



Mt. Vaca Radio Club, Inc.

July 2010
www.mvrc.org

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

ARRL
NARCC

Events for MVRC Mark your calendar.

SUN JUL 11 - MEETING - **5:00 pm**
(note new time) at Raley's event center inside supermarket, 4650 Natomas Blvd. Sacramento, NE of ARCO Arena (same as recent meetings). Optional dinner afterwards.

JUL 15-19 - ANNUAL CAMPOUT
- Sugar Pine RV Park near Twain Harte, See details page 2.

July 24-25 - TEVIS CUP - Public Service. Equestrian endurance ride. Signup
<http://www.ws100.com/comm>

SAT SEP 11 - TAHOE SIERRA 100 (TS100) - Public Service

SEP 24-26 - WHITNEY CLASSIC - Public Service. Death Valley - Lone Pine charity bike ride. See article page 3.

SUN OCT 17 - MEETING - Suggested date so conflicts can be adjusted. Please comment!



SEE YOU ALL AT THE MEETING!

IRLP Update

The Mt. Vaca Radio Club Echolink/IRLP node, IRLP node number of 3895 and Echolink node number 303846, has been reconfigured.

The previous configuration consisted of a pair of Alinco DR-235 220 MHz mobiles, one connected to the node at my house and the other connected to the repeater system on Mt. Vaca, tuned to a simplex frequency. These two radios were essentially connected to the repeater system full time so that a repeater user could contact an IRLP or Echlink node at any time without additional complexity of first sending a link connection command to the repeater using a Touch Tone pad.

The problem with this configuration was that we essentially had a 220 MHz "repeater" with a 146.400 MHz receiver and that this repeater transmitter never identified itself with a CW or voice identifier, plus it used a digital coded squelch so that no one could effectively communicate to the repeater system through the 220 link frequency, except for the EchoIRLP node, which was really by design.

The current configuration is a single VHF radio which transmits Echolink and IRLP node traffic directly to the input of the 147.000 repeater on 146.400 MHz. This radio is a Motorola VHF Maxtrac, which was purchased via eBay.

Since this configuration transmits directly to the repeater input, there is no ID requirement other than an ID on the node transmitter, of which there is none but which I am trying to resolve. The problem with transmitting directly to the repeater is that the node will now hear any hang time, identifiers, and courtesy tones generated by the repeater, which is against the IRLP standards, and will not work at all when connected to reflectors. We resolved the last two items by having the repeater's identifier transmit without the PL encoder and by eliminating all courtesy tones. The hang time is eliminated by having the node transmit a "hang time off" DTMF command.

This configuration works, but is not a perfect solution. To resolve some of the issues, I would like to propose another link radio solution involving 900 MHz again at the general meeting. Those interested in this topic are encouraged to attend.

Marc Reitzell - W6MAR

Our annual Ham campout will be July 15-19 (Thu-Sun nites, fewer nites OK) at Sugar Pine RV Park, where we were in 2003, just past Twain Harte and Sonora on CA-108. See description page 4 for possible hikes and sights. These are only suggestions and actual activities will be selected by those present, not by me.



KK4XU.

For reservations, phone campground at 209-586-4631, say you are with the Mt. Vaca Radio Club campout, then notify me.

Motels in area too.

Our RV reservations are closed but you may call the campground to see if they have openings with or without hookups. Reserved - Lew, WA6ESA; George B, W6GWB; Bill W, WA6IVI; Bill H, N6MSI; Les, W6TEE; Jim K, KT6W; Jim C, WB6ZII. Tent - Marc, W6MAR. Cabin - George V,



Meeting Agenda

The MVRC quarterly meeting is scheduled for 5 PM on Sunday July 11 at the usual Raley's on Natomas NE of ARCO in Sacramento. The time is an hour later because of other scheduling of the room, but some members like a later time. Consider this a test.

