

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

This is a pdf file. It will print easily. A free pdf file reader is at <http://www.adobe.com>

Current Events			Table of Contents
Date	Event	Time	
M—F	6 m FM net 52.540	6:00 AM	ARRL Rocky Mountain Hamfest D-Star Repeater N5S Coming Meeting PSK31 Demonstration Builders Group Hamfest Vignette 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	
Sept 3	Breakfast Club House	8 AM	
Sept 3	Business Meeting Club House	9 AM	
Sept 3	QSL card party	10 AM	
Sept 6	Builders Group Club House	7 PM	
Sept 7	Board Meet Club House	7 PM	
Sept 20	Builders Group Club House	7 PM	
For more events see http://www.n5bl.org/calendar			



Southwest Antennas & Accessories

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



ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention

The Articles for This Month

ARRL Rocky Mountain Convention

K5XY

It is not often that a very large hamfest comes close to Las Cruces, but it happened at the beginning of August when the ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention took place in Taos on August 5 and 6. Quite a large contingent went from Las Cruces, so it is fitting that the lead photograph in this issue of the Local Oscillator should show our president, KE5OFK, looking at one of the large commercial displays set up for the attendees.

Many of the big names had large displays of their latest equipment. Electrocraft, Kenwood, Icomm, Yaesu were all there. SteppIR antennas, Buddie Pole, Flex Radio, and Byonics were there too. Our old friend from the bean feed, Southwest Antenna, had more table space than anybody else. He was doing a brisk business too. He said he sold out of one type of HT antenna quickly.

Speaking of old friends, several long time members, who have moved away, were also seen at the convention. W5AOX (was WA5AOX while here), Jim, was there on a fancy recumbent bicycle fixed up with 2 m J Pole antennas and a basket

2011	Local Oscillator	September
------	------------------	-----------

for his dog. K5OI, Tim, as also there from Ruidoso. He mentioned that he might move back to Las Cruces.

There were the usual drawings, speeches, banquet, breakfasts, tailgating, and forums. There were several forums on the new digital repeaters, particularly the one promoted by ICOM. The D-Star equipment does much more than transmit voice. They are easy to interconnect with or without the internet. In fact that was a big topic for some of the hams from MVRC. Preliminary discussions were held on how to extend digital repeaters to Las Cruces. There is a separate article in this issue on that effort.

There was a large variety of contests. The list included QSL card, newsletter, web site, mobile antenna, and two classes of home built equipment. KC5EVR, Richard, did particularly well in two categories of home built equipment. He won first place in two categories. He might even have won honors in the mobile antenna



contest too except that the antenna range was behind some trees that were too low to permit his high antenna to get in.

Operating opportunities were not neglected either. W1AW/5 was almost continuously operating. It was located in a self-contained trailer complete with a beam and wire antennas. A complete satellite station in a self-contained all terrain vehicle was operating with a cross-polarized, multi-band el-az beam that automatically tracked satellites.

There were activities for non-hams too. Two were of particular interest. One was a lunch trip to Angel Fire ski area with a ski lift ride to the top. Another popular trip was a visit to the old Taos pueblo. There were many favorable comments about these interesting and well organized trips.

Many people worked hard organizing and publicizing this convention. By any measure it was a huge success. The headquarters motel was filled months before the convention. A shuttle service from Albuquerque was organized. About 700 people registered, over twice as many as last year. It was hundreds larger than the one held near Denver. It is clear that the attendees, the organizers, the convention center, and the exhibitors all considered it a most successful event.

D-STAR COMING SOON

KE5OFK

Thanks to the combined efforts of Tracy Hooker, NMSU ARC, MVRC, and



Initial D-Star Repeater Discussions

available. Questions/comments may be sent to me at robhtruitt@zianet.com

ICOM promotional, the **HAM** community will soon have a local D-STAR repeater. The repeater will be located on A-Mountain using the NMSU ARC call sign **W5GB**. Keith Lamonica graciously offered to release the repeater pair that had been assigned to NMSU ARC for many years back to them. Keith's offer has been a tremendous savings in both time and money. The D-STAR repeater will allow both locally and world wide communication on two meter D-STAR. The D-STAR repeater, controller, and computer interface has been ordered and should arrive within a couple of weeks. Configuration of the repeater and its computer interface should be completed along with installation of on A-Mountain by the first of October. If you have or purchase a D-STAR radio, we are asking you to postpone registration with a D-STAR repeater until the local repeater is functional and then to register with the local repeater. Starting in October assistance in registering with D-STAR repeater along with assistance in programming your D-STAR radio will be

N5S – America's Final Shuttle Launch

WB4AEJ

A couple of months ago, a colleague forwarded me an email from a group of hams down in Florida who were preparing to operate a Special Events Station (SES) for America's Final Shuttle Launch. They were trying to find out if the White Sands Complex (WSC, on NASA Road) had their own ham radio station and if we could operate it for the Final Shuttle Launch.

The answer is no. The NASA WSC does not have its own ham radio station. So I suggested that perhaps MVRC could fill that roll since we were so close to the WSC. They put me in touch with Carl (AA4MI) in Florida who was preparing SES N4S for operation during the flight.

