



W7OEK

Volume 2009, Issue 3 March 2009

Herb Grey	W7MMI	773-4765		President
Don Bennett	KG7BP	618-5189		Vice President
Lud Sibley	KB2EVN	855-5207		Treasurer
Jack Schock	WA7IHU	535-8471		Secretary
Tom McDermott	N5EG	734-4675	n5eg@tapr.org	Newsletter and Membership
Dave Basden	W7OQ		dave@basden.us	Webmaster
Club Web Page:			http://www.qsl.net/w7oek	

Next Club Meeting
 Thursday, March 5, 2009. 7:00 PM
 Red Cross Building, 60 Hawthorne St., Medford, OR
 Across from Hawthorne Park
 Program: Antenna Modeling & Software

President's Letter

A big thank you to Ludwell Sibley, KB2EVN for his well prepared and illustrated presentation of the Major Armstrong and EIMAC connection. The March 5 program will feature a PowerPoint presentation about computer antenna modeling by Tom McDermott, N5EG. (You may recall Tom and Van, K7VS told us about software defined radios last November.)

While I'm passing out thank you-s, I'll include Dave Basden, W7OQ for his good work on maintaining the club's web page, and Tom N5EG for his outstanding job of publishing the new and improved newsletter.

I'm thinking the club should start considering the purchase of a video projector. Their price now is 25% of the price five years ago, and probably can be had for even less. After serious study, I've determined that a lot more

Secretary's Report

MINUTES OF THE 5 FEB 09 ROGUE VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEETING

The meeting was called to order by president Herb Grey W7MMI at 1905L in the Red Cross building in Medford, OR. 24 people where in attendance.

Two guests where present they are Judy Hinkel KF6QAW and her husband Craig Hinkel KE6SFP.

Secretary Jack Schock WA7IHU read the minutes of the last meeting and they where approved as read.

Treasurer Lud Sibley KB2EVN told us that the club bank account has \$1658.63 in it. This is before crediting the \$335.00 from the sale of the ICOM TS-440 transceiver.

President's Letter, Continued

can be conveyed by a computer than someone with a piece of chalk in his hand.

For those of us that have been waiting for an upswing of sunspot cycle 24, I mention an item on the Solar Update published every Friday on the ARRL Newsletter. This was posted January 23 describing a Firefox browser extension, called "Propfire" that displays solar indices on its home page. It is automatically retrieved from the NOAA and displayed on Firefox

I look forward to seeing you March 5.

Herb W7MMI

Two Meter Repeater Frequency

Some RVARC club members have been heard on the K7RPT 147.62 / 02 repeater in the last month or two. This is an open repeater (no tone or PL access required). The repeater listens on 147.62 MHz and transmits on 147.02 MHz (high in, low out).

Secretary's Report, Continued

OLD BUSINESS:

- Herb announced that we still need a coffee maker and pot custodian. Don Bennett KG7BP graciously volunteered for job.
- Tom McDermott N5EG announced that the 2009 club badges are ready.
- Herb announced that the swap meet at Ricreall is February 14th.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Herb announced that the VE's will be giving amateur radio exams at the "DOM" on 28 Feb 09. Contact Harry AE7NY for more information.
- Lud informed us that the Tube Collectors Association is celebrating its tenth anniversary. They have redone the 1934 RCA tube manual and it's full of information.
- Jack brought up the fact that if you get your newsletter by email it saves the club one dollar (each month).
- Bud W7LNG showed the group a book on "50 years of receivers" which he highly recommends.
- Herb put the meeting on hold for coffee and "eyeball QSOing" at 1925L.
- At 2000L Herb called the meeting back into session and turned it over to Lud who gave us a very nice presentation on the on the Major Armstrong and EIMAC connection.
- Herb announced that next months program will be by Tom McDermott on antenna modeling.
- Herb announced that the Red Cross has a petition for interested people to sign putting them on the state income tax form to be checked off to receive some money for their operations.

Submitted by Jacob O. (Jack) Schock
WA7IHU secretary

SKN—Straight Key Night 2009

The annual straight key night was held January 1, 2009 GMT (starting 4:00 PM Dec 31 local time). This is a non-contest event, with the object to use a straight key on CW, and rag-chew with any and everyone. Many of the guys also put old-time radio equipment on the air; the nostalgic sounds of chirp, hum, drift, and key clicks, and sometimes a straight-key swing can briefly be heard again on the ham bands.

I overheard a station saying he was using a door-knocker as a straight key, and figured that Bud Larson, W7LNG, had to be on the air. Sure enough, I worked Bud and his door-knocker key after he gave his wrist a bit of a rest. Bud brought the key to the January club meeting.

