



# The Repeater

## Next Club Meeting

Thursday,  
November 6, 2014, 7:00 PM

Red Cross Building,  
60 Hawthorne St., Medford, OR  
Across from Hawthorne Park

Program: DXing,  
Election of Officers

Volume 2014, Issue 11

November 2014

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## President's Letter

Obsolete?

At the club's annual swap meet in September, the technology of all but the first few decades of amateur radio was on display. Vacuum tubes, transmitting coils, high-voltage variable capacitors, quartz crystals, and "boat-anchor" rigs from the 1950s were juxtaposed with software-defined radios, with everything in between in various hybrid combinations. But isn't all that older stuff "obsolete"? Not on your grandfather's spark gap!

The thing is, all that earlier technology still

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## Secretary's Report

RVARC - Minutes for October 2, 2014  
The meeting was called to order at 1900 PDT in the meeting room of the Red Cross building - Medford, OR by Todd Carney, K7TFC.

Bill O'Brien, KG7NII recently obtained his General Class license. Visitors include Phil and Janis Frazier, who expressed interest in the emergency communications aspects of ham radio.

## New Business

Scott, NA7OM spoke briefly about the upcoming California QSO Party, and the County Expedition effort of the Rogue RF Project in Del Norte county. The contest is October 4-5.

*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.

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## President's Report, Cont'd.

(Continued from page 1)

works as well as it always has, except I suppose if you think that reducing VFO drift down to 10 ppm over 60 minutes is something you can't live without. With good ol' ovenized oscillators and other forms of thermal stabilization, I'm satisfied enough to get on the air without concern over some good honest drift. If some Barney-Fife operator wants to complain my signal drifts 10Hz per hour, he can kiss my plate chokes, and he'd get what's coming to him, too.

Not until the twentieth century did "obsolete" enter the everyday talk of ordinary people. Within the scope of what we all call "technology"—all dependent on electricity—change has come at a dizzying pace. In some cases, new developments result in real value added to the human condition, while others only serve to foster dissatisfaction and discontent. And always there's something else to buy. I'm as fond of technology as the next radio amateur, but I'm more fond of contentment and peace of mind, especially when the proffered advances seem---to me at least---less than compelling.

In gaining some insight into this march into perpetual obsolescence, it's worthwhile to look at other technologies that have survived the onslaught of the "new and improved." Painting did not disappear upon the introduction of photography in the middle of the nineteenth century. It's still alive and well in the art world, and materials for it are available, even at "big-box" superstores. Though typewriters have been mostly supplanted by desk- or laptop computers, pen, pencil, and paper have not. Synthetic textiles are superior (easier to maintain) in most respects to those made of cotton or wool, but natural fibers used since before recorded history are still very-much in use. And so on.

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## Secretary's Report, Cont'd.

(Continued from page 1)

Don Bennett, KG7BP announced the next license exam session will be Saturday, October 25 at the firehouse in Phoenix.

Don Bennett, KG7BP was appointed to the nominating committee for the upcoming election of officers. Anyone interested in serving in any of the positions should contact Don before the next meeting.

PACIFICON is next weekend in California. Swaptober Fest will be held on October 25 in Rickreall. OR.

### **Old Business**

Jackie Wobbe, KC7WWJ reported that the women's club, WHAMS, has 30 members. Complete with t-shirts and hats, the group has access to 3 repeaters, and has active nets, along with many social activities.

### **Treasurer's report**

Lud, KB2EVN, reported a balance of \$3577.93 in the club treasury.

Todd, K7TFC, showed a short video showing examples of HF DXing, using a microphone a lots of audio processing. The meeting was put on hold at 1932 PDT for "eyeball QSOs" and coffee. The meeting was called back into session at 2000 PDT Presentation.

Tom McDermott, N5EG gave a presentation on Digital Signal Processing using gnuradio. Topics included theory of DSP and software applications. Use of Gnuradio DSP blocks to construct a tunable SSB receiver was demonstrated, listening to a pre-recorded segment of the entire 20 meter ham band.

The meeting was adjourned at 2100 PDT.

Submitted by Carl VanOrden, W7BRO Secretary

## President's Report, Cont'd.

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Likewise, the technology of the codex was a true advance over the book scroll since a scroll can be accessed only in a fixed sequence, while any page of a codex can be accessed immediately. A synoptic skimming of a codex is no more difficult than flipping through its pages. Not so with a scroll. Well, though our tablets and notebook computers are right up to date, we're now back to scrolling. Not everything new is unassailably better.

I admit this may be much 'ado about nothing, and in fact it may be only slightly more meaningful than any other garden-variety navel-gazing and pseudo-intellectual self indulgence. But the old boat anchors and hollow-state gear is still around, the coils and capacitors are still used by some to create tuned circuits, and it can all live side-by-side in anyone's radio shack. It does in mine. It's one of the "cool" things about Ham Radio.