I took it to the officers (since there was no club meeting in July) at the June board of directors meeting to get approval for it. All of the issues were raised and discussed. They board gave approval. Robert Truit (KE5OFK) requested that I obtain a Special Events call sign for the event. So I applied for and was granted the use of SES N5S for MVRC for the duration of the Atlantis' STS-135 flight.

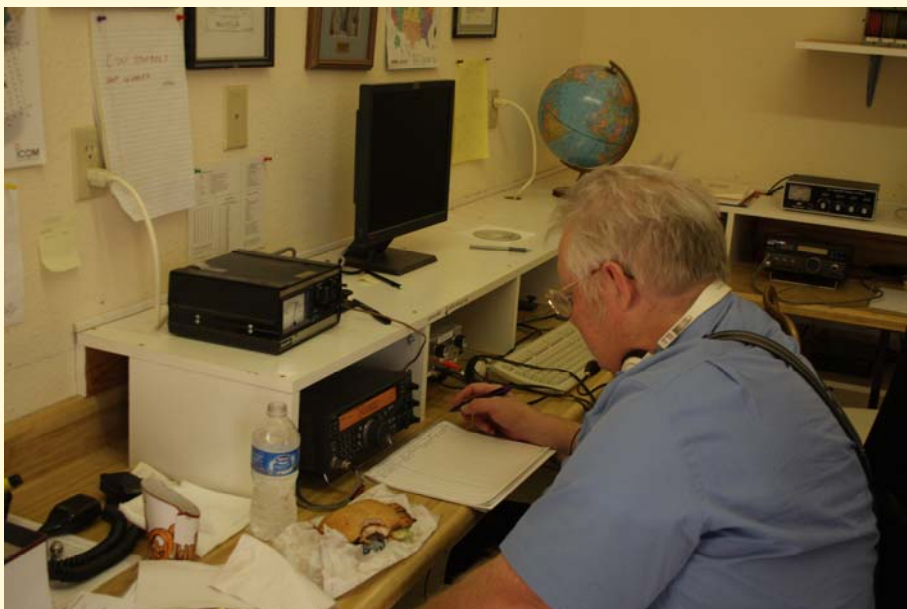
Our resident QSL artist (Elden Heiden, W0WGA) gathered some NASA art and put together a beautiful QSL card. David Glasscok (W7DZG) took it to the upper management folks at NASA and got an OK for us to use the art.

The cards were printed once we received all of the QSL requests and knew how many to order. The work was performed by the local Insta-Copy printing company.

A lot of operation was done. A number of people came out to help. This included Rick (W3GWU) and Margaret, Charlie (W5CWW), Marty (N9OG), and myself (Fred, WB4AEJ).

As I operated, I noticed that people were practically fighting over who would get to work N5S next. At certain times, I had to ask for calls by call area (all stations with a '1' in their call, please call now) so that I could control the bedlam in that pileup.

As the days went by, activity became more scattered. I'd come home with all completed log pages after I finished for the day/evening and scan them into a collective PDF with all of the previous pages in them. Then



2011	Local Oscillator	September
------	------------------	-----------

I would upload them to the Web site. If you want to see the log, the URL is: http://www.n5bl.org/N5S/n5s_2011_log.pdf. I will be taking it down once the QSL Party is over.

The size of the PDF file became quite large. The log contained thirty-eight and a half pages of contacts. We worked over nine hundred and fifty contacts. DX included three stations in Tasmania, one in Ireland, one in Australia, one in New Zealand, one from the Island of St. Kitts, and one from Jamaica. We also made one contact with Puerto Rico. A number of Canadian stations called us as well.

This was such a great event that I wish that more of our club members would have been able to take part in it. We operated whenever someone was available from five minutes after the launch until the shuttle landed again.

Our sister station (N4S) down in Florida was utilizing seven operator positions. Their net was 2,856 contacts. Divide that by seven operating positions, that yields approximately four hundred and eight contacts per position. We had only one operator position and not nearly as many operators. N5S did work N4S and we will be requesting a certificate as soon as we have a QSL card to send them.

I don't know when we'll ever get to do such a great event again. But we will be doing SES K5B for next year's Bataan Memorial Death in March. It is also a terrific event. The call is already registered and we will be operating for the duration of the event.

If you want to know more about Special Events Stations (SES), please read the article I wrote. It is on QRZ and the URL is: <http://forums.qrz.com/showthread.php?249795-Planning-and-Operating-a-Special-Events-Station>

In any case you are invited to help fill out the QSL cards after the business meeting on September 3.

Meeting

The usual breakfast and business meeting will be held starting at 8 AM Saturday September 3. The meeting should be of special interest because the presenter will be Mike, KD9KC, from El Paso to speak on SOTA (Summit on the Air). The SOTA activity follows the lead of IOTA (Islands on the air), UAS-CA (worked all US counties) and the USA Island program. Those of you that have been following the MVRC know that there has recently been lots of activity on A Mountain. Come and find out what it is all about.

