

# MVRC Members information guide

## About MVRC

The Mesilla Valley Radio Club has been in existence for over 50 years. The property, site of the club house, is located at 6609 Jefferson in East Las Cruces. The property was donated by Chet, N5BL. We are an IRS 501(C) charitable organization. MVRC has no employees. All who are officers and board members are volunteers. Our income is derived from member dues, donations and our annual Bean Feed. Our organization is structured as follows: the president, secretary and the treasurer. The board members consist of the following: Publication and news letter, Special Events, Education, IT support, Communication, Building maintenance and Repeater maintenance. The Mesilla Valley Radio Club is a major educational unit in the teaching and dissemination of technical information concerning Amateur Radio in the area. We hold Amateur Radio License training at the clubhouse and provide help to all amateur radio operators in setting up and organizing their stations. Information on building antennas and equipment is provided from the skilled amateur members of the club. The technical help is provided free of charge and helps bond the members together. Some of the Amateur Radio Members also provide emergency communications expertise to other Search and Rescue organizations along with providing radio communications to civic and cultural organizations upon request. We are a multifaceted group which operates the full range of Amateur Radio technical areas.

## Member benefits and responsibilities

### Board and Club meetings

The MVRC board meets on the Thursday before the first Saturday of each month at 7 PM at the club house. It is open to anyone. The club meetings are on the first Saturday of each month. Exceptions to this rule will be published in the club reflector. Meetings start at 8 AM for meet and greet. Business meeting starts at 8:45 AM followed by the tech talk. Any one who wishes to give a tech talk is strongly encouraged. Any one who wants to speak at the business meeting will be given the opportunity to do so.

## MVRC web site and the Local Oscillator

The club has a web site. The URL is <https://www.n5bl.org/>. This web site provides additional information that greatly expands on this brief pamphlet.

## Club reflector

MVRC has a group email service called the reflector. All are encouraged to sign up as this is an effective way we communicate with members on a variety of club and amateur radio topics. This email reflector is one of the club's main links with the members. Information on club activities is normally disseminated on this reflector to all the membership and it is imperative that you become a member of this reflector so you will receive the club bulletins, The Local Oscillator (the club newsletter) and other information of special events and operations that are of club activities.

## Member dues

Dues are payable in January and are delinquent in April. The club asks that all members please tend to this as soon as possible. The membership dues are used to keep the clubhouse running and to pay for the many necessities that are required in maintaining the clubhouse.

## Club Radio Room

The Club Radio room is for use by members and guests. There are two HF Radio positions using identical Kenwood TS-570 radios. Position 1 is primarily setup for HF Phone SSB operations and also can be used for contests with a boom mike and foot switch for push to talk operations. A hand mike is available for more normal operations. Position 2 is the primarily setup for digital operations using a SIGNAL LINK USB computer interface and the computer above this position has the necessary programs WSJT-X, FLDIGI, and DIGIPAN to operate most of the more popular digital modes of the day. Other digital operating programs can be downloaded into the computer and configured for use as needed. Position 2 can also be used for Phone and CW operations as required. For CW operation on these radios you will need to bring your own CW Key as one is not one provided in the present configuration. Both computers at the HF 1 and 2 positions have a N3FJP ACLOG program to provide a method for computer logging Amateur Radio contacts that need to be saved for our club station. There are also logging programs on these computers for special contests like the NEWMEXICO QSO PARTY and the ARRL FIELD DAY events. Other special logging programs can be added as necessary.

There is an antenna patch panel on the west wall of the ham shack so you can connect jumper cables to connect any of the HF and VHF radios to a desired antenna. The antennas available for use are an HF beam antenna covering the 20M, 15M, and 10M bands and the control box for the rotator is located on HF radio position 1. There is also an 80M, 40M, 20M, 15M and 10M inverted Vee antenna installed on the tower and can be used on either HF radio. There are a couple of 2M antennas mounted on the tower for use on the two 2M VHF 70cm UHF radios on the south side of the operating desk.

