



W7OEK

Volume 2009, Issue 12 December 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:			<a href="http://www.qsl.net/w7oek">http://www.qsl.net/w7oek</a>	

**Next Club Meeting**  
 Thursday, December 3, 2009, 6:00 PM (note early time)  
 Far East Restaurant  
 Front & 4th St., Medford, OR  
 Program: *Annual Christmas Party*

**President's Letter**

Following tradition, the December 3 meeting will be a Christmas dinner gathering, this year at the Far East restaurant at 4<sup>th</sup> and Front Street in Medford at 6:00 (usual meeting day, one hour earlier). Bring a gift marked OM or XYL (under \$10.00) to participate in the gift exchange.

Thanks Steve, N7SC, for his PowerPoint video and explanation of moon-bounce communications-Wow! The January meeting will feature our annual swapfest, so begin gathering your trading stock..

As we wind up another year, a big thank you for the superlative support I've had from our members. Those listed under the masthead of the newsletter are especially worthy of recognition, and I thank them all for re-upping for 2010. In addition (but not limited

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**Secretary's Report**

**RVARC 6 NOV 09 MINUTES**

1. Herb Grey W7MMI called the meeting to order in the Red Cross building at 1900L.
2. Two guests were present: Allen Hill, K7HWX, and Ellis Feinstein.
3. The minutes were not read because they are in the newsletter.
4. Lud Sibley, KB2EVN informed the group that the treasury has \$1840.72 in it.
5. Old business: None.
6. New Business:
  - A. Jack, WA7IHU reported that he had reserved the Far East restaurant

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## President's Letter, Continued

to) are others who have enriched Club events, i.e. Steve N7SV, Mike WB6FFC, and Van K7VS. Without all these contributors the Club would fail; the president is a small factor in the Club's success. Thank them for their work when you have the opportunity.

I anticipate a class or two (beginners and general and/or extra class) early in 2010. Spread the word and let me know. More info will follow as the demand is ascertained. Also remember to Elmer the newcomers that you meet (and they also have to make their needs known to us old-timers.)

73 and Merry Christmas,

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

for our Christmas dinner. Everyone agreed that it was OK.

B. Bud Larson, W7LNG chairman of the nominating committee said all of last year's officers are willing to serve again if there were no other volunteers.

C. Herb went through all the positions asking for volunteers. No one came forward. He then declared the positions filled by acclamation.

They are:

Herb Grey, W7MMI president  
Don Bennett, KG7BP Vice President  
Lud Sibley, KB2EVN Treasurer  
Jack Schock, WA7IHU Secretary

10. Lud Sibley announced that next years liability insurance of \$323 through ARRL was due. Herb told him to go ahead and renew it.

11. Dale Troutman, N7IXS said he had some inquires for novice radio licensing classes. One person wants a general and one extra. Bud was told to reserve a room at his church after the first of next and classes would begin.

12. At 1945 Herb adjourned the meeting for coffee, donuts and "eye ball" QSOing.

13. At 2035 Herb called the meeting back into session.

14. Steve Chastain, N7SC presented the group with a very informative program on moon bounce communications.

15. Herb adjourned the meeting at 2055.

Submitted by Jacob O. (Jack) Schock, WA7IHU, Secretary

**Hints and Tips  
(from SOARC Wireless Gnus)**

Troubleshooting RFI to a piece of home equipment? Here's a handy step-by-step list by Jim K9YC that may help you find the point-of-entry for RF in short order:

1. Remove ALL the cables (except the power cable) and see if you still have the problem. If you do, proceed to step 2.
2. Put a toroidal choke ( <http://audiosystemsgroup.com/RFI-Ham.pdf> ) on the power cord (hopefully resonant on the band for which RFI is observed). If that doesn't help, take the device back for a refund. It's a shielding problem, and you'll never fix it.
3. If the choke on the power cable fixes the problem with no other cables attached (or if there's no interference with only the power cord), start adding other cables one at a time. If the problem returns, that cable is acting as a receive antenna, so add a choke to it.