PSK31 Demonstration

K5XY

After the board meeting on August 10, there was a demonstration to the club's PSK31 station. You can consider PSK31 as an advanced form of teletype. It takes a major piece of equipment, in addition to the usual transceiver and antenna, to use this form of communication. In this case one needs a computer with a monitor, sound card, and appropriate software. Information is input through a keyboard

and is output as letters appearing on the monitor. The software is varied but usually includes a waterfall display of signals received and a variety of prepared files containing information to be sent and information as received.

As demonstrated by AE5XI, the N5BL set up is shown to be versatile, complete,



and relatively easy to use. The computer and transceiver are turned on and the antenna connected. The software is easy to use, but not self-evident. You probably need somebody to show you how to use it. It would be helpful to take a few notes to refresh your memory the next time you use it. The waterfall display makes tuning easy and one can easily spot QSOs in progress and stations calling CQ. This mode works well with low power signals and the club station allows members to get used to the software involved before investing in the effort to get their own station operating.

Builders Club

KD5SSJ

The Builders Club has continued to meet throughout the summer and has discussed several topics. Dave Hassall has kept us up to date on truly remarkable results in QRSS. Dave M. Anderson has shown the progress that he has made on his telescope mount. And Cash Olsen has made some progress on the DDS project that

the group decided to do just before the summer.

It's a good sharing atmosphere where if your having some success or if your needing some help you can find a group of hams that can appreciate what you've done or perhaps can help get you over the hump on a project.

We me at twice a month, on the first and third Tuesday nights, at he MVRC Clubhouse. Starting time is 7:00 PM until the last conversation is finished. All are welcome and all levels of experience are welcomed. Mark it on your calendar.

Hamfest Vignette

K5XY

This is the story of just one short encounter, a few minutes in a long day. What makes it of more than passing interest is that it embodies what is best in the amateur radio hobby, hamfests, and small ham inspired commercial enterprises.

There are two protagonists in this story. One is WOANT, Anna, a young girl from Littleton Colorado, a general licensee from 2010, who has been unusually active in many aspects of ham radio. The other is Byonics, a young company selling

innovative electronics, specializing in inexpensive APRS tracking equipment.

The venue was the ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention this August in Taos, NM, a three day hamfest filled with forums (28), speakers, exhibits, and well attended meals with interesting



speakers

WOANT had recently been exposed to the foxhunting aspect of amateur radio. She and her father were looking at the compact foxhunting controller sold by Byonics. This small device enables an ht to transmit and identify at predetermined intervals so that other hams can try to locate it.

It had been decided to buy the controller and the father and the owner of the exhibit, N6BG, were discussing whether to buy or build the required interconnection cable. WOANT was obviously excited about getting this new equipment which

2011	Local Oscillator	September
------	------------------	-----------

would expand her amateur activities. She was actually jumping for joy.

N6BG said that, since most of his business was mail order, he rarely got to see any personal expression of interest in his products. In appreciation of this show of enthusiasm he said he would throw in with the purchase the required interconnection cable.

Thus compressed into one short incident in days full of activity, one had many of the reasons for a hamfest illustrated: exposure to new aspects of the hobby, physical interaction between hams, encouragement of new hams, and interaction between small vendors and the hobby as a whole.

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

FOR SALE: Tektronix 2465 scope. It is 4-channel, 300 MHz bandwidth. It has the GPIB option and the external Z-axis option. The scope is fully functional and in nice shape. Comes with the top cover, snap on bag and power cord. I don't have spare probes for it. Somewhere I also have a PDF of the manual.

I see that this model scope sells on ebay for \$400 and up. I'll let this one go for \$200, so I can make a quick sale. Joe Gray W5JG

Monthly Business Meeting

Minutes not available.

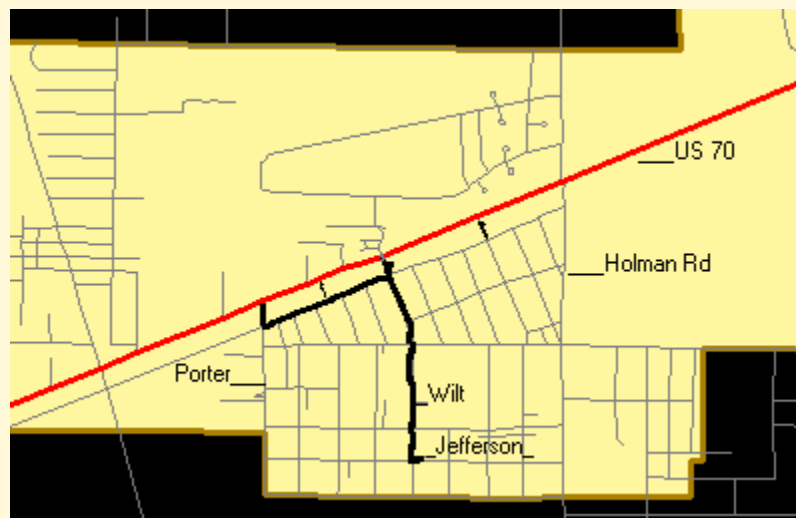
Monthly Board Meeting

Minutes not available.

..

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

2011	Local Oscillator	September
------	------------------	-----------

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