

VACAVILLE, CALIFORNIA

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB

REPEATER
REPEATER
REPEATER
REPEATER
REPEATER
REPEATER
REPEATER
REPEATER

October 2009

President's Message

Happy October to all, hope everyone is avoiding the H1N1 virus that is spreading quickly. If you've had the swine flu during the 1957 or the 1976 epidemic you should be all right. Make sure you get the seasonal vaccine this year to avoid getting the rest of us sick at the meeting Wednesday 10/14/2009 (business @ 7:00 general @ 7:30). I'll make sure I have the key this time.

We are still looking for a couple of members to host the W6VVR Net the first and second Tuesdays of the month. If you are interested please let me know at the meeting Wednesday and we'll give you a script and a roster.

Merriment on Main Street is coming soon, looks like the 1st of December. We shall have further info on this event as it becomes available.

Wednesday is the nominations for new officers, if you do not wish to be selected you need to attend the meeting. I have nominated myself as the "official club member" this year.

Anyway see you all Wednesday night,

Mike W6MAV

KJ6ABC is QRV for the First Time

By Jerry Olive KD6WKY

The first weekend of October is the time slot for the California QSO Party. CQP is by far the largest state QSO party each year and starts the contest season off with a bang. Hundreds of radio amateurs from across North America and

IN THIS ISSUE

Message from the President.....	1
KJ6ABC is on the Air!.....	1
Nominations.....	2
Merriment on Main.....	2
CA Firm Fined \$4,000.....	2
K4M.....	4
Columbus Antennas.....	4
Kartoon Korner.....	5
Membership Application.....	5

around the world participate in this contest. It's well run by a group of dedicated Northern California Contest Club members with many hours of preparation and follow up after the contest.

This year Ralph Jones KA6FDI and I decided to work another county expedition operation. We chose Santa Barbara County because very few stations were active in SBC last year. One of the goals of the contest is to have stations on the air in each of the 58 counties in California. We thought we'd be pretty popular since few people indicated they'd be QRV from SBC. We were right.

Our QTH was located in the Central California foothills between the ocean and Santa Maria at 1,600 MSL. The location was one hour west of Santa Maria, through three locked gates and two dirt trails.

We used the KLMM 94.1 FM transmitter site which Ralph happens to maintain for the station. We used the tower as a support for two of the three antennas we used.

Ralph climbed the tower to the 40' level securing a wooden beam with a pulley on each end so we could raise and lower our dipoles with easy. We used a Carolina Windom 80m dipole, a multi-band dipole, and a Buddipole antenna which was at ground level.

We ran a multi-single class operation; two operators, one radio, low power. Our set up included an EZ-Up tent tightly secured on all four sides, a laptop computer for logging, and a Kenwood TS-570D HF Transceiver.

We brought plenty of creature comforts. Mr. Coffee, Microwave, cots, Coleman stove, cooler, blankets, and sleeping bags and a very nice menu of camping food. We had commercial power so it was easy to do.

The contest started at 1600 UTC on Saturday morning. Ten minutes prior to the contest we lost power. Not having a generator with us, I continued with position improvement while Ralph got on the horn with PG&E about the outage. The radio station had a two hour battery back up transmitting at 285 watts.

About Noon local time we got power back and went QRV, three hours into the contest. I started out working 20m CW and immediately started lining up QSO's along the NE seaboard beginning with Maine. Hawaii jumped in there quickly too. So we had contact 3,000 miles to the NE and 3,000 to the SW within 10 minutes.

I worked CW mostly, Ralph worked SSB mostly. We took turns in the operating chair for about 90 minutes at a time.

We worked 20m and 15m all afternoon, nothing heard on 10m all weekend. About 4:00pm local time we dropped down to the 40m band and stayed there for several hours never waiting very long to work another station. Our call was "CQ Contest de KJ6ABC."

About 10:00pm with a 35 MPH wind from the WNW and a 40 degree temperature (Wind Chill Factor 27°) Ralph mummied up with a blue face mask and I broke out my sleeping bag wrapping in it like a Snuggly while operating. We added extra tarps to two side of the tent to block with wind. We stayed on the air on 80m until nobody was out there to talk to.

Sometime after midnight we set up cots inside the radio transmitter block house next to the transmitter which generated some heat. The block house was a nice toasty 59° and pretty quiet compared to the wind howling outside popping the walls of the tent back and forth.

