

The Monitor

Newsletter of the Riverside County Amateur Radio Association
ARRL Affiliated Club #1720 - - - Celebrating our 54th Year

www.w6tj.org

May 2009

Volume 54

No. 5

Membership Gives Thumbs Up To Fund IRLP Project



The club IRLP (Internet Radio Linking Project) venture was unanimously supported and approved by the membership. Under the terms and conditions, \$500 was approved to purchase IRLP Card, 2 meter radio and necessary associated equipment. Chris Maness, KQ6UP is heading up the project and will present the final feasibility evaluation after a 6 month trial period. The IRLP node will be hosted at the home of Chris Maness in Grand Terrace with a remotely link to the W6TJ Repeater. Chris will be at the May meeting to report on the progress of his efforts.

We will soon be talking around-the-world if all goes well.

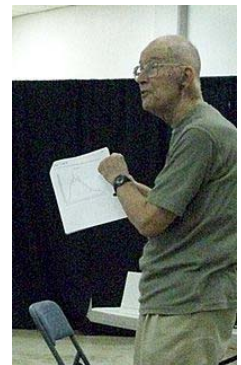
Countdown to Field Day

Field Day 2009 promises to be extraordinary. Ted Hudson, KQ6U, secured our reservation at Martha McLean Anza Narrows Park for Field Day '09. This record setting event will be highlighted by a human powered generator, helium filled balloon launch, long wire act, tents, tower climbers, antennas shot over the trees from a handheld pneumatic launcher. This fun filled event promises to be the best Field day in several years. Other events include a potluck, contesting and an overnight camp-out. Be sure to attend the next meet and get your name on the guest list. Field Day '09, June 27-28 (See page 5 for additional details)



IN THE REARVIEW MIRROR

Our April program presenter was Arlo Myers, WA6UDR. The evening topic was 'Solar Cycles - Cycles of UV Radiation from the Sun & Effects on the Ionosphere'. His charts, explanations of reporting criteria factors and stories of the pioneer solar observers certainly provided a better understanding of the current unusual prolonged solar minimum cycle.



Program For Our May Meeting

'The Joys of Electronic QSLing...or Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About eQSLing, but Were Afraid to Ask'

Our speaker will be Clair Cessna, K6LG our well known fanatical enthusiast of eQSL.

Monday Night Net—Is Radio Active

W6TJ Repeater at 7:15 PM
New Voices - Club Updates

NEXT MEETING: *Thursday, May 14 at 7:30 PM*
4937 Sierra Vista Ave- La Sierra Univ. Church (Conf. Ctr.)

PRESIDENT'S QSO

While I spoke about Field Day in last month's column, I wanted to come back to it again this month. We've made some progress and I wanted to share because it is one of our biggest events of the year and it takes a lot of work to pull it together. Those that show up only for the event don't get to see the monumental effort it takes unless they have been involved in years past.

We have confirmed our reservation at Martha McLean Anza Narrows Park and the planning has begun to lay out the site for positioning stations and antennas. While we have discussed FD at a number of board meetings and passed email back and forth, we had our first actual planning meeting on Saturday, April 24th. Clair K6LG, Ed KF6BNQ, and Gervase KI6TFL came over to my house and Chris KQ6UP attended via speaker phone. We are planning 3 HF stations and a VHF/UHF station. One of the HF stations will have the V-Beam antenna that we used 2 years ago and will attempt to use a balloon to support the top end of a delta loop for one of the other HF stations. We are also going as green as possible. Last year we spent almost \$200.00 on gas for the club generator. This year we will be using a combination of solar and peddle power to charge batteries at each station. There will be a small generator on hand if we have to use a more rapid means of charging batteries or for other 120v needs. The intent is to use it as sparingly as possible if at all.

While we had intended to build an antenna launcher (spud gun) during our Saturday meeting, it turned out that there really wasn't much to do to build it, and I hadn't been able to find the right kind of tire valve needed before the meeting, so after the meeting I was able to find one and on Sunday built and tested our launcher, which works great.

We still have a lot of work to do to get everything ready for FD and can use additional volunteers. Please speak up at the meeting or email me and we will figure out how to best use your talents.

Sincerely,
73 de Ric, N6RIC

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P.O. Box 1412, Riverside, CA 92502-1412

PUBLICATION DATE

Monitor publication date is 10 days prior to each meeting, and all articles for the next issue must be received by the Editor no later than Thursday, May 25th – send as a text file via e-mail to kf6bnp@sbcglobal.net with photos as attachments. Tnx.

