



W7OEK

Volume 2009, Issue 9 **September 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, September 3, 2009. 7:00 PM
Red Cross Building, 60 Hawthorne St., Medford, OR
Across from Hawthorne Park
Program: Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF, ARRL NW Division Director

President's Letter

The Fall club activities start off with a bang. The September 3 meeting will feature a visit from ARRL Northwest Division Director Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF, who will have much to say about the big picture in ham radio. Thanks to Van, K7VS, for arranging Jim's visit.

Club station W7OEK enjoyed a successful Field Day at a site above the Lost Creek fish hatchery offered by George Fuller, N7BFX. There was lots of participation and QSOs reported elsewhere in this newsletter. Although there were many contributors to the event I'm especially appreciative of Mike, WB6FFC, for providing most of the towers and antennas, and generator, and to Tom, N5EG, for coordinating things. Having 6 meters and PSK31 stations sure added interest. Our capable webmaster Dave, W7OQ, has

(Continued on page 2)

Secretary's Report

RVARC MINUTES OF THE 4 June 09 MEETING

1. The meeting was called to order by Herb Gray W7MMI at 1909L, at the Red Cross Building in Medford, OR.
2. Guests: George Fuller, N7BFX; Nathan and Bruce Ostovar.
3. Jack, WA7IHU read last month's minutes, They were approved with a name correction, Walt Buer is Walt Deutsch.
4. Lud, KB2EVN told us the club treasury has a balance of \$1938.14.
5. Old Business:
Herb opened the discussion on field day. George Fuller volunteered his

(Continued on page 2)

President's Letter, Continued

posted 18 pictures, taken by Don, KG7BP, and our score on the Club website.

As I voiced 3 or 4 months ago, there is a need for more elmers to step forward and help new hams get on the air. We offer classes and examinations to enable potential amateurs to obtain their license, then don't follow up with helping them get on the air. It's true that most often these new hams don't let their need be known, but each one of us should greet new hams at the meetings and offer help. Perhaps we should provide a document for the VEs to give each new licensee upon their passing the test.

Some years ago, Bud, W7LNG, the club station trustee, approached me with the suggestion that we change the club station call sign – he proposed W7RE, the call of our first club trustee. The reason for this is during contests, too often on CW it's read as W7OE then K as in 'over to you'. This occurred again this year on Field Day. We know Bud is a really good CW operator, and although I didn't agree in the past, I think the matter is ripe for discussion among the club at large. [ed. note: W7RE has since been assigned].

I look forward to renewed hamming after the summer break, and seeing you all at the September 3 meeting.

73, Herb W7MMI

Two Meter Repeater Frequency

In order to provide a common place to find fellow RVARC club members on two meters, we recommend using the K7RPT 147.62 / 02 repeater as a calling and monitoring frequency. This is an open repeater (no tone or PL access required). The repeater listens on 147.62 MHz and transmits on 147.02 MHz.

Secretary's Report, Continued

house near Lost Creek for field day use. Mike Bach, WB6FFC will go up this weekend and check it out. If OK he will let us know via email. If OK he will bring his trailer, generator and antenna stuff for field day use.

Tom, N5EG made a motion to allow \$200 toward field day expenses. Lud KB2EVN seconded it and it passed.

6. New Bushiness:

Bud, W7LNG announced that there will be ham exams at the "DOM" June 20th be there at 0830L.

7. 1940L Herb adjourned the club for coffee and donuts.

8. 2005L Herb called the meeting back into session.

9. Herb then showed us an ARRL movie about the various types of antenna designs.

10. Herb adjourned the meeting at 2045L

Submitted by Jack Schock, WA7IHU secretary.

RVARC Field Day 2009

The RVARC held field day this year near Lost Creek Lake. The site was near the home of George Fuller, who graciously allowed us the use of several acres.

We set up starting Friday afternoon when Mike Bach arrived with the generator, trailer, crank up towers, and several antennas. We had a 5-element 20M yagi on the 40 foot crank-up tower, a TH6DX tribander on the 30-foot tower that uses a Hazer to raise the antenna, and a 40M/80M pair of dipoles on a 40 foot tilt up stackable aluminum mast.

Murphy went missing in action Friday as all the antennas were on-frequency, the rotators worked, and the generator was up and running by about 9:30 PM.

Mike Bach and Dave Basden brought their RV's, Ed Vaughn brought a tent, a spare generator, and a 6 meter rig.