At 6:30am after a cup of hot black coffee, I was QRV on 40m CW and immediately started working JA's that were in the contest. I worked 40m for a couple of hours most with stations in the Midwest and west of the Rockies.

About 8:30am the sun was up and the location was warming up a bit. All morning until about noon, Ralph and I switched operating back and forth about every hour. While not operating we'd sleep more in the warm sun.

We operated until the end of the contest at 3:00pm local Sunday afternoon. The tear down took about twice as long as usual, the wind made everything more difficult. Safety was always our main focus. Hell, you'd bleed out in a place like that before anyone could get to you.

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

We got back to Santa Maria about 6:00pm where Ralph and I parted company. Ralph was headed south to Santa Barbara for the night, I was staying in Santa Maria for the night then home the following morning after a stop in Santa Clara to see a client.

Our results were as follows:

158 phone, 182 CW, 862 points, 48 multipliers, for a claimed score of 41,376 as a county expedition. We missed RI, UT, MN, IA, SD, AK, and four provinces in Canada. Not bad.

From Radio Suisun City, Tom Lish N6AJR got a clean sweep...all 50 states and eight contest provinces.

In 2010 we plan to do another county expedition to neighboring Yolo County. We'll be setting up in a prune orchard a few miles west of Winters, CA. Yolo County barely got on the air this year. Yolo and Lake counties seem to always have difficulty being QRV through the 30 hour contest. It's close to home for me this time, and the site location is good. I already have permission from the owner.

More to follow but if you're interested in working a shift, we can work it out. More to follow in about 10 months!

Nominations for Club Officers

October is the nomination month for club officers. The vote takes place in November. Think about volunteering guys. We need lots of help to make this club work well. It doesn't happen all by itself. We will be soliciting nominations for the following offices: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Board of Directors.

2009 Merriment on Main

Save the date! Tuesday, December 1, 2009 is the Merriment on Main event in downtown Vacaville. Volunteers are needed to support communications efforts of the event. More about this at the club meeting this month.

California Firm Fined \$4000 for Operating on Amateur Frequencies

On September 28, the FCC issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL) to a California firm that the Commission maintains was using amateur frequencies to conduct business. According to the Commission, Shimmick Construction Company Inc/Obayashi Corporation, Joint Venture ("Shimmick-Obayashi") -- licensees of stations WQER756, WQEN793, WQJI360 and WQKG818 -- apparently repeatedly violated

violated [Section 1.903\(a\)](#) of the Commission's Rules "by failing to operate only in accordance with the rules applicable to their particular service as set forth in the Commission's Rules and with a valid authorization granted by the Commission."

Background

On two separate occasions in May 2009, the FCC's Los Angeles office received complaints that a concrete delivery company was operating numerous mobile stations in Yorba Linda, California, on 146.025 MHz, a frequency allocated exclusively to the Amateur Radio Service.

On May 26, 2009, an agent from the Los Angeles office used radio direction finding techniques to locate transmissions on 146.025 MHz from a construction site in Yorba Linda California; the transmissions were not identified by call sign. "The transmissions monitored by the Los Angeles agent related to mixing and delivery of concrete on the construction site," the NAL stated. "The Los Angeles agent then viewed the construction site and correlated the movement of concrete trucks with associated radio transmissions on 146.025 MHz."

The next day -- May 27 -- the same agent again used radio direction finding techniques to "positively locate" the source of transmissions on 146.025 MHz to the construction site. The Los Angeles agent visited the site and spoke with the Shimmick-Obayashi supervisor of the on-site concrete plant, and according to the NAL, allowed the Los Angeles agent to inspect several of the handheld radios in use at the site. "The Los Angeles agent confirmed that the frequency 146.025 MHz was programmed into frequency selector position #5 on numerous Motorola model CP200 portable transceivers that were being used to coordinate construction operations throughout the site," the NAL stated. "The Shimmick-Obayashi construction supervisor told the Los Angeles agent that he did not know anything about a license for the radios, but that he would immediately stop using the Amateur Radio Service frequency programmed in position #5 on the Motorola CP200 transceivers."