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VE Team Leader

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Monday Night Net Control

Bill Hering, N6WMH (951) 689-3055

Contributors to this issue: Ric Maxfield; Clair Cessna; Art Sutorus; Don Williams; Ron Braley; Chris Maness; Bill Hering, Fred Roberts, Arlo Myers

FIELD DAY STRATEGIES & SECRET WEAPONS
REVEALED IN THE JUNE MONITOR

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM, April 9, 2009 by President Ric Maxfield, N6RIC at the La Sierra University Church.

Present: Ric Maxfield, N6RIC, Chris Maness, KQ6UP; Kiki Cervantes, KI6RQK; Bruce Morgan, K6OIF; Ed Morgan, KF6BNQ; Steve Evans, AF6HR, Ted Hudson, KQ6U.

Absent: Gervase Hammond, KI6TFL.

Audit: Bruce Morgan, K6OIF, club treasurer reported that he has not been contacted by the financial audit committee. Ric Maxfield, N6RIC, will inform the committee that the audit should be complete prior to the next meeting.

Field Day: Ric Maxfield, N6RIC, announced that Ted Hudson, KQ6U had received confirmation/approval for the club use Martha McLean Anza Narrows Park as our field day site. Ric Maxfield, N6RIC will arrange date for field day planning committee to meet prior to the May meeting.

IRLP: The board approved to move forward on the IRLP project. Chris Maness, KQ6UP will present the proposal to the general membership for consideration of a 6-month trial.

No other business was discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM

Respectfully submitted by,

Steve Evans, AF6HR (Acting Secretary)

ATTENDANCE DRAWING WINNER
Dean Chambers, KG6YS
Unfortunately he was not in attendance

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GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Vice President Chirs Maness, KQ6UP at the La Sierra University Church. Self introductions followed the flag salute.

There were 27 members and guests in attendance
Announcements: Bob Wade announced the QCWA #177 annual breakfast on Saturday, April 11, at Coco Restaurant

Ron Braley, KE6RYX announced that 7 members recently donated to the club blood bank account. Ron encouraged other members to donate at the Blood Bank.
Repeater update: Ron reported the new repeater batteries were checked and are holding the proper charge.

Health & Welfare: Past President Bob Mann, W6LKN has been transferred to Air Force Village West and is making progress in his recovery.

Attendance Drawing: Dean Chambers, KG6YS-Not present.

Presentation: Arlo Meyers, WA6UDR, program on Solar Cycles - Cycles of UV Radiation from the Sun & Effects on the Ionosphere.

IRLP Update: Chris Maness, KQ6UP presided over a Q&A session of the proposal to establish an IRLP node and repeater link. The estimated cost to purchase to a 2 meter radio and purchase the required associated equipment is \$500 plus operational electricity expense up to \$10 monthly. A question as to the club financial holdings was raised before the vote. Treasurer Bruce Morgan reported approx. \$1400 & \$2500 held in the two club accounts. Following a brief discussion, a motion was made from the floor to spend up to \$500 on the IRLP project plus \$10 monthly electricity expense. The IRLP project will be reviewed and evaluated in 6 months. The motion was seconded by Ed Morgan, KF6BPQ. The vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM

Respectfully submitted by,

Steve Evans, AF6HF (Acting Secretary)

Edwin Thomas Richards, W6YJH, SK



It is with great sadness to report the passing of long time fellow member of our association, Edwin Richards, W6YJH, on April 26, 2009. He was 87. Services were held May 1. Our Thoughts and Prayers go out to his wife Beth, and family.

Upcoming RACES Joint Training Event

Mark your calendar - May 15 (evening event)

RACES has been asked to support a joint training exercise with Riverside Animal Services/Riverside Emergency Animal Rescue Service (REARS) on Friday, May 15th, from 5 PM to 10 PM in western Riverside County. Yes, it is a night time event.

Animal Services will dispatch REARS volunteers to various locations with assignments to pick up animals, dogs, cats, horses, live stock, etc. that are threatened by manmade or natural disaster. No animals will be transported but the REARS volunteers will drive to the subject addresses,. RACES Operators will be assigned to ride with REARS volunteers and provide communications between the mobile REARS vehicles and the incident Command Center.

The exercise has several purposes, train and certify REARS volunteers to operate their rigs, truck and trailer combinations in a variety of conditions and provide training to RACES Operators for mobile and field assignments.

