

# Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club

# WIRELESS




## FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL

Happy New Year to all.

I hope you enjoyed the Christmas party as much as I did.

Thanks again to all the officers for stepping up this year to keep the club running.

This year promises to be a good one for DX. The 10M contest last month showed good propagation especially towards the Pacific.

The club put a station at Sonoma Skypark on the 8th of this month. We made a few q's but the main thing is exposure to the public. We are having an issue with seeing the display on the FT-950 in sunlight. I have e-mailed Yaesu but so far, no response. Thanks to Dave, the radio now has its carrying case.

Another reminder if anyone is headed to the Palm Springs area, they are having a Hamfest on Jan 28.

I won't be able to make the meeting this month, so Ed, W1EJ, will stand in. Let's have good attendance as he has an interesting program.

**THE MEETING WILL BE AT THE EOC AT THE SONOMA PD.**

Those of you who enjoy Tim Allen in various sitcoms will want to be watching "[Last Man Standing](#)" on ABC on Tuesday nights. One aspect of Tim's character, Mike Baxter, is that of ham radio operator - he's been "assigned" the call sign KAØXTT and even has a [Facebook page](#). The ham shack and

occasional snippets of ham radio action are being worked into the story every week. This week's episode showed the station in the back of Mike's office. Browse to Mike's Facebook page and give it a "Like" for more radio action!

—73 Jim K6UUW

## CONTEST CALENDAR

Jan 14	NCJ NA QSO Party CW
Jan 21	NCJ NA QSO Party SSB
Jan 27-29	CQ 160m Contest CW
Feb 4	NCJ NA Sprint CW
Feb 11	FISTS Winter Sprint
Feb 11-12	CQ WW WPX RTTY
Feb 18-19	ARRL Intl DX Contest CW
Feb 24	CQ 160m Contest SSB
Feb 25	NCJ NA QSO Party RTTY
Mar 3-4	ARRL Intl DX Contest SSB
Apr 20-22	Int'l DX Convention, Visalia

## January Meeting

—by Ed W1EJ

The ARRL has come out with a program and suite of materials "for exposing the Do It Yourself/Maker community to Amateur Radio Opportunities". At this month's meeting I will show the new DIY video and some of the other ARRL materials. As part of the program I would like to request that members bring in some recent (or not so recent) DIY project; perhaps a kit or a home brew thing, to show to the group. It does not have to be purely ham related but something you think the others might enjoy seeing.

## THE CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL RADIO SOCIETY MUSEUM



Members of VOMARC recently toured the California Historical Radio Society museum in Berkeley. The Society was founded to preserve and protect the artifacts, ephemera and programs of the radio age. The Society has expanded its AM radio focus to include wireless telegraphy, FM radio, HI-Fi, amateur radio, commercial and military broadcasting, phonographs, television and other devices used for sound reproduction or transmission. The museum houses the station of W6CF, James Maxwell, (SK) former ARRL Pacific Division Director. For more info, visit

<http://www.californiahistoricalradio.com>.

Thanks to Allen, K6KLL, for setting up the trip.



Some of the amateur equipment on display at CHRS.

—submitted by Jim K6UUW

## YAESU, MOTOROLA SPLIT

After four years under the Motorola umbrella, Yaesu has split from that company. According to Vertex Standard President and Chief Executive Officer Jun Hasegawa, effective January 1, 2012, Motorola will keep the Vertex Standard Land-Mobile Division, while the amateur, marine and air-band will be under the Yaesu Musen banner. The new company will be known as Yaesu USA in the US.

## AN ACCIDENT REPORT

I am writing in response to your request for “additional information.” In block number 30 of the accident report form, I put “poor planning” as the cause for my accident. You said in your last letter that I should explain more fully. I trust that the following detail will be sufficient.

I am an amateur radio operator. On the day of the accident, I was working alone on the top section of my new 80-foot antenna tower. When I completed my work, I discovered that I had, over the course of several trips up the tower, brought about 300 lbs. of tools and spare hardware. Rather than carry the now unneeded tools and materials down by hand, I decided to lower the items in a small barrel by using a pulley, which fortunately was attached to the pole at the tip of the tower. Securing the rope at ground level, I went up to the top of the tower and loaded the tools and materials into the barrel. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to ensure a slow descent of the 300 lbs. of tools.

You will note in block number 11 of the accident report form that I weigh 155 lbs. Due to my surprise at being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rapid rate up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40-foot level, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken clavicle.

Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until my fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley. Fortunately by this time I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold tightly on the rope in spite of the pain. At about the same time however, the barrel hit the ground.

The bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the tools, the barrel now weighed 20 pounds.

I refer you again to my weight in block number 11. As you might guess, I began a rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40-foot level, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles and the lacerations of my legs and lower body.

The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell into the pile of tools, and fortunately only three vertebrae were cracked. I am sorry to report, however, that as I lay there on the tools in pain, unable to stand, and watching the empty barrel 80 feet above me, I again lost my presence of mind.

I let go of the rope... (Kinda been there, Jim) .  
—EBARC newsletter. Author unknown,

submitted by Jim K6UUW

**2012 ACS  
Net Control Assignments**

	Name	Call
JANUARY	EILEEN	KG6QNT
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH		
APRIL	MARTY	KI6RTP
MAY		
JUNE	GEORGE	K6ITE
JULY	CRAIG	KF6QZP
AUGUST		
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

**2012 VOMARC  
Net Control Assignments**

	Name	Call
JANUARY	ED	WIEJ
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH	JOAN	W6WXU
APRIL	DAVE	KG6FIL
MAY		
JUNE		
JULY		
AUGUST	KEN	N6KM
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

**THE VOMARC WIRELESS  
VOLUME 16 EDITION 1**

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon  
Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF  
Honorary President in Perpetuity

**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

Jim Hill, K6UUW – President, Training Officer

Ed Jacobson W1EJ – Vice-President,

Dave Dammuller KD6FIL – Secretary

Desmond Kelly, KI6DPZ – Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – ACS Unit Leader

Joel Nadler, NN6J – VE Liaison

Jim Hill, K6UUW – Elmer Coordinator

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Webmistress, Editor

*Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after  
benefits of membership in VOMARC—S. Marler.*

**CLUB MEETINGS** are held on the third Wednesday of each month at McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Developmental Center, Eldridge or the Sonoma Fire Station on 2<sup>nd</sup> St West. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

**WEB PAGE:** <http://www.vomarc.org/>

**Nets** are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

**ACS** holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

**PACKET STATION INFO:** The VOMARC packet station is off the air until further notice.

**CLUB BREAKFASTS** are held on the first Saturday of each month at Palms Grill (formerly Issa's) Restaurant, 18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at 09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

Eileen@vom.com

**Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.**

c/o Sonoma Police Department  
175 First Street West  
Sonoma, CA 95476

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Sonoma, CA 95476**

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**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE WED, JANUARY 18, AT THE CITY OF SONOMA EOC, 175 1<sup>ST</sup> ST  
WEST, SONOMA AT 7:30PM  
SEE YOU THERE.**

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**VOMARC MEMBERSHIP**

**VOMARC 2012** Membership Dues: \$15/year individual; \$5/year family member.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org).  
QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ APT: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

VOMARC: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Complimentary with Class--Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Moment, From the Database Queen**

Dues may be mailed to Desmond KI6DZP, 416 Claudia Dr, Sonoma, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting.  
Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC**.