



Mt. Vaca Radio Club, Inc.

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

ARRL
NARCC

July 2000

3rd Quarter Activities

SUN JUL 9 - REGULAR MEETING ---->
JULY 15-16 - TEVIS CUP RIDE - Public Service -
Contact WA6APX.
JULY 21-23 - ANNUAL CAMPOUT - Buck's Lake -
RSVP to W6TEE by July 9 Meeting. **See page 3.**
SAT JUL 22 - EMCOMM - 2000 - FYI -
One Day Seminar - Palo Cedro, CA
<http://www.pdarrl.org/sacsec/emcomm00.html>
WED AUG 16 - BOARD MEETING
WED SEP 20 - BOARD MEETING
SUN OCT 15 - REGULAR MEETING

The Davis Double Century

was held May 20, 2000. The Mt. Vaca Radio Club was well represented as always with this event. We experimented with APRS this year and it proved to be worth while and useful. The vehicles that had it were traced at net control in Davis. The airborne repeater and digipeater worked very well after some corrections were made to the digipeater for APRS. With some minor improvements APRS definitely will work well for this event. If you are interested in working the Davis Double Century it is always the third Saturday in May so put it on your calendar.

Thanks to all the VACA members and families who participated.

Glenn - WA7SPY

General Meeting

Sunday, July 9, at 4:00 p.m.
SudWerk Bar & Grill
1375 Exposition Blvd.
(across from Cal Expo)

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.



Special Thanks

to all volunteers this past year - without you we would not have as great of club as we do.

Dues are due now, please pay now. We have a new PO box so please send your check to:

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MVRC WORKS PRESTIGIOUS WESTERN STATES EVENT

I'm sure most of you have seen those tee shirts that proclaim in bold letters a major accomplishment such as I SUMMITED MT. EVEREST IN AN HOUR !and then in small print the truth is told...I (read about a guy who) SUMMITED MT. EVEREST (in a helicopter) IN AN HOUR. Well, at last I have such a proclamation... I RAN WESTERN STATES 100 MILE ENDURANCE RUN IN LESS THAN 24 HRS ...read I (helped the organizations that) RAN THE WESTERN STATES 100 MILE ENDURANCE RUN (but I could help for) LESS THAN 24 HRS. As a recreational runner (mostly in the past now) and amateur radio operator I can tell you that such a feat is a dream come true (emphasis on word dream) and I'll wear the shirt proudly.

On June 24-25 the Mt. Vaca Club had the opportunity to assist with communications for the Western States Endurance Run. 384 runners start at Squaw Valley and run to the finish in Auburn. The leaders cover the distance in around 16 hours and others run for a couple days to cover the distance. Approximately 14 MVRC members worked at rest stops and net control for the event. The club used their crossband repeater, Dan Dufficy's UHF repeater on Ward Peak, and other club repeaters to provide coverage at rest stops along the 100 mile course. This article is being written before the event is completed, but everything at the upper end of the course from Squaw Valley to Robinson Flat worked great. Checkpoints were well organized and everyone seemed to be having a great time - even the runners ! However, we have yet to hear back from some of the MVRC members who 4-wheeled into remote sites. If we don't hear soon we'll be checking to see if they were able to send a beacon from their APRS radios and get the search under way. Maybe we'll find them next year...

AB - WA6CNE

Thanks from Davis Double Century

On behalf of the Davis Bike Club, I would like to thank you all for helping to make the Double Century a success this year. I attended the wrap-up/dinner meeting a little over a week ago and Robin, who heads this thing, praised the group for the fine job. She also released some stats for this year's ride that I thought would interest you all. 848 riders started but 98 did not finish. Three were disqualified because of private sags.

10 riders paid a visit to an ER with 2 of them due to crashes and the rest heat related.

Some of you who have worked this ride for many years will note the downward trend in attendance. At one time this ride had to be limited to 1500 riders. The DBC consensus seems to be that all rides are experiencing falling ridership plus there are more double centuries now. The DC is one of the oldest with perhaps riders wishing to try other doubles.

In any case, radio support has virtually always been praised.

Some tentative plans were made for next year. RS3/Winery will stay where it was this year. RS4/Pope Valley will be moved from the Grange to a nearby school. RS8/Upper-site will be moved to Middle-site in order, I believe, to address the water issue. A new home will also be sought for RS9/Canon School due to a lack of water and electricity.

On the radio front, my observations and impressions:

Our goal of having a minimum wait for stations wishing to contact NC (Net Control) was met; however, in the afternoon 3 or 4 NC radios were going and coordination between the NC ops could have been better. I think it was better last year since the two airborne repeaters allowed sags to stay on one channel for the majority of the ride. Ideally, I'd like 2 freqs to cover the whole ride but don't think that'll ever happen.

The temporary repeater on Walker did a good job this year as did all the repeaters used. One regret is not taking the opportunity to test a 440 repeater on Mt. St. Helena's coverage of the Lake Hennessy - Middletown area. We had planned to try during the ride but heavy radio traffic precluded that.

