

2011	Local Oscillator	August
	<h1>Local Oscillator</h1>	
Mesilla Valley Radio Club		

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Current Events			Table of Contents
Date	Event	Time	
M—F	6 m FM net 52.540	6:00 AM	Field Day 13 Colonies Event New Low Power Record Tower and 6 Meter Antenna Rocky Mountain Hamvention Unclassified Ads Monthly Business Meeting Monthly Board Meeting Club Location Club Officers Membership Application
T, T	Informal Wal-Mart (E)	10:00 AM	
M, W, F	Informal Wal-Mart (W)	10:00 AM	
Mon	WTRA Swap Net 146.88	8 PM	
Wed	MVRC Net 146.64	6:45 PM	
August 2	Builders Group Club House	7 PM	
Aug 5-7	Division Hamventions	Taos	
August 6	Breakfast Club House	8 AM	
August 6	Business Meeting Club House	9 AM	
August 9	Board Meet Club House	7 PM	
August 16	Builders Group Club House	7 PM	
For more events see http://www.n5bl.org/calendar			



Southwest Antennas & Accessories

More information at <http://swantenna.com>



Starting Field Day on 20 m

The Articles for This Month

Field Day

AD5LJ

Field Day was held as usual on the last full week-end in June, June 25 and 26. The club operated as 3E (three operating positions, all on emergency power). As usual, the club did not make a contest out of it by making an effort to squeeze all the points possible out of the rules. But the club did get some publicity in the newspaper and promoted a public official visit.

The operation was a club effort. The erection of a permanent six meter beam was a large effort as detailed in another article in this issue. In keeping with the purpose of Field Day, all operation was done on emergency power. In addition KF5EJS, Wilson Moore, provided a very complete emergency command trailer, complete with its own generator which was used as the psk31 station.

The week-end was started by W5GWU, Rick, and K5KHJ, Margaret, operating on 20 meters. Almost a dozen operators participated until Rick and Margaret finished up on 20 meters at the close. WB4AEJ, Fred, worked a long night shift, (often on 40 meters) finishing in the early morning when N5CWW, Charles, found

15 meters open about 4 AM.

The operation was not without its own excitement. About 2 PM the generator started missing badly, finally dying completely. At about a gallon per hour it should have had enough gas, but it had a hard time getting the last bit out of the tank. Thus more gas resulted in smooth running for the rest of the time. But the



Looking for a PSK 31 signal

power outage killed the logging computer and people worried about reconstructing the log from scattered notes. Fortunately the logging program had an automatic save feature so all was well.

In all, over 670 contacts were made with 603 on HF SSB, 58 on HF data, and 10 on the new six meter beam.

One participant was heard to say that this was the best Filed Day he had participated in. Undoubtedly that was

because the informal friendliness of the operation. This atmosphere was engendered in a good part by the excellent dinner prepared and served to the operators and their guests by K5KMC, Kevin.

13 Colonies Event

WB4AEJ

MVRC participated in the 13 Colonies event for 2010 during the July 1-5 time frame. We were successful in contacting all thirteen of the original U.S. colonies plus a special station honoring William Penn.

13 Colonies was founded two years ago by Ken Villone, KU2US of Conesus, NY. The purpose of the event is to celebrate American Independence via amateur radio. Ken put a great deal of effort into planning and preparation. He told me that he put up nine hundred dollars of his own money to get it started. That makes the four dollar fee we pay each year for the award seem to be quite a paltry sum.

For the event, a special events station (SES) in each of the original thirteen U.S. colonies operates under a special events (SE) 1x1 call sign. The calls range from K2A consecutively through K2M. Each call is assigned to a different colony. This year, there were two stations operating under SES call signs in each colony. Additionally this year, there was opportunity to work the William Penn SES (WM3PEN) for a commemorative QSL card and a special endorsement on our award.

