



VACAVILLE, CALIFORNIA

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB

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February 2009

Message from the President

By Mike Vieira W6MAV

Looks like March is coming in like a lion, weather wise that is. Lots of stuff coming up. M2 BBQ in Fresno is always a good time. There will be a lot of good stuff given away in the drawings; Bob K6HEW, Larry W6OMF and Tom N6AJR always make the trek south. Mark your calendars for this great event (03/21/2009).

My scheduled program did not gel liked I had hoped. The speaker never returned my messages. I guess he had better things to do. So Bob K6HEW has put together a fantastic program for our education and entertainment. Remember, we are always looking for a program. If anyone knows of someone who would be of interest, please let me know. I can always be contacted at w6mav@arrl.net

I also want to thank our ARRL East Bay Section Jim Latham, AF6AQ for stopping by for dinner prior to the meeting and for attending our meeting. It's always great to see Jim and listen to whatever news he bring to us from ARRL Headquarters.

Thanks also go out to Art Mayoff AB6HB/VE2AQV for presenting our program on digital television and how it's going to roll out into our homes this summer.

Everyone should at one time or another bring a friend to a meeting, just for fun. They may want to come back and be a part of our outstanding group.

That's all for now, see you at the Meeting, Board of Directors 7:00 PM /General 7:30 PM.

Remember, when everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane!

73, Mike W6MAV

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February Club Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by club president Mike Vieira W6MAV at 7:27pm local time.

The normal reports were reported such as the minutes from the January meeting, the Treasurer's report which indicated we're still phat with money in our club account. Both reports were passed with motions and seconds and unanimous approval by the board of directors and voting members.

Old Business—We picked up the discussion of supporting the club repeater and decided to send Skipp May WV6F a check for \$100.47 which it what was in the repeater fund. Motion made, seconded, and carried to approval.

New Business—Discussion about Field Day was initiated by Jerry Olive KD6WKY. Preliminary plans are forming to run a club station at City Hall Park setting up under the big shady redwood trees. A port-a-potty service will be researched by Mike Vieira W6MAV. It looks reasonable that we can operate well into the night this year without difficulty. More to follow in the next few months on this operation.

Visitor—We had one visitor Wayne Paul KI6TRL who is a full-timer in the California Army National Guard and new licensee. Wayne and Jerry had to be split up so the meeting could continue; they were talking shop and holding up the parade.

A quick presentation by Jerry KD6WKY on an article published in *QST* by a fellow State Farm Insurance agent about the does and don't about homeowner insurance and how it related to amateur radio at claim time.

The main program was presented by Art Mayoff, AB6HB and VE2QV respectively on Digital Television and the rollout of the new format in hour area. The band plan was very complicated and confusing, it was good to see someone that understands it.

The raffle drawing was won by Kim KI6JNX.

The meeting was closed at 9:14pm local time with a motion, second and a unanimous approval by the general membership.

Respectfully submitted for your approval .

Jerry Olive, KD6WKY Club Secretary

2009 ARRL International DX Contest

By Jerry Olive, KD6WKY

This contest consists of two parts, CW and Phone. The phone portion of the contest took place this past weekend, if you were on the air, you couldn't miss it, it was a mad house on the air as usual. Everybody that loves to do contesting was QRV all at the same time and in many cases on the same frequency.

I was pretty fortunate last year. I took first place in this contest for the Single Operator, Low Power category. In the CW portion of the contest I was the only station to submit a log to ARRL and in the Phone portion I was one of two stations to submit a log. My scores were pretty low, but high enough to win the wallpaper.

If you want to work DX, this is a good contest to get into. In my four hours of operation over the weekend I worked 54 different countries and several stations on two or more bands. Surprisingly I worked VP8KF Falkland Islands down in the South Atlantic on 20m, 15m, and 10m, all with only 100 watts power and a two element beam. John Wright VP8KF told me in a proper British voice that my signal was just above the noise on 10m but the band was pleasantly quiet.

Toward the end of the contest Sunday afternoon when I was finished washing cars, cutting grass, and home from a pre-season softball meeting I got back on the air for the last hour of the contest. I worked CT9L in the Madeira Islands off Portugal, DU1BP in The Philippines, and good old Jimmy BX5AA in Taiwan.

I'll bring my log to the club meeting for your review. It's pretty interesting to look over a contest log after the contest to see the trends and different stations worked.