1. July 15-19 annual Ham campout near Twain Harte. We will discuss questions about this and plans for caravanning and using our 2 meter repeater. We have 7 families signed up with RVs, 1 cabin, and 1 tent.
Lead speaker, W6TEE

2. Public Service - Tevis Cup - July 24, Tahoe Sierra 100 - Sept 11, Whitney Classic- Sept 24-26 If there are any questions, a number of our members participate. Lead speaker, W6TEE

3. Simplex interference on repeater input. Now believed to be coming from near Modesto. Lead speaker, W6GWB

4. IRLP/Echolink - Replacement of 220 link with 2 meters has not worked as well as hoped due to control shortcomings. Plans for improvement and cost will be discussed. Lead speaker, W6MAR

5. GMRS repeater. When our 440 repeater was taken off the air due to Pave Paws, it was put on GMRS 462.675. On the last trip to Vaca, it was removed because it had failed. There is sufficient interest to repair or replace it, but the FCC is considering doing away with GMRS repeaters. We may appoint a committee to study whether we want to continue this, undertake a new (to us) Ham band, or do both as backup. Lead speakers, W6MAR, W6TEE

6. K6MVR scheduled uses, nets, etc. Lead speaker, W6TEE

7. Yahoo Groups - Explanation of the membership and use of the Club Yahoo Groups and related message groups. Lead speaker, W6TEE

8. Election - The entire Board, except Trustee, will be voted on to immediately take office. All candidates, even for reelection, must give their permission, especially if not there. Lead speaker, WA6ACF

Les, W6TEE

Campout Details - Our annual Ham campout will be July 15-19 (Thu-Sun nites, fewer nites OK) at Sugar Pine RV Park, where we were in 2003, just past Twain Harte and Sonora on CA-108. Caravan on 147.555 simplex or 147.00- 136.5pl K6MVR repeater. GMRS frequencies later. HF welcome in camp. Bring launcher for trees.

Group hikes are always popular during these trips, but not mandatory. Here are some suggestions up CA-108 above our campground. These are all 4 miles in length or less. I have more details, including how to drive to each one.

Eagle Meadow to Dardanelle - 4 miles one way, requires vehicle drop-off and pick-up at the end. Downhill, some steep. Hikers, dogs on leash, horses, mtn bikes.

Trail of the Gargoyles - 3 miles, i.e. two 1.5 mile out and back trails. Fairly level but steep drop-off on one side. Hold kids' hands. Hikers and dogs on leash. No horses or bikes.

Columns of the Giants - 0.5 miles. Favorably compared to Devil's Postpile. Hikers and dogs on leash. No horses or bikes.

Sardine Falls - 2 miles. Near Sonora Pass. Easy hike through meadow but no formal trail, just closed. Jeep tracks, falls in sight. Hikers, dogs on leash, horses, no bikes.

Rail Trails

Sugar Pine Railway - Strawberry Branch - 3 miles one-way. Gravel and dirt. Hikers, horses, mtn bikes. Dogs not mentioned.

Two West Side Rail Trails in the area are a more ambitious length but either could be done out and back with advice of Bill, N6MSI.

Stuff from Bill.



Greetings,

Well it is that time again when we have our General Meeting. Our July meeting is an important meeting since this is when we get to pay dues and elect a new board.

I would like as many members that can attend this meeting on July 11th. It is important to support your club, after all being a member is what pays for the repeater. We could use some new members so find a ham friend and bring them.

We have several public services activities this next quarter. This is a chance to go play radio and enjoy the outdoors while doing a public service for safety.

I want to thank all those that have help get things done this last year for MVRC.

Bill
WA6ACF

WHITNEY CLASSIC Bike Ride

Sept. 24 – 26, 2010

The Whitney Classic 135 mile Benefit Bicycle Ride in Lone Pine is an overnight challenge for riders and workers. Radio is organized by the Sam's Radio Hams Chapter of Good Sam. Other Hams with or without RVs are welcome

Summit Adventure is a Christian non-profit wilderness program working with families, adults, and youths. The Whitney Classic is a major source of funds for them since the riders secure large pledges.