On May 28, the Los Angeles agent researched the Commission's records and determined that the two companies that had formed the joint venture Shimmick-Obayashi -- Shimmick Construction Inc and Obayashi Corporation -- were both Commission licensees. Shimmick Construction, Inc holds Industrial Radio Service licenses WQJ1360 and WQKG818 that authorize operations nationwide, including in Yorba Linda, California, but neither of these licenses authorize use of 146.025 MHz. Obayashi Corporation holds Industrial Radio Service licenses WQER756 and WQEN793, but neither of these licenses authorizes use of 146.025 MHz. The research also revealed that the Shimmick-Obayashi joint venture, as an entity, did not hold any Commission licenses.

Actions

Section 503(b) of the [Communications Act of 1934, as amended](#), provides that any person who willfully or repeatedly fails to comply substantially with the terms and conditions of any license or willfully or repeatedly fails to comply with any of the provisions of the Communications Act or of any rule, regulation or order issued by the Commission shall be liable for a forfeiture penalty. According to the FCC, the term "willful" as used in Section 503(b) has been interpreted to mean simply that the acts or omissions are committed knowingly. The term "repeated" means the commission or omission of such act more than once or for more than one day.

[Section 1.903\(a\)](#) of the Commission's Rules requires that stations in the Wireless Radio Services must be used and operated only in accordance with the rules applicable to their particular service, and with a valid authorization granted by the Commission. According to the FCC, on May 26 and 27, 2009, a Los Angeles agent located transmissions from Shimmick-Obayashi on 146.025 MHz emanating from mobile users at a construction site in Yorba Linda, California. At the time of the investigation, neither Shimmick-Obayashi, nor the individual companies that made up the joint venture, was authorized to operate on 146.025 MHz. The violation occurred for more than one day, therefore, it was repeated.

In accordance with *The Commission's Forfeiture Policy Statement and Amendment of Section 1.80 of the Rules to Incorporate the Forfeiture Guidelines* and [Section 1.80 of the Commission's Rules](#), the Commission concluded that the base forfeiture amount for use of an unauthorized frequency is \$4000. The Commission will not consider reducing or canceling a forfeiture in response to a claim of inability to pay unless the Shimmick-Obayashi submits federal tax returns for the most recent three-year period, financial statements prepared according to generally accepted accounting practices or some other reliable and objective documentation that accurately reflects Shimmick-Obayashi's current financial status.

ARRL Official Observers

Although they weren't mentioned in the NAL, several ARRL Official Observers (OOs) assisted ARRL Orange Section Official Observer Coordinator Dan Welch, W6DFW, in responding to the complaint; local amateurs Richard Clark, N6UZS, and Richard Saunders, K6RBS, did preliminary work, as well. Welch then coordinated the DFing efforts -- aided by

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

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.

Bob Thornburg, WB6JPI -- and the information gathered was passed on to the local FCC office, enabling them to promptly respond to the complaint. Welch told the ARRL that the local FCC office routinely supports the efforts of the Official Observers and the amateur community in resolving this type of complaint, and their follow-up is very much appreciated by them.

K6M Midway Island Update

21:00 UTC 11 October

Last night (as many of you know who watched N8E on flightaware.com) ended after only 1 hour in failure.

However, the flight last night was also a success in ruling out 7 swapped parts as not being the failure point. However they still didn't fix the problem. This morning they replaced the last of the possible parts.

We have just returned from the hanger after visiting with the mechanics, who are tired of seeing our faces and are telling us so! They are pretty sure (yeah we heard that before) that they now have isolated the leaking part. They have replaced it and are about to run up the engine again. Following protocol they should be in the air within an hour to begin their test flight. Our destination is over open ocean and there are no emergency landing strips along the way. They can not take us to Midway until they know they can fly the distance without issue. We are also still frantically searching for alternatives, but there are no planes on Midway certified to fly there by F & W. There is a possible plane on the way to Hawaii from Las Vegas and we are pursuing this.

This is rare for a reason.

The minute we know this test flight is a success we will update the website and we are in a standby position. Wish us luck.

Don Greenbaum

Columbus Antennas to Take to the Skies

By Rosalie White, K1STO

k1sto@arrl.org

October 05, 2009

Something's always new with [ARRISS](#), the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ISS) program. ARISS volunteers, typical of many hams, thrive on working with challenging projects, which result in new opportunities for all hams. Right now, two projects are on the front burner.

