



a newsletter of the Verde Valley Amateur Radio Club

# FEEDBACK

## 2010 Officers

President

Jeff Swiggers, N7ZZN

Vice-President

Jack Crabtree, W7JLC

Secretary

Jason Shultz, KE7WWQ

Treasurer

Mel Boreham, N6BDC

Member at large

Norm Vandiver, N7VF

Repeater Trustee

Mike Wingate, WA6LSE

## NEXT MEETING

**Nov. 17, 2010 at  
Cottonwood Public  
Safety Building,  
6th and Aspen  
Doors will open  
about 6:30**

Jack Crabtree, W7JLC, review the Nov. 9th balloon flight and Jeff Swiggers, N7ZZN, will give us an overview of the incident command system.

Dinner before the meeting will be held at Casa Bonita Restaurant in Cottonwood. Meet there between 5 and 5:30

## From the President's Pen

It's been a very interesting year. The wife and I have been involved with sustainable living, as most of you know, for the last several years and making the small but significant jump into solar power was a natural progression of that. I honestly never really knew about the intricacies of solar power – I only knew that if you didn't pay the light bill the lights (somewhat explicable) went out, and the house seemed to get very hot. Thanks to my bride Susan, the light bulb went back on, so to speak. I had been researching solar options for our home for several months when I saw a flyer for Harbor Freight advertising a 45 watt solar array for \$150. Saving me a trip to Phoenix, Bob Kiekenapp K0CKE sold me the same system he had new in the box for about the same price. Of course, as soon as I brought it home, several storm systems moved through the area and I had to wait a couple of weeks to get it installed.

The system comes with a charge controller, including a digital volt readout, so you can stay on top of the charge and discharge process – a very nice feature without having to buy separate equipment. I also picked up a 209 amp/hour deep cycle RV battery from Interstate in Prescott Valley for what I thought was a quite reasonable price. So, for a total of around \$260 I've gotten my station totally off the grid. Being as involved in emergency services as I have, I figured why not operate on emergency power all the time? I still put out 25-75 watts modulated on SSB, and do just great on 2 meters. I put this system to the test during the tornado storms in mid-October, and found that I can operate at a minimum of 12.4 volts or better for three days or more without the sun. To me, that's what amateur radio is all about – being there when no one else CAN be.

Panel installation wasn't too hard. It helps to have someone to hold the ladder for you, and/or fetch equipment from the toolbox as needed. I was really apprehensive about putting holes in my roof, as anyone would be, but it didn't turn out too bad. Ace hardware sold me a product called "Through the Roof", a roof sealer designed to be used with a grease gun, and it worked amazingly well. At least, I haven't seen drywall stains in my house yet. :D

Overall though, I think it was worth installing the system just so the XYL would leave me alone. Anytime I left the shack and a voice would exit the room, she would say "Why is your radio still on if you're not in there?" I have to admit, a valid question. Now, however, I can say, "so does it cost us anything? I don't think so". Still probably not the brightest answer, hi hi, but I like the idea.

I challenge you hams out there to think about emergency communications, and what you would do if the power to your shack disappeared. Do you have backup power? How long are your HT batteries going to last? If it's generator power, can you find a continuous source of gas or diesel without outside influences? Solar or wind backup power to me is the way to go, and at least until the sun explodes (at which point there really isn't a point) I'll be active on the amateur bands. These are just my thoughts on emergency power and the amateur radio station. I'm sure once I get off of barefoot power and get a one gigawatt amplifier I'll have to bump it up, but for now I'm making DX contacts just fine.

73's

Jeff Swiggers, N7ZZN

President, Verde Valley Amateur Radio Association

## Upcoming Events

### December 11, 2010

Annual VVARA Christmas Party-see page 5 for details. If you have not yet sent in your meal choices to Bob Smith, WB6ODR, do so today!

**Next Meeting** January 19, 2011 at the Cottonwood Public Safety Building at 7 pm



Remember all those who are recovering from surgery or illness, and those who have lost family members, or are dealing with other difficulties. A few I know about are:

Jim Elkin, KC00GY

Jack Crabtree, W7JLC

Carol Hills, KA7LKW

Paul Compton, WA7US, and Flo, his xyl

**Someone so special can never be forgotten.**

On October 1st, 2010, Dan Nichols, W6SAK, VVARA lifetime member, died peacefully in his sleep. Dan had suffered for many years with kidney problems necessitating his frequent visits to "the joint". In spite of his medical problems, Dan usually joined the Knobby Knee Net in the morning and regularly joined the Wednesday lunch bunch, until his health prohibited it. Dan never focused on his illnesses: he used his computer to talk to others via Skype even when he was less than 100%. He will be missed for his gentle spirit, his sense of humor, his witticisms and his smile. Check out the silent key page and the forum at VVARA.org to view pictures, a tribute to and remembrances of Dan.

