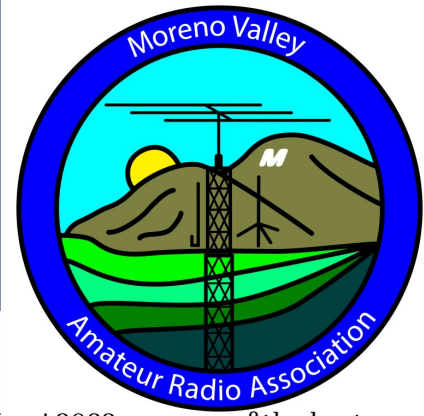


# The Moreno Valley Repeater

January-February 2024



## Testing with MVARA & GLAARG

Our first testing session of the year was a great success! It was one of our biggest sessions with 9 people in attendance. We hope to continue this trend in 2024 and help new hams get their license. If you are looking to upgrade make sure to book a spot before they fill up. Keep in mind if you are looking to upgrade to Extra the question pool will be changing July 1st, 2024. More information on testing can be found on our website [mvara.club](http://mvara.club)

## Happy New Year

We hope everyone has had a great start to the New Year! 2023 was one of the best years yet for our club, and we couldn't do it without all of our members. Thank you to all who have participated in events, showed up to meetings, checked into the nets, volunteered at the museum and kept this club going. We have a lot of exciting events planned for the club in 2024. Make sure to check the club website ([mvara.club](http://mvara.club)) for other events we have in store for 2024.

If you haven't already, please don't forget to submit a new application for this year, even if you have submitted one in the past. We want to make sure that we have the most up to date info for our members, as well as emergency contact info. Lastly, don't forget to pay your dues for this year. They can be paid electronically on our website or cash/check at one of our meetings. These dues help us keep the club going by maintaining the repeater and other operating costs. We wish all of our members a happy and healthy 2024. 73, MVARA



## Holiday Dinner

Hams know how to party! The MVARA dinner was a great time. It was hosted at Mimi's Cafe in Moreno Valley on Dec 7th, 2023. A big thank you to Chris, Ed, and Assunta for the wonderful holiday music and Allyson for setting the mood with festive decorations.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

January 27-28th - Winter Field Day  
March Field Air Museum, overnight

February 1st - Club Meeting  
Frank Zizzo Radio Room, 6pm social 6:30pm meeting

February 15th - GLAARG Testing Session  
Frank Zizzo Radio Room, 6:30pm

February 17th - Green Eggs and Hams Breakfast  
Black Bear Diner MoVal, 7:30am - 10am

March 7th - Club Meeting  
Frank Zizzo Radio Room, 6pm social 6:30pm meeting

March 9th - Fox Hunt Antenna Workshop  
Frank Zizzo Radio Room 10am - 12pm

**Make sure to check the club calendar for up to date  
information on events at [mvara.club](http://mvara.club)**

**Tuesdays:** Weekly MVARA Roundtable, 7:30 PM,  
449.300-103.5 (TSQ)



Have something you want to share  
in our next newsletter?  
Contact us at  
[AB6MVnet@gmail.com](mailto:AB6MVnet@gmail.com)

# AARL Winter Field Day

MVARA kicked off the New Year by hosting Winter Field Day at March Field Air Museum on January 27-28th. For seasoned veterans, it was a great opportunity to test out those new Christmas gifts and get on the air for some friendly contesting. For those new to amateur radio, it was a great time to come out and learn what it takes to set up a mobile station and how to operate it.

Winter Field day was started in 2007 and has become increasingly popular. It was started to help prepare hams for the unique challenges that winter poses when setting up a portable station. While sunny Southern California doesn't quite have the same challenges as our friends in other states, it is a reminder that disaster can strike in any condition.

I'm sure most of us are familiar with ARRL's Field Day in June. It is important to note that Winter Field Day is its own entity with its own rules. Make sure to look at [www.winterfieldday.com](http://www.winterfieldday.com) for up to date information.

## Notable Guidelines for Winter Field Day 2024

- All stations are limited to a maximum of 100 Watts PEP.
- All logs must be in the Cabrillo format and submitted online at [www.winterfieldday.com](http://www.winterfieldday.com)
- Mexico stations should use MX as their location identifier.
- Bonuses are now listed as objectives and are recorded separately.
- Multiple transmitters are allowed to operate on the same band/mode at the same time.

This year, Winter Field Day took place in the MFAM Radio Room, where two stations made many contacts!