In February 2008, the new Columbus module built by the European Space Agency (ESA) was attached to the Interna-

tional Space Station (ISS). When ESA first announced intentions for the module a number of years ago, the ARISS International team began planning how to get ham radio integrated. While ESA's blueprints were being drawn, hams made serious inquiries and gave presentations, and eventually won approval to have antenna feed-through connectors added to the module.

Now fast-forward to 2009.

Last month wide-area detection receivers destined for Columbus arrived in at the station aboard Japan's new H-II Transfer Vehicle. The experimental receivers will be used to track vessels on the world's oceans. The ships must carry Automatic Identification System (AIS) transponders that transmit navigation and ship identification data.

The receivers only need antennas to make them fully operational, and those will be traveling to the ISS via the space shuttle -- along with Amateur Radio antennas for the Columbus module.

Antennas Clear Customs

In early September, the ham antennas were packaged up for shipment from Europe to the US after having passed their space certification tests. Lou McFadin, W5DID, a member of the AMSAT Board of Directors and a key volunteer for ARISS, kept tabs on the antennas as they cleared US Customs. The shipment of antennas moved on to Kennedy Space Center (KSC). Lou, who lives in Florida, drove to the Cape on September 10 to supervise the unpacking of the antennas.

The hardware will head to the ISS on the currently scheduled mid-November launch of space shuttle mission STS-129. Lou showed the astronauts the best ways for them to safely unpack and assemble the antennas and associated cables once they and the hardware reach the ISS. They reviewed how to maneuver and install the antennas during the spacewalk. Lou also oversaw the re-packing of the antennas and the onboard flight kit that accompanies shipments going to the ISS. The Europeans who designed and built the AIS antennas created a special decal for their team, and printed a supply that may be included in the flight kit. (Documents await approval for the decals' trip to space.) Because AMSAT tested the antennas, the AMSAT logo is part of the decal's design; it honors the many volunteers who contributed work in various capacities.

Astronauts Do Antenna Work!

Astronauts will install and deploy our ARISS antennas during the second spacewalk of STS-129. The ham team will monitor the spacewalk activity via a NASA real-time teleconference call.

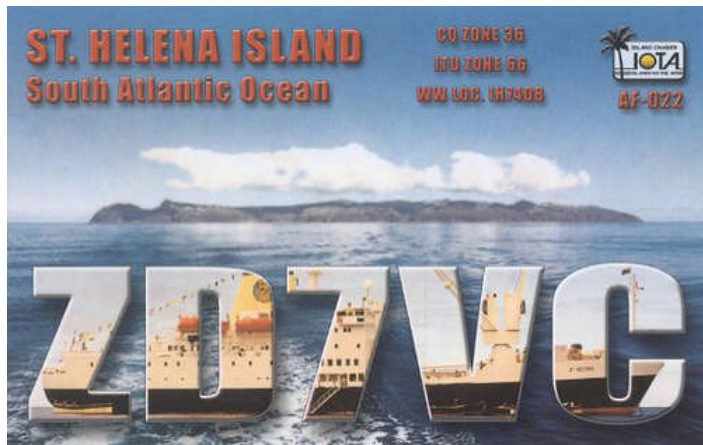
The new antennas will increase opportunities for the many hams who covet making contacts with astronauts and cosmonauts. Frequencies available for transmission to and from Columbus will be 2 meters, 70 centimeters, L-band and S-band. To start, the two Ericsson radios (2 meters and 70 centimeters) that are already on the ISS (but seldom used) will be moved and

installed in Columbus.

There's More...

If you think this ambitious project is the only thing ARISS toils over, in addition to its very busy educational activities, think again. Another big project is ARISSat-1. (It deserves a whole story of its own.) Lou was assigned by AMSAT as project manager, and Gould Smith, WA4SXM, another of AMSAT's Board of Directors, was named project engineer after AMSAT proposed to the ARISS International Team that it could take on leadership of the final stages (funding, completion, and delivery) of ARISSat-1. You can see a preview of the satellite on the [AMSAT-NA Web site](#). Click on: New drawings of ARISSat-1 View.

For ARISS educational projects, it takes more than a village. It takes tens of hundreds of volunteers with varied skills representing a large number of organizations. The volunteers spend a great deal of time working on thousands of details. A heart-felt thank you from the ham community goes to everyone on the various ARISS-related teams! – *Rosalie White, K1STO*



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 # _____

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