



W7OEK

Volume 2009, Issue 5 May 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, May 7, 2009. 7:00 PM
 Red Cross Building, 60 Hawthorne St., Medford, OR
 Across from Hawthorne Park
 Program: Wayne Cox, K7DZJ on Radio Frequency Interference (RFI)

President's Letter

The sunspot counts may still be reporting a string of goose eggs, but with the onset of summer, it's time to get busy on antenna construction and maintenance in anticipation of better conditions come Fall. Likewise summer also means Field Day. At the last meeting a signup sheet was circulated, but I believe there are more interested amateurs who haven't had an opportunity to get on the list to setup and/or operate Field Day June 26-28. Let me know of your interest if you can't sign-up at a meeting. If interest is lacking the club simply won't participate (and several will miss out on a fun time.)

A big thank you to Don KG7BP for arranging last month's program about KDRV-TV's conversion to HDTV – an awesome project to witness on video.

(Continued on page 2)

Secretary's Report

RVARC MINUTES OF THE 2 APRIL 09 MEETING

1. Called to order by Herb Gray W7MMI at 1900L in the Red Cross Building in Medford, OR.
2. Don Bennet KB7BP introduced the guest speaker Rick Carrara, Chief Engineer from Ch12 KDRV. He gave a slide presentation on their conversion from analog to digital TV programming.
3. 2000L After Rick finished his presentation Herb adjourned the club for coffee and donuts.
4. 2025L Herb called the meeting back into session. Approximately 25 members were present.
5. No new guests were present to introduce.
6. Herb suspended the reading of the min-

(Continued on page 2)

President's Letter, Continued

The program this month will be presented by Wayne Cox, K7DZJ on Radio Frequency Interference (RFI). Wayne worked for Pacific Power, where he was responsible for finding power-line related interference problems.

If you would like to sign up for EMAIL distribution of the club newsletter instead of snail-mail, it saves RVARC about \$1 each month in printing and postage. Talk with Tom at the next club meeting, or send him an email at: n5eg@tapr.org

For those of you that haven't been faced with arranging a worthwhile program, I assure you it isn't always easy, even with all the expertise that exists in our county. Your officers are always open to presenters of interesting electronic presentations. We are working from a list compiled at a brainstorming session early this year, but some ideas just don't pan out.

PS: Wanted I am still looking for a light-duty and inexpensive approximately 30-foot tall tower.

73, Herb W7MMI
herbg.73@gmail.com

Two Meter Repeater K7RPT 147.62 in / 147.02 out—open access

There are several 2-meter repeaters in the rogue Valley. In order to have one place that all club members can monitor, we've chosen the K7RPT 147.62 / 02 repeater. 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

- utes of last meeting as all members said they had read them.
7. Lud Sibley, KB2EVN reported that the treasury has \$1938.06 in it.
 8. OLD BUSINESS: Tom McDermott, N5EG asked all to pick up their badges.
 9. NEW BUSINESS:
 10. Allen Taylor K7GT needs some advanced or extra ham to help in verifying his QSL cards file to qualify them for awards. Herb will help.
 11. Don brought up the fact the club members are 51% ARRL so we can be an ARRL affiliated club.
 12. Herb announced that Bill Shrader, W7QMU is giving away free almost 50 years of the QST magazines. Just come and get them.
 13. Herb informed the group that our annual field day is the end of June. He passed around a signup sheet to see who will attend. The sheet didn't make it all the way around however, so it may need to be circulated again in May.
 14. Allen Taylor informed us that the club's Powerline noise detector is safe and sound at his house. Also the 7th district QSO party (7QP) is Saturday, May 2nd.
 15. Lud gave us a short program on the evolution of hearing aids. He had several examples to show us.
 16. Herb adjourned the meeting at 2053L

Submitted by Jack Schock WA7IHU secretary.

2009 RVARC VE Exams

The remaining 2009 sessions for the RVARC-sponsored Volunteer Examiner (VE) Amateur Examinations are:

- June 20
- October 24

They will be held at the White City VA Bldg. 223. 2nd floor North in White City.

Enter the old domiciliary area from Hwy. 62, turn right at first street. Go north past buildings., Turn left. Park. Enter and go upstairs into marked area.