There is also an Ethernet connection to the router for the existing BROADBAND HAM NET system in the southwest corner of the radio room.

It is the responsibility of the person operating the club station to disconnect the antennas and stow the beam antenna facing EAST or WEST when they finish operating. All radio and power supplies must be turned off to prevent them from being destroyed by a lightning strike to the clubhouse. A quick pickup of all trash that appeared during your operation is just common courtesy for keeping the Radio Room neat and ready for the next operator. It always helps to double check things before you leave the station.

## Club house keys

All club members who desire a key to the club house will be given one. Members will be asked to sign the key roster so the building manager can keep track of keys in circulation.

## Club repeaters

The club has 4 FM repeaters for use by any licensed radio amateur. All of our repeaters do transmit the CTCSS tone and can be used in the TSCH MODE to reduce the interference from outside noise sources. They are as follows: 6 meter, two meters and 70 CM.

53.750 Megahertz, 141.3 hertz PL, -1.0MHz shift, Located on twin peaks  
146.64 Megahertz, 100 hertz PL, - 600KCs shift, Located on twin peaks  
146.76 Megahertz, 100 hertz PL, -600KCs, Located on Caballo Peak  
448.2 Megahertz, 100 hertz PL, -5.0MHz shift, Located on twin peaks

## Club nets

Two weekly FM nets are held. Monday 6 meter net on 53.750, 141.3 Hz PL at 6:45 PM and the two meter net on Wednesday, 146.64, 100 Hz PL at 6:45 PM.

## Builders group

Builders group meets every Tuesday at 7 PM at the club house. Bring your projects and questions and meet new hams and make new friends.

## Club scholarship program

MVRC has a scholarship program with the local university. It is open to all students of the U who are licensed radio amateurs.

## VE Exams

Several club members are volunteer examiners who administer the FCC tests to enable one to enter or advance in amateur radio. Test information days will be announced on the reflector.

## Club events throughout year

### Bataan

Bataan Death March race at White Sands. A big event for MVRC for years usually in March. The club provides communication for the event.

### Bean Feed

This event is held on the first Saturday in May in place of a club meeting. Food is served; the club shed will be open for sales of our donated items acquired throughout the year. Any one who wants to tail gate and sell ham related equipment is welcome to do so. Bean Feed is club's ham radio equipment sales and food sales (chili and beans).

## NM QSO Party

This Operations Event usually takes place in the middle of April. It is a contest involving all New Mexico Amateur Radio Operators and interested Amateurs from the rest of the United States of America, Canadian Provinces and the International communities. It is primarily designed to get amateur radio stations activated in all 33 counties of New Mexico and provide intercommunications within and from the state of New Mexico to the rest of the world. It usually lasts about 12 hours on a Saturday and involves members of the Mesilla Valley Radio Club in communication on various amateur radio bands and frequencies. This operation is bound by the rules of the New Mexico QSO Party.

## Field Day

This is the American Radio Relay League's premiere Emergency Communications exercise that encourages Amateur Radio Operators to engage in portable operations without using established electrical power and permanently installed antenna systems. It is an exercise to operate 24 hours in the field simulating emergency conditions and operations. It is usually held on the last weekend in June and the period of operations is 24 hours. It tests the skills of the Amateur Radio operator to be able to setup antennas and full Amateur Radio stations in a field environment and then operate it sending a specific message to each and every station contacted. When it is over a score sheet is submitted detailing the operation and scores are assigned for completion of each event participated in by the group

## November Officer elections

Annual officer elections are held at the regular scheduled club meeting. Club members are encouraged to participate by nominating a replacement officer of their choice. It is mentioned at this time that any one who desires to participate in the governing of the club needs to be aware that attendance at board meetings and club meetings is a necessary part of being a board member.

## December Christmas Party

The Club Christmas party is held at the Golden Corral. It is in lieu of monthly meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of December. Members usually convene around 6 PM.