

August
2008

RADIO ACTIVE

Newsletter of the Las Vegas Radio Amateur Club

Serving
Las Vegas
since
April 1961

The next regular meeting of the LVRAC is on Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 16, 2008



Leadership Message

Tom Petrakis - KE4ULL
LVRAC President

LAS VEGAS RADIO



AMATEUR CLUB

President's Corner: Here We Go Again.

Looking at the calendar one would begin to notice that "Fall" is just around the corner. However, it appears that Mother Nature isn't aware of this as the daily temperatures continue to run around the 100 degree mark. But looking at a local calendar of annual community events starting this month, we know for certain that the Fall Amateur Radio Public Service time of the year is upon us. The NASCAR Truck Race, Silver State Classic, MS-150, MDA Red Rock event, Nellis AFB Airshow, Silverman Triathlon and Las Vegas Marathon all will have us honing our communications skills. Look for the various sign-up sheets or emails to be on the horizon to be a part of these fun activities.

Speaking of being part of something, the NASCAR Truck series race will occur on Saturday, September 20, 2008, at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway. As in the past, this one-day event has the capability of helping us fund our future efforts. At this point in time, we still are in need of a few more volunteers to help us staff the booth at the Speedway. Please drop me a line at k4ull@arrl.net to show your support for the club.

As I mentioned at the last General Membership meeting, the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) will conduct their annual convention in the Las Vegas area next year. The NSBE Board of Directors has asked the LVRAC to assist them in conducting Ham Radio workshops during their convention. An overwhelming number of members supported our assisted them by conducting mini workshops for students that the group sponsors to attend. I have communicated our response to their point of contact and await further information.

I was recently made aware that the ARRL has produced a new video called "ARRL Digital Communications Technologies and Emergency Communications". "This course is a great starting point for anyone interested in the public service applications of digital communications technology." said Steve Ford, WB8IMY-Course Author and QST editor/ARRL Publications Manager. "In this course, we will introduce you to all the ways Amateur Radio operators are using digital technology as a valuable emergency communications tool. The topics discussed during the course include Packet radio APRS, Winlink 2000, IRLP, EchoLink and WIRES-II, D-STAR, APCO25, HF sound card modes and Automatic Link Establishment ("ALE")." We have order a copy of this video and will place it within the club's library. Figures that one of our members name Charlie Kuntz asked to be the first to check it out!

Speaking of events, don't forget to mark your calendars for Saturday, December 6, 2008 to attend the annual LVRAC Holiday Party at the Salvation Army meeting location. At the monthly Board of Director's meeting this month, the BOD's voted to return the event to that of year's past. We will host a Pot-luck dinner with the Club providing Turkey, Ham and beverages. Additionally, we are not planning to conduct the Yankee Swap gift exchange. Watch for more information on this event.

Finally, in closing, I would be remiss if I didn't comment on the number of people who turned out for last month's general membership meeting. Fifty-four to be exact! Jamie said it was because he conducted the program for the meeting. Whatever it was, it was great seeing and talking to all of you, as well as greeting our new members to the club. That continues to be one of the high-notes of this year so far. We realized five new members that night. I don't have the actual numbers in front of me at the moment, but I believe that brings the total of new members this year to somewhere around eighteen to twenty. It appears that "Radio Activity" really is contagious!

I look forward to seeing you all at the next monthly meeting.

73's.

Tom Petrakis/K4ULL
President, Las Vegas Radio Amateur Club

Las Vegas Radio Amateur Club September, 2008



Treasurer's Report

Gerry Wojciechowski, K9ADY

LVRAC Monthly Reconciliation of Income and Expense 2008

Balance at the end of July: \$4,614.14
Income Deposited for August: \$ 301.00
Expense for August: \$ 427.32
Balance at the end of August: \$4,487.82

.....



