



W7DTA

Volume 2011, Issue 3 March 2011

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Club Web Page:			http://www.gsl.net/w7dta	

Next Club Meeting
 Thursday, March 3, 2011, 7:00 PM
 Red Cross Building, 60 Hawthorne St., Medford, OR
 Across from Hawthorne Park
 Program: The Care and Feeding of Simple, Broadband HF Antennas

President's Letter

Hooray — Sunspots are back! Just about Valentine's day we had in succession the first SFI (Solar Flux Index) value over 100 in cycle 24 and the first major solar flare. The higher bands are coming to life. Tech licenses will soon be able to operate on 10m SSB. Good news indeed!

I hope you are as excited about the return of sunspots as I am. I am looking forward to trying 10m with a large yagi. I might even play in some 10-10 QSO parties. As a follow-up to my recent talk on HF contesting and other operating activities, the return of sunspots is just what we need.

The ARRL DX contest (CW) will have happened by the time you read this and the SSB portion of it will be imminent. Jump in. Get your feet wet.

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Secretary's Report

MINUTES OF THE 4 FEB 11 ROGUE VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEETING

The meeting was called to order by president Allan Taylor, K7GT at 1905L in the Red Cross building in Medford, OR.

A couple of guests where in attendance they are: Jeff Statchwick, WB7OGP and Cody Navolt.

Treasurer, Lud Sibley KB2EVN reported that after Pete Batman's estate was settled we had just of \$4000 in our treasury

Old business:

Lud reported on the prices of projectors are around \$500, at the next meeting he will have them ranked by price and features.

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President's Letter, Continued

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As another follow-up is current info on the 7th District QSO party. It is scheduled for Saturday, May 7, 2011, local time 0600 to midnight. Suggested operating frequencies are given on the web page <http://7qp.org>

In summary the action takes place on CW, SSB, and DIGITAL frequencies in the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, and 2m bands. The exchange is straightforward: RS(T) and state + county designator. For those in Jackson County, Oregon it would look like:

599 ORJAC or
59 ORJAC

(depending on mode). Submit a log for more than 25 QSOs and challenge me in Jackson county!

I hope to see you at the March meeting when Tom, N5EG will present his recent results using a simple doublet fed with 400 ohm parallel line for all-band HF operating. It is 'almost' an invisible antenna. See you there!

Allan K7GT

For Sale

Cushcraft R7000 HF vertical.

Covers 40m through 10m. The antenna is on the ground and in storage.

Asking \$100 or Best Offer.

Contact Bud Kilbury, K7BFK at (541) 941-5202 or email bud@k7bfk.com

Secretary's Report, Continued

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Scott Cummings KD7EHB, field day chairman is scouting around for locations and is trying to put together a field day committee.

No new business brought up so at 1930L Allan put the meeting on hold for "Eye Ball" QSO over coffee.

Allan called the meeting back into session at 2000L

Allan then proceeded to put on a very thorough and informative presentation on the fun and various aspects of contesting.

Allan adjourned the meeting at 2100L

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

Newsletter now paperless

The RVARC Repeater is paperless starting with the January 2011 issue.

You can receive a copy one of three ways:

1. Email. Make sure your email address is current with the club newsletter editor, (n5eg@tapr.org) and you will receive each issue via email.
2. Club web site. Each copy of the newsletter is available about a week ahead of the meeting on the club's webpage (see page 1 for the link). Additionally, an archive for all past issues since late 2008 is available (via the club web page).
3. A few paper copies will be brought to the club meeting for those without Internet access.

The electronic versions are in PDF format.

Biography of Allan Taylor, K7GT

Allan is currently President of the RVARC.

Allan first became acquainted in a small way with amateur radio after having a book read to his 5/6th grade class in North Albany (1957). It involved two young amateurs using Morse code to find some spies. Yeah, cheesy, but it stirred something. Shortly thereafter he moved to Livermore CA and, as it turned out, the dad of one of his classmates was an amateur (Ralph, W6ZHP).

Soon he had a simple buzzer made (with his dad's help) and he mastered Morse well enough to pass the novice test in March 1958 at the age of 10 years. His ticket finally arrived in June, by then he was 11. His first callsign was WV6ALQ. Do any of you remember the 'WV' calls? Well, it certainly wasn't a favorite.

He operated for a few months without success using a single 6AG7 oscillator transmitter (ARRL Handbook design) and a surplus BC-312N receiver, and a poor antenna (it sounds similar to the first station many of us had!).

