



Mt. Vaca Radio Club, Inc.

April 2001

www.mvrc.org

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

ARRL
NARCC

2nd Quarter Activities

SUN APR 22 - REGULAR MEETING
WED MAY 16 - BOARD MEETING
SAT MAY 19 - DAVIS Double Century - Public Service
WED JUN 20 - BOARD MEETING
JUN 23-24 - WESTERN STATES RUN - Public Service
SUN JUL 22 - REGULAR MEETING
JUL 27-29 - 22nd ANNUAL CAMPOUT - Hat Creek
Group Sites 1 & 2, Hwy 44 east of Redding. Joint campout
with North Hills Radio Club. Confirm with W6TEE.
AUG 4-5 - TEVIS CUP RACE - Public Service

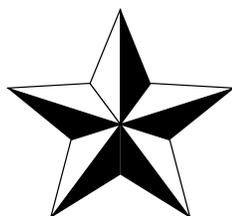
Tech Report

I would like to take this opportunity to thank one of our members, Bob Warmke W6CYX and his friend Gerry Vorege KD6STK for their generous help in repairing our UHF power amplifier. A month or so ago the amplifier quit in mid conversation. Before I could get a crew up to the site to see what was happening Bob made a trip to the hill to work on the 1.2Ghz repeater. I had him take a look at the amplifier. He discovered that it was dead, and not just a blown fuse. I had him remove and bypass the amplifier. That put us back on the air at a lower power. On his next trip to the hill, to continue his work on the 1.2Ghz repeater, he asked if he could take the amplifier home and troubleshoot it to find out exactly what was wrong. He discovered that the power transistors had failed. Bob purchased a set of replacement transistors and generously donated them to the club. He and Gerry then replaced the failed transistors and restored the amplifier back to good health. And yet on another trip to the hill to continue work on the 1.2Ghz repeater, he put the amplifier back into operation. It has been several weeks now since that trip and the amplifier is working like a champ. I will give more details at our next general meeting. Again thank you Bob and Gerry very much for your generosity and hard work getting us back to full power on UHF.

Mike, WA6RWR

Did you know

*MVRC will celebrate
its 32nd anniversary
next quarter.*



General Meeting

Sunday, April 22, at 3:30 p.m.

Solarium/green room

Chevy's

1234 Howe Ave.

Sacramento, CA.

Dinner follows...approximately 5:30 p.m.

Welcome to our newest member, Robert Kinney, KG6ETH. Robert lives in Rio Linda. He has an interest in 4 wheeling so Les Cobb and Bill Yoder will surely peak his interest in that pursuit. Welcome, Bob.

All members can, and should, look for hams that can be invited to our meetings where we all can encourage them to become a member. Then the fun begins.

Don Kunkel, KE6GMJ



Once again it's time for that yearly dose of ham radio fun. The DC this year is again on the 3rd Saturday of May which falls on the 19th this year. Those who had a position last year have first choice for that position this year but feel free to put in for another position if you're getting tired of the same o'.

The DC roster and info page can be reached via home.pacbell.net/yars under "Schedule of Events" or directly by home.pacbell.net/yars/events/dc01info.htm. Thank you and hope to hear from you soon.

73
Dave Nishikawa, KC6YFG

Words to the Wise....

and Otherwise.



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

Please check the roster for correct information.

16th Annual DESERT TRIP

The MVRC annual trip to the desert was held April 4-8. Six vehicles with five trailers converged on the Barstow KOA. Participants were Jim, WB6ZII, & Marsha, KD6TTS; Lew, WA6ESA, & Adrienne, WA6CNE; Fred, W7KOZ, & Bonnie, KC6PSZ; Les, W6TEE, & Matthew, W6KDJ; George, W6GWB; and Marc, W6MAR.

Cecil, W6HUG, in Barstow knew Bill Mann, the author of the desert guide books that we were using. Cecil told Bill that we were coming and Bill arranged to meet with us at the KOA on our first night. Bill brought a number of friends along including KC6SMI. We had a very interesting discussion as to how the books were written and places that would be of interest to our group. Next time we will give him advance notice and he may go with us on a few of our day trips. He was tied up this time.

Our trips started off well and were slowed slightly by the weather toward the end, but we had a great time. The first day was spent in the Calico Mountains near camp where we exercised our 4WD and saw formations, petroglyphs, a town dump, and lots of mine shafts. Some of us drove to the top of Calico Mtn. up a 99% grade only because the AT&T Tech was there and left the gate open!