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB—2009 ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Mike Vieira, W6MAV
Vice President: Open and taking resumes!
Secretary: Jerry Olive, KD6WKY
Treasurer: Bob Hewitt, W6HEW

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Director: Skip Lawson, AF6HC
Director: Chris Jones, KD7TQO
Director: Antonio Del Rio, N6ZGB
Director: Glen Mitchell KI6CJZ

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Net Control Chairperson: Open
Activities Chairperson: Board of Directors
Newsletter Editor: Jerry Olive, KD6WKY
Newsletter Publisher & Distributor: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

Contesting is only one way to work DX. The program this month is on how to find DX. It should be very interesting even if you don't get on HF yet.

Amateur Radio Quiz: The Yagi Antenna

By H. Ward Silver, N0AX
Contributing Editor
n0ax@arrl.net

March 02, 2009

- 1) A parasitic element...
 - a. is connected to the feed line.
 - b. is not connected to the feed line.
 - c. must be parallel to the feed line.
 - d. is only for mechanical balance.
- 2) Directors are (longer) (shorter) than reflectors.
- 3) Directors are (longer) (shorter) than the driven element.
- 4) Second directors are (longer) (shorter) than the first directors.
- 5) A Yagi's driven element generally has a feedpoint impedance (lower) (higher) than 50 ohms.
- 6) Which of following is NOT a useful transmission-line impedance matching design to transform the Yagi driven-element impedance to 50 ohms for coax feed?
 - a. Strip-line
 - b. Gamma match
 - c. Beta match
 - d. Hairpin
- 7) "Plumber's Delight" construction means that all elements are...
 - a. made from threaded pipe.
 - b. not insulated from the boom.
 - c. at the same RF potential.
 - d. trapped.
- 8) A "driven cell" refers to...
 - a. a loop used as the driven element.
 - b. two or more driven elements.
 - c. more than one Yagi on a single mast.
 - d. extra-strong rotator hardware.
- 9) Reflectors have self-resonant frequencies (higher) (lower) than that of the driven element.
- 10) Adding parasitic elements is done to improve the antenna's...
 - a. front-to-back ratio.

- c. both (a) and (b)
d. neither

- 11) The Yagi antenna was first described in...
a. 1926-28.
b. 1936.
c. 1946.
d. 1962.

- 12) The "2:1 Bandwidth" of a Yagi refers to the frequency range over which the antenna maintains a...
a. 2-to-1 SWR or less.
b. front-to-back ratio of at least 3 dB.
c. forward gain of at least 3 dB.
d. efficiency of 90 percent or greater.

- 13) A "quagi" is...
a. an array of four Yagis.
b. a Yagi with one or more quad-loop elements.
c. a quasi-Yagi design.
d. a lightweight Yagi.

- 14) "Tapered elements" are...
a. spaced closer together at one end of the antenna.
b. covered with insulating tape.
c. smaller in diameter at their tips than in their centers.
d. no longer in general use.

- 15) Increasing the number of elements in a Yagi (increases) (decreases) the antenna pattern beamwidth.

Bonus Question: Who was Dr Yagi's co-inventor of the antenna that is now only known by Yagi's name?

The answers can be found on page 5. Good luck!

Field Day Station Locator Service Returning for 2009

(Feb 23, 2009) -- First introduced in 2008, the ARRL's [Field Day Station Locator Service](#) was a popular addition to the Field Day toolbox. This service -- an interactive map that helps amateurs or those interested in Amateur Radio find a [Field Day](#) site near them -- is free to clubs or individuals who will be operating public Field Day stations. Stations can also be listed by state or province. If your group would like to be a part of the

THE VVRC WELCOMES YOU

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Wheelchair accessible

Station Locator Service, it's easy to get started -- just go to the Field Day Station Locator [Web site](#) and follow the instructions. ARRL Field Day is the most popular on-the-air operating event in Amateur Radio. On June 27-28, join tens of thousands of Amateur Radio operators as they gather for a public demonstration of our Service.

Hams in Australia Assist with Massive Brushfires

In the Australian state of Victoria, Amateur Radio operators have been activated to provide communications links into towns that have had their normal communications destroyed by the bushfires that have decimated the state. Members of the Wireless Institute Civil Emergency Network in Victoria ([WICEN \(Vic\)](#)) -- Australia's version of ARES® -- were activated on February 8, with members being deployed to areas with loss of power and other facilities.

