

# Mt. Vaca Radio Club, Inc.

OCT. 2004

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

ARRL  
NARCC

[www.mvrc.org](http://www.mvrc.org)

**General Meeting**  
Sunday, Oct 24th , at 4:00 p.m.

Event Center in Raleys  
1915 Douglas Blvd  
4:00 - 5:30 PM

**DUES DUE:** New dues are due as of July 1, \$48 per family, except \$18 for DX members out of repeater area. Contact the Board if you are not a DX member, but should be. Mail check to Mt. Vaca Radio Club at PO Box or pay at July meeting. If your expiration date is not 6/05, prorate \$4 per month (DX=\$1.50) to bring new expiration to 6/05. If your expiration is already 6/05 or later, you owe nothing.

The 450 club frequency changed from 444.00MHz to 443.95MHz. Please adjust your radios.

The tech crew have been busy again see article - next page.

## Telecommunications Wear

Dickies Brand makes a line of "Cell Phone Pants" that includes work pants, jeans, and shorts. Variations in style and color have been seen at Sears, Wal-Mart, Target and OSH. They all have a cell phone pocket below the level of the regular pockets behind the right seam. The pocket is large enough for most current Ham HTs, or of course, cell phones.

## EMIGRANT TRAILS BIKE TREK

On September 11-13 the Lung Association held the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual ETBT. This 3-day event covers the foothills from Apple Hill to Plymouth with camping for the participants at the Fairgrounds in Plymouth and Coloma on successive nights. Working the event this year were Mike, WA6RWR; Doris, WA6UAF; Wayne, WA6APX; Don, KE6GMJ; Lew, WA6ESA; Adrienne, WA6CNE and Communications Coordinator Ken, KC6JSV. Event organizers always do a great job for the 350+ riders and support personnel. Everyone is well cared for with great checkpoints, breakfast, lunch and dinners. This year's Trek went off without a hitch. MVRC members who have not worked this one should give it a try next year. Its close by, easy and really a lot of fun. See you there.

## WHITNEY CLASSIC

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Whitney Classic Bike Ride is now history. The event challenges bike riders to test themselves in a grueling 136 mile ride from Badwater in Death Valley to Whitney Portal at the base of Mt. Whitney. The Good Sam's RV Club and Sam's Hams provide the support for event sponsor Summit Adventure which is a Christian charity for at risk youth. 10 individual riders and 7 teams collected pledges and headed out from Badwater on a blistering 106 degree day. Assisting the Sam's Hams with communications were the following MVRC members and friends: Communications Chairman Les, W6TEE; Matthew, W6KDJ; Jim, WB6ZII; Marsha, KD6TTS; Lew, WA6ESA; Adrienne, WA6CNE; Glenn, WA7SPY; Bill, WA6IVI; and a special guest appearance from John, N6SEX.

Among things learned was how many hams it takes to set up a shade canopy – answer 6, but they beat the previous record by 5 minutes and got under it just in the nick of time to prevent meltdown ! First timers at the Classic also learned that seniority does have privilege. It was immediately apparent when they saw their assigned checkpoint at Stop 2 located along side the road with a scraggly creosote bush for shade. The Colliers, who had worked the event in previous years, were assigned to work the Oasis Checkpoint at Furnace Creek in the shade of numerous palm trees, a cool stream running by, picnic tables and a bathroom nearby. I guess I need to mention here that Jim and Marsha also handled the Start at Badwater where the 106 degrees was recorded and accommodations much less luxurious. John's much anticipated arrival by his fan club was by motorcycle. His job was to travel between checkpoints spreading a message of love and hope. After the organization duties were handled, Les and Matthew spent much of the day checking locations for radio



Please check your information on the enclosed roster. You should also check the MVRC web site ([WWW.MVRC.ORG](http://WWW.MVRC.ORG)) to insure that your EMAIL and Web address are correct. Please email Bill - WA6ACF if there are changes.

