



The Repeater

Next Club Meeting

Thursday,
February 6, 2014, 7:00 PM

Red Cross Building,
60 Hawthorne St., Medford, OR
Across from Hawthorne Park
Programs: 1) Online Video Resources for the Resourceful Ham (basics) 2) D-Star: How It Works and Why, Bill Anderson KU6Y (advanced)

Volume 2014, Issue 2

February 2014

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President's Letter

In May 1914, Hiram Percy Maxim, polymath and inventor of the automobile muffler, founded the American Radio Relay League in Hartford, Connecticut. As the name suggests, Maxim and others sought to organize amateurs to relay messages between distant stations. The Navy claimed jurisdiction over radio frequencies, and they took a dim view of amateur-radio enthusiasts.

So the ARRL added protection of Ham privileges to its portfolio. Maxim himself and other amateur activists lobbied Congress and managed to protect and, over the years, expand the importance of the amateur-radio

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The Repeater is the official newsletter of the Rogue Valley Amateur Radio Club, Inc. It is published 10 times a year—once per month excluding July and August.

Secretary's Report

Minutes for January 2, 2014

The meeting was called to order by President Todd Carney, K7TFC at 1900PDT in the meeting room of the Red Cross building in Medford, OR.

Guests included Tom, N7GER, visiting from SOARC in Grants Pass, and Don Montgomery, WB7Q, who is the Emergency Coordinator for JCARES.

Joe Gunderson, AF7GN gave the PIO report. He said there were 23 people interested in the new class starting on January 19. A soldering class will be held on January 12 at the Smullin Center at a cost of \$5 per person. There is an upcoming class addressing RF Exposure and another study class for the

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President's Report, Cont'd.

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service. The League is still at it—and much more--going into its second century.



The RVARC is well into this centennial year, too, and much is going on. In addition to the elected officers, three members will serve on the Executive Board as called for in the Club's Constitution. They are Heath Lerew KF7ZSD, Jackie Wobbe KC7WWJ, and Bob Rogers KG7HPO. The 2014 Field Day Committee includes Don Bennett KG7BP, Ray Abbitt KK6AM, and Heath Lerew KF7ZSD. The Public Information Committee consists of Joe Gunderson, AF7GN, the Club's Public Information Officer, and Curt Hadley KF7VZV. The club's licensing instructors are Rick Arens KF7VZ, Dale Troutman N7IXS, Johnny Jones WA6RHK, Bill Shrader W7QMU, Joe Gunderson AF7GN, Ryan LePage KD7RQ, and Curt Hadley KF7VZV. So far, the Membership Development Committee includes Rita Derbas KI6SSQ, and Mike Bach is on the projects committee. We'll announce members for the Activities (non-Field Day) Committee at the February 6th meeting.

There are plenty of places on these committees for anyone to get more deeply involved. Fortunately, with new technology at our fin-

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Secretary's Report, Cont'd.

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General/Technician exam. Other classes are in the planning stages, and include Extra Class exam study, antenna building, digital modes, and other subjects. Joe proposed that the club grant a free, non-voting membership for the remainder of the year, to the individuals who attend the licensing classes. The proposal was not voted on.

Treasurer's report—Lud, KB2EVN, reported a balance of \$3238.94 in the club treasury. This balance is after the payments of insurance and rental of the meeting room.

Old business—Tom, N5EG, announced that he has badges for the currently paid members. Scott, NA7OM asked about the status on the sale of the club's Drake TR-7 transceiver and accessories. Van, K7VS had offered to sell the equipment, if someone else would help with packing and shipping the items. Status was unknown.

New business—Todd, K7TFC announced that the club constitution allowed for 3 club members to be appointed to the Executive Board. Heath Lerew, KF7ZSD and Jackie Wobbe, KC7WWJ were appointed to the board, with one remaining position pending. Allan, K7GT inquired about Field Day planning. It was suggested by Todd that a committee for Field Day be put in place before the meeting next month. He also thought it would be nice to find a more exposed location this year.

Todd announced that a survey had been posted on the club's website, and asked the members to please take a few minutes to fill one out. The meeting was put on hold at 1915 PDT for "eyeball QSOs" and coffee. The meeting was called back into session at 2000 PDT.

