



a newsletter of the Verde Valley Amateur Radio Club

FEEDBACK

President's Notes

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

What a great time! This year's Field Day was my first, and from what I understand, one of the club's best ever. Food is always a big draw and I understand that, but it was neat to see that so many folks showed up and participated. We even enjoyed the presence of a Lieutenant from YCSO (and a fellow ham) as well as a media representative from the Cottonwood/Camp Verde Bugle. I haven't seen it yet, but as of this writing I understand there was a very positive article in that newspaper about us, along with some nice pictures.

Thanks to all the organizers for making it a big success. Special thanks to Bob and Judy Rosevear WB7RRQ and KC7MTY for managing the vittles department (and the awesome grilling job). Also thanks to Dave Drown WN7L for his wonderful Sheboygan, WI bratwurst recipe! Our section leaders were Steve Pearson KC7TIL on HF, Bob Smith WB6ODR on 6 meters, Greg Allen N6WCD on 2 meters and Elijah Brown AD7ZJ on satellite operations. We even managed to get through the satellite pileup! Also let's not forget our Master of Ceremonies, Norm Vandiver N7VF. Without everybody's cooperation and willingness to step up, it couldn't have been pulled off as well as it was, and I'm proud to be a small part of this outfit. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Williams Hamfest this coming weekend!

The new repeater controller boards the club bought a couple of months ago are ready to install at the Mingus site. Mike Wingate WA6LSE has been working on creating the macros for the repeater commands, and I understand that the programming is done and awaiting installation. Unfortunately he has been under the weather recently, so I wish him a speedy recovery.

On that note, Dan Nichols W6SAK has recently suffered some medical problems, and is recovering at the Prescott VA hospital. (editors note- he's now at Good Sam in Prescott) I'm told that he's doing fine, and will be released before too long. Let's all wish him the best! I for one miss his witticisms on the Knobby Knee Net.

Well, we're on the back nine of 2010. Is it too soon to plan for the Christmas Party? I'm sure we all could use a break from the summer heat. At least these monsoons are giving us a bit of a respite and some much needed water. Everyone remember to check your tower and system grounds before the big ones hit! We don't need to lose anyone's shack due to an unfortunate lightning strike, much less lose a home to fire.

Stay safe everybody and I'll see you in Williams! 73's

Jeff Swiggers, N7ZZN

President, Verde Valley Amateur Radio Association

NEXT MEETING
July 21, 2010
At the
Cottonwood
Public Safety
Building
7pm

Norm Vandiver, N7VF, will recap Field Day, 2010, and Jack Crabtree, W7JLC, will introduce us to 6 meters; how to get on and make contacts.

Upcoming Events

Hamfests

July 16-18 2010--The Williams Hamfest and ARRL Convention in Williams, AZ at the Williams Rodeo Grounds (see page 3 for more information)

July 30 & 31, 2010--Cactus Con at Ft Tuthill (see <http://www.azsqrpions.com/fttut2010.html> for details)

Special Events

July 28, 2010 and following
 EAA Airventure- Airshow and Fly-In in Oshkosh, WI (Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club Inc. 14.250 7.270 52.550 FM 146.520)

Aug 14-Aug 15, 0600Z-0600Z,
 Celebrating Navajo Code Talkers Day, The Navajo Nation, Window Rock, Arizona Navajo Amateur Radio Club. 14.265 7.265 n7hg@citlink.net

Future Meeting Dates

August - no meeting
Sept. 15, 2010



**YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR 7TH ANNUAL
OPEN HOUSE IN PARKS, AZ
SATURDAY AFTERNOON
JULY 31ST
AFTER CACTUSCON AT FT. TUTHILL
1PM 'TIL 5-ISH
I-40 TO THE PARKS EXIT
(MILE POST 178) THEN SOUTH SIX MILES ON CR
141 TO MILE POST 3
LISTENING CACTUS 448.625 AND 146.98, 147.22 AND
ALWAYS THE TEL. 928 635 1927
SORPIONS, CARC, CACTUS, VVARA, AM'ERS, LIDS,
KIDS, SPACE CADETS
ALL WELCOME, FOOD & DRINKS SERVED, CUL
TED WASULG/DORINDA N7XVH HARTSON
GPS 35-10.03 111-56.65**

Tune in to the Nets on the re-peater :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 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.

