

# *The Heterodyne*

*Newsletter of the West Valley Amateur Radio Association*

## **NEXT MONTHLY MEETING Wednesday May 9**

**May 9 Meeting at 7pm**

**“All Things Field Day”  
by Jim Peterson, K6EI**

Meeting Location:

American Red Cross

Silicon Valley Chapter

2731 N. First Street at Plumeria Dr  
(southwest corner) in San Jose

Map at [www.wvara.org/meetings.html](http://www.wvara.org/meetings.html)

**Visitors are welcome!**

<b>WVARA Repeaters (W6PIY)</b>			
<b>Band</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>PL</b>	<b>Status</b>
6 Meters	52.580- MHz	151.4 Hz	Operating
2 Meters	147.39+ MHz	151.4 Hz	Operating
1.25 Meters	223.96- MHz	156.7 Hz	Operating
0.70 Meter	441.35+ MHz	88.5 Hz	Operating
0.23 Meter	1286.2- MHz	100 Hz	Operating

### **Club Net**

WVARA's club net is on the W6PIY repeaters each Tuesday at 8:30 pm. All repeaters are linked together during the net. The net script can be found at [www.wvara.org/net.html](http://www.wvara.org/net.html) .

The May 9 meeting will be our annual “all things Field Day” session. We will review what’s new and discuss our plans for this year’s Field Day event (which will be June 22-24).

Be there or be square!

Jim Peterson, K6EI

### **Electronics Flea Market**

The next flea market is on Saturday, May 12  
[www.electronicfleamarket.com/schedule](http://www.electronicfleamarket.com/schedule)

The Electronics Flea Market is held on the 2nd Saturday of the month and focuses on electronics and amateur radio gear. The market opens around 5:00am and closes at 12:00 Noon.

# Hooked on DX – An Analogy to Consider

Mike Flowers, K6MKF

While growing up in Western Maryland, my father and I would often go fishing in the Potomac River and the Antietam, Conococheague and Tonoloway Creeks. It was a lot of fun and sometimes we even caught fish!

Now that I'm an avid DXer, I'm struck by the similarities between the two pursuits:

- Sunrise and sunset – often the best times to catch fish and DX, but you actually have to get up to do it
- Travel may be required – you will go to strange and exotic places just to fish; DXpeditions are actually travelling to be fish, but close enough
- You have to understand the fish, and the DX – when and where do they feed and hang out
- Fish and DX have different patterns – when are the Striped Bass or 603s running?
- Fish and DX are seasonal – you're not going to get many trout in the winter, but lots of 80 and 160M DX
- Equipment is important but not critical – the kid down the bank is pulling in big ones with his bamboo pole; the guy down the street has 237 confirmed running 5W with a vertical on his chimney
- Technique is important – if you don't know that a large-mouth bass will take bait and run before chomping down, you're going to miss setting the hook; when in their operating pattern does the DX copy the next callsign?
- Conditions matter – on a windy day you won't be able to see the line move and the trout will eat your bait; when the solar wind is blowing hard, you won't even hear the DX
- You must be patient – fish and DX take their own sweet time and we must wait
- Sometimes they're really biting – and you can pull in fish as fast as you can bait the hook; DX QSOs just pile up in the log, sometimes
- Sometimes nothing's biting – you can fish all day and never get even a nibble; and that faint, warbly, fluttering signal you're sure is a rare on is actually the guy down the street on his QRP rig
- You'll have mementos – you have the big ones stuffed and mounted or a picture taken of you holding it up; prized QSL cards decorate the shack wall
- You will tell fish and DX stories – the ones you caught, and the ones who got away
- Lady Luck is fickle – when you're hot, your hot, and when you're not: no fish or DX for you

There are some notable differences, though. So far, I've never had to scale and gut any DX, and when coming out of the shack, my wife has never insisted I shower because I smell like DX.

Here's hoping you hook some new ones!

73 de Mike, K6MKF

## Buy and Sell

*Send Buy and Sell items to het\_editor at wvara.org*

**Free 22-inch CRT Monitor:** Hi all, I am cleaning out my garage and have a NEC 22 inch CRT monitor. Free to the first person to pick it up. Reply by email for directions.  
- Chuck AD6CL

Seller or buyer mail addresses may be obtained from het\_editor at wvara.org.

## 2012 West Valley Amateur Radio Association Officers

President: Jim Peterson, K6EI  
Vice President: John Glass, NU6P  
Secretary: Scott Emery, AD6RY  
Treasurer: Jon Kelley, K6WV  
Directors:  
Chuck Kamas, AD6CL  
Svend Jensen, KF6EMB  
Brian Goldberg, KG6BKI  
Kevin Smith, KK6VF  
Phil Verinsky, W6PK  
Dave Schultheis, WB6KHP  
Rick Ibarra, WE6AAI

Club address:  
West Valley Amateur Radio Assn  
P.O. Box 6544  
San Jose, CA 95150-6544

Heterodyne Editor: Phil Verinsky, W6PK  
Internet Postmaster: Phil Verinsky, W6PK  
Meeting Refreshments: Kevin Smith, KK6VF  
Repeater Trustee: Chuck Kamas, AD6CL  
Webmaster: Larry Goodwin, KG6ENF  
Club URL: <http://www.wvara.org>

Speaker Committee:  
Scott Emery, AD6RY  
Jim Peterson, K6EI  
Jon Kelley, K6WV  
Phil Verinsky, W6PK

The Heterodyne is published monthly by the West Valley Amateur Radio Association and sent to all club members via the web. Please obtain permission from the author to re-publish any article in this publication.

**73!**