Register at 8:30 AM. Exams at 9:00 AM. Bring \$15.00 exam fee. Your licenses or proof of passed test, 2 picture Ids, copies of license.

Contact Harry, AE7NY at 541-282-0854, or: 1951 Pinedale, Medford, OR 97504.

73
Harry
AE7NY

7QP— May 2, 2009

Each year usually during the spring and fall, most of the state QSO parties are held. At one time most every state had it's own contest.

Large states such as California, Texas, and Florida have large turnouts and constant activity over the two days of the contest. They're large enough to have a dedicated weekend.

For some of the smaller states, the participation level was not too high and several states had their contests on the same weekend. This meant you could operate 3-4 state QSO parties at the same time, but it was a bit confusing!

A few years ago, several groups of states got together and assembled their individual parties into a regional QSO party. The New England QSO party (NEQP—first call area) and the 7th call area (7QP) QSO parties are the two most successful regional contests. This year the NEQP, 7QP, and Indiana parties are on the same weekend—3 parties for the price of one.

With the possible exception of CQP most state QSO parties are friendly and laid-back events, with bands that are not too crowded. Casual operators are encouraged to jump in and make a few contacts, other operators will help you through the exchange and even a short chat. Many people get on just to collect rare counties or check antennas. QP participants have been good about answering QSL requests.

One of the goals of all QP organizers is to activate every county in the state (or region). One way this is accomplished is to have a special entry class called Mobile or Rover. These rover stations can operate from different counties, and they count as a new sta-

(Continued on page 4)

7QP, continued

tion in each different county. Some of the QSO parties allow a mobile to sit on a county line and hand out two QSO's and 2 multipliers to each caller. In fact there are one or two places in the US where a mobile can sit in 4 counties at the same time and hand out 4 QSO's and 4 multipliers to each caller (but I don't think in 7QP). Many of the mobiles will have carefully mapped-out routes that maximize the number of counties travelled during the contest, and almost certainly will activate a number of otherwise quiet locations.

These mobile stations normally consist of 2 people: a driver, and an operator. This allows the operator to operate both Phone and CW. Many times a mobile will announce the time he is expected to be in the next county. At the appointed time, several people (especially those hunting multipliers) will converge on frequency to work that mobile again. It's especially popular on CW. Route maps are sometimes posted by the mobiles ahead of the contest. 7QP has a list of mobile and county expeditions on the 'Planned Operations' section of the webpage (see below).

While the rules are different for each party, normally there are multiple entry categories for in-state (in-region) operators, and multiple categories for out-of-state operators. All of the parties use counties within the state as multipliers for the out-of-state operators. The in-state operators have quite different rules in the various parties regarding multipliers.

7QP is the one day each year where W7's work everybody, and are the sought-after stations by everyone.

All of the QSO parties use standardized abbreviations for counties, as otherwise it could be easy to miscopy which county you worked, even if you got the exchange 100%

correct. It's important to have the list of standard names at hand when operating. The standard list for 7QP is located at:

http://www.codxc.com/new/7qp_abrv.pdf

The 7QP rules are pretty straight-forward, but there are a 259 possible counties in eight states! In fact, some of the counties in the 7th call area have duplicate county names in other states (such as Jefferson county in Oregon, Montana, Idaho, and Washington), so there has to be some way to distinguish which county has actually been worked.

This is done by pre-pending the 2-letter state name to the 3-letter county name. For Jackson County, Oregon, the standard 5-letter abbreviation is ORJAC.

You can operate phone-only, CW-only, or mixed (both phone and CW). This year a new digital/RTTY entry category has been added. Complete rules can be found at:

<http://www.codxc.com/new/Page.asp?Content=DRYLAND7S&Page=3>

7QP Rules

7th Call Area QSO Party -- May 2-3, 2009 (UTC) May 2 local time.

1300 UTC Saturday to 0700 UTC Sunday (6 AM to midnight PDT the first Saturday in May). 7th call area stations work everyone, others work 7th area stations only. Work stations once per band/mode. 7th area mobiles (and those participating in other concurrent QSO parties or contests) may be worked again as they enter new counties. Rule changes are shown in ***bold italic***.