Additionally, each SES offers a commemorative QSL card. It cost me a bundle of forty-four cent stamps, but I've sent N5BL QSL cards and SASEs to each of the

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thirteen stations, the William Penn SES, and two SES stations that were not connected to the 13 Colonies event. I also sent the application to Ken so that we get our 2011 13 Colonies award certificate to post on the wall of the club house with the two previous ones we earned.

Hunting the SESs is part of the fun. You have to dial all over the different bands until you find what you are looking for. DX Summit can be a help if you have Internet access.

There is all kinds of information about the event on their Web site (www.13colonies.info). You can even download a 13 Colonies log/award application.

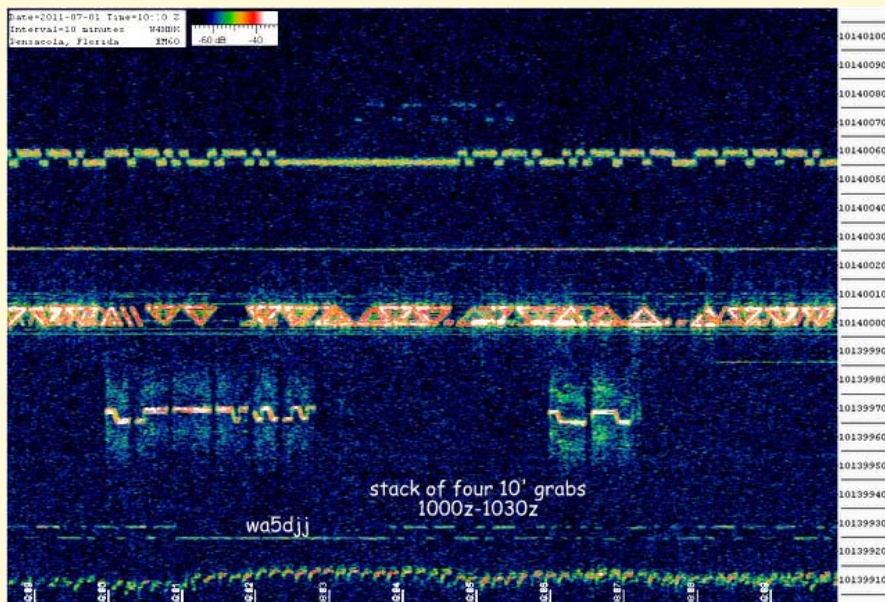
Several Club members participated in this event from their home stations. Four club members helped in contacting the SES stations this year from N5BL. A copy of the log submitted for the award, showing that all the required stations were contacted, is available at [http://www.n5bl.org/thirteen/13 Colonies 2011.pdf](http://www.n5bl.org/thirteen/13%20Colonies%202011.pdf)

WA5DJJ Sets New Low Power Record

K5XY

On June 30, WA5DJJ, Dave, broke his personal low power record when his 48.8 microwatt 10.140 MHz signal was clearly heard by W4HBK in Pensacola, FL. That calculates out to be over 23.8×10^6 miles per watt (about 100 times the distance to the moon).

Dave has been working with QRSS (a low power activity) for several years. This program involves hams who are interested in seeing how far they can send a very low power signal using a variety of techniques. The one Dave uses requires a super - stable transmitter at his end and a special receiver at the other that runs a variety of digital programs to process the received signal. Averaging is the name of the game. Dave's signal showed up on the computer screen when four frames of 10



minutes each were added together. The screen shot here clearly shows Dave's received signal at the bottom of the screen (The top signal is from former club president KD5SSF from Papua, New Guinea)

The transmitter has to be stable because the times involved are large. One mode that Dave

used required dots to be 80 seconds long and dashes 240 seconds. Obviously that is not a high speed mode. There are a number of stations all over the world that are interested in this part of our hobby. Dave has an extensive section on his web site that gives a description of this sub-hobby and much information on how to get started. The site can be accessed at http://www.zianet.com/dhassall/QRDD_A.htm.

