

W7DTA

Volume 2011, Issue 6 June 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, June 2, 2011, 6:30 PM **NOTE EARLY TIME**
 Red Cross Building, 60 Hawthorne St., Medford, OR
 Across from Hawthorne Park
 Program: Transmitter Hunting

President's Letter

Use amateur radio..... in PUBLIC!

I recently went on a raft trip (Wild and Scenic Rogue) with a group of almost complete strangers. After my tent was set up, convenient to a tall Douglas fir tree, I put up a low 40m inverted-V dipole. Being careful to not block the path to the outhouse, it was still easily seen by many there. Several passersby asked what it was... a clothes-line?

I said that it was a short wave antenna and I had a complete amateur radio station (the Elecraft KX1) in my tent. Two complete strangers came by and actually knew what I was doing. They were the dad and brother of Jim, WX3B, back in Maryland. We had a great chat and I now have two new friends. The leader of the group, a recently-retired

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Secretary's Report

MINUTES OF THE 5 May 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.

One guest was present, Jerry K6KSI

Since the minutes are in the news-letter they will not be read.
 Treasurer Lud Sibley, KB2EVN's treasurer report is \$4568.56 in the bank.

OLD BUSINESS:
 Scott Cummings, KD7ECB gave a report field day report.

Lud reported that the projector has been ordered and will arrive shortly.

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President's Letter, Continued

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orthopedic surgeon, stopped by with the typical questions. But then we had a significant conversation about the need for backup communications in backcountry situations. Another friend made for amateur radio!

This coming club meeting will be in the public arena as we learn and practice transmitter hunting (T-hunts) in Hawthorne Park. The start time is a bit early, at 6:30. Bring a 2m HT! Our guest, Rich Harrington KN6FW has given T-hunt seminars and demos many times in the Bay area.

Also, please check your social calendar and see if Field Day participation, whether with the club or elsewhere, fits into your plans the last weekend of June. There will be some sort of combined Field Day with the ARES group this year.

7QP wrap

7QP at K7GT was somewhat limited in available time this year but a good time was had. I kept busy on CW and never made it to the phone bands. The time bandit volunteered me for a move for some disabled people and then the electrician friend installing my backup generator had some free time... And with all that I didn't have time to set up TRLog so I just used by regular logging program (carefully to avoid dupes). My entry was Single Op, Low Power, CW only entry. Within a week I received three QSL requests for Jackson county. Was anyone on digital modes? By the way, the backup generator (a 14 KW unit) is now functional!

See you on the 2nd of June with your 2m HT.

Allan Taylor, K7GT

Secretary's Report, Continued

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NEW BUSINESS:

Dave Aikins, KG7HJ father has died and has left lots of equipment for sale.

John (Jack) Morse, WB7SZM passed away. A list of equipment available is in the newsletter [page 6]. Bill Shrader, W7QMU is handling the selling of the equipment.

Bud, W7LNG reports that WWV will soon remove voice propagation forecasts from its frequency beacon broadcasts. An alternate source is:

<http://www.spaceweather.com/>

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

At 2000L Allan called the meeting back into session.

Tom, N5EG talked about the KXAT1 & KAT3 antenna tuners, and showed their tuning range using Smith Charts. He also showed some simple and inexpensive wire antenna raising fixtures.

Allan then talked about various antennas he has used at home and on field days.

Allan announced that next month's meeting will be a half-hour early. He has a guest speaker coming up from California and will talk about and demonstrate foxhunts.

Allan adjourned the meeting at 2100.