The next day was spent south of Baker seeing a lava core with a hole through it, called Shaman's Eye by Bill Mann, a lava arch, petroglyphs, and we lunched at the site of the former Mojave Desert Phone booth of internet fame.

On our last day we visited Rainbow Basin, where it started to rain. It was clear at the Early Man Site, but started to rain halfway through our tour. A trip to the Daggitt Museum was spoiled by the Museum not being there any more. The day finished with a trip to the Factory Outlets, topped off with auto parts stores for wiper blades.

Les, W6TEE

The Mojave Phone pole.



Who is Lew talking to?
Is he phoning in his Burning Man reservations?

A note from the Pres:

I want to thank our dedicated volunteers for their many trips to the hill and ground work to keep our radio system up and installed at our site.



Thank You

It is important here to again thank the Kellers for their help in providing a loan for the new UHF repeater. The club made a commitment to repay as soon as possible by donations and try to recruit new members. We have had enough donations and some change from the treasury to pay back the Kellers. Again a big thank you to Mike and Doris.

However, I also believe we need to look into the future. We will always need money to repair and upgrade our equipment, and expenses such increasing insurance and electrical/rent costs, and our newsletter which supports our club's need to attract and keep good members.

Our current \$36 annual membership fee has been in place more than 10 years. In the past we also hosted several fundraisers each year to have the funds we need, a practice we have discontinued.

It's time to take a realistic look at our situation. Either we need to raise dues, go back to having bake sales, or lower our expectations regarding the equipment we have and the possibilities good radio gear brings.

In my opinion, raising the dues is far simpler than car washes or selling anything. My suggestion is that we increase dues to \$48 a year.

Please come to the meeting to voice your opinion.

Thanks
Bill, WA6ACF



FOR SALE:

5 lengths of 50 to 100 feet of 84147 1/2 inch andrew heliax cable with connectors.

3 lengths of 98 feet 84147 super flex heliax with connectors.

Contact Mike WA6RWR or Bill WA6ACF

Summer Ham Campout

I have reserved two adjacent group camping areas at the Hat Creek Campground east of Redding for the MVRC and NHRC (North hills Radio club) 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, sight-seeing, caving, hunting and fishing. RV sanitary dump station is next to campground. No showers."

We have Group Sites 1 and 2 which are limited to 10 and 12 vehicles respectively, and 50 people each. Note that the Forest Service usually counts a trailer as a separate vehicle. I think these sites will be adequate. People should start notifying me as soon as they know that they might go so that we can track the space available. There may be a tendency for people to camp next to their buddies, but there was no intention to get separate sites for each club. It happened that just one site would have been too small.

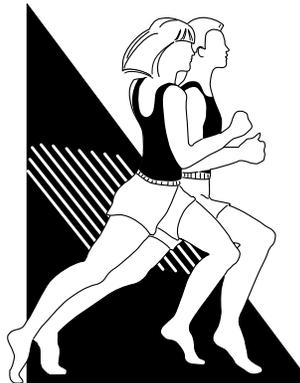
There is a third adjacent Group Site (#3), which we won't have, as well as a number of single campsites at this campground. Hat Creek Campground is on Hat Creek, but is a number of miles south of the town of Hat Creek. It is closest to Old Station on Hwy 44, north of Lassen Park. If you look at the MVRC and NHRC Activities pages on the web, you will find a link to a web page describing this campout. Unfortunately the server where I placed this page (QSL.NET) was down last night and still is. I have been unable to post the new page describing Hat Creek.

John, N6SEX, grew up in this area and he will tell us campfire stories about annoying the flatlanders that went up there to camp.

Les, W6TEE



PUBLIC SERVICE



The year 2001 started off rather slowly in the first quarter with no public service activities scheduled for Club.

In the second quarter we placed volunteers at several locations at the Western States 50 mile run from Sac State to Auburn. This was a required Qualifier for the 100 mile race later this year.

The next scheduled Public Service event is the Davis Double Century on May 19th. MVRC Volunteers will join Hams from other clubs in a group effort. This event is one which we have participated in past years and everyone is familiar with their roles.

Future MVRC Public Service activities are the Western States 100 mile race in June and the Lung Association three day Bike Ride in September.

The 2001 TEVIS race will have a different communications management team and at this time we are not sure of our role and if we will even be asked to participate.

Remember, if you volunteer for any other PS event, using ham radio, please let us know so we can log it in.

73, Wayne
WA6APX