We started up Saturday morning at 11 AM, with good conditions on 20 and 40 meters. The bands were open for mostly west-coast QSOs throughout the afternoon. 6 meters had a good opening starting about 7 PM Saturday evening, and Ed worked a number of stations in the Midwest and South Texas. Several further east were heard.

Dave started out on 20M CW, with generally slow conditions but a good run of KH6's until we realized that the TH6DX antenna was pointed west rather than east. After turning the antenna around Dave got a lot faster working the CW contacts.

Bud was primarily on 40m CW, with some jaunts to other bands, and a break to copy the W1AW Field Day message, which is worth 100 points.

We had barbequed hamburgers for dinner Saturday night. Thanks to Herb bringing his

portable propane grill which worked out great.

Starting about 8 PM, 20 meters opened up well to the entire US, and the QSO run rate jumped up quite a bit.

Don setup a PSK31 station with 80m and 40M dipoles and operated mostly during the dinner hour when others were taking a dinner break. He made a good run of digital QSO's before packing up before sundown. There's a lot of good lessons to be learned with new software, a laptop computer, and interfacing to the rig. At one point Don noted low power output, and we measured about 85 volts AC at his radio. Suspecting the power cords, we measured the voltage at the generator, and it was only about 88 volts. Mike adjusted the governor on the generator and we were back in business.

One of the fuel cans turned out to be contaminated, so the generator got gummed up Saturday evening and put us off the air until Mike got the fuel system get cleaned out and a new fuel tank put online. That necessitated a gas run to the all-night service station in Shady Cove, where the attendant said he hadn't seen 5 gallon steel Jerry-cans in a long time!

Quite a number of the club members stayed over night Saturday, in RV's tents, and their personal vehicles. Being up in the hills, it cooled off quite a bit after about 1 AM, and those sleeping bags and extra wool blankets were quickly put to use.

One of our new club members, Nathan, who had just received his license (KF7DNY) attended his first Field Day. During the day he got to see several us show how to hold and run a frequency in a contest. Then several of us then played control operator while Nathan

(Continued on page 4)

RVARC Field Day 2009, Continued

took over, and he made a real good run of QSO's on 20m phone.

Overall, we had 16 RVARC club members attend Field Day, and 11 of them stayed at the site over night on Saturday.

Our ARRL Assistant SEC, Dan Bissell,

them are printed in this newsletter.

The entire event was organized starting after the June club meeting, when George volunteered the location and Mike volunteered to bring all the critical RF and AC pieces. It was necessary to organize the event using an email list, so that's a good reason to make



6 Meter Phone Station. Ed Vaughn brought his tent and a spare generator, while Mike Bach brought a long 6 meter beam. Dan Bissell photo.

W7WVF dropped by the site Saturday, and we had a good eyeball with him for several hours. Dan is from Bandon and apparently the multiple layers of jackets and sweaters he was wearing were not needed at our site during the day. He quickly shed most of the excess! Dan took a couple of pictures and sent them to me after Field Day, a couple of

sure you have a valid email on file with the club (we have a couple of members with bounced email addresses that we can't find a valid replacement for). I was traveling most of the month of June, and arrived back in Oregon the day before Field Day. So we did all the organization while on the road,

(Continued on page 5)

RVARC Field Day 2009, Continued

and email was the only practical way to do it. A side effect is that we now have a great list of items needed for Field Day (or any emergency), and which club member might be able to bring it.

Don Bennett brought his camera and captured a few photons from the event. Dave has loaded them on the RVARC club website, so if you weren't able to attend you can see what all the fuss was about. Or if you



Above: 20 M Phone station. Mike Bach brought his RV, a Korean-war era generator, trailer with 40-foot crank up tower, and a 5-element monoband yagi.

Below: Bud's car served as 40M CW station, alongside the 40M and 80M dipoles. Dan Bissell photos.



did attend, you can see if Don caught you in one of your better moments.

Overall the club made:

246 CW contacts,
17 Digital contacts,
560 Phone contacts,
for a claimed score of 2172 points. To that we added 470 Bonus points for a total claimed score of 2642 in class 3A.

Badges are available

The 2009 RVARC badges have been printed. Those that have not already been picked up will be available at any of the RVARC club meetings. If you have not received your badge please let me know so I can print another one and correct any errors in the club database.

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

Next Club Meeting

Thursday, September 3, 2009. 7:00 PM
Red Cross Building, 60 Hawthorne St., Medford, OR
Across from Hawthorne Park
Program: Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF, ARRL NW Division Director

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