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coverage and then working the checkpoint just before the Finish which comes active in the wee hours of the nite. Working one of the high altitude (above sea level) locations was Bill, WA6IVI who drew Townes Pass. As we passed Bill's location on the way back to camp we noted the 77 degree temperature – Nice choice Bill. After helping at checkpoints along the route from the start, Glenn worked the finish line which was both very cold and very late. John rode up to keep Glenn company and the rumor going around is that they took turns snuggling up with Phillip to keep warm – sounds desperate guys! With assigned duties completed, Lew, AB, Jim Marsha and John stopped in at Panamint Springs to get refreshed and have a bite to eat. They noted nothing had changed much since the last MVRC Spring Trip there a number of years ago. Even John's considerable charm didn't impress the server and we were forced to make our own fun – no problem.

In closing, I'd say the event was a huge success. It was well organized and went smoothly. The Sam's folks were a great bunch to work with and made us feel welcome and worthwhile. We're already looking forward to next year. By the way, if it hasn't been mentioned already, Phillip is a handsome setter dog.

#### Trip Recorder

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#### Using FRS Radios

Family Radio Service (FRS) radios are becoming quite popular. Some Hams use these 1/2 watt HTs to communicate with friends and family without the stigma attached to CB. However, there is a trend to 22 channel FRS/GMRS radios that makes operating legally tricky. Only channels 1-14 are license-free FRS channels. If you don't have a GMRS (General Mobile

Radio Service) license, stick with the FRS channels, no matter what non-Hams are doing. Some say that any radios with GMRS should be illegal as an FRS radio, but that isn't the FCC attitude. FRS-only radios, except for some cheap models, have all but disappeared from the stores.

The FCC does allow FRS and GMRS stations to talk to each other on the shared channels, 1-7. Further, most of the desirable name-brand radios raise the power on GMRS channels, which includes the first 7 shared channels. So these radios only operate legal FRS on channels 8-14. If in doubt, stick to these channels.

Many think that these radios will force the FCC to make GMRS license-free. But until that happens, if at all, protect your radio licenses by operating legally.

A hint: Some of these radios are slow receiving when using the privacy feature (PL), especially on the lowest tones, and with mixed brands. This feature doesn't give you an exclusive channel, it just keeps you from hearing a signal that is blocking you. Don't use it when it is not needed, or else use one of the higher privacy channels (PL tone). Most radios turn this off by setting to privacy channel 0. Some inexpensive radios don't have this feature at all, so other radios used with them MUST be set to privacy channel 0.

#### IRLP update

The MVRC Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP) node 3895 is up and running. It doesn't get much use, so I would encourage anyone who is familiar with IRLP to use the node, and even those aren't familiar with IRLP to try it, too.

The IRLP system is a full-time radio link connection to the UHF and VHF repeaters and its operation is quite simple. On your microphone DTMF pad, just enter the node number you wish to reach and, boom, you are connected. There are no preaccess codes, and normally, no connection codes. To disconnect from IRLP, enter "73" on your pad, and you will be disconnected. To get a list of IRLP nodes, go to [www.irlp.net](http://www.irlp.net) and click on "Node Info."

I have also written some Linux Bourne Shell scripts which go over the Internet to [www.hamweather.net](http://www.hamweather.net) and gather weather data from various FAA weather stations around the region and reports those readings using voice over the repeater system. The weather stations currently entered and their DTMF commands are:

722 - Sacramento Executive Airport (SAC)  
647 - Mather Field (MHR)  
763 - Metro Airport (SMF)  
733 - Redding Airport (RDD)  
228 - Arcata/Eureka Airport (ACV)  
232 - Crescent City (CEC)  
736 - San Francisco International Airport (SFO)

Note that the commands follow the letters of the FAA Reference Designator for the airport in question. For example, Sacramento Metro Airport is SMF, so its command is 763; San Francisco is SFO, so its command is 736, etc.

If anyone would like information for their favorite city or airport, then let me know and I can add it as long as there is an FAA weather station in the area.