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Rogue Valley Manor DSTAR Repeater: KG7FOJ

We'd like to publicize the following information to the Medford ARC members.

The Rogue Valley Manor has installed a new DSTAR repeater system, KG7FOJ, operating on mode "B", on 444.650 Mhz (no PL). This repeater is operational and open for use by the local hams. It is not yet connected to the internet gateway but will be during the first quarter of 2014. This installation will include a "full stack" of equipment from ICOM with both voice and data (on 1.2Ghz) capabilities. We've installed the 1.2Ghz, 70cm and 2 meter modules but have only activated the 70 cm unit. Antennas have yet to be installed on the "A" and "C" mode frequencies. ORRC is coordinating the frequencies being used.

This is the second repeater in the Rogue Valley. KE7MVI operates a mode B station only on 443.775 MHz. with a Gateway connection.

Please let the club members know of this new installation, we'd appreciate lots of usage from local hams.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year & 73
Bill Anderson, KU6Y

[Ed note: for DSTAR, the modes mean:

- Mode 'A' is 1.2 GHz. (23 cm)
- Mode 'B' is 440 MHz (70 cm)
- Mode 'C' is 2 meters.

DSTAR repeaters usually have both FM voice and digital data modes of operation. Low speed data (4800 bps) is available on modes B and C, while high speed data (128,000 bps) is available only with mode A. Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, has a good slide deck explaining DSTAR: <http://arvideonews.com/otherstuff/Repeaters from A to D by KN4AQ.pdf>]

Secretary's Report, Cont'd.

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Presentation— Don Montgomery, WB7Q, gave an informative presentation on the Jackson county ARES group. JCARES provides emergency back-up communications services for the county when normal communications are down, or overloaded. Don showed the organizational structure of ARES, and presented some of the recent changes locally. Due to the extended question and answer period following the presentation, Todd was unable to show the videos that he had planned. Links to the videos will be sent through the club's email reflector.

The meeting was adjourned at 2055 PDT.

Submitted by Carl VanOrden, W7BRO Secretary

Free to a good home

Morris Prosser, KB6QR has offered his 2012-2013 QST magazines to anyone who would like to pick them up. Otherwise they'll be recycled. Contact Morris at: improsserrvm@charter.net

Footswitch, On-Line Courses

Allan, K7GT, says that he found a nice footswitch \$15 (for phone contesting) at Guitar Center on Crater Lake Highway.

Also—Allan says he is taking several college-level course available at coursera. These are free unless you want to take exams and get a completion certificate. <http://www.coursera.org>

Amateur Radio for Now and the Future

Joe Gunderson AF7GN, PIO

I hope all of you received all the new toys you wanted from Santa and are getting time to play with them. I got my share of new toys and I am sure I will enjoy them throughout the new year.

I will start off the column with what is happening with the new classes for the this coming year.

Here are the instructors who have graciously volunteered their time and energy to help make classes happen this year.

with former NASA certified soldering experts. This was open to all, though reservations were required, as class size is limited. The cost was \$5 for materials used in class. If you missed this one, we will put it on again at a future date.

January 19th - Class starts for the combined Tech/Gen. We think we have worked out the kinks and have a great course created to encourage future Hams to be active and productive members of the Amateur Radio community by teaching the information and



RVARC Class instructors. From left to right; Rick Arens KF7VZ, Dale Trautman N7IXS, Johnny Jones WA6RHK, Bill Shrader W7QMU, Joe Gunderson AF7GN, Ryan LePage KD7RQ and Curt Hadley KF7VZV.

I am striving to make RVARC and JCARES grow into a vibrant and meaningful groups of well rounded Ham's, but Todd Carney K7TFC, Don Montgomery (JCARES), and the instructor staff cannot accomplish this by ourselves, remember this is your hobby and good intentions without follow through are worthless.

All events will be held at the Smullin Center of Rogue Regional Medical Center, Sundays at 3pm, unless otherwise specified.