The staging area for the exercise is:

Riverside County Department of Animal Services
5950 Wilderness Avenue
Riverside, CA

(north of Jurupa Avenue between Van Buren Avenue and Streeter Avenue/Grand Avenue)

map link: Riverside Shelter on Wilderness Ave

We estimate we will need between 10 and 20 RACES

Operators for the exercise. I am requesting support from each West County RACES District. Operators wanting to participate are encouraged to bring a 2 meter or dual band mobile radio with a cigarette lighter plug and a mag mount antenna. A hand held 2 meter or dual band radio may be used for those Operators not having a mobile however it is unknown if a hand held can provide reliable communications within the area of the exercise. If using a hand held radio make sure you have a cigarette lighter adapter or spare batteries and a mag mount antenna if possible. We may have one or two mobile radios with power cords and mag mount antennas for those that do not have one.

Please forward this request to the RACES Operators in your District. Operators wanting to participate should contact Riverside RACES EC Ron Braley KE6RYX by phone at 951.369.5149 or Don Williams by either phone or email prior to noon, Wednesday, May 13th.

Don Williams kd6uvt
Deputy Chief West
Riverside County RACES



kd6uvt@arrl.net

951.780.5199 (evenings & weekends)

951.453.1944 (daytime cell)

FIELD DAY eQSL CARD REVEALED

Designed by Clair Cessna, K6LG

An eQSL card for W6TJ. The card features a photo of a person climbing a utility pole. Text on the card includes: "We don't need no steenkin' landlines!", "Riverside County ARA", "P.O. Box 1412", "Riverside, CA 92502-1412", "USA", "Loc: DM13 ITU: 6 CQ: 3 Riverside County", "Riverside County Amateur Radio Assn.", "Tks you for our Field Day QSO. 3A Orange", "FD QTH: Anza Narrows Park, Riverside", "See www.w6tj.org", "To: VE7NSR This confirms our 2-way SSB QSO", "Date: June 29, 2008 Time: 07:26 UTC", "Band: 20M UR Sigs: 59".

W6TJ
Riverside County ARA
P.O. Box 1412
Riverside, CA 92502-1412
USA
Loc: DM13 ITU: 6 CQ: 3 Riverside County
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Tks you for our Field Day QSO. 3A Orange
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To: VE7NSR This confirms our 2-way SSB QSO
Date: June 29, 2008 Time: 07:26 UTC
Band: 20M UR Sigs: 59

KA6ABL Monthly Club Breakfast

Saturday, May 4 at 8 am

Saturday, June 6 at 8 am

The Little Green Onion Restaurant

6723 Brockton Ave—Riverside

(in the Brockton Arcade Center)

Got a Radio to Sell or Trade?

Check out the club website Buy & Sell listing

Free Listing for Members

www.w6tj.org

ARRL FIELD DAY 2009
June 27-29



Martha Mclean Anza Narrows Park
5759 Jurupa Ave - Riverside

Innovation's in... for FD '09

Major improvements are planned for Field Day this year. Gone will be our venerable 1942 military model generator and its extension cord power distribution system. No more WR9R logger, or "bandmaster/captains," or specifically designated GOTA station. Instead, our objectives will be to move toward greener, simpler, and more flexible solutions than in the past.

New departures in our field day will include:

Stations will operate on more than one band, necessitated by the low state of the solar cycle, seasonal QRN, and day/night propagation possibilities. The bulk of the activity will be on 20 and 40Meters....there will be phone and CW stations on those bands as long as they are open. Station Managers will cooperate to make most effective use of the stations and antennas available.

Each station will be independently powered. Power will be supplied by deep cycle batteries and inverters. These will be recharged by solar and human power....as well as with a small generator.

Station Managers will insure that "everyone operates"...GOTA types will be enthusiastically accommodated at each active station...anytime. Operating on FD is for everybody.

A new logging program will be used. The use of the N1MM program will allow us to quickly and accurately submit our results to ARRL. It will also enable us to easily upload logs to eQSL and LoTW. Every station who works W6TJ will receive our eQSL card...and credit on LoTW. (RCARA members are included, if you make your contact before Saturday 11 AM.)

Our Public Relations table will feature information for the general publicand, in addition, there will be a continuing demonstration of IRLP through the W6TJ repeater for everyone.

This should be a learning experience for all of us.

As always, the most important thing about our FD is the importance of the participation of every member....and the enjoyment this fellowship brings to all of us. Let's make this FD one to remember!

