



# Mt. Vaca Radio Club, Inc.

WWW.MVRC.ORG

July 2001

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

ARRL  
NARCC

## *3rd Quarter Activities*

SUN JUL 22 - REGULAR MEETING - 3:30 PM  
 JUL 27-29 - 22nd ANNUAL CAMPOUT - Hat Creek Group Sites 1 & 2, Hwy 44/89 east of Redding. Joint campout with North Hills Radio Club. See April newsletter or web page. RSVP Les, W6TEE  
 AUG 4-5 - TEVIS CUP RACE - Public Service. Tentative  
 WED AUG 15 - BOARD MEETING  
 WED SEP 19 - BOARD MEETING  
 OCT 3-14 - FALL TRIP - AZ, NM - RSVP Les, W6TEE. Similar to our great 1997 Fall Trip to Silver City NM, adding the new Karchner Caverns in Arizona. RV and/or cabins. Let me know who is interested so we can plan new or old stops accordingly.  
 SUN OCT 21 - REGULAR MEETING

Les, W6TEE

### **SILENT KEY – WOXJ**

The Mt. Vaca Radio Club has lost one of its founding members with the recent passing away of Ross Stevens, WOXJ, formerly K6FRE. In 1969, Ross along with 4 others formed the club by assembling equipment, locating a site and operating what later became incorporated as the Mt. Vaca Radio Club.

Since the early days, Ross was always willing to do his part and take on a new project for the club, even tho the paint might not have been dry on the previous project ! Ross also had the distinction of being the only member to ever get a vehicle stuck in the snow on Mt. Vaca. This occurred on a late nite trip when Ross was trying to get gasoline to the back-up generator. The stories go on.....

Ross' home, his ham shack and heart were always open to everyone and speaking as one of the 'orphans' as Helen liked to refer to us, his kindness and generosity are well remembered. Ross will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Lew - WA6ESA

A memorial donation of \$50 was made by the club to the Shriners Hospital for Children in the memory of Ross Stevens, a long-standing member of the Shriners organization .

## **General Meeting**

**Sunday, July 22, at 3:30 p.m.**

**Solarium/green room**

**Chevy's**

**1234 Howe Ave.**

**Sacramento, CA.**

### **Western States Endurance Run**

The MVRC again helped the Golden Sierra Amateur Radio Group provide communications for the annual Western States 100 mile Run from Tahoe to Auburn, June 23-24. MVRC participants, from east to west were: Marc, W6MAR; Lew, WA6ESA; Adrienne, WA6CNE; Les, W6TEE; Matthew, W6KDJ; John, N6SEX, Ken, KC6JSV; and Don, KE6GMJ. Voice communications went quite smoothly, and packet, which had been a no-show in previous years, worked at three of the four remote locations.

Les, W6TEE



This is the first runner across the line at Devil's Thumb Checkpoint. Note the PBS cameraman to the left.

Photo by Matthew, W6KDJ.

### *Special Thanks*



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

## The Davis Double Century

Wanted to thank you all for helping to make DC01 a success. Your dedication and expertise is much appreciated by the Davis Bike Club.

As you may have suspected, ridership was down this year. 817 registered for the ride. Didn't get the number of no shows or sagged riders but imagine around 100 sagged at some point or another.

The APRS continues to improve. We had around 12 vehicles that were equipped including the plane. The projection screen at S/F was impressive. Since not everyone had it, it wasn't really that useful for keeping people spread over the course but the magnet map did that job well. It was also easier for the net ops to ask where the SAGs were than to look at the map. It seems like the greatest use so far is in being able to determine the exact location of an accident if an APRS vehicle is on scene. A lot was learned on using the APRS equipment. Having a separate channel for the aprs helped a lot.

Dave Nishikawa KC6YFG

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### Public Service help needed

Registration is beginning for the American Lung Assn. Bike ride on 8-10 Sept. I would urge anyone who may be available to register as a radio operator for this event that covers the Ione-Jackson area. Participation on all 3 days is not necessary, if you can spare 1/2 a day that would be a great help. For those who received the flyer, please fill it out and check the box that says "Please send me a volunteer application" If you haven't received the flyer, you can request a volunteer application from "judyb@saclung.org"

73 Thanks

Ken

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### Welcome to New Members:

Nima Gharavi, WA6SUP from San Rafael. Nima has many interest with ham radio and computers.

Joanne Spaulding KF6GXX has changed from associate to full membership.

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.....from "Heavens to Betsy and other curious sayings"

It is generally accepted that 'ham' is an abbreviated form of hamfatter, a term applied to an actor of low grade back around 1875. Later the term ham was also applied to poorly skilled athletes and entertainers, and, though with no contempt, to the large army of well-equipped amateur radio operators, probably because, in the early days of radio, these operators were fumbling novices.

Anon.

## Tech report.

Greetings! I hope everyone had a great 4th of July. As of this reporting period all of our equipment is working. We are experiencing some de-sense problems with our 440 repeater. We have finally obtained the 440 duplexer, that was factory tuned to our repeater frequencies, from the other site. This will be installed on Vaca hopefully before the meeting.

This should improve the repeaters sensitivity. Keep in mind, however, that we are still using the lower antenna on the building. Our ball-bat 440 antenna is still giving us problems and will have to be replaced.

The Board of Directors has given the Tech committee approval to purchase a power supply for the 440 repeater. We are currently using a loaner.

Finally, we need to improve on the ventilation of our building. We have installed some small fans and vent holes. This has helped, but we need to go further. We need to install a larger fan. Something like the size of an attic fan. If there is anyone in our club that would like to help out with this, it would be greatly appreciated.

Mike  
WA6RWR

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Got to have that morning coffee

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### *And now a note from the Pres.*

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



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.



Public service by MVRC member Les, W6TEE  
Photo by Matthew, W6KDJ.

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**Equipment for SALE:**

lengths of 50 to 100 feet of 84147 1/2 inch andrew heliax cable with connectors, also some 1/2 inch superflex.

Garmin GPS II+ with external active antenna.  
Contact Mike WA6RWR

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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.

A Reminder that the Club Dues were due July 1st. The club dues are now \$48 for full membership. The DX dues are still \$18 for a year.

Please check the roster and if your dues date has expired or will in the next few months please make your membership current.

Thanks.

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## JULY CAMPOUT



We have two adjacent group camping areas at the Hat Creek Camp-ground east of Redding for the MVRC and

NHRC summer campouts on July 27-29. We have the campsites from Noon Friday to Noon Sunday, two nights. The campers will owe a prorated amount of the reservation fees, depending on the number going. There is no lake, but the area is highly regarded by those who have been there. I received positive comments from Lew, WA6ESA (MVRC), and Ted, W6SMU (NHRC). At first, it seemed a little further than we planned, but it turns out to be about the same time and distance as Eagle Lake, which we talked about but could not get.

This is not just an RV trip since there is also plenty of room for tents. Let me know if you need to borrow a tent.

Here is the Forest Service description: "Campground is located one mile west of the town of Old Station. Facilities provided include lighted restrooms with flush toilets and wash basins, picnic tables, fire rings, running water and accessible fishing pier. Campground situated in a mixed coniferous forest, adjacent to Hat Creek. Elevation is 4,390 feet.

Temperatures in July are 45-90 degrees. Stream fishing nearby with trophy trout. Popular activities include hiking, picnicking, sightseeing, caving, hunting and fishing. RV sanitary dump station is next to campground. No showers."

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Now where was this and when ???