Entry categories:

- Single-op: high-power, low-power <150W, QRP <5W; CW, Phone, ***Digital***,

(Continued on page 5)

7QP, Continued

Mixed

- Multi-single (including assisted single-op): High, low and QRP
- Multi-multi. No differentiated mode or power levels
- 7th-area County Expedition: single-op, multi-single, multi-multi
- Mobile: high-power, low-power, QRP; CW, Phone, **Digital**, Mixed

Awards: Certificates will be awarded to the top three finishers in each category within and outside the 7th call area, plus the top finisher in each state/province and 7th area county; a 25-QSO minimum applies. See the web site for a list of plaques to be awarded.

Exchange: 7th area stations send signal report plus 5-letter state/county code (e.g. ORDES; see list). County-line stations send multiple codes (state code needed only once, e.g. ORDES/JEF). Non-7th-area stations send signal report plus state/province/"DX" two-letter codes. Stations in other QSO parties send their appropriate exchange. "Provinces" are VE1-9, VO and VY0-2. County-line contacts may be logged with one entry showing all counties or with one QSO entry for each county.

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2m, simplex only. Suggested operating frequencies: 1815 and 40 kHz up on CW; 1845, 3855, 7235, 14255, 21355 and 28455 on SSB. Check 80m at 0500Z, 160m at 0530Z. All CW **and Digital** contacts must be **in the CW/Data sub-bands**.

Scoring: 2 points per SSB QSO, 3 points per CW **or Digital** QSO. County-line contacts count as multiple QSOs for both stations. 7th area stations multiply QSO points by states (50) plus provinces (13) plus other DXCC entities (maximum 10). Non-7th-area stations multiply QSO points by 7th area counties worked (259).

Logs: All logs must be received by June 5; logs containing more than 40 QSOs must be submitted electronically via email or floppy disk. Send logs to 7qplogs@codxc.org -- include the station callsign in the email "Subject" line. Cabrillo preferred (7QP details [here](#)) but any plain text format will be accepted. A [web form](#) is available for online Cabrillo log-file generation and submission. Be sure your entry includes name and address and/or email address, station callsign, entry category, location code(s) and operator callsigns. Send paper logs with a completed summary sheet to 7th Call Area QSO Party, c/o CODXC, 61255 Ferguson Rd, Bend, OR 97702. Check to make sure your callsign appears on our web site's Received Logs page (normally within two days of receipt).

Other: All equipment and antennas must lie within a 1000-foot diameter circle. A county expedition is an operation from a temporary location using antennas installed for the contest period, using temporary antenna supports or trees. Mobile stations must be self-contained and capable of motion. **Any computer-to-computer mode is considered digital. The same station may be worked on each band on CW, Phone, and Digital. All contacts must be made without using repeaters, digipeaters, satellites, etc.**

Help: On the web site at <http://7qp.org> are the complete rules; lists of county names and abbreviations; state/county maps; county sign-up sheet; summary sheet; state coordinators; logging-program info and configuration files; list of plaques and donors.

Thanks to the Central Oregon DX Club, N7LE — 7QP contest organizers.

Equipment & Supplies Wanted

1. Long boom for yagi, 24' plus.
2. 2m yagi pair. prefer setup for vertical polarization/horizontal stacking (6-10 element each would be great).
3. Tubular crankup tower, 2- or 3- section, or winch from such or triangular tower, 2- or 3- section. Can be troubled!
4. Long lengths of RG-8 or heavier coax and 8/c rotator cable.
5. Many feet of wire suitable for radial system (18-22 gauge, say).
6. All-band vertical (Hustler 6BTV, Cushcraft R8, HyGain DX77, etc.).

Contact: Allan Taylor K7GT 541 855-2054
k7gt.cw@gmail.com

Next Club Meeting

Thursday, May 7, 2009. 7:00 PM
Red Cross Building, 60 Hawthorne St., Medford, OR
Across from Hawthorne Park
Program: Wayne Cox, K7DZJ on Radio Frequency Interference (RFI)

Rogue Valley Amateur Radio Club
c/o 3950 Southview Ter.
Medford, OR 97504