

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB

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VACAVILLE, CALIFORNIA

November 2008

Message from the President

By Jerry Olive, KD6WKY

Greetings from the radio shack of KD6WKY! I've been on the air today working DX from The Falkland Islands to South Korea and back down again to Easter Island. I have not been on the air since the first weekend of October when I worked the California QSO Party with Ralph Jones KA6FDI down in Riverside County. That was fun!

We had a few fun activities in October in addition to CQP. Pacificon turned out well again. I saw several club members either at Pacificon or speeding down the freeway in their XYL's car (you know who you are). Since you were speeding, I won't mention your name.

Without ever going to a face to face meeting I was able to coordinate Merriment on Main with Shauna over at *The Reporter*. Details further along in the newsletter. We'll discuss this activity at our club meeting this month.

The Christmas Party is set as well. I set it up at Home-town Buffet. Same as last year, same room, same everything. Spread the word.

The difficult topic to address is the 2009 club officers. I'm not going to go on about it here, but just know we need to finalize 2009 this month. Think of it this way, with officers we have a club, with no officers we have no club. Pretty simple.

I am going to need some help erecting an antenna soon. I have a GAP Titan DX 80m thru 10m vertical antenna that I want to install where I use to have my Cushcraft R7 antenna. I don't think the job will take more than an afternoon. Everything is pretty accessible.

Skip AF6HC got his GAP Titan DX antenna up recently. We'll have to ask him for a report on it this month. I've seen a couple of photos, it's looking good.

I look forward to seeing you this month at our club meeting. We have several items to discuss. I'm sure we'll have a great program to go along with the routine business of November. 73!

Jerry Olive KD6WKY

Vaca Valley Radio Club Meeting Notes of Wed. 8 Oct., 2008

Club President, Jerry Olive (KD6WKY) called the October, 2008, general membership meeting of the Vaca Valley Radio Club to order at 1945 hours, with the following members in attendance:

| | | | |
|---------------|--------|-------------|--------|
| Jerry Olive | KD6WKY | Mike Vieira | W6MAV |
| Skip Lawson | KC6BXN | Bob Hewitt | K6HEW |
| Tom Lish | N6AJR | Clyde Hood | WH6AB |
| Glen Mitchell | KI6CJZ | Kim Ware | KI6JNX |

There was no news letter published for Sept. because the editor was very involved in preparation and participation in the annual California CQP contest. Instead, the Secretary's notes were read by Pres. Jerry to those present, and it was moved/second/passed to accept the notes as typed by the Secretary.

Our Treasurer – Bob (K6HEW) reported that the club is still financially alive with the following totals: General Fund - \$764.43; Repeater Fund – \$701.47; Prize Fund - \$221.00.

There was no Old Business

New Business:

Since Clyde (WH6AB) our Community Outreach Representative is stepping down, the BOG is trying to pick up the slack regarding the following upcoming events:

a) Merriment on Main participation: Tentatively scheduled for Tue., Dec. 2. We will be getting more info from the Vacaville coordinators between now and the Nov. meeting. It would be really nice if we could have a big turnout for this annual downtown event.

b) Christmas Dinner: No firm commitment as to the location yet, will follow up with more info at the Nov. meeting.

c) B.O.G. nominations: Since the only members present at this meeting were the BOG themselves, not a lot was accomplished regarding any new nominations for the various B.O.G. positions for 2009. As it stands after this evening's meeting, the nominations are as follows:

President: ??? Vice President: ??? Treasurer:
Bob (K6HEW) Secretary: our out-going President and news-
letter editor - Jerry (KD6WKY) Member at large: ????

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The winning ticket for the evening belonged to our V.P. - Mike (W6MAV) – AGAIN!

Then, to polish the evening, Pres. Jerry gave a great Power Point presentation of his and Ralph Jones' (KA6FDI) participation in the California CQP contest, where they had set up a station high atop the lonely, windy, wet, and **COLD** Polly Butte in Riverside County. Yessiree – it sure looked like they had their fun meters pegged that weekend!

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 2024hr.

Respectfully submitted:

“Skip” Lawson AF6HC

Don Turner, W6ROY – SK

The following is a partial quote from a message received from Mary Turner, KC6WYC:

“I lost Don on the evening of September 13th. He was surrounded by family and love to the end. Don’s wishes were to be buried at the National Cemetery at Hampton, VA with his son, Stephen. He was laid to rest with Stephen on the 19th. It is a beautiful, old historic cemetery.”

Both Don and Mary were very active in the Vaca Valley Radio Club for many years. Mary is a past president of the club and for several years Don published the Newsletter. Don was an avid DXer and an excellent CW operator. He was a great guy and will be missed by all who knew him.

