, W6SAK passed on voice vote.

Question raised by Jack, W7JLC, about the status of the VE team. Can he begin to publicize upcoming class? Bob, K8EQC volunteered to check with Rod, KI6FH about the status of the VE team. Efforts will be made to quickly finalize the status of testing and get information to Jack ASAP. Bob, KC8BOB and Will, AD7WW volunteered to assist with testing.

In the Muslim religion all healthy Muslims that can afford it, are instructed to make a pilgrimage to Mecca. This is called the Hajj. The Hajj sort of describes the notion of 20,000 hams finding their way to Dayton, Ohio on an annual basis. The Dayton Hamvention has been held since 1952 and beginning in about 1963 has been located at an ancient, multi-use facility called Hara Arena. This venue is old and crummy but integrally part of the experience. In its prime (1992) the swap attracted 30,000 folks, overflowed the confines of the arena and parking area, and became a real problem for the local police. Today the attendance is around 20,000 and much more manageable. There are seven adjoining buildings that are used for commercial exhibits; every national ham vendor is present. The adjacent parking lot holds some 3000 fleamarket spaces and is usually almost full.

A great question is Why Dayton? In the time before the western migration; the middle of the last century (jeez, does that sound old) Dayton was more or less geo-central to Chicago, Detroit, the Midwest and the East Coast. It soon outstripped any other swaps. I first attended in 1965. It was and still is a sight to see. Sometimes people ask Why go to Ohio when I can go to eBay? Fair question! Prices are much more random than at eBay. For example, a guy looking thru a

partially assembled Heath SB-220 linear amplifier kit. It was all there and last sold 20 years ago---cost \$20. This is what I call stealing a chicken.

While I lived in Michigan it was easy to go to the Hamvention. I would leave Battle Creek at midnight, arrive in Dayton at 5AM, and search for treasures with a flashlight. Today it is more complex and requires rental cars and airplanes. About twenty years ago I started my first company and relied heavily on test equipment that I would find and ship from Dayton. I

Dayton

have always been able to repair most electronic things and over the years have developed a good 'nose' for what's fixable. So Dayton has a special place in my heart. You never know what you'll see, single car trunks may hold lovely treasures and are frequently undervalued. Many commercial vendors will bring in pallets full of stuff; some trash, but some treasures too. This year a guy came with endless pallets of electronic goodies at \$1.00/pound. You can get a good idea of what this looks like by searching in YouTube; try Hamvention.

Would I recommend a trip to Dayton? Yup, it has been part of my ham

experience for 45 consecutive years. Until about 1990, the convention was held in mid April then it was changed to mid May in an attempt to get to nicer weather. The weather can be snow, rain, thunderstorms, tornados or 100 degrees; the Midwest is famous for wide extremes in the springtime.

In the last few years, people have been talking about the last Dayton Hamvention ever. The club had a severe economic setback (like a club member liberated \$100,000 cash) a few years ago and the arena is considered prime sub-division real estate; but the Hamvention continues. The Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) usually renews the facility contract for three years. This year's Hamvention Program, a very nice booklet itself, shows dates scheduled for 2011 through 2013, so it looks like a few more years are likely.

For reasons lost in history, there was some tension between DARA and the ARRL. In the last few years they have made nice and ARRL now has a huge inside presence. What ever your religion you need to make the trip to Mecca (read Dayton) at least once, it is a hoot. Ted WA8ULG

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Steve raised a question about whether fees needed to be charged for testing. Much discussion ensued. Carol, KA7LKW, made a motion to table the discussion till the next meeting. Seconded by Norm, N7VF. Passed on voice vote.

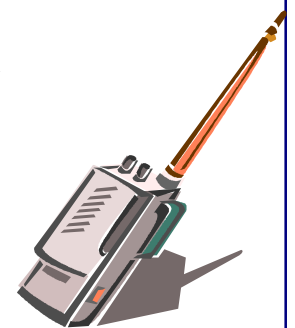
Dick, W4AOP, and Meredith, W4AMK, volunteered to conduct the 50/50 raffle.

Motion made to adjourn by Art, KF7FPB seconded by ? Motion passed on voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:50. Meeting reconvened at 8:08 by President Jeff Swiggers, N7ZZN. 50/50 raffle won by Sue Crabtree.

Jeff asked Carol to introduce speaker for the evening. Carol spoke about her experiences with solar power and introduced her friend Jane, who spoke about her background in solar power. Carol then introduced our guest speaker, Ben Mancini, who spoke about many of the different applications for solar power. He showed us many different types of solar systems and answered many questions.

Motion was made by Mel, N6BDC and seconded by Bob, KC8BOB to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 9:12 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Starla Thompson



Arizona ScQRPions at Ft. Tuthill



It's that time of year again for the Arizona ScQRPions QRP campout and forums! Fort Tuthill 2010! We will once again be in the mountains surrounding Flagstaff, Arizona at the Fort Tuthill campgrounds. The group camping area will be available for campers beginning on Thursday afternoon, July 29.

