

The Heterodyne

Newsletter of the West Valley Amateur Radio Association

WVARA Summer BBQ

Saturday August 20

11am - 2pm

At Sunnyvale's Baylands Park
Pickleweed Site
Reservation is under "Peterson"

When you get to Baylands Park,
turn right after going into main gate

Please bring your own meat to grill



**Please see following page
for more BBQ information**

WVARA Breaks Another Field Day Record!



Moonrise over the 20m SSB tent.

Photo by Bill AE6JV.

President's Field Day Letter

Field Day is a great opportunity to get outdoors, gain experience assembling equipment in the rough, and operate a station under

(continues on following page)

The next monthly meeting is on September 14.

WVARA Summer BBQ, continued:

Sunnyvale's Baylands Park, Pickleweed Site from 11am to 2pm

<http://sunnyvale.ca.gov/Departments/CommunityServices/Parks/BaylandsPark.aspx>

When you get to Baylands Park, turn right after going into the main gate. The reservation is under "Peterson".

Our location (Pickleweed site) includes multiple tables, grill, an AC outlet, and a covered awning for shade. There is an entry fee per car at Baylands Park, so you may prefer to carpool. We'll have hot charcoal and condiments -- ***please bring your own meat to grill.***

Our BBQ coincides with the SSB portion of the North American QSO Party (NAQP) which means this is an ideal opportunity for a really fun portable radio operation. (NAQP Contest rules are at: <http://www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php>). We can't put up any big Field Day-style antennas at Baylands, but we can still string up an NVIS dipole and/or put an HF whip on top of the metal awning and have some fun in the contest.

I'm looking for volunteers to be in charge of the following:

Setting up the charcoal.

Providing desserts.

Setting up an HF SSB station for the NAQP Party. (I'll take charge of the antennas.)

Setting up a VHF station for event coordination through the WVARA repeater.

73,
Jim K6EI

President's Field Day Letter, continued:

challenging band conditions. This year we operated QRP in the 7A Battery category from Mora Hill in Los Altos, California, overlooking the Silicon Valley from an elevation of 500 feet. (Our site was visited by deer and wild turkeys during the weekend.)

We had 3 HF CW stations, 3 HF SSB stations, an HF digital station, a Get On The Air (GOTA) station, a satellite station, and a VHF station. In spite of being limited to 5 watts, we succeeded in making three satellite contacts as well as QSOs on 50 MHz with Vermont, Virginia, Colorado and Western Washington.

Our GOTA station was particularly popular with plenty of drop-in visitors including a good number of kids. Older visitors included a couple of enthusiastic college students from Cal Poly who stuck around and operated graveyard shift on 20m SSB.

In addition to having a great time, each year we work at improving our equipment, antennas and operating skills. This year we used two homebrew HF triplexers to simultaneously share a pair of HF tribanders between multiple stations on 10- 15- and 20 meters. If you'd like to build one, you can read all about how to do it in K6KV's article in the June 2010 issue of QST.

Since we had CW, SSB and PSK-31 stations simultaneously operating on 20 meters, we took care to have HF transceivers with well-designed front-ends in order to minimize spur transmis-

sions and receiver pumping/desensing. The majority of our site's stations used Elecraft K3 and/or K2 transceivers.

Being outdoors also meant that we got to put up wild-n-crazy antennas that our spouses and neighbors might never allow back home. Cool new antennas at our site this year included a 40 meter, crossed, switchable, self-supporting dipole array, crossed (switchable) dipoles on 80, and 4-element monobanders on 15- and 20 meters. This was also the second year we used a 2-element 40 meter quad, which continued to perform very well. We appear to have worked all 50 states while handily beating our score from 2010.

73,
Jim K6EI

Field Day Photos



Waiting to begin setting up on Friday.
Photo by Anita.



We start by putting up antennas: installing the 15 meter yagi. *Photo by Bill AE6JV.*



Nick KZ2V setting up AB-577 portable mast. *Photo by Anita.*



Full-sized, switchable, crossed dipoles for 40m (foreground) plus 4 element monobanders for 20 & 15 made running QRP an entirely new experience! *Photo by Gary K6KV.*



80 meter wire antenna.
Photo by Anita.



It may be hard to see the white wires suspended from the yagi boom, but this was our full-sized 2 element 40 meter quad. Photo by Anita.



Nick KZ2V continues setting up AB-577. Photo by Gary K6KV.



Our GOTA station and antenna. Photo by Anita.



Our three CW stations operated from inside a mylar-coated tent. The mylar reflected away the sun's heat and kept out the sun's glare. Our four element 20 meter monobander was mounted on top of a 50 foot AB-577 portable mast. Photo by Kevin KK6VF.



Sunset with the 40 meter switchable crossed-dipole array in the background. Photo by Bill AE6JV.



Our FD site from a distance.
Photo by Kevin KK6VF.



The VHF/UHF and Digital stations.
Photo by Anita.



Mike KG6YMN can't wait for the start of the event!
Photo by Kevin KK6VF.