Swan Song

Pronunciation: (US) SWAN SONG. The noun **SWAN SONG** has 1 sense.1. a final performance or effort (especially before retirement) *Familiarity information: SWAN SONG used as a noun is very rare.* **Meaning:** A final performance or effort (especially before retirement) **Classified under:** Nouns denoting acts or actions **Synonyms:** [last hurrah](#); swan song **Hypernyms ("swan song" is a kind of...):** [performance](#) (the act of presenting a play or a piece of music or other entertainment) So with that definition, this would be my Swan Song editorial. A "parting shot" as defined. So here it is. I am leaving while I think the the newsletter is working well for the club and is one that members look forward to reading. The new editor, Ron; has agreed to undertake the newsletter starting for September. Ron has talents that are far different then mine and I believe the newsletter will mature and reflect his talents. It is always a good idea to freshen a voice and help to keep it in tune with what is happening. I could have continued but there comes a time when an editor feels the need to move one and pass the headline to another. For the past two and half years I have tried to give the membership a sense that the newsletter was theirs and used pictures throughout to show that. Feeling welcome in a club enhances that membership and seeing your own picture in a journal for the club also gives a welcome feeling. It also helps others in their recognition that the new face is now a member and should be embraced and helped to grow with the club they now belong to. I hope the club continues to grow as it has and I believe that Tom is doing a great job in helping that happen. I can only exhort all the membership to continue their support for him and the ideas he has talked about. I have see the positive attitude of his become that of the club. As the year progresses, we have elections coming up soon. Bear in mind that growth we have been experiencing will continue as that positive attitude continues. I hope the newsletter shows that attitude and helps in that growth. I am sure that Ron will see to that. Good luck, Ron and welcome to the publishing world of club newsletters.

See you at the meeting. 73, Frank - KL7IPV

Let me be first of many to say
Thank You for a Great job.



Newsletter Editor

Ron Gramm, KE7FCO

Thank You again Frank for a job Well Done.

There are 2 articles that follow - one from Howard Mark on computers and a Ham Trivia Quiz from Bill W4HMY.

How about a space called "Don't reinvent the Wheel". Everyone of us has specialities and passing along a hint could save someone time and money not to mention frustration.

[Here is a site with some amazing utilities to fix XP – www.kellys-korner-xp.com/xp_tweaks.htm](http://www.kellys-korner-xp.com/xp_tweaks.htm)

For whatever reason all temp files do not get deleted when you clear the recycle bin. In the url address type %temp% no www. I leave the last months files to be safe.

Verbose Booting in Win2k/XP

Changing this registry key allows you to see everything Windows XP is loading up. Gives you a chance to see what services or file are killing the boot. Open your registry and find or create this key:-
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINESOFTWARE -> Microsoft -> Windows -> CurrentVersion -> Policies -> System

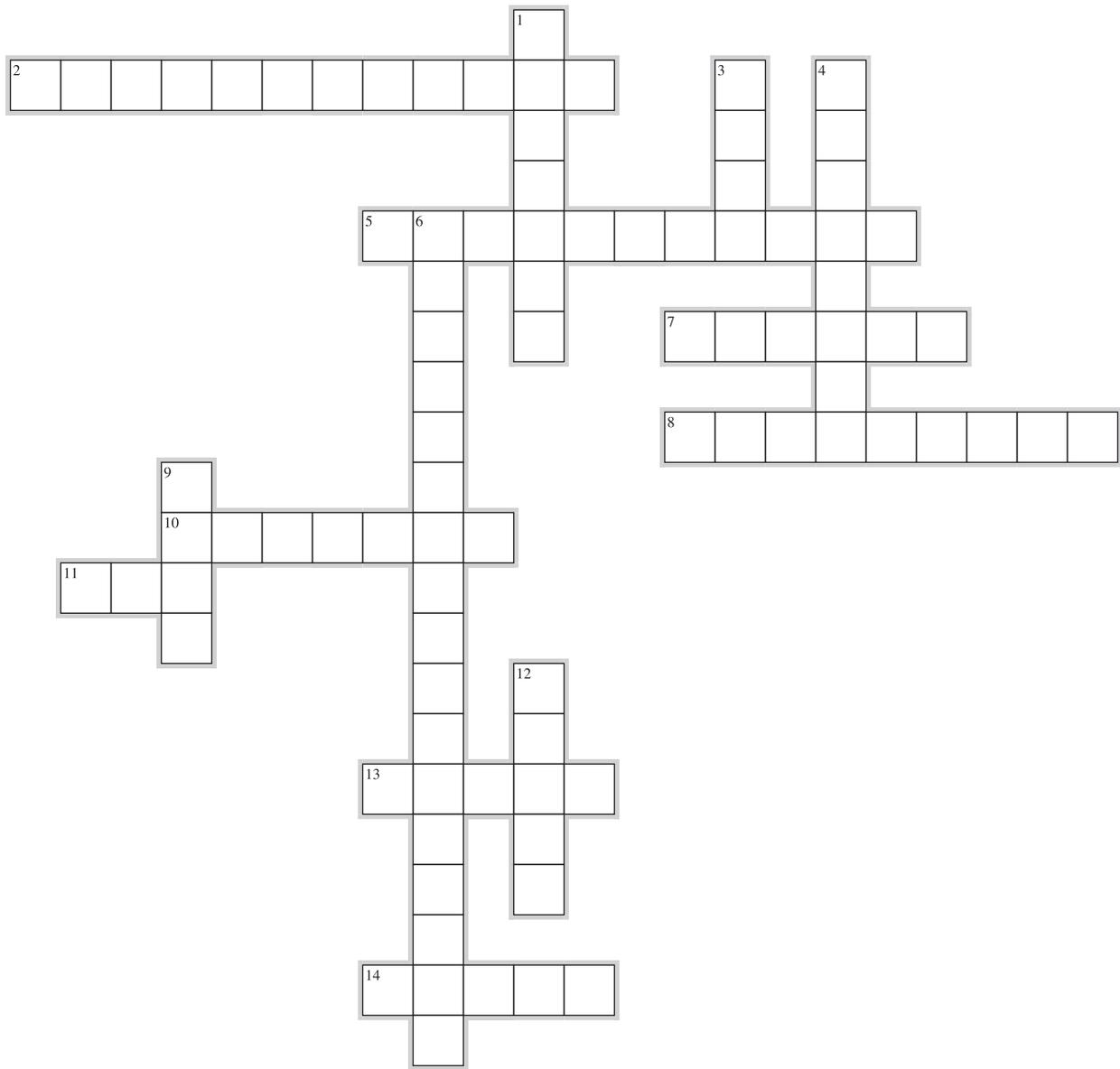
To enable verbose status messages create a new DWORD value called "verbosestatus" and set it to "1".
(verbosestatus REG_DWORD 0x00000001 (1))

