

Mt. Vaca Radio Club, Inc.

July 2004

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

ARRL
NARCC

www.mvrc.org

General Meeting
Sunday, July 18, at 5:00 p.m.
Solarium/green room
Chevy's
1234 Howe Ave.
Sacramento, CA.

Dinner also

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 6/04, 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.

3rd Quarter Activities

SUN JUL 18 - REGULAR MEETING
JULY 22-25 - ANNUAL CAMPOUT - Golden Coach, Cromberg near Portola. <http://www.qsl.net/w6tee/camp04.htm>.
SAT JUL 31 - TEVIS CUP - Public Service.
<http://www.foothill.net/~andrea/j/>
WED AUG 18 - BOARD MEETING
SEP 11-13 - BIKE TREK - American Lung Assn. Contact Ken, KC6JSV, 916-723-3796.
WED SEP 15 - BOARD MEETING
SEP 16-22 - FALL TRIP - To be decided by participants, see W6TEE.
SAT OCT 2 - SACRAMENTO HAM PICNIC - 11:00 AM, Gibson Ranch Park, Group Site 1A, Elverta Rd.
SUN OCT 17 - REGULAR MEETING

Presidents comments

Happy July 4th!

There have been many distractions lately planning a trip to Iowa for a class reunion, working long-distance with my cousin to plan the reunion, segregating all the "stuff" needed for a business trip the day after returning from Iowa, closing out the fiscal year at work, and all the usual household things. I'm writing this the day after it was due, but if I hurry, maybe the editor won't notice.

The annual meeting is rapidly approaching on July 18th. See details elsewhere this issue. As always, we will be electing officers. AB (CNE) and Bill (ACF) are making great progress in finding willing candidates. As always, nominations from the floor are encouraged in addition to those who have volunteered, so be there to protect your interests. Remember, if you don't come out to vote, you don't have the right to complain, even if you are the one elected.

The summer and early fall is an active public service event time for the club. Volunteers are still needed for the Tevis Cup, 100 mile horse ride through the Sierras and foothills, at the end of July and for the Lung Association Bike Ride, 120 mile bike ride through the foothills, the weekend after Labor Day. Both are great fun, meeting new people, working with hams you already know, getting out and seeing some new countryside, breathing fresh air and eating good food. You don't HAVE to ride either a horse or a bike, but you can if you want. Come to the meeting to hear all the details and to sign up for one of the coveted radio operations jobs.

The summer camp trip is also in the very near future. Les (TEE) has been busy making the arrangements with a campground between Quincy and Portola on Hwy. 70. If you would like to go, check in with Les for details and location, but you will have to make your own arrangements. If you don't have camp gear, or just don't want to drag the stuff out of the hot garage, do like

Presidents comments continued on page 2



The tech crew after a hard days work of tuning and tweaking the repeater site. Wait this isn't our site, what where you all doing here on the spring trip?



Please check your information on the enclosed roster. You should also check the MVRC web site (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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Mike and I do and “camp” in one a local lodges/motels/bed and breakfasts/inns. Lots are listed on the internet and in printed travel guides. You may end up paying more for accommodations, but you will have the luxury of a real bed and hot shower every morning without having to worry about holding tanks and converting the bed into a bench. More details about the camping trip and other upcoming events elsewhere in this issue.

Lots of technical activities have been happening and plans are being made. In the end the antennas will be where we want them, the radios will be tuned and adjusted, and everything will be interfaced and connectable. Willing help is needed to complete the tasks. Details will be discussed at the meeting.

It’s been grand being your president for the last three years, but alas it is time to hand off the honors to someone else. Come to the meeting and help vote in all the next officers, to get the latest on the club happenings and to have dinner with a friendly group of hams.