73, Todd K7TFC

Field Day 2014 Photos courtesy Jerry Fulstone, K6KSI



## **Harry J. Ekelund, AE7NY SK**

Former RVARC club member, and Volunteer Examiner Harry Ekelund, AE7NY, passed away recently.

Harry J. Ekelund  
AGE: 67 • Ossining NY

Harry J. Ekelund, a former resident of Ossining and a resident of Southbury, CT, passed away Tuesday, September 23, 2014.

Harry was born in Freeport, NY on May 18, 1947 and was the son of the late Harry J. and Gertrude (Hanley) Ekelund. He was 67. Harry was a graduate of Manhattan College with a BS in Electrical Engineering and he received his MBA, with a minor in Marketing from Iona College. Harry married the former June Hunter on September 28, 1975 in Ossining. He was a 35 year member of the Ossining Fire Dept., Independent Hose Co. 6. He was also a former member of the Fairview Fire Dept. in Greenburgh, the Montrose Fire Dept. He was currently a member of the Southbury Fire Dept., Southbury, CT. He was an avid Ham Radio Operator and Golfer.

Harry is survived by his wife June; his sons Bryan (Kendra), Andrew (Michelle); 2 grandchildren Ryan and Lilliana; his siblings Nancy (Gerard) Black and John (Angela).

## **Online Electronics Courses Allan Taylor, K7GT**

An online electronics course has just begun. This course is a MOOC (massive open online course) through Georgia Tech and Coursera. It will cover diodes, transistors, and op amps.

It lasts four weeks and is now running. It can be taken in various ways from just listening to lectures to obtaining a certificate. No college credit, however. There is also a previous course on linear circuits through Georgia Tech that would be useful as a review (?!). I enjoyed it and am working through the electronics course.

To take the course, sign up with:  
[coursera.org](https://www.coursera.org)  
and look for electronics.

There are many other courses that may be of interest to club members. Courses include:

- How GPS really works (a Stanford course).
- Beginning Python programming.
- Programming for Android devices, etc.

/ k7gt

## K6D—Del Norte County Expedition - 2014 California QSO Party

### Scott Cummings, NA7OM

[ Ed Note: Scott, NA7OM, Carl, W7BRO, John, W8WOM, Paula, NX1P, and Rob , W7GH, (and I missed one or two) operated in the 49th California QSO Party. They acquired a special-event callsign, K6D, and mounted a county expedition to Del Norte County, California. ]



2014-10-05 09

By kf7ibn  
roguerfproject

Operating from DELN is very challenging and has it's own unique set of solutions akin to planning any dxpedition, minus the airfare! The technical issues of setting up an effective 4-radio portable contest station on a postage stamp size mountain top to do well in Del Norte for CQP, with all the baggage, power generation, antennas and provisions for a 6-person crew, is logistically daunting.

Rogue RF Project had operated in CQP last year as K6R from the coastal plain in the northwest portion of the county and did well enough, but shooting signals from our gain antennas straight into 5000' mountains rising just a few miles away was cause enough to scout for a better location and refine our best signal, small package, MM/LP (Multi-

Operator, Multi-transmitter, Low-Power) mountaintop modus operandi. Not an easy task in such mountainous and remote terrain. Experimenting with the extremely tight setup of close proximity antennas over the year led the Rogue RF Project crew to how not to "get into" each other's radio frontends

and take the highest point score in 7QP 2014, while operating from a 5200' moun-

taintop in Oregon in terrible WX conditions. We were ready for the 49th running of the California QSO Party.