According to the Wireless Institute of Australia ([WIA](#)) -- that country's [IARU](#) Member-Society -- authorities and resources in Victoria have been "stretched to the limit." WICEN has been on high alert since the fires started on January 28. On February 11, WICEN (Vic) Secretary Mark Dods, VK3XMU, said, "It now appears that WICEN's role in this emergency is going to be a long hard marathon over an extended period."

The fires -- some of which are believed to have been deliberately set, while at least one fire began due to a lightning strike -- have so far claimed 201 lives, including one firefighter; local police say they do not expect the death toll to go much higher. Covering more than 1100 square miles, the fires have destroyed more than 1800 homes; officials estimate at least 7500 people are now homeless due to the fires. Victoria Premier John Brumby, in [speaking about the brushfires](#), said, "Out there, it is hell on earth."

On February 12, Dods said that "WICEN was given the task of establishing a link between Narbethong and the Municipal Emergency Coordination Centre in Alexandra. Initially, the Narbethong-Alexandra link will be on HF. The two WICEN operators that were on standby for deployment to Buxton have been dispatched to Alexandra to join a column that will be

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

The W6VVR net call is Tuesday evenings at 7pm on the club repeater. All are invited to participate in this weekly meeting on the air. 73!

Additional local repeaters

WV6F 224.200(-) WV6F 440.025(+)

W6BRA Repeater 224.540 MHz, PL 118.8 Hz, net call
Wednesday evenings at 7pm except for club meeting nights.

moving down the Maroondah Highway to Narbethong this afternoon. An extra WICEN operator is being deployed to the Alexandra MECC to assist the operator already there with expected extra traffic from Narbethong. Three WICEN operators are now working 8 hour shifts at the Alexandra Incident Command Centre (ICC), operating CFA/DSE radios. We will be providing operators for this task until further notice."

Dods said hams would make "temporary repairs" to VK3RTN, the 6 meter repeater on Mt Gordon, making it usable until they can get and install a new repeater. The Mt Gordon repeater is being used as a link between Alexandra and Narbethong. The WICEN station in Narbethong closed Saturday, February 14. "The Alexandra WICEN station will continue to operate after the closure of Narbethong," Dods said. "Their role includes guiding relief operators into the town, maintaining an HF link to Melbourne and a listening watch. Operators in the Alexandra ICC have reported increased radio traffic overnight and emphasised the need for concise, prompt and accurate handling of the traffic despite the sometimes tense environment."

Dods recounted that there was what he called a "flurry of activity" on the evening of February 14: "WICEN received a request from [DSE](#) [Department of Sustainability and Environment] to provide operators at Woori Yallock ICC. We were asked to cover the night shift last night and the next four nights. Being a Saturday night, it was difficult to contact operators with many being not at home, and others having their mobile phones diverted to voice mail. Two operators agreed to be deployed at short notice, however. They travelled to Woori Yallock only to find that there had been an administrative foul-up and that they were not required. Those operators have returned home with my thanks and apologies. This false start at Woori Yallock does give us a 'heads up' that DSE and [CFA](#) [Country Fire Authority] resources may be beginning to stretch thin, and lead to more ICC deployments."

On February 17, Dods said that two WICEN operators will be going to "McAdam's Hill, east of Lake Mountain, to provide health and welfare communications for the firefighters at a Base Camp being set up there. Initially, the primary operating frequency will be 3.6 MHz, so there may well be a need for stations monitoring that frequency to relay traffic. Deployment of a portable 2m repeater to support the McAdam's Hill station is under consideration."

The WICEN HF Net continues to operate on 3.6 MHz at 1000 and 2130 hours (UTC + 11) daily. "As well as keeping a check on the welfare of operators in the field, the Net is being used to pass updated activation information, and also for amateurs in remote areas of the state to check their communications," Dods said. "It is reassuring to hear stations from all over the state and interstate on the Net, demonstrating that we can if necessary establish communications independent of hilltop infrastructure.

It has been very handy to have other amateurs monitoring 3.6 MHz when they can to relay when fading occurs. Many thanks to those operators who have relayed traffic so far."