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB—2008 ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Jerry Olive, KD6WKY
Vice President: Mike Vieira, W6MAV
Secretary: Skip Larson, AF6HC
Treasurer: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Director: Mike Carney, N6SEE
Director: Chris Jones, KD7TQO
Director: Antonio Del Rio, N6ZGB
Director: Tom Christman, KE6MDM
Director: Clyde Hood, WH6AB

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Net Control Chairperson: Jerry Olive, KD6WKY
Activities Chairperson: Clyde Hood, WH6AB
Newsletter Editor: Jerry Olive, KD6WKY
Newsletter Publisher & Distributor: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

OPØOL - Patriot Hills, Antarctica



This call sign has been granted to a Club station of the Belgian Union of Radio Amateurs (UBA) on Antarctica. The location during the Antarctic summer season 2008-2009 will be the Multinational Base Camp Patriot Hills at 80° 18.11'S - 081° 20.69'W. Operations are planned between 10 November and 18 December by ON5XX.

QSL via ON5XX. All cards will be answered. Please keep in mind that the QSL handling will only start at the end of January. This is only for practical reasons.

QSL received via the BURO will 100% be answered by the BURO. QSL direct from EU please add a self addressed envelope and 1\$. QSL direct from outside EU please add a self addressed envelope and 2\$.

If one of the above conditions are not fulfilled the card will 100% be answered via the BURO.

This is not a DXpedition but a professional visit to Antarctica. Operations on the HAM bands depend totally of the workload and power availability. The operator might have to go QRT suddenly. He will try to inform the listeners why he has to QRX and how long. Power is generated 100% from solar panels. A backup generator is available for emergencies but the key is to be very conservative with the usage of power. The preferred mode will be CW but if the situation allows, some SSB and Digimodes are possible.

The operator is not an experienced CW contester or DXpeditioner so pile ups might not be handled as smoothly as you expect. Thanks for your understanding.

CU on the air.

Comcast Partially Blocking arrl.net Forwarding Service

(Nov 6, 2008) -- ARRL has been notified that Comcast, one of the largest cable providers in the country, has been blocking e-mail traffic from one of the servers that processes messages for the **arrrl.net** E-mail Forwarding Service. This has resulted in a disruption of service to more than 5500 ARRL members who have their **callsign@arrrl.net** e-mail forwarded to a Comcast.net e-mail address. According to ARRL Chief Financial Officer Barry Shelley, N1VXY, ARRL has been in contact with Comcast and has convinced them to remove the blockage. "Their actions have caused a significant backlog of messages which will take the next several hours to clear," Shelley said. "Unfortunately, messages that were bounced will need to be resent." ARRL apologizes for any inconvenience.

Amateur Radio Quiz: A Spare Hour's Entertainment

- 1) If an amplifier would increase your power output from 50 W to 500 W, while a new tribander would add 4 dB of forward gain over your existing dipole, with which would your signal be louder?
- 2) Will a fan rated at 0.5 cubic meters per minute be able to cool a tube that needs 20 cubic feet per minute?
- 3) The ac power in your shack is supplied by a 115 VAC circuit with a 20 amp breaker. Your new amplifier draws a maximum of 2 kVA. Will the circuit handle the load?
- 4) RG-8 is rated at 5 kV maximum working voltage. Can it withstand full-power operation with a load of 100 ohms?
- 5) An amplifier's transmit/receive relay has a 12 VDC coil with a resistance of 50 ohms. If your transceiver's keying relay contacts are rated at 100 mA, will they be able to switch the relay?
- 6) Combining the output from four solid-state amplifier modules is performed by a power combiner with an insertion loss of 1 dB at each input. If each module provides 200 W of power, how much is available at the output?
- 7) To avoid overdriving the amplifier input, your 150 W transceiver output must be cut to 50 W. How many dB of attenuation is required?
- 8) The rules state that harmonics must be at least 40 dB below the fundamental signal. A friend nearby informs you that your second harmonic is S-4 at her house while your fundamental is S-9. Assuming 5 dB per S-unit, are you legal?
- 9) Can a relay that switches in 5 msec support full-QSK (full break-in keying) at 35 wWPM?
- 10) DXpeditioners special - You're assigned to carry the power transformer for the amp that weighs 40 pounds. The airline to the island allows 30 kilograms of carry-on weight. If your coax weighs 4 ounces per foot, how many feet of cable can you carry on board along with the transformer?

