



Moreno Valley Repeater

Moreno Valley Amateur Radio Association

May-June 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE PREZ

As most of you know, the Corona Virus pandemic has given us the time and opportunity to experiment with new ways to stay visually connected as we respond to the current home-quarantine and no-gatherings directives. In this newsletter and on the mvaranet.org website are photos of the Zoom conference we conducted in lieu of our March membership meeting. Now that we've done a few "Zooms" we're all getting pretty comfortable with the various aspects of the technology, and are very pleased that this turn of events has allowed our lifetime members to participate from across the country. The unknown duration of the quarantine situation has put planning for all of our traditional in-person ham radio activities on hold until further notice. I look forward to "seeing" you on our Zoom gatherings! If you want to be included in the Tuesday morning "Ham & Coffee" Zoom conference (replaced the Starbucks get-together) let Steve DeLong W7DTH know and he'll add your email to his notice list. Take care, everyone, and stay safe.

73 Bob Morris KK6BXJ

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(Thanks to Glen Johnsen, KA6GMA)

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CALENDARS

for May & June are on the mvaranet.org website

MVARA MEMBER ROSTER 2020

PAID MEMBERS

Michael Anderson W6OSO
 David Bell N6DJB
 Bob Capps N6SHT
 Mike Cruz KI6MGX
 Steve DeLong W7DTH
 Steve Evans AF6HR
 Jesse McDonald K6DR
 Tom Morey KK6DOG
 Bob Morris KK6BXJ
 Ed Nijst AJ6ET
 Rich Palmer KK6CXA
 Alan Pearson KB6DMZ
 Ryan Reuther KM6SPZ
 Doug Riggie KK6D
 Audi Sarkissian K6XLJ
 John Sarkissian K6AFR
 Joseph Sarkissian K6ERZ
 Sandy Sarkissian K6VAF
 Susan Stanley K6ZPL

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Mike Box N6BOX
 Robin Box K6BOX
 Glen Johnsen KA6GMA
 Carl Schmidt KF6JE
 Cheryl Schmidt KA6WRB
 Glenn Tobey AB6PA
 Jerry Lloyd N6MEJ
 Larry Marcum KA6GND
 Steven Rathbone AJ6Y
 Glen Sperry KI6GD
 JD Weiss NK7W

ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Mike Borrell (April 2020)

REPEATER CUSTODIAN

Alvin Brown KD6UZM

Rich Palmer, KK6CXA, demonstrating home-brew antennas at the March 5th membership meeting



April 2nd Zoom Conference membership meeting with NBEMS presentation by Bob Morris KK6BXJ



MVARA ZOOMS INTO A NEW DIMENSION

It has been long weeks for the world's citizens. Everyone is looking for ways to maintain social distancing and stability while sheltering in place during this CoVid19 outbreak. Social Distancing is not new to ham radio. After all, we already communicate via HF, VHF, or UHF without facing each other. But now we need to find new ways of continuing monthly meetings, license classes, and emergency training without face-to-face gatherings. That new way is Zoom Communications. Zoom is the leader in modern enterprise video communications, with an easy, reliable platform for video/audio conferencing, collaboration, chat, and webinars across mobile devices, desktops, telephones, and room systems. Zoom helps businesses and organizations bring their teams together in a frictionless environment to get more done.

Again, Moreno Valley Amateur Radio Association (MVARA) hamsters are one of the first amateur groups to conduct meetings and training with this new video conference enterprise. On Thursday, April 2, 2020 the MVARA conducted its regular monthly meeting on Zoom. Zoom handled audio and video communications between all the participants, including Lifetime members from Oregon and Arizona. It was as if everyone was in the same room.

A total of 18 participants were in attendance. The meeting was conducted under the auspices of association president Bob Morris, KK6BXJ. It was a regular association meeting having the presentation of the executive officer reports, discussion of upcoming group event status, and a Narrow Band Emergency Messaging Software (NBEMS) demonstration by Bob, KK6BXJ, and Rich, KK6CXA. NBEMS is an Open Source software suite that allows amateur radio operators to reliably send and receive data using nearly any computer (Windows, Mac, and Linux) and any analog radio without requiring a dedicated digital infrastructure or specialized modem hardware.

Future MVARA uses of zoom can be utilized for monthly meetings, nets, license classes, shack tours, and VE testing. Yes, VE testing. W5YI is experimenting in the use of VE testing over this new platform. It's the dawn of a new era and again, as always, Amateur Radio and MVARA are at the forefront of promoting the latest technologies. I am looking forward to attending the next MVARA meeting on Zoom and seeing all my ham friends in California from Arizona. Till then--CUL and 73 KA6GMA-Glen [Submitted by Lifetime Member Glen Johnsen]

**Choices:
Old Traditions - New Opportunities**

I started thinking about the basic analog FM Radio and being alleged as an appliance operator. All one needs to do is push a button and talk. But there is more to it than that. I need to understand repeater operation, memory programming, scanning frequencies, and following FCC rules and regulations. I know the basics but how much more can I learn about the new digital technologies. Can I explain all the radio features, modulation type, and take on the task of mentoring another ham on the usefulness and applications of current technology? It's my choice.

I have faced my fears after buying a Kenwood TH-D74 D-Star radio. I was simply amazed at the quantity of features in that radio. TNC, GPS, APRS, Bluetooth, and D-Star. Wow! What a combination of features in a small box that I carry on a belt loop. How does it work? How do I get involved with reflectors, gateways, and digital repeaters? Do I need hotspots? How does a hotspot work? What is a Hotspot? How does D-Star compare to fusion technology? How can I apply the technology? There are so many opportunities to explore. It's my choice.

The engineering required to put all these items in one handheld unit; the time required to master this individual feature in programming and application; most of all trying to explain the D Star technology. I couldn't do it. I need to learn these features, understand their applications and explain what is inside the radio's hardware and software. Am I an amateur radio communicator explorer or mic button pusher? I have much to learn. It's my choice.

Are we hams allowing old traditions to keep us from embracing new opportunities? Do we have the inclination to delve into current technology FT8, D-Star, and software defined radio (SDR)? Or are we content to be status quo and just push the mic button as "Appliance operators"? Is fear holding us back from exploration? It's our choice.

Where do you want to explore? Building, researching, exploring Hardware, Software, network operating, testing or engineering? Amateur Radio opportunities are boundless! It's our choice.

Remember Spark Gap transmitters before super heterodyne? Remember CW and AM before SSB? Remember Vic 20 and Apple's Lisa before laptops? Remember MS-DOS before windows 10? Remember landlines before cell phones? Old traditions have evolved into faster and more efficient opportunities.

I believe that old traditions are relevant today and still have an important purpose in the amateur community, and so is embracing new opportunities that are fundamental to bringing new and efficient practices to Ham radio. We can sit back and push the mic button, or embrace new opportunity. The only limits are imagination. It's my choice!

[Submitted by Lifetime Member Glen Johnsen]

Planning for Club activities remains fluid during the government's current home quarantine orders ▪ As of April 15th no in-person gatherings are permitted, whether indoors or outdoors