His daughters, Pennie, Nancy and Laurie organized a remembrance of Dan's life on Nov. 6, 2010. Many people were there; Pennie told about her dad. Dan was an a Navy corpsman and an accomplished photographer,. He worked for a neuroresearch company as well. Through it all, family was important. Pennie mentioned that her dad had been a ham for as long as she could remember and "she'd helped put up antennas in every house they lived in." Others spoke of Dan's wit; the dog was the doorbell and WB7RRQ was 'Quadzimoto'. When he met Wyatt, his great grandson, he quipped, "Wyatt, you made me great!" Pennie plans to study to get her license and one of these days, we may hear W6SAK on the air again.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

Hello Paul,

Congratulations on a very impressive web-site. Your site (The Verde Valley Amateur Radio Association) has been added to W5WWW's "Best of the Web" WINNER'S LIST, which can be viewed at <http://www.w5www.com/hamwinners.html> . The time and effort you have invested in your website is much appreciated in the ham radio community.

73s.....Ron/W5WWW

PS: Coming soon Verde Valley Amateur Radio Association Club Web Site Guestbook

Paul - WA7US



It's here!! The new guestbook, that is. Check it out! And while you're there, check out the forum, the place to talk about Ham Radio and activities in Yavapai County. See what is new. Thanks, Paul for all your hard work on the website.

**ELECTION TIME**

Elections will be held at this month's meeting. The nominating committee, Bob Shipton, K8EQC, Dave Drown, WN7L, and Jack Crabtree, W7JLC, have proposed the following nominations.

**President:** Jeff Swiggers, N7ZZN

**Vice President:** Bob Kiekenapp, N0CKE

**Secretary:** Mike Covey, KF7KXL

**Treasurer:** Mel Boreham, N6BDC

**Member at Large:** Bob Thompson, KC8BOB

Nominations will be accepted from the floor prior to voting.

**Congrats!**

We have many talented club members. Wayne Gilbertson, WA7IGI, has written a novel titled, *White Slave*. His book is available at Amazon.

Aiesha Warner, KF7IAJ, has just had her book published. Titled *Mystical Vapors*, her book is available at Barnes and Noble.

Excerpts of both books are available at the websites for you to read.

Charlie Laughlin, KE7WOU, is also hard at work writing and editing another book.

Rod Rosenbarger, KI6FH, also had some vintage equipment for sale. Check out the forum for a listing of what he may have available..

Tune in to the Nets on the repeater- Every morning at 7am join the Knobby Knee Net. A different net control every day and many varied topics are discussed

Every Thursday at 7 pm - all lady hams are encouraged to participate in the Golden Girls Net

The Young and New Hams of Yavapai County meet every Sunday evening at 7pm. While new and young hams can check into any net, this net is a way for young and new hams to gain experi-

As most of you know, we have been on temporary AC power for over a year now, but that is about to change. The trench for the power is now being installed and a 3 inch conduit is being laid in the trench with a proper base of sand underneath and on top. We were to be back on permanent power by the end of September this year.

Our new controller boards are here, and one has been installed programmed and tested in the spare controller here at my QTH. Our neighbors to the east of us are installing a 180 ft. tower and have a lot of heavy equipment operating in the area, it will keep me out of the site for another 2 weeks due to the high amount of heavy equipment traffic. After the equipment is gone, the new controller and its enhanced features will be installed. You will notice the courtesy tone is slightly different and the anti-kerchunking filter is setup. Those who kerchunk the repeater will notice it right away and as we all know, transmitting without ID'ing your station is a violation of part 97 of the FCC rules. This new controller upgrade is part of the continuing upgrade of the radio system at Mingus. Last spring we converted all systems on the mountain to DC power, installed 250 Amp Hours of CD Liberty 1000 batteries, and installed a new charger power supply. Several of the coax cables have also been changed out this year and it seems that our noise problems of the past have been cured.

In July, a hardy band of men loaded up tools, chain saws, choker cables, ladders and ropes and went on the great Mingus Mountain logging adventure, We had approximately eight trees that could have caused major damage to the tower. One tree was hanging by a thread over the north side guy turnbuckle and others were very close to the guy wires. After gaining permission from the Forest Service, the trees came down. The crew was



Ken Henson, KE7KWH, Tim Henrikson, KF7GCO, Greg Allen, N6WCD, Steve Pearson, KC7TIL, Bob Thompson, KC8BOB, and myself.

