



Vaca Radio Club, Inc.

P.O. Box 417405
Sacramento, Ca. 95841-7405

ARRL
NARCC

2st Quarter Activities

SUN APR 30 - REGULAR MEETING - 4 PM
dinner follows. - see column to right ----->
WED MAY 17 - BOARD MEETING
SAT MAY 20 - DAVIS DOUBLE CENTURY
WED JUN 21 - BOARD MEETING
JUN 24-25 - WESTERN STATES RUN - Public Service
SUN JUL 9 - REGULAR MEETING
JUL 15-16 - TEVIS CUP RIDE - Public Service
JULY 21-23 - ANNUAL CAMPOUT - Buck's Lake - Contact WA6ESA.

Tech report.

Greetings,
Since the last newsletter several things have happened at the "Hill". The new 2 meter receiver arrived and the whole repeater was repackaged in a new cabinet. The old 450 antenna finally gave out. It was replaced with a new one and mounted on the corner of our building. Also we discovered that our new 2 meter antenna had a broken element. A repair kit has been ordered. Fortunately it still works, so 2 meters is alive and well. There are still a number of things to be done. When we have access to the tower (a certified tower climber) we will move the new antennas there. Also for you non-tech types out there who are just dying to do some work to justify your existence in the club, we have some projects for you. We need to waterproof the building. We also need to have an air vent installed in the floor and a vent fan installed. All you volunteers please form a neat and orderly line at the next meeting so I can get your names.

73
Mike
WA6RWR

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

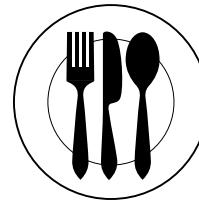
Bob Sanders - W6JCW of Sacramento
38 years of ham radio.

Welcome back previous members:
George Masters - W6GHE
Glenn Maclean - WA7SPY

General Meeting

Sunday, April 30, at 4:00 p.m.

**SudWerk Bar & Grill
1375 Exposition Blvd.**



(two blocks east of business 80)

*Please join us for dinner
after the meeting.*

Dinner follows...approximately 5:30 p.m. (If you can't make the meeting, just come to dinner!!!) Besides having Lager beers, they have a menu of Soups & salads, Pastas, Wood oven Pizzas, and many other Grilled food dishes.

Reminder: The MVRC NET is now at 7:45 PM every Monday evening. Have you checked in for the fun yet?

Special Thanks to Bill -W6MSI for hosting the annual Chilli party in February. The turnout was good, Food was good, and seeing frends was good.

Don't forget Amateur License Restructuring

The long awaited Amateur license restructuring was announced at the very end of December. There will only be one code test, 5 wpm, and three classes, Technician, General, and Extra. Other classes will remain in effect, but not issued new. Band privileges do not change. This all takes place on April 15.

At this point the editor only knows of two club members that have upgraded there license. Special congrads to Les W6TEE and George W6GWB on now haveing an EXTRA class license.

Please let theBill (WA6ACF) know license upgrades so the roster can be updated.

Thanks



Hello again from Bill, WA6ACF.
I want to Thank Vicki for doing the membership for the last several months, but now her job has taken her to the other end of the state.
So again thanks Vicki!

Once again the request goes out for a member to help. I would like to find someone to take over the membership duties. It would be good if they volunteer to server through the next election year also since there is only a few months left with this elected year.

As past elections have shown it is hard to find members that want to serve the club. Now is the time for each member to call Bill and tell him what office they would like to hold for next year, I suggest early request so you can get your name to the top of the list.

We have several new members and some past members who have rejoined the club over this last year, we are happy to have you with us.

The club has and is busy trying to enhance its equipment and other enhancement on VACA - See if you can help call Mike - WA6RWR.

Please note some new activities for this coming months for public service. The club said it wanted to help so you do need to volunteer now.

The meeting is in a different spot this time due to small of room last time. We are trying "SUDWERK" bar & grill again. It has great food and drinks, so please come and join us for the meeting and stay for dinner to see the faces behind those voices on the radio. No tuba playing is being planned!

73's



If you surf the World Wide Web then check the Clubs home page at:
WWW.MVRC.ORG

MVRC Items For Sale

MSY UHF repeater - short cabinet
4- MITREK radios (T43JJA300AK)
3- MCX100 radios

MOBILE TRIPS ???

Comments from members about the recent non turnout for a mobile run that the club said they wanted but the they did not show up. This is being voiced here to obtain a wider audience and in hope of getting a better response from the club.

The club requested at a General Meeting that there be scheduled mobile run once a quarter. We have, and we have had three very successful trips and three or more no shows. The difference seems to be that if any cliques in the club decide to go and tell all their friends, we have a good turnout. I can't help but draw a parallel with all the repeater projects that the club voted for but did not support.

-- During this last quarter we scheduled a day trip and as expected, no one showed. One member did drive over to West Sacramento just in case someone showed up without letting us know in advance.