The APRS experiment proved promising though, as with voice, coverage of the course was a problem. One NC operator thought that it would be very useful if all mobiles had a tracker and if coverage was complete. As it was, the half-dozen or so tracker equipped vehicles only showed up at nc when in the valley or when the airborne digipeater

was working which wasn't all the time. I have to plead guilty to not bomb-proofing it. I discovered, after an hour or two of no position updates at NC, that I had somehow pushed the split button on the HT so the digi was trying to xmit 600kcs below 144.390.

I'd like to see more tracker equipped mobiles next year. It's impressive to see the computer screen with all the callsign labeled dots moving around the course map. Though it was mostly an experiment this year, it did come in useful at least once when I had sent an APRS sag to lunch to carry bikes. One of the other NC ops noticed him nearing lunch and asked me what he was doing since all the bikes had been hauled out of lunch by then. I called the sag to give him the news and apologize for sending him out there.

Again, I'd like to thank the operators and the repeater owners. Since this is a volunteer effort, I'm constantly gratified every year by how conscientious radio ops are about their assignments.

73

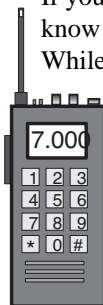
Dave Nishikawa KC6YFG

And now a note from Bill. WA6ACF:

If you are keeping track of which month it is then you know that this month's meeting is our elections.

While the election committee has been polling members for the different offices please consider giving your time to your club. I do want to thank the current board members and committee chairpersons for there time and help. But as usual we do need people who will take the time to insure the future of this club and its equipment. If you have not been contacted please call me to let him know

which board or committee position you would like. See you at the meeting.



Mike (KT6MJ) helping on the Western States run at Dusty Corners.

NAVIGATING THE BACK COUNTRY or Where's JR When You Need Him !!!



For our club members who like to explore the back country, the use of the latest GPS technology has been a useful tool. Recent advances in packet technology now allows amateurs to transmit data from their GPS receiver to other amateurs using APRS (Automatic Position Reporting System) equipment and software. Amateurs equipped to receive APRS data packets can now track the location of a moving amateur station with great accuracy using available software running on a PC.

Several MVRC members have acquired equipment which allows for sending and receiving position packets. The new technology was field tested recently when AB and I hiked into the Thousand Lakes Wilderness near Lassen Park. As we hiked, I sent position reports back to Mike, WA6RWR, in Sacto. Mike confirmed our position via the MVRC 2-meter repeater. An instruction book should be carried at all times as evidenced by the photo above.

An additional benefit of APRS is the ability to exchange short messages with individual or multiple stations. This technology should be of great benefit for public service events as was already shown by its use on the Davis DC this past May.

Lew WA6ESA

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 for correct information.

JULY CAMPOUT

We have Group Site A at Hutchins Campground reserved at Bucks Lake from Friday, July 21, to Sunday, July 23. Take Hwy 162 east from Oroville, becomes Oroville - Quincy Hwy. Day trips planned from camp. The reservation cost will be prorated among the campers with any other costs, \$10-20. There is a limit of 25 people, which is not a problem. There is a limit of 8 vehicles, 27' max, but we can have more at \$4 per vehicle. Trailers are counted as a vehicle. Extra vehicles have to park in an overflow area. First Come sign-ups just in case everyone decides to go.

Tech report.

Well I have good news and bad news. First the Good news. The 2 meter repeater is doing well and is now our mainstay. Other than some occasional fan noise it's performing very well. Ask Wayne about microphonic noise generation. The bad news is three fold. First, the 450 repeater at the tower site is still off the air. Because of the nature of the site it is very difficult to get to. Hopefully a repair trip can be made in the not too distant future. Secondly, our primary 450 repeater at Vaca is very sick. A well placed bullet will put it out of its misery. It will need to be replaced with a new one. It will be purchased one piece at a time as we can afford it. Hopefully we will be able to borrow a loaner until the new one is ready to be installed. Lastly, I am still waiting for that neat and orderly line of volunteers to help with some non-technical jobs. Primarily ventilation of the building. And we are not talking bullets here. I hope to see all of you volunteers at the next meeting.

73

Mike - WA6RWR

Don't forget Amateur License Restructuring. Are you still just a lonely TechPlus? Well don't delay and go UP-GRADE. If you have upgraded and the roster does not show your current license please let Bill (WA6ACF) know.

FCC'S HATFIELD TELLS HAMS TO "WALK THE WALK"

The FCC's Dale Hatfield, W0IFO, predicts a bright future for Amateur Radio. But the Office of Engineering and Technology chief says that amateurs "will be under a certain amount of pressure" to justify their free use of the radio spectrum. As a result, he said, it will be more important than ever that hams actually fulfill their service, good will and educational roles--not just talk about them.

If you surf the World Wide Web then check the Clubs home page at:
www.mvrc.org