266 CW Contacts  
22 Digital Contacts  
152 Voice Contacts  
**10,920 Total Points!**





# New Member Spotlight: KD6DWX, Chuck Kendrick

Fun things happen when you volunteer for a few hours in the MVARA Club headquarters, the Frank Zizzo radio room at March Field! On Monday afternoon January 14<sup>th</sup> between giving a few tours to visiting museum patrons, I had an opportunity to get to know a little bit about a newish member. Chuck Kendrick happened to be in there, thanks to the MLK holiday off from his work. The more I asked and learned about Chuck and his XYL Susan, the more I wanted to know! Between their work together as successful co-business owners, and his interests in our radio hobby, I was reminded that club members need yet another way to learn these cool things about each other.

So, I asked Chuck if he would send me the technical details about his ham radio shack, and if he would be willing to allow me to author an article for publication in our MVARA newsletter, introducing him. The next day, I received this, enjoy!

Hello, my name is Chuck Kendrick, call KD6DWX. I am one of your new members, just joining the club in December 2023. I was licensed as a novice in January 1991 while living in Rialto. Then received technician upgrade in '92. I have lived in Woodcrest for the last 21 years. Thought about upgrading several times, but our business was remarkably successful and just busy.

Recently been giving some thought to retirement, and I'm now looking forward to upgrading to general class. My shack consists of ICOM IC 7600, Yasue FT 847, ID 5100 and Yasue FT 7800 for my Allstar RF. Node running on a raspberry PI. I would like to invite all club members to use my simplex RF node: 145.710 pl of 103.5 (\*73+ node # to connect; \*71 + node # to disconnect) running 24/7 Please disconnect when finished. Thank you.



Also using a VOI Phone in the shack running Ham Shack Hotline, Hams over IP., and two ARDEN Mash PBX'S for SCIRA and External PBX. I think this would be a great tool to communicate with all our members, and other EOC in and around the Riverside area. I look forward to being involved and growing with the club. I became a volunteer at the March Field Air Museum, Zizzo radio room, and am enjoying it very much.

Well, that's me in a nutshell.

73 Chuck Kendrick KD6DWX

Previously, at the MVARA Christmas party, I sat next to Susan Kendrick. I had learned that besides co-owning two businesses with her husband, she is enthusiastic about her 30+ year hobby doing family history research, having already gone back eleven generations to the year 1633 on one of her paternal sides. I'm looking forward to having a cup of coffee with her one day to hear more and learn about that! It's very possible that after reading this article about the Kendricks, some of you might have questions or comments next time you cross paths. I'm sure there's something more to know about them from this cameo, for discussion on a future MVARA Net or breakfast.

In the meantime, another newish member, Victor KN6RNK, got wind of this idea to highlight members in our MVARA newsletter, and he raised his RF hand at last Tuesday evening's Net, asking to be next! I say yay! Go ahead Victor, start writing down some facts you'd like us to know about you and send them over to me in an email, and I'll take it from there. Or else I'll help you put your own article together if you'd prefer. Anybody interested in being a future highlighted Club member, contact KJ6FQP, email good on QRZ. I foresee a meeting of the minds of our members into a tighter knit club family as we learn more details about each other. I mean, not only just what equipment we have, but any other interesting things you'd like to share. I love what Chuck did, telling how we might be able to join each other in potential radio-related projects and/or partner up to help our community out in various ways.

Genuinely nice to meet you folks!

73 Assunta Maria KJ6FQP

# AN MVARA ARCHEOLOGICAL EXPEDITION

On January 7, 2024, N6UNH Dirk and KJ6FQP Assunta went out on a field mission to find an essential piece of metal – the base plate - which had been missing from the tower out front, for years! Spoiler alert: we found it and excavated it successfully – thanks to Lynne Zizzo’s approachability and generosity of time. For the details, read on!

The tower referred to was initially obtained when the collection of Frank Zizzo’s radios and equipment was picked up for donation to March Field Air Museum. MVARA does not know who removed it from the Zizzo home, or who initially installed it. It is currently strapped to the building and precariously held in place by two bolts that were drilled into the concrete. In its current condition it cannot be raised up to its full height of 50 feet. According to radio-collection- donor Lynne Zizzo, it had been fully functional in its previous location at the Zizzo home. The intention of the museum director was to display it in a purely decorative manner, much as the aircraft that sit on the flight line nearby.

