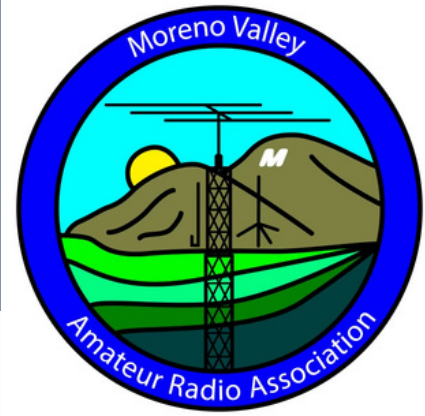


The Moreno Valley Repeater

September-October 2023



Testing with MVARA & GLAARG

Testing has been going great! It is hosted on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the MFAM Radio Room. Over 50 people have been licensed or upgraded since we started. We had our one year anniversary of testing last month. Thank you to David Bell (N6DJB) for donating an extra tablet for testing. We are now capable of 8 testees. If you are looking to get your license or upgrade your existing one make sure to reach out!



Club Repeater Status

Last year MVARA took advantage of a deal that Yaesu had on their DR-2X repeaters. At our last club meeting vice-president Dirk (N6UNH) shares exciting news about the implementation of this new repeater to replace our old one. All of the hardware is configured including an RCOM RC-210 Controller and a Raspberry Pi running Allstar. The Allstar node will allow users to remote in using any digital mode. We will also be able to play nets from all over the country, such as the Absolute Tech Net, Digital Learning Net, and ARRL Radio News. It also now has a courtesy tone! We are hoping to have it online soon so stay tuned!



MVARA Fox Hunt

MVARA will be hosting a Fox Hunt on October 28th at 9am. This is a great opportunity for hams to come out and test their radio direction finding techniques. For those that have never participated in a fox hunt, a transmitter will be hidden within Moreno Valley city limits. Hunters will use a directional antenna to home in and pinpoint the transmitters location. There are great resources online to create a homemade tape measure Yagi antenna that can hook to your handheld radio. Make sure to monitor the club repeater at 146.655 - pl 103.5 for helpful tips and to communicate with others on the hunt!

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 28th: Fox Hunt 146.565 - PL 103.5
Moreno Valley City Limits, 9:00am

November 2nd: MVARA Club Meeting at MFAM
Frank Zizzo Radio Room, 6:30pm

November 12th: Parks on the Air
Lake Perris, Lot 11, 8am-1pm

November 16th: GLAARG testing session
Frank Zizzo Radio Room, 6:00pm

Make sure to check the club calendar for up to date information on events at mvara.club

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



Trail Life USA 2023

Have something you want to share in our next newsletter?
Contact us at
AB6MVnet@gmail.com

Trail Life USA 2023 Campout

It was a year in the planning, but it finally came to be. MVARA was tapped on the shoulder to host a local Trail Life USA troop at the March Field Air Museum. The trailmen arrived Friday evening and made camp right away. The first presentation was Larry Marcum K7GND, and he showed off his collection of morse code keys. He explained to the boys how he had to overcome losing his eyesight later in life and had to learn all new ways to enjoy ham radio with techniques and audio enhancements installed into his equipment.

Bright and early Saturday morning, we hit the ground running with activities and presentations scheduled all throughout the day. Juan Mejia AJ6PH took the younger trailmen for a hands-on activity with Snap Circuit kits. The boys were able to experiment with building different electronic circuits and even an FM radio.

Bob Morris KK6BXJ and John Salisbury W7RSO were attending two G.O.T.A. stations where the trailmen were taking turns getting on-the-air and talking with other hams from all around. They were able to make contacts from a few states away, across country and even a few DX contacts.

Dirk Snyder N6UNH took a group of trailmen for a small hike around the museum and taught them how he packs his radio gear for field use. After setting up an antenna in the field the boys took turns making contacts on Dirks portable HF radio. Dirk also was able to show the importance of having communication capabilities in the event of an emergency using Winlink to pass emails and other emergency traffic.

Peggy Martin KG6SNL, Merritt Martin KD6WKS, Lynne Gabrielson KI6EQP and Ed Nijst AJ6ET held guide the boys on the fox hunts. Radio direction finding is a good skill to have if you are in need of tracking down a radio signal of someone that may be lost and in need of assistance. During the fox hunt the trailmen were able to move to different locations on the museum grounds and take signal readings when the fox would transmit. Then they would transfer the direction, using a compass bearing, they got from the transmissions to a map to determine an approximate location of the transmitter.

David Bell N6DJB and Bob Turner W6RHK had a hand full of vintage military phones that when connected by a few hundred feet of wire could communicate just like a regular telephone system. The trailmen were able to see how field communications were established during World War II. Pretty neat that Dave Robinson KC6YYM was able to clean up these vintage units and they sounded just as good as new.

Steve DeLong W7DTH, Ed Nijst AJ6ET and Gene Bell AI7BV held an FCC exam session and were able to congratulate two new hams as radio operators. Their callsigns were issued within days using the new tablet testing system the club uses. The other examinees were encouraged to keep studying and come back later to get their tickets.

Rob Underwood KORU and Assunta Vickers KJ6FQP had two great presentations concerning CW history and Morse code training. Rob had the boys' attentions as he told the story of the sinking of the Titanic.

Morse code was the means of their SOS being heard. Assunta then gave the trailmen a primer on learning morse code using an app called morse mania on tablet or cellphone devices.

To round out Saturday night and before the boys turned in after their long day, Dirk had one final presentation on SSTV, APRS and digital modes. The boys were exhausted but everyone one of them had a grand time learning all the aspects of ham radio. They were very thankful for all the hard work each club member performed. MFAM and MVARA members involved with the activities were very positive and have expressed how well the event turned out.

Sunday morning the troop performed their normal closing activities and were free to explore the museum before they broke camp at noon. It was a very productive weekend, and we look forward to possibly doing this event again next year.