An additional value called "DisableStatusMessages" forces status messages to be disabled, make sure this value does not exist or is set to "0". (DisableStatusMessages REG_DWORD 0x00000000 (0))

Restart Windows for the change to take effect.

..... - - - - . - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

More features will be added to the newsletter as time goes on.
Contact me with any corrections and hopefully with suggestions.



Across

2. transmission intended for the general public
5. device that produces a RF signal
7. circuit that will allow some signals to pass but greatly reduce the strength of others
8. danger to lives or property
10. instrument to measure current
11. short sound in Morse code
13. basic unit of inductance
14. device to couple a balanced load to an unbalanced source

Down

1. device that picks up or sends out radio waves
3. basic unit of electrical pressure
4. device used to retransmit amateur radio signals
6. interference caused by strong signals from a nearby source
9. unit of power in the metric system
12. basic unit of capacitance

Dick Flanagan, K7VC resigned his position as Section Manager effective August 15, 2008. Dick has done much to bring the Section closer together by attending club meetings around the State, participating in club Yahoo Groups, checking into HF and VHF nets, and making it a point to meet members in the southern portion of the State either personally or by sending Don Carlson, KQ6FM on a quarterly basis. One of Dick's many accomplishments is the formation of EMCOMMWEST, an ARRL Special Convention which has grown by leaps and bounds over the past 5 years. League HQ officials have attended as well as Amateurs and League leadership from around the Nation. Dick has also formalized the Section Cabinet, a body of Section Leadership personnel who advise the Section Manager on all manner of items affecting the Section. Please join me in thanking Dick for his years of dedication. I know I will rely heavily on him for guidance as we move forward.

Amateur operators from the Elko Amateur Radio Club (EARC) provided public safety communication for the Pony Express High Speed Road Race from Battle Mtn. to Austin Nevada on Sunday, August 24. Communications were provided on a linked commercial repeater system with backup emergency communication being held on a portable linked Amateur system. Reliable communication was provided between all points along the course which traverses several valleys and the narrow Reece River Canyon. The Director of the Nevada Department of Transportation personally visited the net control station and was impressed with both the technology and professionalism made available by the group. Approximately 75 racers drove the course at speeds exceeding 200 mph with no accidents or mishaps.