Got a noisy touch lamp that needs repair? My favorite tool for that kind of job is a precision sledgehammer, wielded smartly, but Don KD4E points us to the kinder, gentler ARRL Technical Information Service material. ( <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/rfilamps.html> )

"Radio Antenna Engineering", published in 1952 by Edmund Laport has a lot of excellent material on common antennas, materials, and technique. Long out-of-print and now out-of-copyright as well, lulu.com offers it as a free download or in print form for a fee. (Thanks, Paul W9AC)

If your eyeglasses and headphones are working together to push your temples into your frontal lobes during long contests, take a look at the new ear buds for music players. The fidelity and comfort of these small ear-pieces has improved dramatically over the past few years. You can also wear noise-

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**2010 Dues are Due**

2009 memberships expire at the end of this month (December) 2009. Dues for 2010 are due starting January 1st, I will hand out renewal information sheets starting at the January meeting. Last year they were mailed along with the newsletter, but the return rate was poor.

On the information sheets, you just need to note any changes in address, email, telephone number, ARRL membership, etc. They are used to help us keep our database up to date, correct any errors, track changes, and keep our ARRL-affiliation status current. Hopefully this is a low-effort way for club members to update their status.

Please consider if you can go to email-only newsletter, as currently it costs the club \$1 per month per posted paper newsletter. The electronic version is in color, has better quality photographs, active hyperlinks, and you should receive it about a week earlier than the mailed version.

**Membership dues are:**

Senior (age 62 and above):	\$15
Regular:	\$20
Family:	\$20
Student:	\$10

Please make checks payable to:  
Rogue Valley Amateur Radio Club

You can give check or cash to our treasurer, Lud at any meeting, or mail checks only to:

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

## ARRL Field Day 2009 Results

The ARRL has published the 2009 Field Day results. For members, the database is on-line at the ARRL website and can be queried. We placed tenth in Oregon overall (out of 52 entries), and 2nd in class 3A (out of 5

Hopefully everyone that came out to operate, set-up, and teardown had a lot of fun.

This year there were a total of 2642 entries (not all in the database apparently). The 2A

#	Call	Score	Category	QSOs	Power Mult	GOTA Call	Section	Participants	Club
1	N7MQ	4,078	3A	1,290	2		OR	10	DX SIG of Valley RC of OR
2	W7OEK	2,642	3A	823	2		OR	16	Rogue Valley ARC
3	KC7TLY	1,124	3A	183	2	KB7WDR	OR	60	Umpqua Valley ARC
4	W7PXL	1,094	3A	64	2		OR	23	Valley RC of Oregon
5	N7CM	792	3A	133	2		OR	3	

### Class 3A—Oregon (5 entrants)

#	Call	Score	Category	QSOs	Power Mult	GOTA Call	Section	Participants	Club
1	K7AW	6,798	2A	1,749	2		OR	5	Oregon High Desert CC
2	KK7PR	6,210	3E	2,287	2		OR	9	
3	W7SAA	5,980	7A	1,431	2		OR	25	Salem ARC
4	N7LE	5,538	2A	1,497	2		OR	12	Central Oregon DX Club
5	W7OTV	5,526	4A	1,383	2		OR	144	Oregon Tualatin Valley ARC
6	W7Q	4,506	6A	1,356	2		OR	34	Hoodview ARC
7	N7MQ	4,078	3A	1,290	2		OR	10	DX SIG of Valley RC of OR
8	W7EL (+K7PJT)	3,400	1B2B	310	5		OR	2	
9	W7LT	3,330	4AB	292	5		OR	18	Portland ARC
10	W7OEK	2,642	3A	823	2		OR	16	Rogue Valley ARC

### Oregon Top Ten—all categories (52 entrants)

entries). 3A is the three-transmitter, club entry classification.

