

VACAVILLE, CALIFORNIA

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB

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September 2009

President's Message

Well summer is just about over and we are getting ready for our September meeting. Not much has been happening for the past 2 months. The last time we met was for the pizza party at Round Table, which all had an excellent time.

Saturday the 5th of September was the annual W6OMF Labor Day Weekend swap meet/testing session/BBQ. This is always well attended by Hams far and wide.

The October meeting will be the nomination of new officers. So if you do not want to be the President, you better show up. We have a habit of nominating and electing members who "no show".

Believe it or not Merriment on Main is almost upon us. Just saw an article in the Vacaville Reporter announcing the event.

We are in need of 2 net control operators for the weekly net, the first and second Tuesdays of the month. Just shoot me an email at w6mav@arrl.net

That's about it for now; see everyone on Wednesday for the meeting.

Thanks,

Mike W6MAV

Field Day 2009

Field Day 2009 began with an auspicious feeling of anticipation in the air with the erection of the antennas Friday afternoon and the gathering of club radio amateurs Saturday morning with all the parts necessary to put W6VVR on the air as a club station with one radio or 1A classification.

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W6VVR went QRV at 1835 UTC with a nice contact on 20m phone with KH7B in Hawaii off the back of the beam antenna that was pointed east. Saturday afternoon stations were worked generally west of the Rockies with some nice contacts in the northeast and midwestern states. From reviewing the log we had a nice steady pace of contacts all afternoon.

Overall we worked 190 other stations on eight bands in about 24 hours for a claimed score of 450 points. The over achiever station again this year was The National Press Radio Club W3AO in Maryland with a 20A station. Everybody else ran from one to about eight radios in their Field Day operation. My old radio club W6LIE in Bakersfield ran a 7A station.

Chris Jones KD7TQO tried and tried to work through the Oscar AO-51 satellite but there was no joy. We could hear lots of other stations working the bird but just could bring the pile up. Better luck next year Chris, it was sure fun watching you at work.

Chris' girlfriend Mandy did a find job at the radio and logged over 30 contacts for the club. Nice work Mandy.

We had a nice group of operators this year taking turns logging and operating in the shade of the aluminum hut and comfort of the picnic table at Larry and Sue Hogue's QTH.

A special thank you to **Sue Hogue K6SUE** for the preparation and service of a great meal Saturday night. The company was good the food was great!

Thanks to **Larry Hogue W6OMF** for arranging the use of his property and out buildings as support structures for our antennas.

Now we have a base score and experience to build on for 2010 when the sunspot cycle is a bit better. Until Field Day 2010, 73!

California QSO Party 2009

The 44th running of CQP takes place October 3-4, 2009 from 1600 UTC Oct 3 to 2200 UTC Oct 4.

If you are at all interested in having some HF fun on a contest where everybody comes to you, this is it! See Tom N6AJR for details and an operating station if you do not have one to use of your own.

Pacificon 2009

The Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club has decided not to sponsor the Pacificon Convention this year. Pacificon 2009, the annual ARRL Pacific Division Convention, will be held at Emcommwest, on May 1-3, 2009, at the Circus Circus Hotel in Reno, Nevada. Go to <http://www.pacificon.org> for registration details.

Did You Know?

The FGB fuses are glass fuses similar to the AGC style fuses, but the size is slightly different:

FGB: 6.0 mm x 30 mm (15/64" x 1-23/128")

AGC: 6.3 mm x 32 mm (1/4" x 1-1/4")

Those I have seen are standard blow.

You could get along with AGCs as replacements. Don't be confused.

KD6WKY on the Air!

I was adding up the QSO's from June 1 through September 6 and noticed it is an even 100 contacts.

Lots of DX into the Pacific and EU, not so much into SA or Africa.

Several stations operated this summer from inside the Arctic Circle in Alaska and Canada. Look for a DXpedition to Midway Island this month!