MUSINGS FROM FIELD DAY

from Greg Allen, N6WCD and Steve Pearson, KC7TIL

The 2 meter station was coordinated by Greg Allen, N6WCD, with son Greg Jr., KE7PXX, assisting. While few contacts were made, they had a "a lot of fun." The solar powered trailers worked well, even if the laptops didn't. The highlight of Field Day for Greg was talking to a station 400km NE of Moscow on HF. Late Friday evening, he was able to converse with them in Russian. Even though it has been a while since he spoke Russian, it came back to him. He also mentioned that Friday there was an impromptu jam session with a couple who were traveling to Sedona. He, Jeff and Sue joined Abby and Joe, who are traveling the U.S., to provide the evenings entertainment. Greg said his field day experience was lots of fun!

Bob, WB7RRQ, and his grandson, Alex, provided rides on his Rhino up to the repeater site. Bob, WB6RRQ, also was the chief cook. I hear the food was great!

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Treasurer's Report

By Mel Boreham, N6BDC

After subtracting all outstanding checks, our current balance in our original bank account is \$5,323.36 as of July 14, 2010. We also have \$100 in a new account at a different branch. The change will allow us to conserve our club funds as monthly finance fees will be waived for us at this branch. This will save the club \$12/month finance charges should our balance drop below a newly established \$5,000 threshold. Club funds will be moved and the old account will be closed as soon as we are assured that no outstanding checks or charges exist.

73s, Mel, Treasurer, VVARA



ARCA/Williams Hamfest and ARRL AZ State Convention in Williams, AZ

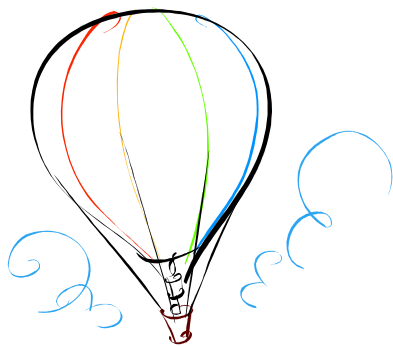
The Central Arizona DX Association plans to host a hospitality suite at the Holiday Inn for the enjoyment of all Hamfest attendees beginning at 8:00 p.m. on Friday evening, July 16.

Testing for all classes of licenses will be held in the Railside RV Ranch Clubhouse on Saturday, July 17, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Railside RV Ranch is located at 877 Rodeo Road in Williams (approximately 400 yards east of the Rodeo grounds).

The annual ARCA BBQ will be held in 2010 as usual. Tickets will be available through advanced reservation and at the ARCA table at the 2010 event. Price for the dinner is \$18.00 per person.

Join other hams in the "Hamfest Express" car on the Grand Canyon Railroad for the trip to the Grand Canyon. Reservations for the 2010 trip are now being taken. Tickets are \$70.00 per seat and may be purchased on-line or may also be available at the hamfest. See <http://www.arca-az.org/main/hamfest/news.html> for more information on tickets.

There will be a meeting of repeater owners and the annual ARCA meeting and elections will be held on Saturday at 11AM and 4 pm respectively. Presentations on antennas, emergency preparedness and other topics will be offered. Vendors and tables full of valuable merchandise will be available beginning early Saturday morning. Stop by the VVARA table and check out their goodies. Make sure you don't forget the ANSR balloon flight! (See article below for more information) Get your raffle tickets to be entered to win any of the prizes being given away First prize is an ICOM IC-718 HF radio. Other prizes include an ICOM 880Dual Band Mobile, an ICOM IC U-82 and an ICOM IC V-82. Have a wonderful time in Williams!