73, Doris, WA6UAF

Technical Committee

There is one technical and political issue that may merit an FYI. Broadband over power lines is an evolving issue that I am watching from both sides; being both a licensed amateur radio operator and employed in the power utility industry. It is a technology that a could be both a benefit to the community (mostly rural Internet subscribers) and a disaster to high frequency communications (not just amateur radio HF). The current PLC spectrum is between 50 and 200 kilohertz and is used primarily for protective relaying and control communications by the power companies themselves. It would not be adequate to pass even a single “DSL equivalent” bandwidth. To be economically viable an assignment of several Megahertz would be necessary and since leakage on open wire is inevitable (as the cable television system operators have found out) a primary frequency assignment would be needed. None of that is available now.

Comment: I believe that it will eventually happen but not for many more years. There are so many other spectrum users that would be affected (military, marine, aircraft, HF broadcasting) that It will take a major frequency reassignment and several WRC conventions before it could be enacted. But in the mean time we should keep informed and let our politicians know our feelings as money and politics sometimes results in irrational decisions.

A couple of links to both sides of the issue
<http://www.arrl.org/>
<http://www.appanet.org/legislativeregulatory/broadband/index.cfm>

Mike
KT6MJ

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 and click on “Node Info.”

I have also written some Linux Bourne Shell scripts which go over the Internet to 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

A few weeks ago Dan, KH8AF and I (Lew) went up to Vaca. Dan provided two service monitors so we could check the tuning on our 2mt and 440 duplexers. The 2mt duplexer had been tuned by ear when we changed back to the 146.40 input frequency from 147.60. The pass side tuning looked good but reject tuning was off. After re-tuning we gained a good 15db. We also tweaked the 147.00 pass and reject tuning and also retuned the 440 duplexer to our new UHF frequency for a gain of about 5db. HTs are now able to access the 146.40 receiver with better quieting.

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

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

At the July General Meeting we will be holding the election of officers for the 04-05 year. Your hardworking and dedicated Nominations Committee has been out beating the bushes and has come up with a great slate of candidates for the election. If you were missed during the roundup you can still get your name on the ballot. Either call WA6CNE or WA6ACF and we will be happy to add you to the list. At the very least you will want to vote for your candidate of choice so don't miss the July meeting.

Your Nominations Committee

MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY

At the last Board Meeting the Board discussed how we might try to attract some new members into our Club. One suggestion was to try and contact individuals who are taking courses in electronics. I have drafted a contact letter which will be reviewed at the General Meeting. I also developed a letter for member review which could be sent out to people we hear using our system to encourage them to join the MVRC or at least support our dwindling resources. Bring your other good ideas to the General Meeting.

Membership Chairman, WA6CNE

Naval Radio Conversation

This is the transcript of a radio conversation between a U. S. naval ship and Canadian authorities off the coast of Newfoundland in October 1995.

Americans: "Please divert your course 15 degrees to the North to avoid a collision."

Canadians: "recommend you divert YOUR course 15 degrees to the south to avoid a collision."

Americans: "this is the Caption of a US Navy Ship. I say again, DIVERT YOUR course."

Canadians: "No I say again, you divert YOUR course."

Americans: "This is the aircraft carrier USS Lincoln, the second largest ship in the United States Atlantic Fleet. We are accompanied by three destroyers, three cruisers, and numerous support vessels. I demand that you change your course 15 degrees north...that's one-five-degrees north, or countermeasures will be undertaken to ensure the safety of this ship. "

Canadians: "this is a lighthouse. Your call."

Note: The Navy has issued a press-release stating that this incident never happened -- but that doesn't make it any less humorous.

And on another day aboard the USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (May 2, 2003) President Bush made a landing aboard the [USS Abraham Lincoln](#) Thursday, arriving in the co-pilot's seat of a Navy S-3B Viking after making two fly-bys of the carrier.



Two antennas meet on a roof, fall in love and get married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.

SEE YOU ALL AT THE MEETING!

Mt. Vaca Radio Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 417405
Sacramento, Ca. 95841-7405



First Class Mail

GENERAL MEETING NOTICE
Check page one for time and place

Club web address: 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.