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 W6JLX

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Net Control Chairperson: Open

Activities Chairperson: Board of Directors

Newsletter Editor: Jerry Olive, KD6WKY

Newsletter Publisher & Distributor: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

Amateur Radio Quiz: What Kind of Tool Am I?

By H. Ward Silver, N0AX

ARRL Contributing Editor

- 1) Which tool is used to trim wire leads flush with a circuit board?
 - a. shear
 - b. side cutters
 - c. gas pliers
 - d. compound snips
- 2) Which is most likely to have a "T handle"?
 - a. soldering iron
 - b. crimping tool
 - c. reamer
 - d. flat file
- 3) Which type of tool family has a "Double D" member?
 - a. punches
 - b. drills
 - c. saws
 - d. calipers
- 4) What type of holes does a "fly cutter" cut?
 - a. circles
 - b. squares
 - c. rectangles
 - d. irregular
- 5) True or False?
 - T F A tap puts threads in a hole while a die puts threads on a rod.
 - T F The second number in a screw size (i.e. 6-32) represents body size.
 - T F The higher a drill's number, the smaller the hole it drills.
 - T F It is desirable for a drill bit to walk.
 - T F Chips and curls are created by rip saws.
- 6) Which solder alloy is the easiest to melt? (%Sn:%Pb)
 - a. 60:40
 - b. 50:50
 - c. Silver-Solder
 - d. 63:37
- 7) What does a bending brake do?
 - a. Curves electrical conduit without crimping it.
 - b. Removes material from the inside of square holes.
 - c. Bends sheet metal precisely.
 - d. Holds the workpiece for milling.
- 8) What does a nibbling tool nibble?
 - a. wire insulation
 - b. coax braid
 - c. sheet metal
 - d. finger stock

9) The material left around the edges of a hole after drilling is called a _____.

- frass
- burr
- kerf
- dross

10) Which of these is *supposed* to be used to poke holes in things?

- nail set
- thread chaser
- awl
- Phillips screwdriver

11) Which of the following is *not* a type of screwdriver bit?

- pan
- torx
- allen
- spline

12. Rank these measuring tools in order of most precise to least precise:

- calipers
- micrometer
- tape
- rule

Bonus: What tool is also the name of a popular antenna and why?

Answers

- b -- These have cutting edges on the side of the jaws to slide along a surface as they cut.
- c -- The T-handled reamer is used to enlarge holes by hand.
- a -- A double-D punch creates a round hole with two flat sides.
- a -- The fly cutter is used to cut large-diameter circular holes in sheet metal.
- T; F (it represents threads per inch; T; F (walking means the bit is moving sideways; F (these are the material removed by drilling.)
- d -- This mix of tin (Sn) and lead (Pb) melts at the lowest temperature.
- c -- Built-in clamps hold the metal while forms shape the bend.
- c -- A nibbling tool removes small bits of sheet metal to form a non-circular hole.
- b -- The burr is then removed with a countersink, a deburring tool, or by filing or scraping.
- c -- Yes, all of them *can* be used to poke holes in things, but the awl is the *proper* tool to use.
- a -- Pan (as in "pan-head" is a type of screw head, not the

shape of the bit used to turn it.
12) -- micrometer, calipers, rule, tape (with few exceptions).

Bonus: The variable-length mobile "screwdriver antenna" is so named because the original prototypes used dc motors from electric screwdrivers to adjust the length of the antenna's whip.

K4M—Midway Island DXpedition

Press Release Number 6 August 22, 2009

The K4M team has passed two important milestones this week. First we are pleased to present our transportation to Midway on October 9th 2009. The team has chartered the G1 with the call-sign N8E as shown below (picture taken on Palmyra).



Secondly, all radios, computers, antennas, coax, and the rest of the tons of gear have left Hawaii on a supply ship to Midway and will wait for the team there. Fundraising continues on our website, www.midway2009.com . If you haven't visited it in a while stop by and help support our effort. All pre expedition contributors who are on LOTW will receive their confirmations within a week of the end of the DXpedition.