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

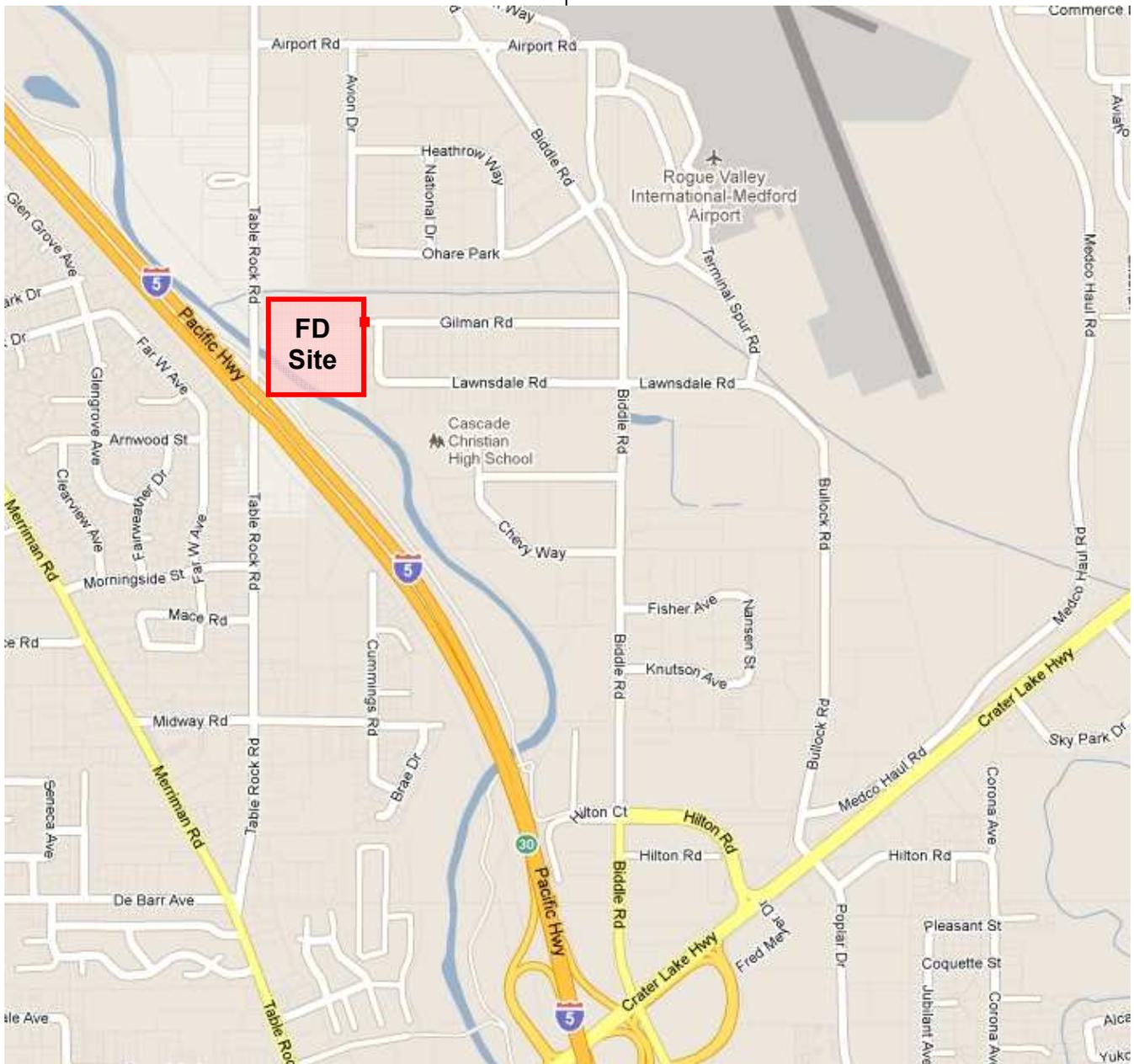
RVARC Field Day — June 25 & 26, 2011

We're still in the planning phase for field day this year. As usual, most of the organizing effort happens during the month of June. I'll be sending out planning emails shortly.

The Jackson County ARES may join us this year—their club was going to vote on the matter, but I have not heard the outcome yet.

Carl VanOrden and Scott Cummings have secured a site—it's the city of Medford Table Rock Park, which is also the Cascade Christian athletic field. **The entrance is at the end of Gilman St. just west of Biddle road north of Hwy 62.** The field is bordered by Table Rock road on the west (but there's no access via Table Rock road). The GPS coordinates of the entrance are:

42 21' 52" N and 122 52' 56" W



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RVARC Field Day — June 25 & 26, 2011

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Herb Grey and I scouted out the site several weeks ago—it's flat, has grassy areas, and a few trees.

Last year we operated class 2A—we had one phone station and one CW station. The ARRL rules last year permitted a free VHF/UHF station for those with two or more transmitters in class A or F. This year the rules permit a free VHF/UHF station for those with one transmitter or more in class A or F.

Additionally, those in category 2A / 2F or higher can operate a GOTA (Get on the Air) station, which must be under a different call-sign, to introduce new or inactive operators to field day. Those licensed since Field Day 2010, any generally inactive amateur, and any unlicensed person (under the supervision of a control operator) may operate the GOTA station. We've not yet decided if there is enough interest for this.

The 2011 Field Day package is on-line and can be downloaded from the ARRL website:

http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Field-Day/2011/2011_FD_Packet.pdf

We will plan to setup on Friday afternoon (June 24th) and operate from 11:00 AM Saturday morning until 11:00 AM Sunday morning, and tear-down Sunday afternoon.

If there is enough interest, we'll try to find a CW and a Phone captain to schedule operators. Last year we had two transmitters. This year we may go back to three transmitters if there are enough people interested.

Organizing Emails will commence shortly.

7QP—Another Perspective

The morning of 7QP dawned bright and sunny this year. The contest starts at 6:00 AM for those in the Pacific time zone.

After starting a large pot of coffee, I fired up on 20 meters at about 7 AM. This Saturday there were also the Indiana and New England QSO parties going on—and operators can all work each other for full credit. I decided to enter Single-operator Low-power SSB category.