Tower and 6-Meter Antenna

AD5LJ

On your next visit to the clubhouse, please take a look at our new tower and 6-meter beam antenna. This project has been in the planning stages for over New a year and phase one is finally finished. Phase one was to erect a tower in front of the clubhouse and mount the club's 6-meter antenna on it. It was finished just in time for use during field day. In phase two we will add additional VHF/UHF antennas.

The club has owned a very good performing 6-Meter beam antenna as part of our portable field day kit for about 20 years. In previous years when the club membership was younger and enjoyed "roughing it" for a few days, we would hold field day activities at a remote site. After about 2006, membership interest and participation in operating from remote locations significantly decreased.

The board of directors recommended and the membership agreed that we would

hold all future field day activities at the clubhouse. From 2007 thru 2010, we set up the portable mast, gin pole and 6-meter beam at the side of the clubhouse. The assembly and erection of the antenna normally required a half day of work for 5-6 people and likewise its disassembly and storage required another half day. It was very hard to get volunteers for these two tasks.

To reduce the manpower requirements, the board of directors decided to permanently mount the beam in front of the clubhouse. The guidelines were that this effort would NOT be a major expense for the club. We eventually acquired a 3-section tower, decided not to sell it at Bean Feed and to use it to mount the 6-meter beam. In early June work started on the new tower and the installation was finished just in time for field day this year. The only cost to the club was for 1200 LBS of concrete mix and some nuts and bolts.



Attaching the Tower to the Club House

The following individuals made the project

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possible by helping fabricate hardware, donating needed items and supplying manual labor.

KF5KHL constructed the tilt over base plate, the roof mounting bracket, the rebar foundation, concrete forms and loaned us his concrete mixer.

AD5LJ provided the hand wench, cable, pulley, and rotator, constructed mounting plates for the wench and cable pulley plus dug the hole for the concrete base.

N3OL donated a spool of coax and a spool of multi-conductor cable.

AD5LJ, KF5KHL and KD5SSJ, mixed the concrete for the base.

The following assembled the tower and secured it to the building; WK5C, NF5S, KD5OHA, KE5OFK, KD5SSJ, AD5LJ, and KE5KHL.

The crew which raised the antenna had to continually make small adjustments to bring the project to a successful conclusion. Inventiveness was the order of the day. Especially when the hole saw needed to make a hole for the incoming cables dropped down between the club house walls. It was eventually fished back out with the aid of a magnet.

The operation was well worth the effort when almost a dozen contacts were made that week-end in Field Day.

ARRL Rocky Mountain Hamvention

K5XY

The Rocky Mountain Division of the ARRL will hold its annual Hamvention in Taos, NM on August 5 – 7. It is not too late to register at <http://2011convention.org>, although the convention hotel no longer has any vacant rooms.

A full two days of events has been scheduled starting with exhibits on Friday afternoon and lasting until the last forum ends at noon on Sunday. In between you will find a flea market, contests, nationally known speakers such as K4ZDH, Riley Hollingsworth, from the FCC, and prizes galore.

Charter transportation is being arranged from Albuquerque. At least seven from Las Cruces have already registered. Complete details are available on the internet at <http://2011convention.org>.

Unclassified Ads

WANTED: New Mexico Ham Radio License Plates, all years. Especially need 1959-1964, inclusive, plus 1976, 1977, 1983, 1984, 1986, 1987, 1989, and 2000. Will buy or trade. Bill Johnston, K5ZI, P.O. Box 640, Organ, NM 88052-0640. Tel. 575-382-7804, e-mail: K5ZI@arrl.net