-- Sorry about the poor turnout for the run. We're guilty of not keeping up with these things and weren't aware of it. We went on a mobile run several years ago led by JR and we were the only participants. I think the activity is a good one for the club but I don't know how to drum up more participation - probably need to contact potential mobilers about an upcoming run so they can set aside the time.

Some alternatives are:

1. Don't schedule any more such trips.
2. Pick a constant Sunday in each quarter so there is no confusion.
3. Ditto, but make it twice a year, Spring and Fall.
4. Have members sign up as much as a year ahead to lead a trip of their choosing on any non-conflicting date.

DX DUES:

It has been suggested that the dues or time period for the DX-members be adjusted to give a better value to them since they really are only receiving the news letter and many time it is only a notice of the coming meeting.

This would require a change to the BYLAWS.

Suggestions are:

1. 3 years for the \$36.
2. 4 years for the #36.
3. Or one year but a lower amount.

So will all of the DX members please be at the meeting to vote on this please. See ya.

Bill

NEW SUBJECT: After listening to 147.00 for a number of days, I would suggest leaving it tied to 444.00, when that goes back up as the normal mode. I can't believe that anyone thinks that either machine is burdened with too much activity.

OK, I guess in my predominantly daytime use of the repeater I haven't run across the heavy users of 147.

But something should be done to boost club use of the repeater. Unless you subscribe to the idea that a quiet repeater is a happy repeater.

My point is that there are three ways, besides the club paper and web page, for one to be reminded about a mobile run or other activity.

There is a moderate amount of button-pushing, showing that someone is at least listening. People materializing out of nowhere to call someone that they know is monitoring, and then retreating into their shells. Very few - like three - bother to sign our calls when we start monitoring. Don't worry though, three is not enough to coincide often enough to mess up the repeater with usage.

Unless we do something to bolster activity and interest, there will be no people for all these ambitious projects involving the repeaters, public service, and mandated mobile runs. Not to mention that we are ignoring our best information mode.

The vocal members.

Dues will be due this June, It would be helpful for those to start flowing in. We have a New PO box so please send to:

Mt. Vaca Radio Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 417405
Sacramento, Ca. 95841-7405

Words to the Wise....

and Otherwise.

The best way to stay informed about MVRC happenings is to tune in and check in to Monday night's 7:45 p.m. net..

Please check the roster we for correct information.



How to Set Up Camp in the Dark

Les, W6TEE

This was an unofficial trip to Organ Pipe Cactus Nat. Mon., AZ. Fred, W7KOZ, Bonnie, KC6PSZ, and I left on Saturday, Nov. 6, 1999. Ed, KE6AFB, and Sunny, KE6AFA, left a day later. We all towed folding trailers. Frank, W6GZI, and Jan, KD6HYE, invited us to camp in their yard in Yucca Valley. I gave them our location and ETA on 40 meters and we arrived after dark. We met Ed and Sunny the next night at the Ehrenberg AZ KOA after touring the Desert Queen Ranch in Joshua Tree NP. We set up after dark. The next day we toured the Yuma Territorial Prison State Park and got to Organ Pipe after dark. We spent a day and a half touring the park. Fred and Bonnie decided to stay longer. Ed, Sunny, and I drove back through Ajo on Wednesday and viewed the mine pit overlook. We stopped at the Ehrenberg KOA again. I talked to Frank across the river at Midland on 75 meters. Thursday we drove to Midland, NW of Blythe, where the Sam's Radio Hams were arriving for a monthly campout. Midland consists of concrete slabs in the desert where there had been a gypsum plant. Ed and Sunny left Friday to visit relatives. Frank led a 4WD day trip to Rice, where we found Patton's old Army airfield. I had more 40 meter contacts on the way home Sunday. (A longer version with photos is at <http://home.pacbell.net/lcobb/fall99.htm>.)

Annual Desert Trip - Mojave Road

The MVRC Annual Desert Trip was to the Mojave Road on April 5-9, 2000. Our last MR trip was in 1993. The new Guide was released last Fall. Member turnout was low, but we had ham friends and guests: Sacramento (MVRC): Ed, KE6AFB & Sunny, KE6AFB; Jim, WB6ZII & Marsha, KD6TTS; Les, W6TEE Yucca Valley: Frank, W6GZI & Jan, KD6HYE; Robert, KE6NIJ Lake Havasu: Vern, W3DLY & Trish, WA3GKT; Don & Kitty; Jim Dennis Casebier, the author of the guide, etc. allowed us to camp on the North 40 at the Goffs Schoolhouse. He got a few new members of the Friends of the Mojave Road. Ed, Sunny, and I were arriving quite late, but I was able to talk to Frank in camp on 75 meters from near Boron. We spent two days covering a good share of the Mojave Road, and one day visiting other interesting spots nearby. (Photos and a follow-on trip description should soon be at <http://home.pacbell.net/lcobb/spring00.htm>.)