Our score is a pretty good outcome from the club's effort, especially considering it was organized completely during the month of June! Thanks especially to Mike Bach, who came up with many of the critical items at the last minute.

class is usually the most popular entry for club and non-club groups. For the more common categories the number of entries was:

173 in class 1A  
502 in class 2A  
338 in class 3A  
149 in class 4A  
73 in class 5A

## ARRL / TAPR DCC 2009

The ARRL / TAPR Digital Communications Conference (DCC) was held in Chicago on the weekend of September 25-27. This is the second year in a row for the venue. The local club support last year was outstanding, and the conference organizers decided it would be hard to improve.

The DCC focuses primarily on Packet radio, Digital communications, Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS), Global Positioning Satellite (GPS), and Software Defined Radio SDR).

Normally the DCC moves around the continental US, and it's coming due for a slot on the west coast pretty soon. The last one on the west coast (or reasonably close anyway) was in Tucson in 2006.

There's an afternoon session called 'play time' where people can set up demonstrations of the projects that they are working on, it's always full of both fascinating projects and people. There's plenty of time allocated to chat with the authors / builders of the toys (projects) and to get some good ideas.

Additionally, there are two tracks of technical papers, plus a Sunday morning workshop, and several evening events.

Here's a link to abstracts of the papers presented this year:  
[http://www.tapr.org/pub\\_dcc28.html](http://www.tapr.org/pub_dcc28.html) The papers are published in proceeding of the conference, and are available from ARRL and TAPR. The abstracts and Powerpoint slides for many of the presentations made at the conference are available at the above link.

One group in central Ohio has now put a digital ATV repeater on the air—they gave a paper about how they did it. The Powerpoint slides are very good and available at the above site.

## Winter Operating Season

With the arrival of winter, the main part of operating season has arrived. Over the next 6-8 weeks, some of the best contests and operating events of the year happen. Even if you are not a contester, there will be lots of DX and even casual operating events.

Nov 21 & 22 is ARRL sweepstakes (SS), Phone. I call this the 'urban warfare' contest—the bands are densely populated with loud signals, operating speeds are very fast, and QRM is the order of the day. You can earn Worked All States in 24 hours in this event.

Dec 4-6 is the ARRL 160 meter CW contest. If you like operating at night, this is your event. CW speeds are not as fast as SS, and you will hear the loudest 160m signals of the year.

Dec 12-13 is the ARRL 10 meter contest. There are categories for phone, CW, and mixed. This contest is mostly a little slower-paced. Even with the lack of sunspots, there is a lot of activity on this band during the daytime. For many, this is their favorite event.

January 1st (GMT time) is straight-key night (SKN). This is not a contest but a chance to put older equipment, straight keys, and other interesting odds and ends on the air and chew the rag. There are several RVARC members who get on the air for this.

January 2-3 is the ARRL RTTY roundup. This is a fast-paced RTTY contest that is gaining in popularity every year. You will need electronic logging and integrated RTTY software to keep up with this one! Trying to punch all the right logging buttons quickly and in the right sequence is a real challenge. The top operators operate it as SO2R (Single Operator, 2 Radios) which makes it twice as fast, with twice as many logging actions (mind boggling).

### Hints and Tips, cont'd

canceling headphones over them while hardly noticing. (Thanks, Paul W8AEF)

Software-defined radio (SDR) is by no means an amateur-only undertaking as can be seen at the commercial/professional SDR Forum <http://www.sdrforum.org> web site. Learn what other applications are making the SDR leap! (Thanks, Jim K9JWV)

The Mother of All Swiss Army Knife software packages, HAMCALC <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/HamCalcem.html> is now at version 113 and counting, having added calculations for Helical Resonators, Insertion Loss, Transmission Line Mismatch, Long-Tailed Pairs, and Pi and T networks. A tip of the Contest Update cap to author George, VE3ERP!

**Condensed & Reprinted from the SOARC Wireless Gnus 197** (thanks to W6IGK and W7PUP)

#### ***Next Club Meeting***

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