Arizona Near Space Research (ANSR) is pleased to announce the flight of ANSR-57. This high altitude balloon flight will take place on **Saturday, July 17, 2010 at 8:00 A.M.** MST (1500 UTC) from the 2010 ARCA/Williams Hamfest and ARRL Arizona State Convention in Williams, Arizona. Primary launch site coordinates are 35 deg 15.58 minutes North, 112 deg 11.13 min West. While it is planned to launch from the Hamfest grounds, upper winds may dictate otherwise. Watch for additional launch contingency announcements on Friday prior to launch day. An ANSR booth at the Hamfest will display real time APRS positions of the flight.

The balloon will be a 1200-gram weather balloon, filled with helium. The expected burst altitude will be 80,000 feet or more. The flight is anticipated to last about 2.5 hours from launch to touchdown.

APRS Beacons will transmit position information as follows:

KA7NSR-11 on 445.950 MHz

N7ERU-12 on 445.925 MHz

The ANSR Cross-Band FM Repeater will operate with an input frequency of 145.56 MHz with a 162.2 Hz tone, and an output of 445.525 MHz. While contacts (especially DX and Hamfest attendees) are welcome, please give priority to chase and recovery team members.

The cross-band repeater Frequencies will be linked to IRLP node 9255 if possible.

Our mobile cross band and fixed Digipeaters will GATE the APRS position data to the 144.390 MHz standard APRS frequency locally and subsequently will be I-GATED to the Internet for out-of-area trackers. You can track the flight using the following links:

<http://map.aprsworld.net/n7eru-11> or KA7NSR-11

<http://aprs.fi/?call=n7eru-11>

<http://www.findu.com/cgi-bin/find.cgi?call=n7eru-11>

Be sure to check <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Ballooning> for updates to this announcement prior to the flight.

Jack Crabtree, W7JLC
Williams Hamfest Balloon Launch guy

Field Day- June 26,27, 2010

Field Day 2010 was held June 26-27, 2010, at the rest area atop highway 89A Mingus Mountain pass. Chairman for the event was Norman Vandiver, N7VF, with Vice-Chairman being Jeff Swiggers, N7ZZN.

Goals and objectives for this Field Day were 1) To have four stations, independent of each other and the grid, 2) Use new bands and equipment, 3) Train additional operators in set-up, maintenance, and operation under field communication conditions, 4) Inform the general public of what ham radio is and its purpose, and, 5) Conduct a socializing event for VVARA members, family and associates.

We had four independent stations, managed and operated separately by the station masters, as follows:

- H.F. – Steve Pearson, KC7TIL
- 6 Meter – Bob Smith, WB6ODR
- 2 Meter – Greg Allen, N6WCO
- Satellite – Elijah Brown, AD7ZJ
- Receive Only – Ray Peterson, KF7CYG (for receiving W1AW bulletins)

Each independent station had its own power source of solar-charged batteries. Set ups went well, starting Friday noon, leaving us ready before Saturday's 11:00 am start time.

The HF station had a G5RV antenna in the tree tops. Bob Smith did the bow and arrow work, while Steve Pearson talented crew ran the antenna wires and transmission line to the radio station.

The 6 meter station had a 4-element beam on a mast, supported by Bob Smith's motor home. This system had an "Armstrong" rotor.

The 2 meter station had a Ringo Ranger vertical antenna on a twenty foot military mast, on a tripod, with guy wires.

The satellite station had a handheld antenna, for tracking the "birds."

We had an information table, stocked with AARL and VVARA literature. Various members staffed the table as visitors showed interest. Visitor's attendance at the information table was recorded on sign-in sheets.

Midday Saturday saw a crowd of 40+ friends and families attend a big BBQ. Bob Rosevear, WB7RRQ, grilled Dave Drown-style brats (WN7L), hotdogs and burgers. Judy Rosevear, KC7MTY, prepared the tables for the many potluck dishes of salads and deserts, with special chili by Wayne and Becky Gilbertson, WA7IGI. The grand finale was a huge, decorated Field Day cake, provided by Bob Kie-

napp, KF7FVV, and his wife, Aiesha Warner. Bob was responsible for getting the newspaper reporter, Michelle Bradley of Larson Newspapers, to come to the site for extensive interviews and photos. Michelle then created a full, color page of our Field Day event, including photos and comments. The page was published in the Larson newspapers in the June 30th issue.