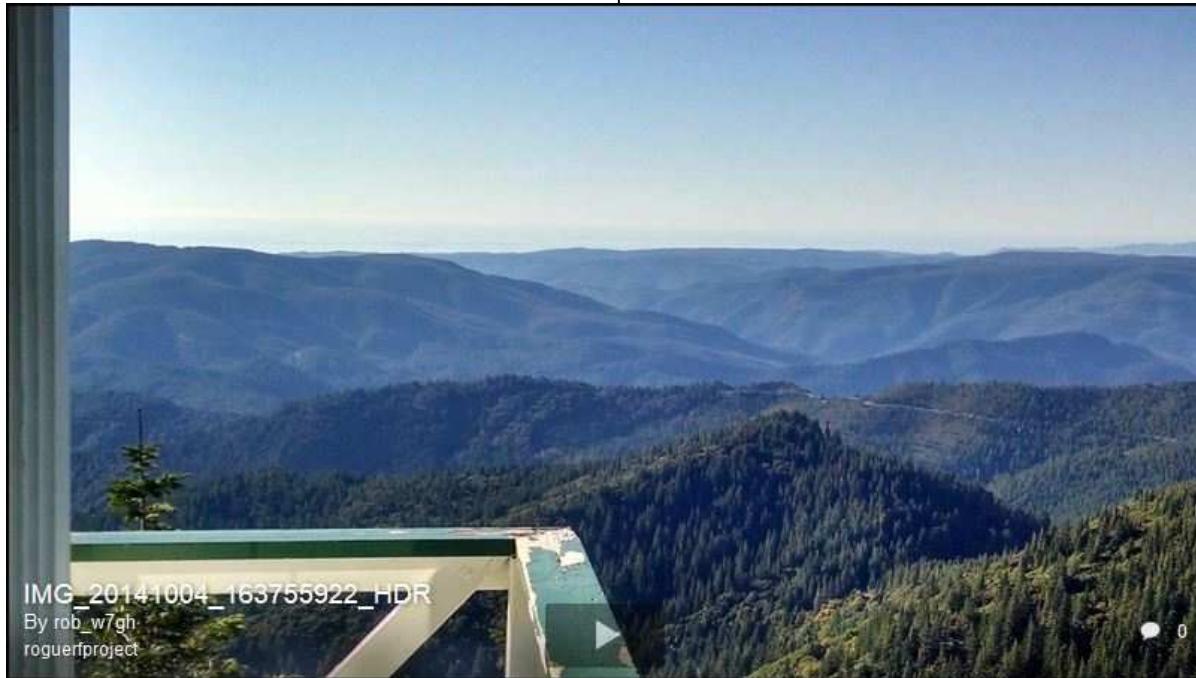
Months of pouring over maps, planning and field trips found a 5300' ASL north/south running ridge line, mountain antenna support structure with amenities and as luck would have it, the forest service was cooperative and very helpful. We used a Hex multiband wire beam by foldingantenna.com plus a 2 element, lightweight triband yagi, tower mounted, plus wire dipoles for the low bands for the 2 station CW crew and a TH3MK3 multiplexed tribander that was trailer mounted and wire dipole for 40 meters for the 2 station SSB crew. 10 KW of power generation and operators just crazy enough to think

**K6D—Del Norte County Expedition - 2014 California QSO Party**  
**Scott Cummings, NA7OM**



**K6D—Del Norte County Expedition - 2014 California QSO Party**  
**Scott Cummings, NA7OM**

packing equipment, radios, tower sections  
and antennas up a steep rocky trail like  
mountain goats and operate 30 hours



IMG\_20141004\_163755922\_HDR  
By rob\_w7gh  
roguerfproject

was....fun! It was fun, we're have to do it  
again in next year's 50th CQP.



DSCN0916  
By w8wom  
roguerfproject

# November 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 • ARRL Sweepstakes CW
2 • ARRL Sweepstakes CW	3 • Oregon Railfan Net.	4	5	6 • <b>RVARC Club Meeting</b> • Women Hams Net • ARES Net.	7	8
9	10 • Oregon Railfan Net.	11	12	13 • Women Hams Net • ARES Net.	14	15 • ARRL Sweepstakes Phone
16 • ARRL Sweepstakes Phone	17 • Oregon Railfan Net.	18	19	20 • Women Hams Net • ARES Net.	21	22
23	24 • Oregon Railfan Net.	25	26	27 • Women Hams Net • ARES Net.	28 • CQ WW DX CW	29 • CQ WW DX CW
30 • CQ WW DX CW						

## Events

- Thursday November 6th - 7:00 PM RVARC Club Meeting, Red Cross Building
- Thursdays 7:00 PM—Women Hams Net K7RVM Repeater 147.000 (+) [ PL 123.0 ]
- Thursdays 7:30 PM - ARES Net. K7RVM repeater 147.000 (+) [ PL 123.0 ]
- Mondays at 8:00 PM. Oregon Railfan Net. K7FH King Mountain Repeater 146.940 (-) [ PL 136.5 ]. Also available on Echolink: Node #50239 or K7TVL-L
- Next Newsletter: December Issue. Deadline for input: November 20th
- ARRL Sweepstakes Contest: Nov 1-2: CW Nov 15-16: Phone
- CQ World Wide DX Contest: Nov 28-30: CW

## RVARC Membership

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

## For Sale / Wanted

### 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:** Oct 25

**Contact:** Don Bennett, Email: [kg7bp@rfwarrior.com](mailto: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:** Nov 14

**Contact:** John Stubbe, K7VSU, email: [K7VSU@arrl.net](mailto: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**

**Thursday, November 6, 2014, 7:00 PM**

**Red Cross Building, 60 Hawthorne St., Medford, OR Across from Hawthorne Park**

**Program: DXing, Election of Officers**