Pacificon canceled & merged with EM-COMMWEST by W6RGG

On February 15, I learned that the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club had decided not to sponsor the Pacificon Convention this year. They have done an outstanding job of running Pacificon every year since 1992, and this decision was made by their Pacificon Committee, based on the current economic downturn, and unsuccessful negotiations with the host hotel. Realizing the difficulty of finding a replacement for the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club, that with an experienced committee spends nearly a year planning this successful event, I decided to contact EMMCOMWEST, the second largest Amateur Radio Convention in the Pacific Division.

They very kindly accepted, knowing the marriage of the two events would require an ex-



Pacificon, Continued

pansion of program matter, and the addition of Friday presentations. I am truly grateful to the entire EMCOMMWEST team for their decision. The Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club has been very supportive of this effort, and is making all of their speaker, vendor, and organizational information available to the EMCOMMWEST team. The keynote speaker will be Steve Ewald, WV1X, Field Organization Supervisor from ARRL HQ; and the banquet speaker will be Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, who was in charge of Amateur Radio rules enforcement at the FCC when he retired. I hope many of you will be able to attend this year's Pacificon. More information is available at <http://pacificon.org>

A special note to all club newsletter editors: Please feature this information in your monthly publications. I will be sending additional mailings as more news becomes available.

See you at EMCOMMWEST/Pacificon!

Thanks and 73,

Bob Vallio, W6RGG
Director, Pacific Division
ARRL The national association for AMATEUR RADIO

Excerpts from the Oregon Section News by AB7ZQ

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Two house bills relating to mobile communications devices while driving are scheduled for a hearing on Friday. Kevin Curry, KA7KYQ, our state legislative coordinator, has been calling the offices of house transportation committee members to schedule appointments for me to meet with them prior to Friday. All their staffs were familiar with our amendment request since they have received so many emails and letters from all of you! He was able to schedule appointments for me with Rep. George Gilman (R-Southern, Central and Eastern Oregon), Rep. Terry Beyer (D-Springfield), and Rep. Mike Schauffler (D-SE Portland/Happy Valley).

Rep. Schauffler attended the Portland Amateur Radio Club field day on Kelly Butte last year and had so much fun that he asked me to remind him about field day every year so I am looking forward to talking with him. I live 25 miles from Salem so this function of my volunteer "job" works well. While I am at the capitol, I am going to drop off letters for all the house transportation committee members, senate judiciary committee members, and for my representative. My senator is on the senate judiciary committee. Since I am working on Friday, I will drop some written testimony off at the capitol on my lunch hour just prior to the hearing. Everett Curry, W6ABM, will be testifying for us at the hearing. Mike Shelby, KE7QET, is attending to listen so he can assist us as well.

OREGON EVENTS

The Coos County Radio Club will be holding their annual hamfest in North Bend on July 18. Please put that event on your calendar. It is a growing event in the section.

Oregon Section News, Continued

OUT OF AREA EVENTS

The 54th Annual Pacific Northwest DX Convention will be held in Spokane, Washington on August 7-9. DXers, please put that on your calendar and see <http://www.sdxa.org> for more information.

The Idaho State Convention will be held April 24, 25 and 26. That is the same weekend as an exercise that many Oregon ARES/RACES units are participating in. If your unit is participating in that exercise, please make it your priority and if you attend the Idaho convention, schedule around that.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Bill Anderson, KU6Y, is the newly appointed PIO (Public Information Officer) for Jackson County ARES/RACES.

Bonnie M. Altus, AB7ZQ
ARRL Oregon Section Manager
ab7zq@arrl.org

ARRL DX, CW

The weekend of February 21-22 was the ARRL DX contest, CW. This is a 48 hour contest once a year, it has an easy exchange and lots of DX stations on the air.

I put up the telescoping (quite well-hidden) push-up mast to hoist a 40-meter dipole up into the aether. The first night (Friday local time) is a little tough as everyone on the band is 'new' and the competition is a bit high from the stateside kilowatts (USA and Canadians). An hour with 100 watts on 40M netted a whole bunch of Alaska, Hawaii, and South American stations. The next morning (Saturday at about 5 AM) had much faster run rates. I worked a long string of very strong Japanese stations, and a few south Pacific and others. The JA's are 20-over-9 and easy to work on the first call with 100 watts from the west coast.

Saturday night the winds came up, so the temporary mast came down, thus did not get the chance to hunt for Europeans. I could hear the east coast and the Midwest working them, but nothing here at 3 in the afternoon. (a bit early).

It shows that a dipole can be a very effective antenna on 40 meter CW, assuming that it is in the clear. 10 countries in a couple hours is an enjoyable use of radio time!

For SALE

Wanted:

Dues are due

Just a reminder—dues for 2009 are due. If you have the membership renewal form that was sent in the last newsletter please bring it to the next club meeting that you attend. This allows us to correct and update the club's membership database. Alternately you can mail it and a check to the RVARC membership coordinator:

RVARC c/o
Tom McDermott, N5EG
3950 Southview Ter.
Medford, OR 97504

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Rogue Valley Amateur Radio Club
2136 E. Jackson St.
Medford, OR 97504-6964