EARC members also assisted with public safety communication for the ElkoVelo, Lamoille Canyon Hill Climb on Saturday, August 9. Approximately 45 cyclists braved the 3,500 foot climb in Lamoille Canyon with automobile traffic. No injuries or medical cases were reported. The Amateurs provided communication up and down the course and were also stationed with an Elko County Ambulance should the need have arisen for medical care.

Brian Chapman, NB9E reports that he and Phil Cheety, WB7BTS have expanded their "Snow Bowl" repeater system by making it the hub of their linked repeater system in the Elko area using a technique referred to as PL on COR. The system is on the air and operational with the exception of 10 meters which will be operational in a few weeks when they complete the antenna installation. The system PL is 100.0 Hz. as are most others in the area. The link repeater system includes an IRLP node and all bands from 10 meters through 1.2 GHz.

The repeater frequencies are as follows:
10 meters= 29.680/29.580 MHz.
6 meters= 53.01/52.01 MHz.
2 meters=146.940/146.340 MHz.
1.25 meters= 224.140/222.540 MHz.
70 centimeters= 443.375/448.375 MHz.
33 centimeters= 927.4875/902.4875 MHz.
23 centimeters= 1283.100/1271.100 MHz.

Their 2m repeater may not always be linked in, as it has a steerable UHF link radio that allows it to link it to several different UHF repeaters. Brian hopes to catch some DX on six and ten and have beacon ID's enabled to attract DXers. The system call sign is KE7LKO which is the Club call for the Elko County Ham Operators.

Clark County ARES participated in a Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) communications test. The office of the SNHD communications room was used. HF communications to Reno/Carson City was ineffective, however it was confirmed that the station at SNHD was operating properly. Communications were established using IRLP Western Reflector 9258. Charlie AA5QJ, Vern K0EGA and Cliff W9CRB participated in the hour-long test.

The relocation of the Sparks IRLP repeater to Ophir Peak was completed this month. Its coverage is amazing with full-scale signal reports from Fallon and great coverage to Reno-Sparks, Douglas County and most of Carson City. Joe N7JEH even reported a good signal into South Lake Tahoe. Many thanks go to Kent, W7AOR and the NARRI group, "Tech Guru" Steve Kometz, N7KP and SNARS for hosting our new ARES tool. This repeater is locked in full time to channel 8 of the Western Reflector (9258) and Echolink via NV-gate #152566.

Several weekly nets are to be found there including the Thursday 1900 ARES/RACES VoIP net, Sunday 1800 ARC Net, Disaster Communicators Net, Wednesday 1900 NOAA weather net and a newly initiated Thursday 2000 SATERN Net as well. We now have almost all of the state dialed in with a new Winnemucca node coming soon. Again, many thanks to all who made this project possible.

Several Amateurs throughout the Section are active in the National Traffic System. Currently, there is no HF traffic net in the Nevada Section, but these operators routinely check into various nets in Arizona and California.

They bring NTS traffic into the Section for delivery and also deliver outgoing message to the nets as well. The traffic count for August is as follows:

Bruce -- N7CPP: 26 total

Fred -- N7SWI: 58 total

Ham Cram sessions and examination activity have continued at a good pace in August. Sessions have been held in most of the population centers as well as in some of the rural communities such as Winnemucca.

Who is this new Section Manager N7JEH? I thought I'd give you a short bio since many folks in the Section may not know who I am. My name is Joe Girardo, I moved to Nevada in 1972 where I attended the University of Nevada, Mackay School of Mines. I married in 1974 to Lynn, N7URF and have two children, Jenny, KE7GIV and Patrick. After moving to Elko in 1985, I got my license in 1987, but was interested in Amateur Radio much earlier and just couldn't get it together to take the exams. Since being licensed, I have tried a little of everything including VHF / UHF phone and packet, HF phone, CW, and digital modes too numerous to name. I was a member of the Army MARS and SHARES for 15 years. I currently assist the Red Cross as a disaster instructor and perform disaster response in the northeast portion of the State of Nevada. I am a Registered Professional Engineer and Certified Environmental Manager in the State of Nevada and work at a large gold mine in the Elko area and log most of my air time during my daily commute of 1½ hours each way. I can be contacted by telephone, e-mail, Winlink 2000 (N7JEH), or on my IRLP node at the house (Node # 3227). I can also be found on many nets on HF and VHF / UHF throughout the month.