Editors Note—A few years ago the DXpedition to Kure Atoll K7C used small ships for both cargo and personnel. I've met several members of that DXpedition who told me the ride was awful. This group decided to fly. Smart move.

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.

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

Geomagnetic Mega-Storm

From Spaceweather.com

On Sept. 2nd, a billion-ton coronal mass ejection (CME) slammed into Earth's magnetic field. Campers in the Rocky Mountains woke up in the middle of the night, thinking that the glow they saw was sunrise. No, it was the Northern Lights. People in Cuba read their morning paper by the red illumination of aurora borealis. Earth was peppered by particles so energetic, they altered the chemistry of polar ice.

Hard to believe? It really happened--exactly 150 years ago. This map shows where auroras were sighted in the early hours of Sept. 2, 1859

As the day unfolded, the gathering storm electrified telegraph lines, shocking technicians and setting their telegraph papers on fire. The "Victorian Internet" was knocked offline. Magnetometers around the world recorded strong disturbances in the planetary magnetic field for more than a week.

The cause of all this was an extraordinary solar flare witnessed the day before by British astronomer Richard Carrington. His sighting marked the discovery of solar flares and foreshadowed a new field of study: space weather. According to the National Academy of Sciences, if a similar flare occurred today, it would cause \$1 to 2 trillion in damage to society's high-tech infrastructure and require four to ten years for complete recovery.

A repeat of the Carrington Event seems unlikely from our low vantage in a deep solar minimum--but don't let the quiet fool you. Strong flares can occur even during weak solar cycles. Indeed, the Carrington flare itself occurred during a relatively weak cycle similar to the one expected to peak in 2012-2013. Could it happen again?

KRKO radio towers toppled; eco-terrorism feared

SNOHOMISH WA, USA – Two controversial radio towers belonging to Everett radio station KRKO were toppled early this morning.

Somebody left a sign at the scene that may indicate the work of eco-terrorists.

KRKO General Manager Andy Skotdal said the sign says "ELF" -- the acronym for Earth Liberation Front -- but he added that doesn't mean the group is responsible.

Snohomish County sheriff's officials refused to confirm there was a sign found, saying evidence at the scene will be important in the investigation, spokeswoman Rebecca Hover said....

Skotdal said he is offering a \$25,000 reward to try to catch the people who knocked down his towers.

"We'll use our airwaves to do it too," he said.

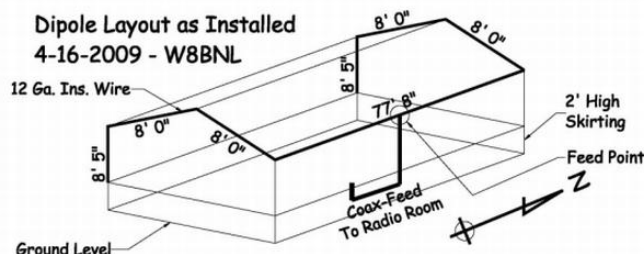
About half a dozen FBI agents were on the scene this morning.

Living in an HOA

By Tom Garrisi W8BNL

Live in a "Mobile Home Community" (I guess if they called it a Trailer Park, they couldn't charge as much for lot rent.) Anyway, they got down-right nasty with me last year when I tried to put up an Inverted Vee antenna over my trailer with a pole at the front and back and a higher one in the middle. I guess some neighbor said it made my trailer look like a sailboat and then there was some discussion that went like, "Well, didn't you read the community Rule Book?" - at that point I knew there was no sense in protesting...