Answers

- 1) The amplifier provides a gain of $10 \log(500/50) = 10$ dB.
- 2) One cubic meter equals 35.3 cubic feet, so the fan will supply $0.5 \times 35.3 = 17.7$ cubic feet. This fan is too small!
- 3) 2 kW at 115 VAC is a current of 17.4 Amps. Operating the amplifier on this circuit is okay, but just barely -- particularly if you are operating a high duty-cycle mode such as RTTY and there is little amperage left for any other equipment. You should run a new circuit to the shack for the amplifier. Check your local electrical codes, as well.
- 4) At 1500 W output (ignoring losses in the feed line), the rms load voltage will be the square root of power \times load impedance = 387 V. The peak load voltage = $1.414 \times 387 = 548$ V, so RG-8 is well within its ratings.
- 5) The coil current is $12 \text{ V}/50 \text{ ohms} = 240 \text{ mA}$. The transceiver's relay contacts probably won't last long before failing!
- 6) A dissipation of 1 dB passes 79.4 percent of the input power to the output. The 200 W of power at each input is reduced to $200 \times 0.794 = 159 \text{ W}$ at the output of the combiner: 4 modules $\times 159 \text{ W} = 635.4 \text{ W}$.
- 7) The output of the attenuator must be $-10 \log(50/150) = -4.77$ dB below the input power. A 5 dB attenuator will be fine.
- 8) Your harmonic is 5 S-units $\times 5$ dB/S-unit = 25 dB below the fundamental. You have a problem!
- 9) At 35 WPM, each dit is about 25 msec. This relay will do the job.
- 10) Thirty kilograms is equivalent to 66.2 pounds. The transformer leaves 26.2 pounds for cable. You can carry 26.2 pounds/0.25 ft/lb = 104 feet of cable (without connectors). *Editor's Note: The original version of this answer had a subtraction error.*

THE VVRC WELCOMES YOU

The Repeater is Published by the Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143, An ARRL Affiliated Club. Founded 1987, Chartered 1988 General Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM 420 Vine Street Fire Station.

Wheelchair accessible

Visit the Repeater online courtesy of Bob K6HEW at:

<http://users.cwnet.com/hewbob/vvrc>

Club repeater in Vacaville: W6VVR 145.470 MHz(-) pl 127.3

Additional local repeaters

WV6F 224.200(-) WV6F 440.025(+) WV6F 1291.900(-)

Merriment on Main

Again this year our club has the honor of participating with *The Reporter* and the City of Vacaville as part of the Merriment on Main event that is so well received by the public each year.

This of it like this. You are a community organizer when you participate in Merriment on Main. Where have I heard that term before? HmMMM.

Anyway here are the details. We need 12 to 15 volunteers with a 2 meter handheld radio. A plug in handset is highly recommended. It gets pretty noisy around lots of people.

The headquarters will again be the office of Tax Advantage, same as last year. Tax Advantage is located at 356 Merchant Street in Vacaville.

Merriment on Main will be on December 2 from 3pm on when the police close the street until the end at 8:30pm.

We need radio amateurs to report at 5:30pm at the headquarters where you will be assigned to your duty station for the evening.

We will have two lost and found sites this year. Naturally we will have one at the Chamber of Commerce and we will have one at the Creekwalk as well.

The primary operating frequency will be 147.510 MHz, simplex, no PL. I'm pretty sure either Bob K6HEW or Chris KD7TQO will set up a cross band repeater from their vehicle for coverage over into Andrews Park. They can tell us about it when the time comes.

Our contact at *The Reporter* is again Shauna. She can be reached via email at nie@thereporter.com or her cell phone 707-209-5846.

Dress warmly and appropriate for the season. I always wear my red plaid Burberry scarf. We will all get our Security shirts as well.

Please remember to use proper radio procedures and be courteous at all times. It is critical that you know where Santa is located throughout the evening. Many children will ask you where they can find Santa as the night goes on. Trust me on this.

I will cover any other details at the club meeting as they are made available to me. This is a very fund event for everyone. Make this event and your Christmas Season will be set up the best you have ever had.

Club Christmas Party

Our W6VVR club Christmas Party is set for the second Wednesday in December which is December 10. The party will be at Hometown Buffet in Fairfield, same as last year. The party begins at 6pm.

Remember to bring raffle items as usual. No computer stuff. Keep it amateur radio related. \$10 is a good number to work with.

I look forward to seeing all of you there!

The Amateur Amateur: Thanks for the Megahertz!

By Gary Hoffman, KBOH
Contributing Editor
November 20, 2003

Life's been a little bumpy this month. On top of everything else I seem to have picked up a virus that makes my head feel like a ripe watermelon. (Don't worry. You can't catch it over the Internet.) I kept putting off doing my column, but a subject eluded me.

Looking around desperately, my bloodshot eyes rested on the calendar, which reminded me that Thanksgiving is just ahead. "Yeah, I'm sick, I've got sick computers at work, my head is so clogged that I can't think straight, and I haven't written my column. I should be *really* thankful," I thought, feeling dreadfully sorry for myself.

"You do have a lot for which you should be thankful," a little voice in my head piped up. "You should be *really* thankful for Amateur Radio."

