



W7DTA

Volume 2010, Issue 9 September 2010

Herb Grey	W7MMI	(541) 773-4765	President
Don Bennett	KG7BP	(541) 618-5189	Vice President
Lud Sibley	KB2EVN	(541) 855-5207	Treasurer
Jack Schock	WA7IHU	(541) 535-8471	Secretary
Tom McDermott	N5EG	(541) 734-4675 n5eg@tapr.org	Newsletter and Membership
Dave Basden	W7OQ	dave@basden.us	Webmaster
Club Web Page:		http://www.gsl.net/w7dta	

Next Club Meeting
 Thursday, September 2, 2010, 7:00 PM
 Red Cross Building, 60 Hawthorne St., Medford, OR
 Across from Hawthorne Park
 Program: HF Propagation

President's Letter

It's time to gather together again. For many of us Field Day was a good event to kick off the summer. There were too many contributors to mention here, but the many of the main organizers were mentioned in earlier newsletters. My only disappointment was that more didn't come out to participate in the fun. The results are posted on the Club's web page.

The September program will feature the "prolific presenter" Tom McDermott N5EG, who will talk about "HF Propagation". With sunspot cycle 24 gaining momentum, this is certainly a timely topic.

I'm sad to report that a long time sparkplug in our Club Pete Bateman, N7NS has become a silent key.

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Secretary's Report

MINUTES OF THE 3 June 10 ROGUE VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Don Bennett, KG7BP at 1905L in the Red Cross building in Medford, OR.

Don asked the guests introduce themselves. They were Bill Wright, KA0CZW, and Carl Van Orden.

Don said, " since the minutes are in the news-letter they will not be read."

Treasurer Lud Sibley, KB2EVN gave the treasurer's report, our bank balance is \$1561.02

OLD BUSINESS:

Scott Cummings, KD7ECB gave a report on

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President's Letter, Continued

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As always, let's encourage young hams to become active. I'm always available to help newcomers get on the air or help elmer them in any way. My phone number is at the top of this newsletter.

73, Herb W7MMI

New URL for RVARC club Webpage

The RVARC club webpage has moved. Our old URL included our old callsign, so Dave Basden, W7OQ, obtained a new URL for the club matching our new callsign, and has moved all the content over to the new page. The old page has a temporary redirect to the new page. You may want to update your favorites list in your browser:

<http://www.qsl.net/w7dta>

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

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Field Day. He reported that the Civil Air Patrol Hanger and surrounding area would be the location of this year's field day. The event was thoroughly discussed and the club is ready for a good field day experience.

NEW BUSINESS:
None brought up.

At 1930L Don put the meeting on hold for coffee and "eye ball" QSOing.

At 2000L Don called the meeting back into session.

Lud showed a movie about the FCC chasing spies during WW II.

Don showed a movie about the Hallicrafters SCR299 Transmitter and Receiver set used during WW II.

Don adjourned the meeting at 2100.

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

Club Badges / Newsletter Labels

Club badges were finished and available at the September meeting for memberships received up through June. The labels & email on club newsletters should be current as well. If you've renewed and are not receiving the newsletter or are missing a badge, please let Tom, N5EG know at the next meeting.

RVARC Field Day 2010



Field Day 2010 was different than previous field days held by the Rogue Valley ARC.

This year our effort was more of a public-

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RVARC Field Day 2010, Continued.

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outreach outing, and less of the make-the-most contacts type of operation. We operated from the Medford Civil Air Patrol (CAP) hanger located at the Medford airport.

Scott Cummings was instrumental in securing permission to operate at the CAP facilities.

We traditionally have set up on Friday afternoon so that we are ready to go on Saturday at the 11:00 AM opening bell. Unfortunately this year we were not able to set up Friday afternoon due to the lack of people with proper security to supervise us on the airport grounds. We had to wait until Saturday morning at 7:00 AM before the appropriate people would be around. This turned out to be good practice for the 'unexpected scenario' element of emergency communications. Fortunately the airport is not too far out of town, so most didn't have too long a commute each way on Friday just to be delayed.

