

The Heterodyne

Newsletter of the West Valley Amateur Radio Association

October Meeting

**Hot DX from Baker Island
by John Miller, K6MM**

**Wednesday, October 10
Meeting Starts at 7pm**

Meeting Location:
American Red Cross,
Silicon Valley Chapter
2731 N. First Street at Plumeria Dr
(southwest corner) in San Jose

WVARA Repeaters (W6PIY)		
Band	Frequency	PL
6 Meters	52.580- MHz	151.4 Hz
2 Meters	147.39+ MHz	151.4 Hz
1.25 Meters	223.96- MHz	156.7 Hz
0.70 Meter	441.35+ MHz	88.5 Hz
0.23 Meter	1286.2- MHz	100 Hz

Club Net

WVARA's club net is on the W6PIY repeaters each Tuesday at 8:30 pm. All repeaters are linked together during the net. The net script can be found at www.wvara.org/net.html .

Visitors Are Welcome!

President's Letter

One of the challenges of ham radio is getting new hams into the hobby. Behind the military, we enjoy the largest spectrum allocation of anyone - and we don't pay a dime for it. It's far more than "we don't want to lose it." A better statement may be "There's so much to share and learn!" Who to share with is our job to identify and recruit, and I think the answer lies in digital modes, integrated communications, and building.

On the digital modes front, nobody is doing more than Joseph Taylor, K1JT. His FT8 mode occupies only 50 Hz and is quickly becoming the darling of HF digital. It's availability at a sunspot low certainly boosts the WSJT suite's popularity, but the technology - and mere ideas they encompass - are sure to survive the tests of time. One question to ponder is: What's the next step in this digital evolution?

As for integrated communications, IRLP, EchoLink, and D-Star all include repeaters, internet linking, and the ability to traverse many miles, propagation notwithstanding. Moonbounce, satellites, and IoT devices also provide a wealth of new challenges and idea platforms. None of these are done with the simplicity or elegance of point to point DX over HF, but that's exactly the point. Perhaps a bit paraphrased, but "We do these things because they are hard."

That last item from above: IoT. That's a big one. It's a whole new paradigm from the classic



name, call sign, QTH, rig, and weather QSO. It opens up the idea of solving problems or making things easier through a variety of architectures. A portion of the whole Maker movement is built around how to connect devices together, process some kind of information, and then send messages along. Distributed seismographs, solar tracking, weather stations, APRS, balloon telemetry, and much more falls here. This whole category is about re-invigorating the concept of tinkering, creating, and learning about what's under the proverbial hood.

This isn't all it will take, nor are these all the ideas. There will always be genuine interest in CW, contesting, DX, and more. Push those too through real time scoring, new ideas for DXpeditions (Alexa from a round the world balloon anyone?), and more. That's the beauty: there's always more. These aren't the only answers, but I believe they are a significant part of what it will take to keep ham radio alive and vibrant. Let's not forget the ideas themselves aren't enough. We each need to take them out there and introduce potential new hams to the wonders we have found.

73, Bobby K0XI

October Meeting Topic

John Miller, K6MM - Hot DX from Baker Island

Hello Everyone,

We have a meeting this Wednesday (10/10) at the Red Cross at 19:00 in Meeting Room 5 at the Silicon Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross, 2731 N. First Street at Plumeria Drive (southwest corner) in San Jose. Talk in is available on the association repeaters, 2m is a good choice.

Most of us come in through the side entrance on the southwest side of the building — look for our red WVARA sign on the side where they park all the Red Cross trucks. Visitors are welcome!

This month, we have a visit from our dear friend John Miller, K6MM to talk to us about his recent DXpedition to Baker Island at the end of June / early July. While we were out at field day and thought we had some warm weather, John and rest of the Baker team were baking in the South Pacific.

If you've been paying attention at all, you know that FT8 is starting to see major use in DXpeditions with its new DXpedition mode. Baker Island was one of the first DXpeditions to give it a full shakedown, find out how it worked out for them!

Baker Island is an uninhabited atoll located just north of the equator in the central Pacific Ocean about 3,090 km (1,920 mi) southwest of Honolulu. The island lies almost halfway between Hawaii and Australia. Its nearest neighbor is Howland Island, 42 mi (68 km) to the north-northwest; both have been territories of the United States since 1857, though the United Kingdom considered them part of the British Empire between 1897 and 1936.

