

W7DTA

Volume 2011, Issue 5 May 2011

Allan Taylor	K7GT	(541) 855-2054	k7gt@charter.net	President
Scott Cummings	KD7EHB	(541) 282-9776		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, May 5, 2011, 7:00 PM
 Red Cross Building, 60 Hawthorne St., Medford, OR
 Across from Hawthorne Park
 Program: Portable, Field Day, and other Compromise Antennas

President's Letter

The weather is warming up, the sky is occasionally blue, and ... the young man's fancy turns to ... ANTENNAS! Antennas on the ground, antennas on the roof, antennas on a car or truck, antennas high in the sky. (It sounds like a Dr Seuss reader!)

Now that I have your attention, please come to the club meeting on May 5th and we will talk of antennas both big and small.

What else is brewing? Why the 7th District QSO party, of course. 7QP is a new but up-and-coming QSO party potentially rivaling the California QSO party (CQP) that takes place in October. Details are given elsewhere in this issue.

Another fun event is the CQ WPX contest, CW portion, in late May. It is an everyone-

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Secretary's Report

MINUTES OF THE 7 April 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.

Guests in attendance are:

- Cody Nault, KF7OCO;
- Bob Ross, N7RBP;
- Bob Mellecker;
- Cleve Mosley, KE7USR; and
- Richard Backes, KE7EAE.

The minutes of last meeting were not read as they are in the newsletter.

Treasurer Lud Sibley, KB2EVN reported the check book balance as \$4568.30.

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President's Letter, Continued

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work-everyone free-for-all. Multipliers are callsign prefixes. Get out there and use that KF7 or WB6 or ?? for your benefit. They WANT to work YOU!

On a personal front, most operating and station improvements are on the sideline as we attempt to finish a major yard project before summer. THEN the antenna projects will once again progress.

See you in a few weeks!

Allan K7GT

Secretary's Report, Continued

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OLD BUSINESS:

Lud will buy a projector for club use this week.

Scott, KD7EHB narrowed the choices of field day locations to the field at Cascade Christian School.

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business brought up.

At 1925L Allan put the meeting on hold for coffee and conversation.

At 1945L Allan called the meeting back into session.

Van Sias, K7VS gave us an outstanding dissertation on restoring old radio gear complete with before and after pictures. He used a rusty old Globe King transmitter that he completely disassembled and restored to new condition for his example.

Allan adjourned the meeting at 2030.

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

7QP—7th Area QSO Party

Note: this article originally appeared in the May 2009 Issue of the RVARC Repeater. It has been edited to update rules changes for 2011.

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 station 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

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7QP—7th Area QSO Party, Continued

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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, Digital-only, or mixed (both phone and CW). This. 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 7-8, 2011 (UTC) (May 7 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.

Entry categories:

- Single-op: high-power, low-power <150W, QRP <5W; CW, Phone, Digital, 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. The 13 "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, except on 40m where 7025-7035 is suggested; 1845, 3855, 7180, 14255, 21355 and 28455 on SSB; 3580+, 7035+, 14070+, 21070+ on PSK; 3585+, 7038+, 14075+, 21075+ on RTTY. Check 80m at 0500Z, 160m at 0530Z. All CW and Digital contacts must be in the CW/Data sub-bands.

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7QP—7th Area QSO Party, Continued