January 5th we held a Meet N' Greet to show what the course offers, the costs and answer any questions that the future student may have, as well as order their text books for class. This was deemed a huge success. January 12th - We offered a Soldering class

tools necessary to be a successful and not just the answers to pass the tests. To augment this course we have a couple of field trips on different Saturdays. We will be caravanning to Rickreal the 15th of February and on another day we will visit Dales ham shack, we feel this will broaden the education of the new future new Ham's.

The Extra class is still in flux - I have obtained a larger allotment of time to hold this class at the Smullin Center. We are still formulating the curriculum into some semblance of order. It appears that we are delving into an area that has never been accomplished for class instruction, other than cram question and answer method. So it will take some additional time to get this presentation

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Amateur Radio for Now and the Future, Cont'd.

Joe Gunderson AF7GN, PIO

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together. We are fortunate to have several great Instructors to help achieve this endeavor, but we could sure use more help. If you might be interested please let me know. So as not to waste this additional time we will offer other mini courses that are being developed. I have just finished putting a RF Exposure class together, to be in compliance with FCC regulations for your station. And we will hold another solder class for those interested in brushing up their solder skills or learning this skill.

You may ask yourself why all this work for the different classes, the answer is quite simple, the more we know about our hobby, the more fun we can have as Hams with it. This also allows our club to become more vibrant and diverse. I am looking for someone who really understands APRS to collaborate with us, so we can present a class on that subject. The same applies to other digital modes, antenna modeling etc. Note: This does mean we are obligating you to teach the class just help develop it.

I am also in the process of updating and verifying the VIP list for Field Day invitations. I am also working on a presentation of Amateur Radio to run continuously for the PIO Booth. Any suggestions or help is very much welcome. We are also looking at getting some PSA's on the local TV stations and radio, which looks like a real possibility.

I have three volunteers for the PIO steering Committee Chair Judy Shrader KA7OFM, Jackie Wobbe KC7WWJ and Ryan LePage KD7RQ, I would like one more person on the committee, it is basically a "think tank" via email with maybe one or two eyeball to eyeball meetings. If you might be interested give me a call or email and discuss what is required.

One final note we are having a special test session February 2 at 1:30pm to 3pm, at the Smullin Center.

Remember the future is now! 73

Upcoming Hamfests & Swapmeets

There are several Hamfests and fleamarkets that have been announced for the spring and early summer.

Rickreall—Saturday, February 15th, 2014. \$7 preregistration, \$8 at the door. Ticket sales open at 8AM on-site, doors open at 9 AM. Ten miles west of Salem, where Highway 22 meets US 99W, at the Polk County Fairgrounds, then ½ mile south on 99. Sponsored by the Salem Repeater Association.

Mike and Key ARC Fleamarket— Saturday, March 8th, 2014. Pavillion Exhibition Hall, Washington State Fair Grounds, 110 9th Avenue SW, Puyallup, WA 98371. Admission \$8. Opens 9AM.

SeaPac—Fri-Sun, June 6th—June 8th, 2014. Seaside Convention Center, 415 First Ave., Seaside, OR. There are two Friday workshops this year, 'Contesting and Station Improvement' is all-day, 'HSMM-Mesh' is in the afternoon. Normally separate registration is required for workshops. The on-line registration page opens February 15th, when admission and registration rates should be announced.

**ARRL Pacific Northwest Section Leadership changes.
James D Pace, K7CEX becomes ARRL Northwestern Division Director.**

Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF has been elected to as ARRL Second Vice President., thus vacating his ARRL Northwestern Division Director position.

As Jim leaves his Director's chair, Jim Pace K7CEX becomes the Director of the Northwest Division serving out the unexpired term of Mr. Fenstermaker.

Moving to the Vice Director's chair is Bonnie Altus, AB7ZQ the former Section Manager of Oregon and taking her SM spot will be Everett Curry, W6ABM; both Bonnie and Everett will serve the balance of those respective unexpired terms. Although change is sometimes seen as difficult, the people moving to new positions are experienced and have been anticipating these moves since last Fall. Please give your support to the team in their new positions.