Jack W6FB and son Mike KG6YMN decide who will operate first. *Photo by Kevin KK6VF.*



Our first visitor!
Photo by Kevin KK6VF.



More visitors on the way, heading to the GOTA station. *Photo by Kevin KK6VF.*



Dean, N6DE, busy in the CW tent.
Photo by Kevin KK6VF.



Greg K6XM (left-front), Dean N6DE and Nick KZ2V (right) operating CW. *Photo by Kevin KK6VF.*



Tom W6ESL Operating VHF/UHF.
Photo by Marcel K16QDJ.



Jerry KJ6OYA and Dave AF6KD making their third satellite QSO while running 5 watts. *Photo by Bill AE6JV.*



Nick KZ2V and Rick WE6AAI discuss the fine art of making QSOs with a straight key. *Photo by Bill AE6JV.*



Jessica Ibarra on the air in the GOTA tent!
Photo by Bill AE6JV.



Radio activity in the GOTA tent: Senthil KJ6KCG coaches a visitor. *Photo by Bill AE6JV.*



Scott AD6RY and Senthil KJ6KCG operating SSB. *Photo by Kevin KK6VF.*



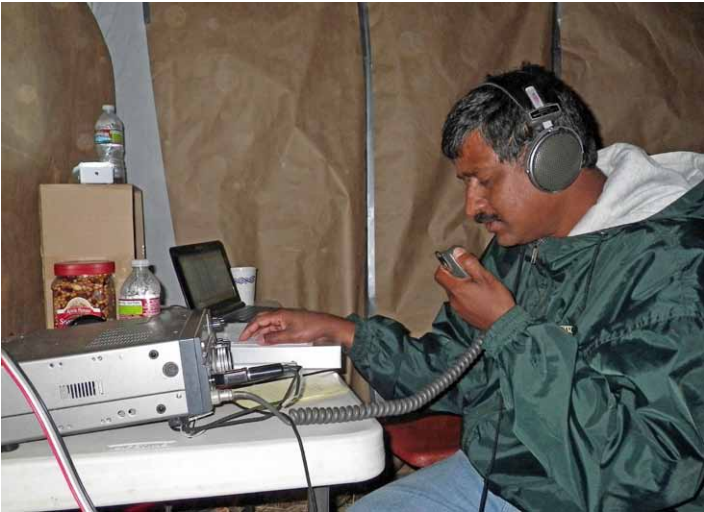
A young operator on the air. *Photo by Gary K6KV.*



Rick WE6AAI bags another CW QSO. from the GOTA tent! *Photo by Anita.*



Kenneth W6KWF operating PSK31. *Photo by Marcel KI6QDJ.*



Senthil KJ6KCG operating SSB.
Photo by Bill AE6JV.



Taking a break for dinner.
Photo by Kevin KK6VF.



Kenneth W6KWF operates PSK during dinner break.
Photo by Anita.



Chocolate chip cookies keep the team going.
Photo by Anita.



CW tent during graveyard shift. Lights from Silicon Valley are visible down the hill. *Photo by Bill AE6JV.*



Moonrise over the SSB tents.
Photo by Bill AE6JV.



WVARA Field Day at Mora Hill during graveyard shift. Photos by Marcel KI6QDJ.



The tired but happy WVARA team at the end of Field Day. Photo by Anita.



Heading home with the tower trailer. Photo by Anita.

ARRL Field Day 2011 Results
West Valley Amateur Radio Association

Call: K6EI
GOTA Call: W6ZZZ
Class: 7A QRP
QTH: Mora Hill, CA
Operating Time (hrs): 24

Summary:

Band CW Qs Ph Qs Dig Qs

80: 119 84 0
40: 325 169 46
20: 639 195 87
15: 339 135 11
10: 0 41 0
6: 1 37 0
2: 0 16 0
222: 2
432: 5
903:
1.2: 1
2.3:
3.4:
5.7:
10G:
24G:

Total: 1423 685 144
Total Score = 20,845

Comments:

QSO Points x Power Mult = 19,095
GOTA Bonus Points = 1,750
Total QSO Points + Bonus Pts = 20,845

(In 2010 our total score was 15,450.)

Thanks to everyone participating and
thanks for all of the QSOs!

Electronics Flea Market

The next flea market is on Saturday, Sep. 10
Hosted by West Valley Amateur Radio Assn
www.electronicfleamarket.com/schedule

2011 West Valley Amateur Radio Association Officers

President: Jim Peterson, K6EI
Vice President: Bill Ashby, N6FFC
Secretary: Jeannett Pispisa, K6JZY
Treasurer: Jon Kelley, K6WV
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Chuck Kamas, AD6CL
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Club URL: <http://www.wvara.org>

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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 <http://www.wvara.org/net.html>.

WVARA Repeaters (W6PIY)			
Band	Frequency	PL	Status
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 address:
West Valley Amateur Radio Association
P.O. Box 6544
San Jose, CA 95150-6544

Pacificon October 14-16, 2011

Marriott Santa Clara
2700 Mission College Boulevard
Santa Clara, CA 95054
www.pacificon.org

See You At The BBQ on August 20!