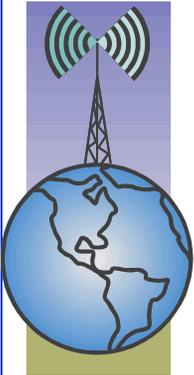


All of the hazard trees were cut down by the group. There were no injuries or broken equipment, except two of the three chainsaws didn't want to run at altitude. Ken Henson's jeep and winch were a great asset and made the work a lot easier. Currently the trees are being harvested for fuel by the hang glider group that has a special use permit next to the electronic site.

73's Mike, WA6LSE

## Ham Gear for Sale

## Special Event - Route 66 on the Air



A complete HF station including-  
 Kenwood 440TS HF rig- 10 - 160M  
 Kenwood MC60 desk mic  
 Astron 35M power supply  
 Dentron 1K super tuner (1000w)  
 AR40 rotator  
 LDGZ 100 auto tuner  
 All manuals included

Other misc. equipment is also available  
 Call Gary Mazey, to make an offer

At the Sept. meeting Jeff, N7ZZN introduced us to the new procedures for CPR. Continuous compressions are recommended instead of discontinuing compressions to give breaths. The following video demonstrates the procedure for continuous chest compressions. <http://medicine.arizona.edu/spotlight/learn-sarver-heart-centers-continuous-chest-compression-cpr>  
 Thanks to Dick, W2GAS, for passing along this video link.

In Sept. 2010, the Citrus Belt Amateur Radio Club, hosted the 11th anniversary of the special event celebrating the 84th birthday of this historic road. Stations operated Sept. 11-19, 2010.

In 1926, US Route 66, connected the west coast with the nation's heartland. Through a TV show, songs and stories, this road symbolized the freedom of the open road and encouraged many people to see America. Citrus Belt ARC offers this special event as a way for amateur radio operators to "Relive the Ride" and create new memories of Route 66 as well as celebrate this historic road's birthday.

Seventeen cities, three rovers and five mobile stations operated along the road from California to Illinois. Our own Norm Vandiver, N7VF, operated from the summit above Oatman. Ask Norm about his experience and read the blog detailing the experience of the two roving Route 66 operators at [www.k6sgh.com/w6r](http://www.k6sgh.com/w6r)  
 Watch the official website (<http://www.w6jbt.org/Route66OTAEvent/Index.htm>) in September 2011 for next year's adventure.



**109th Balloon Flight** On Saturday, Oct. 16 at 9am, Jack Crabtree, W7JLC, participated in his 109th balloon launch. The balloon traveled just 10 miles over the ground but went to a height of 87,000 feet. The payloads got some great pictures, so I'm told. Full details of the launch are located on the website forum. Members were able to communicate thru the balloon as well as monitor the balloon's progress through APRS. Jack will review the Nov. 9th balloon flight, his 110th, at this month's meeting.

News from the Amateur Radio Newslines (Available on the website)

**HAM Radio played a part in the Chilean mine disaster.** The ham clubs in Chile not only provided communication between authorities and the equipment operators but acted as a liaison between the families and the authorities. Two clubs in Chile and their equipment also established and maintained a communication system into the mine so the miners could communicate with the surface.

**W7ASU is back on the air** The Amateur radio club at ASU began in the 1930s, but because of reroofing projects, graduations and retirements, they lost their equipment and guiding club members. In 1997, the club was revived but had minimal equipment and no place to meet. In spite of this, they hosted special events and used personal equipment for the club activities. In June 2008, the University offered several rooms in the community center and the family of a former advisor donated his equipment, tower, and antennae to the club. W7ASU is back!

### TIME TO RENEW CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Full Membership \$20 a year Family, Spouse or Associate member \$10 a year Fill out this form and send in with your check payable to VVARA and send to the Treasurer at 4043 Sabino Trail, Cottonwood, AZ 86326

Name and Call sign \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL Member? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ ARES/RACES member? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_



**VVARA Christmas Party**  
**Prescott Golf & Country Club**  
**1030 Prescott Country Club Boulevard**

**December 11, 2010 - Saturday**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Ham call: \_\_\_\_\_

Please print this form for each person attending.

Please make check payable to VVARA in the amount of \$23.00 which includes gratuity.

Please send to: Bob Smith WB6ODR, 1718 West Buena Vista Trail, Prescott, AZ 86305

I will have tent cards with your selection when you walk into the Country Club.

Circle selection below:

1. Beef - Slow Roasted Top Round with Braised Vegetables and Homemade Gravy, Mashed Potato.
2. Margarita Chicken - Tequila Lime Marinated Breast Topped with Homemade Salsa, Monterey and Jack Cheese, Rice.

All entrees served with Assorted Rolls & Butter, Green Salad with Chef's choice of Vegetable and Chef's Choice Dessert with coffee or tea.



Any special needs, contact me at: (928) 443-9321 or email  
[Lrsmith@cableone.net](mailto:Lrsmith@cableone.net)