Saturday morning we started our setup at 7:00 AM. It turns out that the CAP was having an emergency training exercise the exact same weekend as Field Day, so we needed to be sure that our operations would not conflict with the CAP. This was accomplished by operating on the mezzanine in the hanger, overlooking the CAP air force. We needed to extend AC power cables from the generator, and 50-ohm coaxial cables from the various antennas up to the mezzanine, and thus we ended up need a lot more and longer cables than what we brought with us.

The first antenna we put up was a TH6 tribander on the crank-up tower. We laid out the antenna elements on the asphalt pad in front of the hanger, carefully in the order from the assembly drawing. But Don noticed even with that we still got some of the elements in the wrong place. The TH6 is non-

intuitive in how everything goes together. Lud solved this problem well— at the end of Field Day he brought 6-7 rolls of different colored electrical tape and color-coded each element and the boom appropriately as we were breaking down. Smart guy. As long as the tape stays intact, it will be easier next year! The tribander worked extremely well this year, as long as in fact we had the right feedline hooked up! With three very long cables on the mezzanine, we got the wrong ones hooked up to the radios for an hour. Ed was still able to make a few 6M contacts on the TH6, but the 20m SSB team was not as successful on the 6m yagi. Lud, can we borrow some more of that colored tape for the feedlines next year?

We also built a 40m/80m dipole from scratch and used a spare balun. It was hung below the tribander on the crank-up tower, and had ends suspended from a 30-foot fiberglass mast on one end, and an airplane-stair-set on the other (climbing airplane stairs is the easy way to get up to the antenna tie point!).

We also assembled the 6m yagi. It is an 8 element beam—and may be just a bit too narrow in pattern for Field Day, as Ed had to swing it around a lot.

Scott started soldering up new coaxial cables right away, and he managed to complete a number of additional runs by 11:00 AM. Unfortunately it took until about 1:30 to complete all the runs for the 3 antennas.

Simultaneously, Don Bennett got a very heavy duty AC power cord to run the 200 feet from the generator to the mezzanine. Unfortunately every time it was plugged into the generator, the generator would shut down (even with no load on the cable). This turned out to be due to a broken AC plug on the cable, and Don and Herb went around to

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RVARC Field Day 2010, Continued.

some hardware stores to fetch the needed replacement parts.

We started the contest on commercial AC power. Ed Vaughn started on 6 meter SSB with a automobile 12V battery. A good thing as the best 6m band opening of the weekend was just finishing as Field Day started.

with a way to route and secure all the cables so that airplanes could enter and leave the hanger, and the hanger doors could be closed. Several Cessna 182 planes did come and go from neighboring states due to the CAP exercise. When the engine and prop were fired up inside the hanger we got a sudden large burst of air conditioning. Operating inside the hanger was good—we



About 1:30 in the afternoon, the generator power cable was finished and routed into the building, and we were able to start operating on generator power. While the vast majority of our contacts were on generator and battery power, we did make at least one contact on AC power, so our club was required to enter the 2A—Commercial category.

While it was a little circuitous, we came up

were able to stay out of the direct sun for most of the event.

The airport is actually a pretty scenic location. Mt McLoughlin was plainly visible directly to the east, and Roxy Ann to the south east. John Griffin, KF7JWC took a number of photographs of our event, and the photos in this article are thanks to John.

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RVARC Field Day 2010, Continued.

We had several training sessions with CAP cadets. One on HF propagation, one on HD digital operations, and one on operating technique in Field Day. We invited the cadets to make contacts on 20m SSB Saturday night, when 20m was crammed full of signals. A few cadets developed mic fright, but we had some that made 15-20 contacts while us hams logged.

This was a different type of Field Day event in that we were not focused solely on operating, and had the chance to meet with our CAP hosts, have training sessions with the cadets, and in general enjoy the event in a bit more relaxed fashion. I think the CAP

staff were impressed with our club and operation, hopefully we might be invited to operate there again.

Overall, we made 7 digital QSOs, 172 CW QSO's and 278 phone QSO's. Along with bonus points, we submitted a claimed score in 2A-Commercial of 1,542 points.

Next Club Meeting

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Across from Hawthorne Park
Program: HF Propagation**

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