The newly elevated practically invisible antenna (a ladderline fed 40M dipole, thus, on 20M it's actually a Double-Zepp) was working well for higher-elevation angle signals, but it's blocked by hills for lower angles to the east. Good reports were received from New Mexico, Arizona, and Kansas (higher elevation angles), but it got increasingly worse the further east the signals were (Florida being particularly tough).

The good news is that stations operating from W7-land are the rare stations that everyone else is looking for, so others will make a strong attempt to work you even if your signal is not hugely strong.

Early in the morning it was possible to hold a run frequency since most of the 20 meter operators were still eating breakfast, but the rates were pretty slow (30 per hour). Morning was spent on 20m—there's a lot of multipliers available on 20m, and they make up for the slow rate. I could hear several portable stations in far eastern Wyoming, they were running fast (and pointing east). As the morning wore on, it proved impossible to hold a frequency ("you're being clobbered" was a frequent comment) and it was necessary to revert to the search-and-pounce operating style.

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7QP—another perspective

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20M did not provide any of the close-in states. A few checks of 15M showed little or no activity. Checked 40m during the day, but there was zero activity. Decided to take the afternoon off, since 20m would be poor at that time.

About 6PM got back on and started up on 40M. Most all the contacts on 40M involve higher-angle signals, and as soon as I got started, the rates were faster—averaging 60+ an hour, and it was easy to hold a frequency. A particularly good run frequency got blitzed by a foreign broadcast station firing up about 8:45 PM.

About 10 PM, 40M started to open up further east, and east coast stations calling on 40M provided badly needed multipliers (New York and Ohio !?!). The sometimes difficult-to-get nearby states (Idaho, Nevada, Washington) were amply filled in by 40M as well.

40M provided the bulk of the contacts, while 20M provided the bulk of the multipliers.

Overall, in 8 hours of operating time, I worked 45 states, and several provinces (but no DX).

Quite a few QSL cards have started showing up in the mail, most all of which are looking to confirm a rare county (Jackson County is moderately rare). I've had to generate a QSL card, and print them on demand. Needed to buy new 29-cent US postage stamps as the post card rate has gone up again.

This was a good time to also renew my certificate for the ARRL Logbook of the World (LOTW), which had been idle for several years. After downloading the revised software from ARRL and sending a new certificate request, the updated cert was received the following working day via email. New

certs are good for 3 years (rather than 1 year).

I operated the contest using Writelog computer logging software, so it was easy to not only generate the Cabrillo file to submit for 7QP, but to also export an ADIF file for LOTW. Once the ADIF file was digitally signed (using the ARRL software) it was uploaded to the LOTW server. By the next morning I had electronic QSLs from about 70 contacts in the 7QP contest .

Cabrillo and **ADIF** are plain-text ASCII files with a few specific rules on how to format the log entries. Most modern logging programs will generate them automatically.

Additionally, multiplier count, band-by-band QSO count, and operating time was entered on the 3830 webform. This webform allows those who have operated the contest to submit claimed scores (subject to reduction as the logs are scored by 7QP). About once a day, the 3830 volunteers consolidate all claimed scores and post a listing on the 3830 email reflector. This lets you get an idea of how other people did that weekend.

The name 3830 comes from the net that used to be on 3.830 MHz after major contests where score rumors were exchanged. The webform automates the rumor-mongering process.

The 3830 webform is located at:
<http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>

The 3830 email reflector archives are located at:
<http://lists.contesting.com/pipermail/3830/>

Tom, N5EG

Amateur Examinations

Amateur Exams are available near both Medford and Grants Pass. The exam fee is \$15.00— bring proof of license or exam elements passed, for prior credit.

Medford—RVARC

Jun 18th and Oct 29th, 8:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed).

Contact: HARRY J EKELUND
(541)282-0854

HEKELUND@EARTHLINK.NET

Location: VA Domiciliary-Building,
223 Crater Lake Hwy -Route 62,
2nd floor North (VA HAM RADIO RM),
White City, OR 97504

Grants Pass—SOARC

Aug 26th and Nov 18th 6:00 PM.

Contact: WILLIAM A TYNER
(541)476-2703

GOODGRENDL@GMAIL.COM

Location: Fruitdale Grange,
960 Rogue River Highway,
Grants Pass, OR. 97526

Ham Estate Sale

The following items are to be sold from the Estate of Jack Morse, WB7SZM. The date of the yard sale is not yet set. For more information, please contact Bill Shrader, W7QMU directly, at 541-773-8624

ICOM

IC-706 All-band
IC-745 HF
IC-551B
IC-28H 2m mobile
IC-2AT 2m HH (qty 3)
IC-2GAT
IC-271 2m base

Kenwood

TM-261 2m
TM-D710 2m
TS-430 HF
TS-44- HF
TM-D700 2m/440

MFJ

MFJ-1274 TNC
MFJ battery splitter

ASTRON

12v 35 amp PS
12v 12 amp PS

Hustler 4BTV HF antenna
AEA Isopole antenna
Swan Cantenna
W4 Drake wattmeter
Weller soldering station

EPSON

740 printer
400 printer

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