Dennis Dura, K2DCD, ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager said: "The work the Australian hams have been doing and the issues WICEN have been facing are not unlike what ARES personnel encounter here. The long hours and duration of the disaster response and the dwindling availability of amateur volunteers take a toll. Yet Amateur Radio still is able to complete the mission. The flexibility we bring is key to meeting the emergency communications needs of those the amateur community serves. Our hearts go out to all those that have lost loved ones and whose lives have been forever changed by these fires. Our colleagues in WICEN make the Amateur Radio community proud in the work they are performing in these very difficult conditions."



Jim Smith, VK9NS (SK)

Jim Smith, VK9NS (ex-P29JS), of Norfolk Island, Australia, passed away Tuesday, February 10, after a short illness. He was 80. A noted DXer and ARRL member, Smith was #81 on the Islands on the Air ([IOTA](#)) Honour Roll.

According to *The Daily DX* Editor Bernie McClenney, W3UR, Smith was first licensed in 1947 as VS1BQ in Singapore: "Through the years, Jim operated as CAR (VU4 Nicobar), VS1BQ, DL2TH, HZ1AB, MP4BER, 9V1PR, P29JS, VR4BJ, H44BJ, G3HSR, C21AA, T3KJ, T3AJ, VK9YS, VK9XS, VK9NS, VK0JS/VK9N, 9M8JS, VK0JS, ZL0AAB, ZM7JS, ZL1BUN, T30JS, T1JS, T32JS, T33JS, A35MR, A51JS, S21U, WR1Z, WR1Z/KH9, S21ZA, VK9WW, A35MR/p, A51MOC, VU2JBS, NO1Z/KH1, VK9WW, WR1Z/KH8, H40AB and A52JS, just to name a few." Smith was originally from Leith, Edinburgh, Scotland.

(continued on page five, second column)

Answers:

- 1. b -- The currents in a parasitic element are created by the field from the driven element. No direct connection to the feed line is needed.
- 2. shorter
- 3. shorter
- 4. shorter
- 5. lower -- A typical Yagi's feedpoint impedance is in the neighborhood of 20 ohms.
- 6. a -- The gamma, beta, and hairpin (another name for the beta match) are all widely used to connect a 50 ohm feed line to a Yagi driven element.
- 7. b -- This type of construction allows all-metal mounting hardware, simplifying construction and placing all of the antenna at the same dc potential for grounding.
- 8. b -- Using multiple driven elements improves the feedpoint impedance stability over the designed frequency range.
- 9. lower
- 10. c -- Both gain and rejection of signals to the rear is improved by proper placement of parasitic elements.
- 11. a -- The antennas were described in the Japanese IEE journals in 1926 and 1927, while the English papers were published in the IRE journal in 1928.
- 12. a -- This is sometimes referred to as "SWR bandwidth."
- 13. b -- The broader frequency vs impedance characteristics of the loop help increase the SWR bandwidth of the antenna.
- 14. c -- Tapering reduces antenna weight and wind load.
- 15. decreases -- An antenna with more elements generally has a narrower or sharper radiation pattern.

Bonus - Dr Uda was the co-inventor of the "Yagi-Uda Array," known today by the simpler name.

McClenny said that in 1980, Smith founded the Heard Island DX Association ([HIDXA](#)). Three years later, along with wife Kirsti, VK9NL, Smith put the rare VK0/H on the air as VK0NS and VK0NL. "Over the years, Jim put on several all time new countries -- as well as many rare ones -- from the Pacific and Asia," McClenny said. "In fact, he took part in the regulations for Amateur Radio in several DXCC entities. When not out on DXpeditions, Jim could usually be found on 14.222 MHz."

Mike Tessmer, K9NW/VK9NW, who visited Norfolk Island for a week in November 2004, remembered Smith fondly on the Society of Midwest Contesters' e-mail reflector: "I spent three wonderful afternoons at Jim and Kirsti's house having tea -- coffee in my case -- and discussing all things DX. Jim showed me the old Collins gear he was restoring. I even picked up a few QSL cards from some of his past DXpeditions. Great memories!"

Calling him "a serious DXer," McClenny said Smith worked all countries on SSB, Mixed and only missing one on CW. In April 1986 Jim was inducted into the CQ DX Hall of Fame.

Editors Note—I worked Jim twice in June 2007, he QSL'd Norfolk Island for me quickly. QSO's were very conversational.



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-----\$37.00 _____
Name: _____ Call Sign _____	ARRL dues (Senior) -----\$34.00 _____
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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