Thanks to Elijah Brown, KD7EZJ, for an educational session, with handouts, on working the "birds." Great job done, with the bonus of working W6LIE 5A-SJV via the "bird" FO-29.

We did not copy the ARRL Field Day bulletin, but we learned a lot about HF propagation on different bands, at scheduled times, thanks to Ray Peterson, KF7CYG. This was the only Field Day goal not met.

Most of our goals were met through training, learning new aspects of ham radio, and old-fashioned eyeball QSOs. We don't have our scores yet, but they will be provided separately by Bob Thompson, KC8BOB.

Thanks to all in attendance, and to the operators. Good job keeping the radios humming (Hamming) for 24 hours on HF, and all others who spent many hours listening and waiting for band openings.

Break down and clean up went very well. Our stations operated right up to the deadline of 10:59 am. However, everyone had packed up and left the area by 11:37 am, local time. How's that for efficiency?! These guys are good at their jobs and work well together.

Honorable mention to those dedicated and responsible people, some not licensed radio operators, who provided invaluable support, food, and help to bring this Field Day to a successful conclusion. Special thanks to Mel Boreham, N6BDC, for Chairman support, and public relations work.



Norman W Vandiver, N7VF
Field Day Chairman

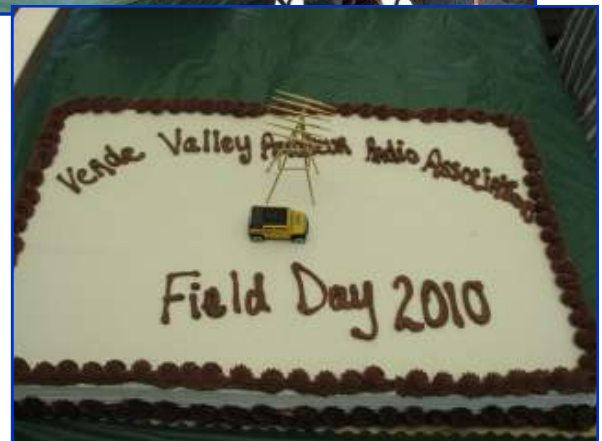


Pictures
Courtesy
of Joan Tremper,
AB7KE



(Continued from page 2)

Steve, KC7TIL, coordinated the HF station. This is what he said *“I had an interesting contact on Saturday, right about the time RRQ was serving lunch. I felt sorry for Mike (KE0GE) and his wife who were working the HF station at the time, that they might miss the hot hamburgers and brats so I offered to fill in while they got something to eat. While they were gone about 30 minutes, I made a contact on 20M with a station somewhere in Oregon. While we were exchanging information, he mentioned we were live on TV with a local remote crew at their field day site for a story. Naturally I took the opportunity to say hello to the folks watching the TV feed live in Oregon and tell them a bit about our VVARA operation on Mingus Mountain in Arizona. I don't know what kind of a "bonus" a live TV appearance by the VVARA HF station would garner but it should be a bunch! Unfortunately, by the time I made it to the chow line, all the brats were gone but there were plenty of other great dishes to choose from so nobody went away hungry.”* 73, Steve KC7TeaEyeEl



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Online at vvara.org

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 located on Mingus Mountain at

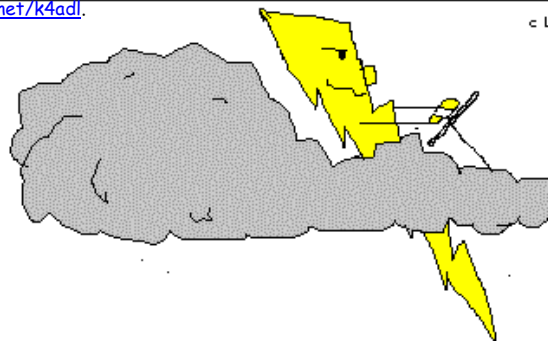
147.220 MHz with a PL tone of 162.2Hz.

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

www.gsl.net/k4ad/

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BORED WITH STRIKING TREES AND ROOFTOPS,
MR. LIGHTNING HOPES TO FIND A NICE FIELD DAY ANTENNA.