So, the tower was technically already in place when MVARA arrived on the scene to assume operations of the desired radio room. A former club member (Rich, KK6CXA) used a man-lift to mount our first vertical antenna onto that existing tower. He made other adjustments without any benefit of a functioning base plate because it was missing! The well-intended folks who fetched and installed it were not ham radio operators, so they didn’t realize the importance of it. It must have “looked right”, but it was unable to function as intended. It was a start.

During the first two and a half years that MVARA occupied the radio room, most of our time there was spent learning about, organizing, and cataloging radios. Some of us worked on repairing radios; others learned to be docents - giving tours. Much was done to rearrange the room, upgrade electronics, add various other types of antennas, develop protocols, get volunteers trained and equipped. Not very much thought was initially given to the missing base plate, until recently.

There are some aspects of the tower structure itself that need maintenance or repair to restore full usefulness. The manual winch is rusted, and there are some ribs missing or broken. When we first looked at the winch cable, we thought that it was worn out and frayed. Upon closer inspection, we found that it had some old vines hanging from it. Lynne confirmed that there had been some vegetation growing next to the tower, which often wrapped itself around the cables. The current plan calls for replacing the old winch with a new electric one and replacing or repairing ribs on the lower section. When that work is completed, we can secure the base plate to the concrete and re-install the tower on it. We will no longer have to use the man-lift to service the antennas, as it will be possible to tilt it over to the ground when needed, as designed.

Since Dirk retired in June of 2023, he has been more active with various projects to aid the Club. He asked me one day whether I happened to know if a steel base plate might still be found at the Zizzo residence. Since I had extensively interviewed Lynne in her home (to capture the story about her late husband Frank Zizzo, namesake of the radio room), I’ve had friendly contact with her. So, I simply called her and asked.



She sent me a photo of the ground where the tower had once stood, saying only, “There are metal things in the ground where the antenna used to sit”. Lynne was very sure that it was not there, but we were welcome to come and look. In the photo, it just looked like a bunch of dirt and leaves to me, and Dirk thought he saw a sprinkler; could it be the remnant of a ground, or some coax, in the photo? We coordinated a site visit at Lynne’s convenience.

Lynne graciously walked us outside around the back of Frank’s former radio room, a small outbuilding behind the main house. We raked away some of the leaves, removed a dead vine remnant, and carefully moved away some dirt. Shoveling a little deeper we hit metal, just as Dirk suspected we might! It was a thick T-shaped form of rusty steel, bolted down in three places to concrete. Dirk applied a lubricant to the frozen bolts and made valiant attempts to loosen them, to no avail.



There is an amazing mechanics' shop on her property, further back and down the hill from the location where we were working. Among the tools there was a pneumatic hammer drill, which we had hoped to use in our Plan-B, to help loosen those bolts. Lynne asked her neighbor, Ed, over to help. However, the air hose would not reach. On to Plan-C: we would have to saw the bolts off the concrete footing. Ed got on the ground with his Saws-all and went right to work, while the ladies fetched more blades, predicting they would break or be dulled.

Assunta saw Ed suddenly flinch and jerk his left hand swiftly away while stopping the saw with his other. Yes, he nearly lost a finger, and KJ6FQP realized an unplanned reason she was along for on this mission. She recommended he needed stitches, and Ed flatly wasn't interested, but on-site emergency first aid was reluctantly accepted. Dirk soon took over the sawing. The rest of us released some tension by being silly, feigning fears of the worst, another bloody accident... Thankfully that did not happen.



All three frozen bolts were eventually removed, and the base plate successfully excavated from the forgotten grave where it had been left several years ago. After cleaning up the mess we made and thanking Ed and Lynne for their help, we were treated to picking some citrus from her beautiful grove. It was a sweet bonus to bring back to our radio room volunteers!

We transported the rusty old base plate back to the radio room, feeling rather good about our success! It was a mission accomplished for just one phase of just one project. We constantly strive to improve Club headquarters, undertaking various projects as resources allow. Now we can move forward with restoration and proper installation of Frank's tower. Steve's father Bob, our beloved Club handyman, is already working on the next phase; he is removing the rust and painting it to preserve the metal for its next life, to be reunited with the tower it belongs to, at the Frank Zizzo radio room at MFAM.

Improving MVARA club headquarters at the MFAM radio room has generated a great deal of interest from the general public and the ham radio community. Those who wish to operate from the radio room must be both a club member and a radio room volunteer. This policy has been instrumental in revitalizing interest from current club members, as well as recruiting new members to join the effort. It's a win-win for all concerned; the Museum at March Field, MVARA club members, and the public who love to visit and learn from us.

Written for its historical significance, by both KJ6FQP and N6UNH

