Mt. Vaca Radio Club, Inc.

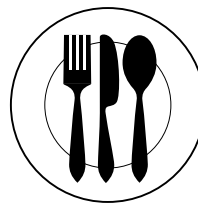**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

General Meeting

Sunday, January 13, at 3:30 p.m.
Solarium/green room
Chevy's
1234 Howe Ave.
Sacramento, CA.

Please join us for dinner after the meeting.

Activities

SUN JAN 13 - REGULAR MEETING

SAT FEB 9 - CHILI PARTY - 6:30 PM Joanne, KF6GXK
    QTH, near Watt and Folsom, Sacramento. Bring
    Chili or pot-luck side dish. - BOARD MEETING
    preceeds at 6 PM

SUN MAR 17 - MOBILE RUN - Riverbank Cheese, etc.
    Meet 10 AM at Elk Grove Lyon's. Use 147.555,
    446.00 simplex. Bring picnic lunch. WA6ESA/
    WA6CNE wagonleaders.

WED MAR 20 - BOARD MEETING

THU/SUN MAR 28/31 - SOLANO BIKE CLASSIC -
    Public Service.

APR 10-14 - ANNUAL DESERT TRIP - May be Tecopa,
    SE of Death Valley. Watch web for details.

SUN APR 21 - REGULAR MEETING

JUL 12-14 - ANNUAL CAMPOUT - With North Hills
    RC. Humboldt Redwoods State Park, Williams
    Grove Group Area B, same as 1998, reserved for
    2 nights.
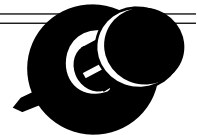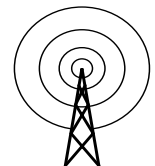
Les, W6TEE

Presidents words:

Happy New Year! Now that we are half way through the MVRC year, it seems a good time to take an assessment of where we are and what remains to be done. I think, as a club, we need to work on providing better communication to our members and others.

With that thought, one of our on-going discussions is increasing member participation on the club's Monday night net. We don't have a huge membership, but we are far flung and the newsletter is issued quarterly to correspond with our general membership meetings. The weekly net is an important way to communicate with members between the meetings and to keep all in touch with the club activities and individuals. How might we increase participation? Should we change the format, the date and/or time, should we run a contest with prizes for the most check-ins or the most announcements, should we have specific persons called upon to deliver messages or announcements, should there be more than one net control? What do you think we should do to improve the club's communication efforts? Discussion to follow at the meeting.

We should provide more written information to members. John, N6SEX has provided an informative article (elsewhere this issue) describing the function and use of the IRLP system he and Nima, WA6SUP have put

Please listen to the MVRC NET at 7:45 p.m. every Monday evening. Latest club activities are heard on our net.

together and have made available for the club's use. We'll gladly accept volunteers to write future similar articles explaining some aspect of amateur radio of interest to either individuals or the club . . . or we might ask for contributions.   And thanks John for writing the first of hopefully many articles.

We are also going to be transmitting electronic and paper fliers about activities that occur between general membership meetings. To that end, I am assigning all members the task of checking their e-mail and USPS address on the printed roster with this issue. Please bring any corrections to the meeting, send them to the P.O. Box listed on the newsletter masthead, or e-mail them to me or to Bill, WA6ACF our V.P. and editor. Please write legibly!

On the social side of the club (and yes, there are two sides to our personality), there are several upcoming planned activities. The general membership meeting is Sunday, January 13 with many interesting items on the agenda. Our annual Chili party is scheduled for Saturday February 9th and the next quarterly mobile run (day trip) is scheduled for March 17th. Please check the activities listing in this issue for more details and plan to attend the meeting for further details. We will also be discussing other future activities, currently in the planning stages, including the summer campout.

The next public service activity is the Solano Bike Classic scheduled for March 28 through 31. This is a new event for us. The latest details will be available at the general meeting and also check this issue for details known at press time. Also, some of the time commitment will be on weekdays and, for those days, we may need to rely heavily on retired members. There are other public service activities scheduled for later in the summer. These are also on the agenda for the January meeting.

Hope to see you all January 13th, Chevy's restaurant at 1234 Howe Ave., Sacramento and please check the roster and think about an article you could write for the newsletter.

Doris, WA6UAF

Equipment for SALE: lengths of 50 to 100 feet of 84147 1/2 inch andrew heliax cable with connectors, also some 1/2 inch superflex. - call Tech chariman.

Don't forget Amateur License Restructuring. Are you still just a lonely TechPlus? Well don't delay and go UPGRADE. If you have upgraded and the roster does not show your current license please let Bill (WA6ACF) know.

Tech report.

Seasons Greetings from your friendly Tech committee. I am pleased to report that all systems are working well. The repackaging of our systems into a single rack has been accomplished. There is still some dress up work to be done, and the 440 power amp to be installed. Our immediate plans are to finish building the 440 power amplifier and to install a new power supply for the 2M repeater.