Located at 0°11'41"N 176°28'46"W, the island covers 2.1 km (0.81 sq mi), with 4.8 km (3.0 mi) of coastline. The climate is equatorial, with little rainfall, constant wind, and strong sunshine. The terrain is low-lying and sandy: a coral island surrounded by a narrow fringing reef with a depressed central area devoid of a lagoon with its highest point being 8 m (26 ft) above sea level.

The island now forms the Baker Island National Wildlife Refuge and is an unincorporated

and unorganized territory of the U.S. which vouches for its defense. It is visited annually by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For statistical purposes, Baker is grouped with the United States Minor Outlying Islands. Baker Island is also the last piece of land that experiences the New Year (earliest time zone).

Pre-meeting dinner:

A few of us usually meet for dinner somewhere near the Red Cross around 6 pm prior to the meeting and anyone is welcome to join. This month we're going to go back to Dish'n'Dash just a block down the street: <https://www.yelp.com/biz/dish-n-dash-san-jose>

Hope to see you at the meeting!

73, Bill/W9KKN

WVARA Net Check-Ins (W6PIY)					
Tuesdays at 8:30 PM					
Call Sign	Name	9/11/18	9/18/18	9/25/18	10/2/18
Total		13	9	11	13
AA6RB	Roy	X			X
AF6AE	Bill		X	X	X
AG6YO	Kevin				X
AI6EH	John				X
AI6NT	Henry	X	X		
KC6ZKT	Steve	X			X
KF6EMB	Svend	X		X	X
KJ6ZZI	Michael		X		
KK6VF	Kevin	NET	NET	NET	NET
KM6PEA	Steve			X	
N6BTU	Wayne			X	
N6FYR	Matt	X	X	X	X
N9CU	Andy	X	X		X
NU6P	John	X		X	
W6ESL	Tom	X		X	X
W6IA	Mark	X	X	X	X
W6PK	Phil	X			
W8RJL	Ron	X			
WB6KHP	Dave	X	X	X	X
WR6Z	Dave		X	X	X

Ham Radio On a Budget, Part 2, by Rex Vokey, KE6MT will be included in the November DXer

New Members

***The following new members
joined WVARA recently:***

Jeri Ellsworth, AI6TK

Amy Herndon, AI6ZU

Russ Blahetka, WD9DD

Welcome!!!

Thank You For Making CQP 2018 a Success!



Left to right: Greg (N6GD), Jim (K6EI), Bill (W9KKN), Jeri (AI6TK), Amy (AI6ZU), Nick (KZ2V), Bobby (K0XI), Bill (AE6JV), Svend (KF6EMB)

A big thank you to Bobby and Bill Fehring for organizing this year's CQP expedition, and to Svend for once again working his magic with our monster antennas! CQP 2018 was a real hoot!

- Jim K6EI

Pacificon 2018
Friday Oct 19 - Sunday Oct 21

San Ramon Marriott
2600 Bishop Drive
San Ramon, CA 94583

www.pacificon.org

Treasurer's Report; Sept 2018

Peri Frantz - KI6SLX
WVARA Treasurer
treasurer@wvara.org

Last month I promised a report on the Electronic Flea Market for the October Het. Well, I'm still working on it and may have it by the October meeting (10/10). If not September & October results will be available in November. As a result, no financial reports are available at this time. A preliminary analysis of the Flea Market is that we netted about a grand more than last year, due to the reduced fee to ASVARO. The bulk of our take has been deposited in the bank, but some final details remain to be sorted out. Apart from the Flea Market, September finances were low-key. We got a few new members (a big Welcome to Jeri Ellsworth AI6TK, Amy Herndon AI6ZU, and Russ Blahetka WD9DD) and I paid a few bills (PO Box & Repeater). Please note that dues paid in October, November or December, will be applied to 2019. I encourage everyone to pay for next year before the end of the year. You can pay at a meeting or on the web (www.WVARA.org). In Early October, I also paid for our 2019 liability insurance. I also filed our overdue California Statement of Info (necessary to maintain our corporate status in September. Copies will be provided on request.

2018 West Valley Amateur Radio Association Board

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Vice President: Bill Fehring, W9KKN
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John Glass, NU6P, 2018-2019
Dave Schultheis, WB6KHP, 2018-2019

The Heterodyne is published monthly by the West Valley Amateur Radio Association and sent to all club members via the web. Please obtain permission from the author to re-publish any article in this publication.

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Dennis Lyden, AG6HE

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