General – This ride (NOT a race) starts at 3:00 pm Saturday at Badwater in Death Valley. Riders climb two 5,000 ft. passes during the night, finishing at Whitney Portal, 8,365 ft. by Sunday Noon.

Good Sam volunteers (Sammers) check in the riders and serve them food. Hams (Hammers) relay rider numbers, times, and problems from every open Stop.

<u>SAG Stops</u>	<u>Miles</u>	<u>Rider times</u>
Start – Badwater	0.0	3:00 pm
#1 – Furnace Creek	17.5	3:50-5:00
#2 – Scotty's (Junction)	34.7	4:30-6:20
#3 – Stove Pipe Wells	42.3	4:50-7:30
#4 – Wildrose (Junction)	51.3	5:30-11:00
#5 – Towne Pass	58.9	6:30-12:30 am
#6 – Panamint Springs	72.9	7:00-1:30
#7 – Father Crowley	80.0	7:30-4:00
Repeater – Hillcrest	84.8	<i>not a stop</i>
#8 – Darwin (Junction)	90.7	8:10-6:30
#9 – Keeler	108.1	9:10-8:00
#10 – Lone Pine NCS	121.1	9:50-11:30
#11 – Switchbacks	131.2	11:00-12:20
Finish – Whitney Portal.	134.8	11:30-1:30 pm

A CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEARS! If you may want to help with Ham radio, even if not 100% sure, mail the form below NOW, or e-mail ALL information, any text format No assignment guarantees! Use SRHams or WhitneyNorth Yahoo Group for discussion and announcements

Tech licenses, 2-m FM rigs, 25-50 W, and gain antennas are all it takes. 440 MHz FM is optional Starting frequency is 147.51 MHz FM simplex, migrating to a 2-meter repeater and optional 440 MHz frequencies. FRS/GMRS is used within SAG Stops Ham and other frequencies will be handed out.

Net Control (NCS) in the Comfort Inn parking lot in Lone Pine tracks the ride. Riders have their own support vehicles, so we don't usually patrol.

Most cell phones do NOT work East of Lone Pine but a new site is being installed at Furnace Creek! Ask for latest.

After all riders pass and your Stop is closed, you can sleep there in your RV until daylight, if you want to.

Details – Be in Lone Pine Friday afternoon, or camp with early birds at Tuttle Creek Campground. Camp next to the Comfort Inn Friday. Save the row nearest the motel for Sammers with ample fire lanes between rows. Meet there at 4 PM to discuss final radio assignments. A Friday night Pot Luck is for all Sammers and Hammers to get acquainted.

There is a pancake breakfast Saturday for volunteers at the VFW Hall behind McDonalds. Stay seated after for all announcements. After a group photo in our new T shirts by the motel, we can go to our assignments.

After the ride Sunday, there is an awards presentation in the Park with free pizza and sodas for participants and volunteers. The Sam's Radio Hams campout at nearby Boulder Creek RV Park follows on Sunday.

- Les Cobb, W6TEE

WHITNEY CLASSIC 2010 - Ham Radio Signup - Mail form NOW to: Les Cobb, 4114 Horgan Way, Sacramento CA 95821, **or**, e-mail W6TEE at QSL.NET in any text format **or** turn in by Fri Sept 24, 4 PM meeting.

Name(s) _____ Home Phone _____ - _____ - _____

Address _____ City St Zip _____

Chapter: Sam's Radio Hams Y: ___ Other or None: _____ T Shirt size(s) ___ & ___

Call(s) _____ & _____ Number yrs worked _____ RV size _____ Pot Luck Y/N ___

Requested Assignment (Optional) _____ Assignment (LEAVE BLANK) _____

This space reserved for picture and articles of MVRC activities.