For a moment I was simply stunned (I think they call this "the moment of inspiration). *The little voice was right!* Amateur Radio was one of the best things that ever happened to me. And so, appropriately, I dedicate this Thanksgiving column to Amateur Radio.

Whom should I thank first? Well, that's obvious. Every married man knows that he had better thank his wife first. In my case, my wife Nancy didn't just tolerate my hobby, she joined me in it. That's really saying something, because she was something of a technophobe when we started. Amateur Radio was her own way to build self-confidence.

I'm not sure how far I would have gotten in Amateur Radio without Nancy. I didn't really know how to study for the exams until she showed me. She also was my study partner through the various upgrades. That helped a lot. More recently, we've done a few of the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education courses together.

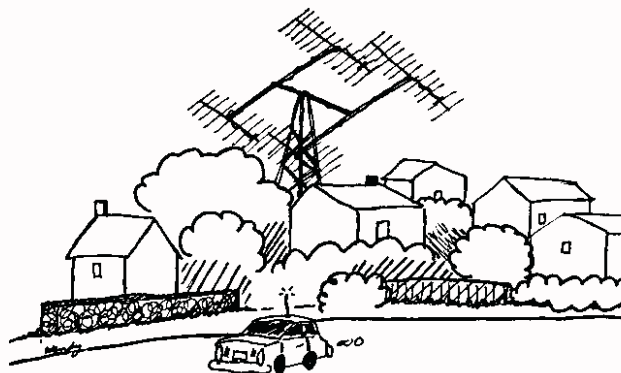
I could go on (and on). Nancy has been more than helpful and supportive, she's also kept me well-grounded. Many is the time

she's said, "Don't get on the roof unless I'm here" or "That's nice fan mail. Don't let it go to your head." Thank you, Babe, for everything.

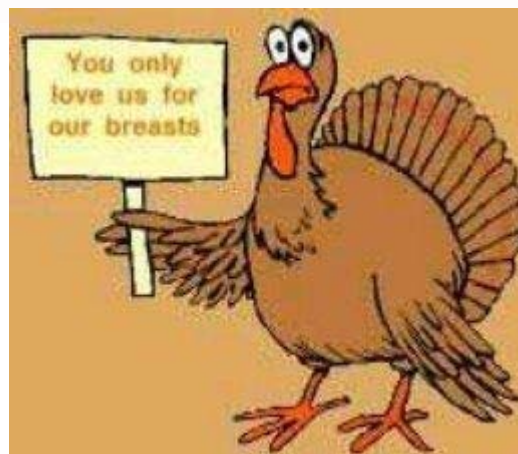
The second person I need to thank is Michael Redman, KA0YXU. Mike and I became acquainted many years ago because of our mutual interest in police scanners. In 1994 Mike offered a class to get a Technician license. He arranged for a volunteer examiner team to come on the last day of class to give exams. Nancy and I were in that first class and were two of Mike's first graduates. So in a very real sense, he introduced us to ham radio. He's brought many more people into the hobby since then.

There's more. Mike also talked me into becoming a VE, introduced me to emergency communication, and got me interested in teaching. For all that and more, thank you Mike.

The next person I should thank is Perry Joseph, KB0ZUZ. Perry edited the newsletter of our local police scanner club and published my Amateur Radio ramblings and foibles in its pages. I called my column *The Amateur Amateur*. Sound familiar? The *SABRE Newsletter* is where it all started, back in 1995. Thanks, Perry.



OK, FRED. I'M ON MAPLE STREET. NOW, WHICH ONE IS YOUR HOUSE?



PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB, INC.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Please Print & Fill in Completely

Dues are delinquent January 1st

| | |
|---|--|
| Name: _____ Call Sign _____ | MEMBER Dues ----- \$15.00 _____ |
| Street: _____ | Each Family Member -- \$ 2.00 _____ |
| City: _____ Zip: _____ | Student ----- \$ 5.00 _____ |
| Phone: (_____) _____ - _____ OK to Publish ?(_____) _____ | Repeater/Autopatch donation --- _____ |
| License Class: _____ ARRL Member ?(_____) _____ | Call/Name badge ----- \$10.00 _____ |
| E-Mail Address _____ | Optional ARRL membership |
| FAMILY Member (Spouse or Children) | ARRL dues ----- \$39.00 _____ |
| Name: _____ Call Sign _____ | ARRL dues (Senior) ---- \$36.00 _____ |
| License Class: _____ ARRL Member ?(_____) _____ | Senior is 65 yr or older with one time proof on age. |
| Name: _____ Call Sign _____ | Total ----- _____ |
| License Class: _____ ARRL Member ?(_____) _____ | Paid by CASH: _____ Check # _____ |

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