Committee Appointments

At the January Board meeting, Jim was assigned to two committees: The Administration and Finance Committee and the Legal Defense Committee. He asks that if you have any matters you wish presented to either committee, let him know by email – nwdvd@comcast.net ,or phone 360 508 8437.

CC&R Legislative Matters

Jim notes 'Although there isn't too much to report at this point, I do expect some movement in the League's efforts to legislatively mitigate Amateur Radio's need to have more antenna flexibility in areas governed by CC&R's. I will keep you updated when I have more information, but I see a positive future.

SeaPac Division Centennial Convention

Please join us at Seaside Oregon on June 6 – 8 for the Northwestern Division ARRL Cen-

tennial Convention. I understand that hotel rooms are going fast so make your reservations soon. Visiting the convention from ARRL Headquarters will be President Kay Craigie, N3KN, 2nd Vice President Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF, Individual Giving Manager Lauren Clarke, KB1YDD, Public and Media Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X and other members of the ARRL Leadership Team. Come by the ARRL table, just inside the convention entrance, and say hello.'

President's Column, Continued.

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gertips, asynchronous "virtual" meetings and other work can take place mostly online. Each committee member is encouraged him or herself to calibrate the level of involvement--from S1 to S9+20dB. Older members are particularly valuable for their decades of experience and growth in ham radio. So do let me know how you'd like to be involved.

By the way, there's been lots of good activity on the Peak Radio Association system of linked repeaters (coverage from Yreka to Longview, WA) lately. There's a net every night, and usually plenty of commute-time traffic as well. The Oregon Railfan Net had its first weekly session on the PRA last Monday at 146.94 (PL 136.5) on King Mt at 20:00 local. Among other recent traffic has been an English ham who has made several visits via Echolink. I imagine that some Echolink or IRLP activity coming from our end to virtually anywhere in the world could really get the repeaters humming.

RVARC Dues 2014

RVARC membership dues run from January 1 through December 31. Please bring cash or a check payable to RVARC to a club meeting, or mail (checks only) to:

RVARC Membership
c/o 102 McDonough Rd.
Gold Hill, OR 97525-9626

Regular Member:	\$20.00
Senior Member (62 and over):	\$15.00
Family Member:	\$20.00
Student Member:	\$10.00

HT and Repeater Workshop

Having trouble programming your new HT? Confused about V/UHF repeaters, IRLP, Echolink, and perhaps more? You're not alone! Join us for a hands-on workshop for questions, answers, illustrations, demonstrations, and information on the local repeaters.

February 18th, 7:00PM-8:30PM, at the Santo Community Center, 701 N. Columbus Ave., Medford.

All are invited, RVARC members or not!

2014 Amateur Radio Examinations

In the Rogue Valley, amateur radio exams are provided by the RVARC and the SOARC. New exam participants need to provide identification, while upgrading amateurs need to **provide a copy of their current license** as well as show identification. The exam fee for 2014 remains \$15.00. All license candidates must provide a picture ID. Upgrading amateurs must also provide a photocopy of their current license to send in with their application. To search for other exam locations, see:

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.phtml> or our club webpage: <http://w7dta.org>

Medford—Phoenix, OR

Time: Saturdays, 8:30 AM. Exam session starts at 9:00 AM. Walk-ins welcome.

Location: Fire District 5 HQ. 5811 South Pacific Highway, Phoenix, Oregon 97535

Dates 2014: Feb 22 Jun 21 Oct 25

Contact: Don Bennett, Email: kg7bp@rfwarrior.com Phone: (541) 973-3625

Grants Pass

Time: Fridays 6:00 PM. Exam session starts at 6:30 PM. Walk-ins welcome.

Location: Fruitdale Grange. 1440 Parkdale Dr., Grants Pass OR 97527-5288

Dates 2014: Feb 21 May 16 Aug 22 Nov 14

Contact: John Stubbe, K7VSU, email: K7VSU@arrl.net, Phone: (541) 218-2244

Roseburg, Bend, Redding, Brookings, Crescent City— no information received. Please see our club webpage, <http://w7dta.org> for updates as we receive schedules for these cities.

Next Club Meeting

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2) D-Star: How It Works and Why, Bill Anderson KU6Y (advanced)