Monthly Business Meeting

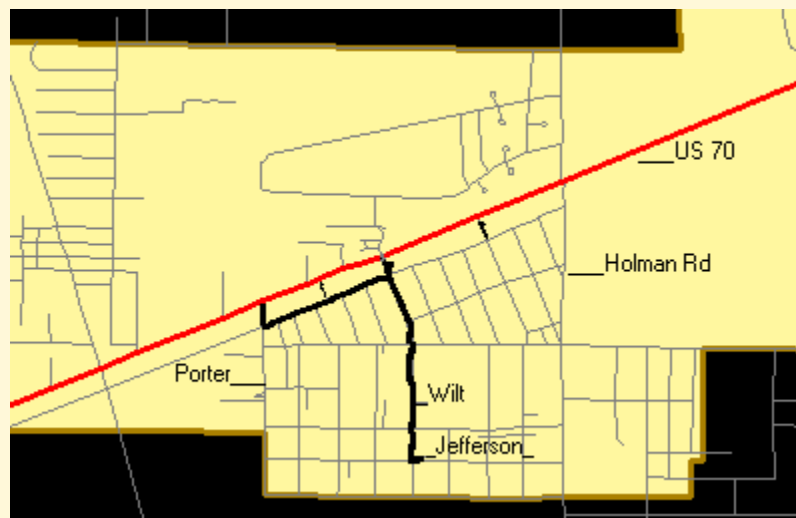
There was no meeting in July

Monthly Board Meeting

There was no meeting in July.

CLUB INFORMATION

The MVRC Clubhouse is located at the intersection of Wilt and Jefferson. To find the clubhouse, set your destination on your GPS receiver as 32 degrees 22.961 minutes and -106 degrees 41.44 minutes. If you don't own a GPS, take the Porter exit on US 70. It is about 5 miles from the I 25 interchange, near the firehouse. Almost immediately south of the south frontage road on the south side of US 70, turn left toward the mountains until you come to Wilt. Turn right. There is a jog in the road, but at 0.35 miles you should come to Jefferson. If you can't see the tower and beam, you shouldn't be driving. The treasurer would be delighted to receive your contribution for landscaping and furnishing. More information at <http://n5bl.org>



Officers

Office	Name	Call	Phone	E-Mail
President	Robert Truitt	KE5OFK	649-4173	robhtruitt@zianet.com
Secretary	Melanie Jack	KD5UZF	202-3363	thedragon@melaniestonejack.com
Treasurer	Kevin McNelis	K5KMC	571-7326	kmcnelis@nmsu.edu
Board Members				
	Terry Angle	AE5XI	640-9669	kf5dns@gmail.com
	Bob Bennett	AD5LJ	382-0148	rpbennett1@comcast.net
	Alex. Burr	K5XY	522-2528	k5xy@arrl.net
	Cash Olsen	KD5SSJ	382-1917	kd5ssj@arrl.net
	Henry Schotzko	AD5FE	526-1922	schotzko@comcast.net
	Vern Vondeeder	WV5N5	510-909-0069	vern@wv5n.com

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JOIN THE CLUB

To join the Mesilla Valley Radio Club, renew your membership, or to support the repeaters, please print, cut out, and complete the form below. Send it with dues (\$35 single, \$45 family per year, add \$10 to receive the newsletter by US mail instead of e-mail) to: Treasurer, MVRC, Box 1443, Las Cruces, NM 88004.

MESILLA VALLEY RADIO CLUB

CALL SIGN(S) _____ FAMILY yes _____ no _____

LICENSE CLASS (E, A, G, T, N) _____

ARRL (Y/N) _____

ARRL VE (Y/N) _____

Would you like to be added to the MVRC reflector? _____

NAME _____

EMAIL _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY & ZIP _____ PHONE _____ (OPTIONAL)

INTERESTS – Computer ___ Contests ___ Digital ___ Elmer ___ Emergency Communications ___ Field Day ___

Packet ___ Programs ___ Public Service ___ Publicity ___ RFI ___ Repeater ___ Social ___ License Classes ___

Teach License Classes ___ Volunteer Examiner ___ Other _____

SINGLE \$35 FAMILY \$45