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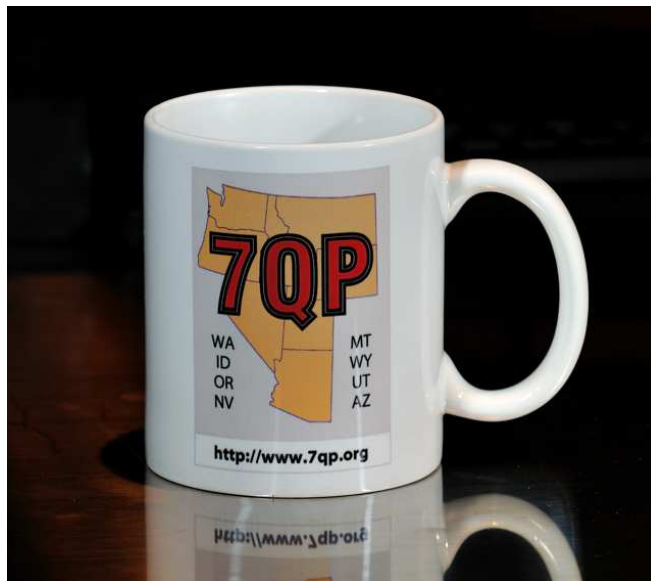
Scoring: 2 points per SSB QSO, 3 points per CW or Digital QSO. County-line contacts count as multiple QSOs for both stations. 7th area stations multiply QSO points by states (50) plus provinces (13) plus other DXCC entities (maximum 10). Non-7th-area stations multiply QSO points by 7th area counties 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 (*if Cabrillo, they should appear within the Cabrillo attachment itself; the log processor ignores the rest of the message*). 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 *with correct entry category*, 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.



This year the club organizers are awarding coffee cups to various category winners.

7QP Tips from K4XU

Ten things you can do to get ready for 7QP:

1. Reserve the May 7th date on your wife's calendar so she can't commit you to another event.
2. Get that 40m dipole back up in the tree now that the weather is getting warmer. Don't have a 40m antenna? Then it's time to make that dipole and get it up! 20m is by far the most active band. Can you get on 20m?
3. Check out your rig on PSK31 so you can make a few digital contacts. What's PSK31? Google PSK31 or Digipan and

K4XU's tips for 7QP

see. It's the best mode if you run low power with limited antennas. It's like typing, and you get 50% more points per contact than SSB.

4. If you are still logging with a pencil and paper, download one of the free logging programs and practice using it. This is the single most useful tool for operating an HF radio next to your antenna. See the "Logging Software" tab on the official 7QP web site: <http://www.7qp.org>
5. Send a message to 7qpop@codxc.org and let them know you will be on from your county. It's amazing how many new hams are working on tri-mode WAS and USACA awards. You are going to be popular.
6. Talk it up at the next ham club meeting. Invite a few of the VHF-only types over to your shack and show them what HF radio is all about. They may never learn if we don't show 'em!
7. Can't operate from home and want to run mobile? 7QP is always looking for mobiles to cover the several dark or dimly lit counties in Oregon.
8. Can't justify the time? Remember that at its core, 7QP is an EMCOMM preparedness demonstration. Yes, we make it into a game, but like Field Day, it's a demonstration of your radio capability. The party runs from 6AM to midnight Pacific Daylight Time but you do not have to do the whole thing.
9. Got questions? Try the 7QP web page first, if not, send me an email and I'll try to help.
10. Visualize where you would put a 7QP certificate for first place in your county.

73,

Richard Frey - K4XU or N7XU

61255 Ferguson Rd.

Bend, OR 97702

Email: k4xu@arrl.net

Web page: <http://www.codxc.org>

Mode:	CW, Phone, Digital
Bands:	160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2m
Classes:	Single Op (CW/Phone/Digital/Mixed) (QRP/Low/High) Multi-Single (QRP/Low/High) Multi-Multi Single Op County Expedition M/S County Expedition M/M County Expedition Mobile (CW/Phone/Digital/Mixed)(QRP/Low/High)
Max power:	HP: >150 watts. LP: 150 watts. QRP: 5 watts.
Exchange:	7th Area: RS(T) + 5-letter state/county code. Non-7th Area: RS(T) + (state/province/DX).
Work stations:	Once per band per mode per county
QSO Points:	2 points per SSB QSO. 3 points per CW/Digital QSO.
Multipliers:	7th Area: Each state or province once (max of 63), plus each DXCC entity once (max of 10). Non-7th Area: Each 7th area county once
Score Calculation:	Total score = total QSO points x total multipliers
E-mail logs to:	7qlogs@codxc.org
Mail logs to:	7th Call Area QSO Party c/o CODXC 61255 Ferguson Rd Bend, OR 97702 USA
Find rules at:	http://www.codxc.com/new/Page.asp?Content=DRYLAND7S&Page=3

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