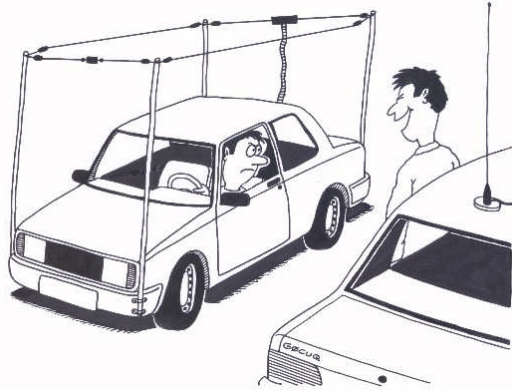
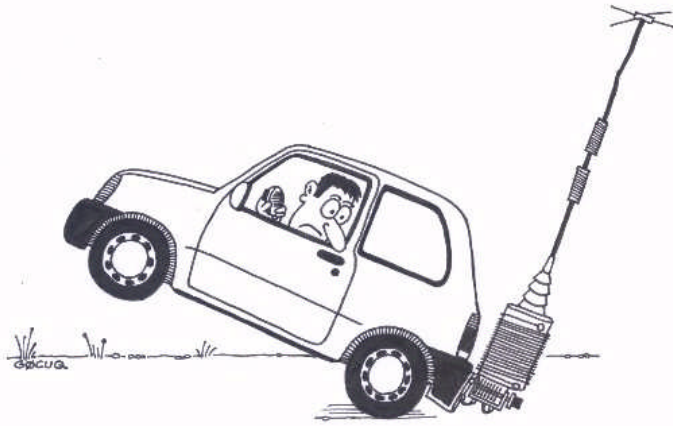
Editor's Note—This is a great article for anyone that lives in an antenna restricted community. If you can't fight them work around them.



...I just knew that there must be more I could do and still keep things "Out of Sight" from the "Mobile Home Community" do-gooders. So back to the drawing board and internet I went in search of a better solution. I came across an article about a guy who hid wire under the edge of his mobile home skirting and up each corner and across the top of the vinyl siding. His antenna was used as a long random wire and he did a lot of CW mostly QRP. Being the "Side Band Fan" that I am, I wanted something that would cover the phone portions of the bands and hopefully do a fairly good job of it. Since my mobile home is fabricated with vinyl siding and a wood/shingle roof, I decided to elaborate on the QRP antenna I read about on the internet. My first attempt was based upon another concept I read about called a "Bent Dipole". Now mind you, whatever I came up with had to be "nearly" invisible so nothing up in the air. I measured out the wire needed and then placed an 80 Meter Bent Dipole around the perimeter of my roof with the wire tucked about 3/4" under the edge of the shingles. It looked sort of like this.

This worked (sort of) and I was definitely not impressed with the performance. The peak of the roof is about 15 feet and the long edges of the roof are at about 12 feet. So back to the drawing board I went. The perimeter of the roof was too short for a full size 80 Meter Loop so I fabricated some coils to add some "electrical length" to the loop. I used the "Rule of thumb" that it is a 2:1 ratio for the amount of wire in a coil. In other words - 100 feet of wire wound around a "coil form" will equal 50 feet of electrical length.

Editor's Note—No need for politics, right?



How not to go mobile.



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 _____
 Street: _____
 City: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: (_____) _____ - _____ OK to Publish ?(_____)
 License Class: _____ ARRL Member ?(_____)
 E-Mail Address _____
FAMILY Member (Spouse or Children)
 Name: _____ Call Sign _____
 License Class: _____ ARRL Member ?(_____)
 Name: _____ Call Sign _____
 License Class: _____ ARRL Member ?(_____)
 Name: _____ Call Sign _____
 License Class: _____ ARRL Member ?(_____)

MEMBER Dues -----\$15.00 _____
 Each Family Member ---\$ 2.00 _____
 Student -----\$ 5.00 _____
 Repeater/Autopatch donation--- _____
 Call/Name badge -----\$10.00 _____
 Optional ARRL membership
 ARRL dues-----\$37.00 _____
 ARRL dues (Senior) -----\$34.00 _____
 Senior is 65 yr or older with one time
 proof on age.
 Total----- _____
 Paid by CASH: ____ Check # _____

Mail to : Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143