Activities begin on Friday, July 30 at the campground and continue on Saturday, July 31st with the forums at the American Legion Hall in downtown Flagstaff. Sunday morning will be a leisurely pack up to return home.

Bring all your tailgate trading material for a swapmeet on Friday. We will not have the facilities for building anything on site this year. Some will set up stations and antennas to operate. There could be other semi-spontaneous activities, but only time will tell. And at the end of the day Friday, enjoy a group dinner at a local restaurant just outside the park entrance South toward Sedona.

Saturday will find us a short 5-10 minutes away at the conference room of the American Legion where we will have our forums featuring internationally known speakers.

Ned, AA7A, will provide a light technical discussion on three methods of matching antennas for maximum efficiency. The approaches range from using classical models of antennas as reactive loads to using modern hand-held Vector Network Analyzers (VNA) to develop precise matching of antennas based upon highly accurate measurements of an antenna's complex impedance. Several of these methods have been instrumental in achieving the success of the VooDoo Contest Group in using highly effective and rapidly deployed antennas in their DXpeditions to West Africa. Ned will also provide a live demonstration of the use of a Vector Network Analyzer to measure complex impedances which is useful for many purposes in amateur radio.

Ade Weiss (WORSP) Propagation Ade will be talking about radio propagation from his upcoming new book on the subject! I do hope he keeps the front cover we saw last weekend

Internet access to the forums (?) or "Pooh! I can't get way out West this year." We do plan to stream the forums live to the internet this year. The URL for the forums is <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/cactuscon>. It also features a chat section you can use to interact with the guys at the forums.

Saturday night finds us back at the campground for a cookout. We provide everything with the exception of your "entree". Portable tables and chairs would be wise choices of things to bring with you. Water is available, but there is NO electricity other than your batteries or generator. There are some permanent picnic tables and plenty of places to contain your cooking fire. There will be a few 10'x10' canopies, but if you have one, please consider bringing it and ANCHORS (wind). Afternoon thundershowers are pretty routine in the mountains (7500'+) and you'll be looking for a place to stay sorta dry if one literally blows through. The desert is blazing hot (110F today), but the temperatures at the campground will range from the upper 70's to the mid-80's during the day.

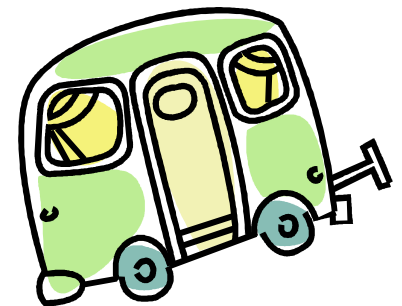
Prizes will be awarded throughout the weekend for the winners of our events, between forum sessions, and at the cookout. There is no admission charge and no prize tickets to buy. As in the past, we have several terrific sponsors that are very generous and there are even more this year. They help provide our prizes and other assistance to put these programs on. Thanks to the [Four States QRP group](#), [Hendricks Kits](#), [Pacific Antenna](#), [Uncle Cy the LED Guy](#), and [NorCal](#). They are top notch! If you are looking to make an amateur radio purchase, please consider these guys FIRST.

Everyone is welcome whether or not you operate QRP. The forums are usually of general interest, but oriented many times toward outdoor operating, construction projects, new techniques, small portable stations, antennas, and accessories. Don't tell, but we even have some closet QRO operators in the group! There are many accommodations near the American Legion and the campgrounds if you are motel camping. The group campground is adjacent to the small military museum in the back of the fairgrounds.

Let's try the Mt. Elden 2m repeater frequency 146.98 (-) 162.2 PL if you need assistance finding us. Maybe we'll answer. Probably not, but someone just might help you out since this is a well known location. Sometimes we're having so much fun we forget to listen or just don't hear you over the racket. You will not be intentionally ignored.

I hope we will see YOU there!

Email questions to: CactusCon@azscqrptions.org For more information check out their website: <http://www.azscqrptions.com/index.html>



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About the VVARA

We are a group of amateur radio operators from around the Yavapai county area. Our members are involved in many different activities..

Membership is open to any licensed amateur and anyone interested in ham radio. Dues are \$20 a year. An interested person or a family member is \$10. Send your dues, payable to the VVARA, to the treasurer.

Our monthly meetings are usually held at the Cottonwood Public Safety Building the fourth third. of the month. Three meetings will be held in the Prescott area. There are no meetings in Aug. or December.

Our repeater W7EI/R is lo-

cated on Mingus Mountain at 147.220 MHz with a PL tone of 162.2Hz.

Our website is www.vvara.org. Check it out for lots of great information and links. Contact the webmaster at webmaster@vvara.org Many thanks to past webmasters and present webmaster, Paul Compton, WA7US, for all their work to make a great website.

Please send any information for this newsletter to: Starla Thompson, KE7DTS, at starla@cableone.net

Rare illustration of the first man who performed the technique for lobbing a string over a tree as well as a current innovation of his technique.