How do I view my job a Section Manager? My job is to see that the Field Organization adequately serves the ARRL membership in Nevada. I am also the point of contact for members who have questions about the League, and a liaison with our Pacific Division Director. Got a question or gripe? Fire away and I'll do my best to address it.

Until next month, DE N7JEH...73 K

HAM RADIO TRIVIA QUIZ

See how many you can answer, without going to Google, the ARRL website, or to other outside sources. Some of these questions go back quite a bit, but others are recent or current. Have fun!

1. The National Company manufactured great receivers for years. In what city and state was it located?
2. Who was the controversial publisher of "73" magazine and what was his call sign?
3. Who is Martin Jue?
4. The term "pounding the brass" means:
 - a. home brewing your own radio chassis
 - b. walking around a hamfest flea market
 - c. a method of tuning repeater cavities
 - d. using a straight-key
5. AES in Las Vegas used to be located on what major street?
6. What ham radio product did the Wincharger company produce?
7. Who was the ARRL's first president and what was his call sign?
8. What Oceanside, CA manufacturer made SSB transceivers in the late 60s and early 70s which were named after water fowl?
9. Before radio frequencies were measured in "herz", what was the unit of measurement?
10. What US Senator and presidential candidate was a ham radio operator?

ANSWERS

1. National Radio was located in Malden, Massachusetts.
2. Wayne Green, W2NSD was the publisher of "73".
3. Martin F. Jue is the founder and owner of MFJ.
4. "d"- using a straight key is known as "pounding the brass".
5. AES used to be located on Rancho.
6. Wincharger produced towers in the 1950s.
7. ARRL's first president was Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW.
8. Swan produced the Swan and Cygnet series of SSB transceivers.
9. Radio frequencies used to be measured in "cycles", for example, kilocycles, megacycles, etc.
10. Senator Barry Goldwater, K7UGA, from Arizona, ran for president in 1964.

If you got 5 or less, welcome to ham radio-there is much to learn!

If you got up to 8 correct, you have been around a while!

If you got 9 correct, you are Elmer material!

If you got all 10 correct, how well did you know Hiram Percy Maxim?

I welcome suggestions for questions. Please send them (along with the answers) me, Bill, W4HMY: w4hmv@arrl.net

This is, hopefully, the first in a series of articles entitled *Down the Road* to appear *Radio Active*. The first paragraph explains the intent of the series. The subjects to be covered are not necessarily focused on amateur radio equipment or applications. But it is becoming readily apparent that many new technologies eventually seem to find their way, or soon will, into our equipment and activities. A few examples are:

Computers
Sound cards
Data compression technologies
Digital Signal Processing (DSP)
LCD, OLED, LCOS displays

If these articles prove to be of interest to most of you, I will try to submit them to our newsletter editor as often as possible.

I hope you find the articles interesting and of some value. If you happen to learn something in the process I will consider that a definite plus.

Howard

Down the Road
By
Howard Mark, K3HM
(AKA The Voice of Summerlin)

This recurring column is intended to offer information on technologies that have recently appeared or will soon be in the marketplace, and those that are further "*Down the Road*".

Staying Cool

If you remember those high school science and physics classes you will probably remember most metals conduct heat better than air or water.

Assuming the above is true, a Danish company, Danamics, set about finding a way to use metal to cool CPUs (CPU – Central Processing Unit – a computer's "brain"). Not just any metal, but a liquid metal, in their model LM10 cooler. The type of metal is currently undisclosed.

The LM10 uses what appears to be a clamp-on heat sink consisting of a CPU contact plate with integrated heat pipes that rests atop a CPU. The heat pipes are connected to an electromagnetic pump which pumps the liquid metal to heat radiating fins and then back to the CPU contact plate. The electromagnetic pump requires no moving parts, no external housings – and unlike water cooling systems – no reservoirs.

Time to marketplace – Currently no announced dates.

Motorola's Microvision Group Offers a Pico Projector

Most people know that a pico anything means small. Mathematically a pico is one trillionth of whatever you are describing. As an example, a picosecond is 10^{-12} seconds. Microvision chose to call their new very small projector a Pico Projector.