Well, another local ham (Tom, K6TS) helped Allan with a better antenna and Ralph loaned him a transmitter he had built up for his son (Rodger, WV6BYB). Rodger used his dad's DX100 using crystals, freeing up the homebuilt rig for Allan to use. The transmitter was a 5763 driving a 6146 and was 40m only. The power supply was a real work of electronics art. It used a pair of 866A's as rectifiers and several voltage regulator tubes (OA4s??). It would glow in the dark and change colors as the rig was keyed! Way cool!

With that rig Allan was able to actually have contacts (40 CW) and his code speed came up sufficiently to pass the General exam. He devoured the License Manual over Christ-

mas break and took and passed the General exam at the FCC examination office on Battery Street in San Francisco on January 2, 1959. He made several old guys mad as he walked in and passed the code and then the written test. He exchanged his 'V' for an 'A' and received the call WA6ALQ.

Allan and his family moved back to Oregon that next summer. His first 7 call arrived soon thereafter: K7JMJ. Not the best for CW but it was an improvement! He lived off of the old Jacksonville Highway. His dad helped him put up a simple pair of antennas on a peeled cedar log pole and some 2X4s. Neither of them was higher than 22 feet. His transmitter had stayed in CA but the receiver made the trip to Oregon. A nice fellow named Herb built up a nice transmitter for him in a 19 inch rack cabinet. It covered 40 and 20m and used a pair of 6146s. The relatively low power supply voltage (~400V) kept the output down to about 50W but he was on the air.

Allan used a SpeedX bug and the handkey mounted on a Plexiglas sliding table that allowed watching the RF deck during QSOs, and he was successful working DX — UA0s, JAs, etc., on 40m. Allan says his most memorable contact in those days was working VR2DK, Fiji, on 40 CW. It was an absolute struggle but he finally got through and even got the QSL card. That 7005.1 crystal did the trick! (In those days, the transmitter was crystal-controlled only and band changing was done by swapping two plug-in coils).

Allan used that setup to work his first Sweepstakes contest in 1962. That's a tough contest with crystals only... Meanwhile, the guys in the Portland area ran up some big scores — amazing.

Allan joined the RVARC and participated as

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Biography of Allan Taylor, K7GT

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he had time. He particularly remembers a mobile outing towards Crater Lake. There were several cars with mobile rigs all headed up highway 62. He only got as far as Union Creek but did have a good time. At the time he used a very low power borrowed rig and a primitive whip vertical with a huge coil and was sort of able to talk to the others on 75 AM phone. (bring back any memories?).

a home and put up an antenna, living in Price UT, out in the high desert of east central Utah.

In Price he put up an inverted V for 40m and used a Tempo 1 transceiver and a Heath SB200 amp, with much improved success on 40 and 15m. He passed the Extra test and was able to trade in his W7LGE call for his current call, K7GT.



K7GT Working QRP from Big Arroyo

Allan graduated from high school in 1964, sold all his gear, and went off to Brigham Young University. He scrounged a rig (Galaxy 3) and operated a bit from his room there but with not all that much success. He graduated with a degree in Physics, began dodging the draft, did two more degrees, and finally was to the place where he could own

Work took Allan successively to Bountiful, Utah and then to Pleasanton, California. Raising three kids kept Allan off the air for several years in CA, but in 1994 he put up some antennas and began again in earnest — his goal was to work DXCC on 40m CW only. It took about 2 ½ years, but he did it.

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Biography of Allan Taylor, K7GT

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He used the club station at work to get DXCC on 20, 15, and 10m.

Allan retired in 2003 and moved back to Oregon in 2004. Today, he's partially retired and works part-time teaching math and science classes at Rogue Community College in Medford. Allan now lives on a two-acre plot

and he has plans for verticals on 160 through 10m. Since arriving back in Oregon, he has completed DXCC on 30m and WAS on 80, 40, 30, and 20m.

As most of you I'm sure are aware, Allan enjoys operating in contests. His favorites are Field Day (especially from mountain top locations), CW Sweepstakes, ARRL DX, and



Photo by Walt Deutsch

January RVARC Meeting

in the country southeast of Gold Hill. The surrounding hills make his QTH a less-than-ideal ham radio spot, but he is having fun anyway.

Today, Allan's station consists of beams for 40m through 10m, wires for 160 and 80m,

the 7th district QSO party.

Allan shares his station with radio friends to work as multi-operator in contests. This past November, Bill W1HIJ came up for a 2nd run at Sweepstakes. Bill and Allan managed

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Biography of Allan Taylor, K7GT

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1001 Qs and a sweep. The entry may be in the running for the Northwest division for Multi-op certificate.

In the future, Allan would like to venture into SSB contesting, and dabble with digital modes (besides CW).

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