Marc Reitzell  
W6MAR

## **SEE YOU ALL AT THE MEETING!**

**CLUB MEMBERS:** Remember to bring pictures of recent activities to be included in the club's historical archives.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT

The main accomplishments in the past few months include the following:

Generator repaired by Bill Boots, WB6TXC--a new fuel pump.  
Logic problems repaired by George Besley, WB6DOP and Jay O'Brien, W6GO.  
220 repeater back up, reinstalled by Jim Rainford, WA9KPW; Jim spent his entire vacation working at the site including installation of a small parts cabinet and the conduit for some badly needed AC wiring, plus various other tasks.  
Single Digit Decoder is being checked out on the hill.  
The Club has purchased a Bird Wattmeter so that members without same can make a few necessary checks on the hill occasionally.  
The Technical Committee is proposing the following 5 point package for consideration at the next meeting on the 14th:

1. PL for WR6AGO UHF to eliminate garbage coming from San Jose. PL frequency 94.8 Hz to conform with Sacramento Valley. PL to be switchable on and off so Non PL member can touchtone command PL off and use repeater. PL frequency to be published and keep this channel "OPEN".
2. New UHF repeater package to be used on WR6AGO, 449.0/444.0.
3. Old WR6AGN repeater to be used as Interconnect and Control. This is our old interconnect frequency. Some members may have to buy new crystals. This would eliminate some tube equipment and make room for the new repeater. This would eliminate the present internod from some commercial outfit and a nearby repeater. (Although new internod products could form from new pair.) Later, the WR6AGN pair could be used as the computer input and output.
4. The old WR6AGO UHF package to go to the South Site with PL and an ICOM 22S as a remote base. (It has been suggested that the 22S might not work well in conjunction with the MARS repeater so other equipment is being considered.) This will free the North Site of all remote base capability.
5. A new and simpler audio matrix package is being constructed presently, using the LM3980/CA3481.

HELP! HELP! HELP! Pickup truck with driver needed to transport new gas tank from the Cobb's place in Carmichael to Floyd Luney's (West Sacramento) to clean it for about an hour and return the tank to my house--N6SQ. I figure an afternoon should easily accomplish this task. This tank is for our emergency generator which is part of our rent agreement on the hill.

We still need volunteers to wire some microprocessor boards. If you can read a map, you can wire these boards.

A lot of non-technical jobs are being done by technical people who could be spending their time doing microprocessor work, audio matrix work, new repeater installation, etc. Any help at all can bring some of these long overdue projects closer to completion.

--Gary Wann, N6SQ  
Technical Committee Chairman

Oct 1979



To WA9KPW for spending his leave on Mt. Vaca! Such dedication. Jim's proper mailing address is too long to fit in the Mt. Vaca data base (at present) so here it is:

J. R. Rainford  
Fox Division  
USS Paul F. Foster, DD-964  
FPO San Francisco, CA 96601



Wayne Minick, WA6APX and Jim Rainford, WA9KPW. "Sucking out the last milliwatt on the 220 repeater."



Membership Chairman, Bill Boots, WB6TXC; Mike Jordan, WB6KDO; and Lew Barnard, WA6ESA, in serious discussion.

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### First Class Mail

GENERAL MEETING NOTICE  
Check page one for time and place

Club web address: [www.mvrc.org](http://www.mvrc.org)

The Mt. Vaca Radio Club, Inc. (MVRC), operates repeater station K6MVR on 2 Meter and 440 MHz., from locations on Mt. Vaca and within the Sacramento area for communications over a wide area. All Amateurs are welcome to use the open repeaters on 147.00 (-) (PL 136.5 Hz.) and in open contacts which do not impede the use by others, except when K6MVR is used for Public Service activity. Club simplex operation for public service and other activities will use 147.585 MHz.

CLUB NET: is suspended due to lack of people.

Members Dues: Membership dues are \$48 per year, due and payable June 1 of each year. (out of area members \$18 per year)

Sponsors: Support for the open repeater. Anyone can become a Sponsor for one year by sending \$15 or more to the Membership Chairman. Sponsors will receive the Mt. Vaca News.

Information on system operation or on membership is available from the Membership Chairman. There is no obligation to become a Sponsor or Member to operate on the open system.