The projector is called *Show*, is about the size of a typical PDA and will run on batteries for about 2.5 hours. Under the hood are four main elements. They are:

- Electronics
- Three laser diodes (Red, Green and Blue)
- Optical combiner
- Micro electromechanical scanning mirror (ala Texas Instruments' DLP chip)

The electronics accept the information to be displayed and convert it into the format needed to feed the RGB lasers. The lasers output is sent to the optical combiner that combines the individual color streams into a single composite color beam. The combined beam is sent to the scanning mirror which then "paints" the image, pixel by pixel and line by line, on any display surface.

The projected image is 848 x 480 pixels. The image size varies from 12 to 100 diagonal inches, depending upon the distance to the display surface. The company says the engine proper is about 5 cubic centimeters in volume, small enough to be embedded in devices such as cell phones, digital cameras, media players and other mobile devices.

Time to marketplace – 2009

Organic Light Emitting Diode (OLED) Printer

Seiko Epson Corporation reports that they have successfully developed a high brightness OLED based print head. Most current printers use LEDs or lasers as their light source.

The company partnered with Japan's Sumitomo Chemical Co Ltd. – a joint venture partner of Cambridge Display Technology in the U.K. – to supply the special polymers used in fabricating the head.

Seiko Epson believes this breakthrough could result in the use of these new polymers in copiers and scanners as well as in a new range of smaller, higher resolution and faster color printers.

Time to marketplace – Currently no announced dates

| Office | Name | Call Sign | Email Address | Phone |
|--------------------|---------------------|-----------|--|--------------|
| President | Tom petrakis | KE4ULL | ke4ull@arrl.net | 702 526-0611 |
| Vice President | Jamie Gorr, N3TOY | N3TOY | n3toy@yahoo.com | 702 233-2479 |
| Secretary | Kraig Knapp | KD7JSN | kraigknapp@embarqmail.com | 702 362-1265 |
| Treasurer | Gerry Wojciechowski | K9ADY | gerry.w@cox.net | 702 869-5348 |
| Director | Mark Zuckerman | K7MNZ | Marczu@cox.net | 702 365-8803 |
| Director | Don Jaster | KA7MNZ | donj@mail2world.com | 702 737-0544 |
| Director | Jim Bilan | KC7UXB | k_c7uxb@embarqmail.com | 702 302-3431 |
| Newsletter Editor | Ron Gramm | KE7FCO | ke7fco@arrl.net | 702 367-8888 |
| Trustee | Mike Lee | WB6RTH | mikelee@mikelee911.com | |
| Public Information | Dave Mason | KE7KLU | DMason@privatecollegefunding | 702 528-7955 |
| Librarian | Don Jaster | KA7GRU | donj@mail2world.com | 702 737-0544 |
| Webmasters | Jamie Gorr, N3TOY | N3TOY | n3toy@yahoo.com | 702 233-2479 |
| Webmasters | Charlie Kunz | AA5QJ | aa5qj@arrl.net | 702 334-1196 |
| Net Controllers | Howard Mark | K3HM | hmark@embarqmail.com | 702 256-3662 |
| Net Controllers | Frank Drake | KL7IPV | sirdrakeir@aol.com | 702 838-3452 |
| Net Controllers | Jay Peskin | KE7EGO | jpeskin@cox.net | 702 896-4104 |

LAS VEGAS RADIO AMATEUR CLUB

P.O. Box 27342
Las Vegas, NV 89126

The club operates on a calendar year (January through December) with dues presently at \$20 per year. Dues are the same for an individual or family membership. Please send check or money order payable to the Las Vegas Radio Amateur Club or (LVRAC) and mail to the club's Post office box or pay by PayPal at www.lvrac.org.

Las Vegas Radio Amateur Club
P.O. Box 27342
Las Vegas, NV 89126

September 2008 Issue

K7UGE

www.lvrac.org



Las Vegas Radio Amateur Club

The LVRAC holds monthly meetings on the
3rd Tuesday of every month at the
Salvation Army Building
2900 W. Palomino.

It is 2 blocks West of Rancho between
Alta and Charleston streets.
Meetings start at 7:00 PM.

Radio Net Weekly on VHF 146.940 and
UHF 448.50 MHz PL 100 Negative Offset

Starting at 7:00 PM.

Except the 3rd Tuesday which is the club meeting

Amateurs are invited to tune in.

Internet: www.lvrac.org

**Radio: 146.940 MHz (K7UGE repeater)
448.500 MHz (K7UGE repeater)
146.730 MHz machine (QST machine)**