I would like to take this time to ask for one or more volunteers to resolve the weather proofing problems we are experiencing with our shelter. This requires someone with home maintenance experience. Electronic technical experience not required. So for all of you that feel that you are not up to the technical expertise of maintaining the system, here is your chance to help out. Please contact me by Radio, E-mail, Web site message, Telephone, or see me at the next general meeting. Thanks.

73's
Mike WA6RWR

Thank you to the board for the get-well card while I was recuperating from an appendectomy. I'm sure all the good thoughts helped me recover quickly. And before anyone else asks, unlike President Johnson, I don't show my scar or lift dogs by their ears either.

Thanks, Doris WA6UAF

Remembering when ……

Did you know that for a brief time the MVRC was truly a mobile repeater club ??

The original repeater site on Mt Vaca was on property owned by Crowley Maritime. In exchange for allowing the MVRC to occupy the space, the Club was responsible for maintenance around the Crowley and MVRC sites. This amounted to occasional trips to do some weed control. Then in 1989 Crowley sold the property to a commercial site operator. The rent charged by the new owner was prohibitive and so the MVRC was, for a time, homeless. VHF did continue operating at a temporary location until a fellow ham offered us space on which we could relocate the building. And so it goes that, pulled not by a reindeer but by a big ol' Blazer known as WA6ACF, the building was towed to the new site as the little ol driver called out "WA6UGY MOBILE."

WA6CNE
Historian

IRLP/MVRC
Internet Radio Linking Project.

So, what does that mean? Simply, IRLP is a way to link repeaters via the Internet. IRLP started over a year ago in Canada and is gaining much popularity here in North America as well as the world.

MVRC is host to the first IRLP repeater in the Sacramento area and the 2nd in Northern CA. MVRC member John N6SEX owns and operates the IRLP repeater and MVRC member Nima WA6SUP owns and operates the IRLP "node" (computer). The system is open and available to anyone -especially MVRC members. The system operates on 1285.850 [-12] MHz with a tone of 100.0. The node # is 301. Repeater and IRLP commands are very simple and available upon request.

Certainly there is a lot of fun to be had on IRLP! It can be used to talk to any of over 200 repeaters (nodes) all over the world. This number is growing very fast and if there is not a node in a city of your choice -it is likely that there will be at least one there very soon. In addition to linking directly to other repeaters, you can use IRLP to link to reflectors (or as I like to call them "chat rooms"). Reflectors are where numerous nodes (repeaters) can all communicate with each other at the same time. While on a reflector you are likely to hear stations from around the world talking real time with one another. It can be great fun!

Some of the best fun that we have had is communicating with traveling MVRC members and other local hams who have stayed in touch via IRLP. The first to do this was Nima WA6SUP who stayed in touch with us while in Denver Colorado. Other examples are Lew WA6ESA and Adrianne WA6CNE who stayed in touch while vacationing in Las Vegas. George W6GWB talked to us from his hand-held while driving a rental car in Washington DC! Most recently Les W6TEE used various nodes to stay in touch with Sacramento while traveling to southern California. Most recently Chris N6ICW kept in touch every evening for a week while up in British Columbia Canada. We sure expect that IRLP will get used in these types of scenarios more and more. Hopefully you will be the next!

For more information on the local node don't hesitate to ask. Many MVRC members including myself and Mike WA6RWR will be happy to help and/or answer your questions.

Detailed information on the history and technical aspects of IRLP can be found on www.irlp.net .

..John N6SEX

The world has new IRLP power user: Glenn WA7SPY's son Rowan. He is eight years old and doing a GREAT job.

Operating Guide / Repeater usage

The MVRC repeaters are equipped with 30 second timers in response to the membership's desire that transmissions be short, direct and to the point like face-to-face conversations.

The MVRC system is a large party line that should be kept open for use by as many users as possible. When entering a conversation in progress, identify using your call sign only. The use of the word BREAK is discouraged. Give your call sign in the time period between when one member of the conversation stops transmitting and the courtesy tone occurs.

When the system is being used for Public Service please give that traffic priority.

All Amateurs are welcome to use the open repeaters and in open contacts which do not impede the use by others.

PUBLIC SERVICE:

In our club's continued effort to provide public service communication, we have once again been successful. Those of you who continued to listen after the net on Christmas Eve may have heard NP1 (also known as Santa Clause) talking with his Elves.
Thanks to everyone who kept their communications short to allow Santa to use our repeater - 73. .. and to all a Good Night!

A Reminder that the Club Dues were due July 1st. The club dues are now $48 for full membership.
The DX dues are still $18 for a year.

Please check the roster and if your dues date has expired or will in the next few months please make your membership current.

January

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: The MVRC net is every Monday at 7:45 PM on the 147.00 repeater. Club activities are announced. Members, Sponsors, and Visitors are asked to check in.

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.

t. Vaca Radio Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 161394
Sacramento, Ca. 95816 -1394

First Class Mail