K6LG

SUN SPOTLESS DAYS REPORT

(source) ARRL bulletin, Thursday, April 9

Just as we reported in the last three bulletins, again there were no sunspots this week. In this time of the quiet Sun, Spaceweather.com has a new feature keeping track of all these days with no spots. On the left side of the page at <http://www.spaceweather.com> below the image of the Sun and the current daily sunspot number, it says "New: Spotless Days." Early on April 9 it says "Current Stretch: 14 days, 2009 total: 89 days (87%), Since 2004: 597 days, Typical Solar Min: 485 days."

But if we show no spots in this bulletin plus the past three, that accounts for at least 28 days, so why do the new Spotless Days numbers say it has been 14 spotless days since the last sunspot? The last run of sunspots we show is over two days, March 6-7, so through yesterday, April 8, there have been 32 spotless days.

If we use the archive feature on the Spaceweather page (look in the upper right side of the page) and go back to March 26, although Spaceweather shows the sunspot number is zero, the text beneath the Daily Sun image says "A proto-sunspot is struggling to emerge at the circled location." So if no sunspots emerge later today, April 9, that would account for 14 days since March 26.

May 1 Report

The data at the end of [last week's bulletin](#) showed daily sunspot numbers from April 16-22 as six zeros, then 11. In fact, every day was at zero until April 21, when it was 11; it moved again to zero the next day, April 22. We had just as many zero sunspot days -- and only one day with a sunspot -- but we saw the sunspot on Tuesday, April 21, not April 22.

We had two additional days with a sunspot this week, Wednesday and Thursday, April 29-30. The sunspot number was 15 and 12, respectively, on those days. But this was another old Solar Cycle 23 sunspot, and it appeared near the western limb. By today, it may have either faded away completely or rotated out of view, May 1.

JOIN ARRL



SPOTLIGHT



Steve Boyd, KE6HGQ, has stepped forward and to assist with the Monday Night Net duties.

Additional net controllers are still needed.

Be sure to check in at 7:15 PM—Mondays.

**NET CONTROL OPERATORS
NEEDED FOR MONDAY
NIGHT NET (2 meter & 10 me-
ter)**

Contact: Bill Hering, N6WMH
(951) 689-3055 (evenings)

THE CLUB SCHEDULE FOR MAY 2009

<p>REGULAR WEEKLY NETS</p> <p>Every Sunday at 8:30 AM Every Monday at 7:00 PM (discontinued) Every Monday at 7:15 PM Every Monday at 7:30 PM Every Wednesday at 8:30 PM</p>	<p>RACES Public Service Net, 3.945 MHz 10M Early Check-In Net, 28.328 MHz 2M Net on the Repeater 146.880 - PL 146.2 Newslines on the Repeater Simplex Net on 145.52 MHz</p>	<p>Info: KQ6U-Ted Info: N6WMH-Bill 687-3055 Temporary discontinued Info: K6GUK-Mark</p>
<p>EVENTS UNTIL NEXT MEETING</p> <p>May 1 – Saturday at 8:00 AM May 14– Thursday at 6:30 PM May 14 – Thursday 6:30 PM May 14 –Thursday at 7:30 PM May 19– Tuesday 7:30 PM June 6– Saturday at 8:00 AM June 6 – Saturday at 8:00 AM June 11– Thursday at 6:30 PM June 11 –Thursday at 6:30 PM June 11– Thursday at 7:30 PM</p>	<p>Club Breakfast@ Little Green Onion VE Testing (by appointment only) Club Board Meeting Club Meeting RF Group (aka Real Friendly Guys) KA6ABL Breakfast @ Little Green Onion T-Hunt – St. John’s Church, Corona VE Testing (by appointment only) Board Meeting Club Meeting</p>	<p>Info: KD6UVP-Bonita Welch Info: K6UIZ-Frank Info: N6RIC-Ric Info: N6RIC-Ric Info: AA6SD or K6GUK Info: KD6UVP-Bonita Welch Info: W6TKV-Fred Info: K6UIZ-Frank Info: N6RIC-Ric Info: N6RIC-Ric</p>
<p>UPCOMING EVENTS</p> <p>Field Day ‘09</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">June 27—28</p>	
<p>LOCAL SATURDAY SWAP MEETS</p> <p>May 9 – 7:00 AM May 16– 7:00 AM May 30– 7:00 AM</p>	<p>Cable Airport Swap Meet, Upland Chino Hills High School Swap Meet TRW Swap Meet, Manhattan Beach</p>	<p>Sponsor: IEARC Sponsor: CHS Boosters Sponsor: W6TRW ARA</p>

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 P.O. Box 1412
 Riverside, CA 92502-1412



The **MONITOR**