



The REPEATER

The OFFICIAL newsletter of the Rogue Valley Amateur Radio Club



SEPTEMBER 2007

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

15 August 2007 RVARC NEWSLETTER,

I hope everyone has had a nice summer and are ready to get back into the fall schedule of things.

At our June meeting, Van, K7VS really got into his presentation on Contesting and then went into DXing. He made the subject so interesting it made a person want to jump right in and get going.

Van hosted RVARC's annual August ice-cream social at his nice place on hill. He reports that about 28 lucky people attended and had some good eyeball QSO's. Next year I will have pay more attention to my schedule so I won't be out of town and miss it.

This month at our Sept 6 meeting, Bud, W7LNG will put on the program. The subject will be "regenerative receivers and how to build one that works." This is a timeless subject as many modern receivers in garage door openers and the like are still using this type circuit. Don't miss this one as I'm sure Bud will give us his usual enjoyable presentation.

Dave W7OQ has taken over running the club web page and would like some feedback as to what we want on it. The site is now up to date and he has posted the latest newsletter So come on down to the meeting, and give Dave some ideas.

If you have any program ideas, or any other ideas, let us know!

Jack Schock WA7IHU

Congratulations to the following for successfully upgrading at the last VE session in June:

Karrol Joy Besson	KE7CIF	General
James Leffingwell	KE7ALI	Extra
Richard Backes	KE7EAE	General
Michael Graham	KE7LKP	General
James Tappenbeck	K9TAP	Extra
Donald Hurd	N7GCZ	Extra
Donna Hernandez	KE7LAO	General

And special congratulations to our Financial Secretary, Lud Sibley, KB2EVN, who advanced from Tech to Extra in a single sitting.

My thanks to the dedicated staff of VE's who help out on these Saturday mornings, and welcome Don Bennett, KG7BP, our newest team member.

A reminder that our next test session will be on Saturday, October 27 at the VA Dom. Registration begins at 8:30 AM; exams begin at 9:00 AM. Test fee is \$ 14.00 and copies of licenses and originals of CSCE's less than 1 year old must be presented.

Websites of some area Ham Clubs

Check out some area amateur radio websites and find out what the clubs are doing.

The Southern Oregon ARC (SOARC) has quite a well-stocked site with many contributors and lots of interesting items, URLs, hints and kinks, etc. Its club paper, the *Wireless Gnus*, is loaded with information. You can access the website at <http://www.qsl.net/soarc/WirelessGnus.html> .

The Pelican Bay ARC (PBARC) has a very active club, with members, friends and visitors meeting for coffee every weekday (the monthly business meeting is the last Friday of the month) at the Tea Room in the Abbey Mall in Brookings. The bulletin board in the Tea Room café is loaded with QSL cards from all over. Their website is www.pbarchams.org .

Our Club has a new Webmaster, Dave Basden, W7OQ, who is working hard at getting the site in top shape. Be sure to check it out and contribute items.

A Glance at the Past

By "Bud" Larson, W7LNG

Sixty years of ham radio? I can't keep up with the current changes to our wonderful hobby. I still enjoy operating CW, hearing the dits and dahs from some far-off place ringing in my ears.

Missing now are the gargley notes from China or Russia, chirps from war surplus command transmitters. Now all the signals sound the same. Nice T9 notes with perfectly sent code. How can we tell them apart? Fists mechanized by keyers and keyboards are boring.

That's why I like the Antique Wireless 1929 QSO party. Enthusiasts take their old rigs off the shelf, dust them off, and put them on the air. A slight chirp or a bit of hum is welcome; it gives the signal some distinction. Imagine working across the country with a ten-watt single tube Hartley oscillator. The thrill is still there!

No, I guess progress has its place. We used to struggle to contact a few miles with modulated oscillators on two meters while now the repeaters make it easy. What I miss is the technical discussions, how we solved a problem with our gear. Antennas seem to be the only thing hams build anymore. Even most of them are factory-built now.

Can you build a transmitter from a discarded table radio? The old timers could. On Tillamook rock the waves pounded the lighthouse in a severe storm. Gibbs, a ham, cobbled together a station from an old set and the crew was rescued and mariners warned.

In 1947 most ham rigs were homebrew. War surplus ads filled the magazines and soon most had some ex-military equipment. I used my rock-bound 6L6 oscillator to work many stations but the two-tube receiver lost signals easily. A command receiver and transmitter improved results. With a VFO I could move anywhere on the 40-meter CW band. 40-meters was CW only until the 50s. Early mornings the signals from Asia pounded in. Most were commercials or military using a code we could not read.

Now with digital-readout we don't have to guess if we're in the band. The automatic antenna tuners and band switching save a lot of work. No hunting for the plug-in coil.

I guess I'll keep my modern transceiver with the frequency display, built-in keyer, and automatic antenna tuner, but it's fun to go back once in a while.



**ROGUE VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Meeting**

**Thursday September 6th
at 7pm**

At the Red Cross Building, across from Hawthorne Park

South of Tinseltown, in Medford

BRING A FRIEND!

**Rogue Valley Amateur Radio Club
2136 E Jackson St
Medford OR 97504**

