



The Repeater

Next Club Meeting

Thursday,
April 2, 2015, 7:00 PM

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

Basic Program: Decibel, S-Unit,
Audio demonstration.
Advanced: Global Positioning Sat-
ellites (GPS)

Volume 2015, Issue 4

April 2015

Allan Taylor K7GT (541) 855-2054
 Don Bennett KG7BP (541) 618-5189
 Bob Deuel K2GLO (541) 482-8752
 Carl Van Orden W7BRO (541) 326-5871
 Tom McDermott N5EG (541) 734-4675
 Club Web Page:

k7gt@arrl.net
kq7bp@arrl.net
k2glo@ikasystems.com
carl@pacificwest.com
n5eg@tapr.org
<http://w7dta.org>

President & Webmaster
 Vice President
 Treasurer
 Secretary
 Newsletter & Membership

President's Report

Well, spring is here and thoughts of antennas, field operations, and fellowship should be in your radio-affected head. All three of those are in mine right now. My work schedule was overwhelming last week, but the grades are now in, the apple trees are all pruned, and spring break just began! I am off Monday (a week ago Monday as I am now writing on March 22nd) to pickup a rather large HF antenna. There are plans afoot for both 7QP and Field Day, and I am greatly looking forward to the upcoming months. As it turns out, central to all of these things is CW, that traditional operating mode. To win a multi-mode contest like 7QP, CaQP, or the uncontest contest Field Day, a group needs to assemble a working set of CW ops. Unfortunately that small group of

(Continued on page 2)

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

RVARC - Minutes for March 5, 2015

The meeting was called to order in the meeting room of the Red Cross building - Medford, OR. by Allan Taylor, K7GT at 1900 L. Members and guests present introduced themselves, and stated the year they were first licensed. Guests included:

- Herb Ward, K7FH,
- Glenda Taylor, K7GRT,
- Carrie Clifford-Bishop, K7HSD,
- Rich Payne, WW6NZL,
- Bonnie Hadley, KG7EJW,
- Michael Whiteman,
- Michael Flynn.

The introductory presentation was given by Tom McDermott, N5EG "How to use an SWR Meter."

(Continued on page 2)

President's Report, Continued.

(Continued from page 1)

really good CW operators is dwindling both from advancing age and the dropping of the code requirements for licensing. Slower ops can make a significant contribution and add to the fellowship of these events. It is far better to have two ops taking turns at, say, 15 wpm than no ops at 30+. This note is to encourage tasting the CW waters and to become aware of various learning options.

First, a few words on the advantages of CW (I will ignore any disadvantages for now!):

- You can operate and have fun with a head cold or laryngitis.
- You can operate at midnight and not wake the wife or kids.
- You can (with practice) get intelligence out of a very small piece of RF spectrum.
- You can get awe and respect from those unwilling to even try.
- You can get fame, honor and glory by helping your club or group win their category.
- You can critique movies with phoney morse messages.
- You can be a 'hired gun' and operate from exotic locations. DXpeditions always need top notch CW operators.
- You can analyze the propagation path mentally as the tonal character of the sent message is known. (backscatter, multipathing, auroral flutter, etc.).

There are more! Jump in and swim a bit!

In somewhat of a turnabout, several organizations have formed recently to encourage and provide tutelage in CW. I am aware of FISTS, SKCC, and CWops. There may be others. I personally was (am?) a member of FISTS and more recently of CWops. I am personally not acquainted with SKCC (see Carl, he is) FISTS is aimed at a relatively slow operating style while CWops (membership, at least) is for the faster set. Membership is by nomination for good operating style and at speeds of at least 25 wpm.

(Continued on page 3)

Secretary's Report, Continued.

(Continued from page 1)

Old Business

Allan, K7GT, announced that he had met with the District 3 Fire Chief concerning use of the field near Dodge Bridge. He walked the field with the Fire Chief, and signed the release forms. Allan talked about some of the details related to using the facility.

Allan asked about an update on the sale of the Drake TR-7 Transceiver. No information was available.

New Business

Don Bennett, KG7BP announced that the recent testing session resulted in 17 people getting licenses or upgrades. There were 2 Extra- Class, 5 General, and 10 Technicians. Curt Hadley, KF7VZV, said there were 17 students attending the current Technician/General licensing class. These classes are held at the Smullin Center on Sundays from 2 to 5 pm.

Treasurer's Report

Bob Deuel, K2GLO, reported a balance of \$3470.20 in the club treasury.

The meeting was put on hold at 1932 L for "eyeball QSOs" and coffee. The meeting was called back into session at 2000 L Presentation. Lud Sibley, KB2EVN took us back a hundred years and the technology that was in use during that era, with a presentation on Victorian Technology. This is a centennial year for two different landmark events, the first transcontinental telephone service, and the start of radio telephony across the Atlantic. Lud described the development of techniques used, and the obstacles that had to be overcome for long distance landline telephone operations. He also described the first stations used for trans-Atlantic radio telephone operations.

(Continued on page 3)

Secretary's Report, Continued.

(Continued from page 2)

The meeting was adjourned at 2030 L. Submitted by Carl VanOrden, W7BRO Secretary

President's Report, Continued

(Continued from page 2)

CWops was formed some years back by a great group of CW ops. They are generally contesters but include many rag chewers. A main emphasis of CWops is to take that experience set and use it to help others with the CW art. CWops has created several programs to help others improve their speed and usage of CW. First out was their CW academy program which pairs a mentee with an on the air mentor. More recently is their advisor on the air program. Follows is an extract from a recent CWops newsletter asking for more advisors and a summary of current activity in that program.

Weekly Highlights: This past week was our first week for CWA HF. The CWAHF Advisors will match the sending speed of the calling station. We are using 20 wpm character speed and adding sufficient spacing to drop the overall speed down as necessary. We can be identified on 7.035 by the 'CWA' at the end of our transmissions. Check the CWA HF calendar for available advisors and times.

Rob, K6RB is the President of CWops and also one of our volunteer HF Advisors. K6RB has many interests, one of which is restoring and maintaining vintage radio gear. Rob is using his vintage Globe King500/75A-4 station on CWA HF.

Cap, W0CCA can be heard Fridays at 0300 (UTC) introducing the 'Bug Practice time' hour. Cap is an accomplished Bug user and was keying his beloved Frattini J36 this last week. Of course Cap has many more Bugs in his collection and will bring out a different one each week.

Joe, N3HEE is on several times a week (check the calendar for times) and besides being a very accomplished operator, offers a unique opportunity for all stations that work him. N3HEE has a live You tube connection going while he is in QSO and you can watch the video after you QSO with Joe. This allows an opportunity to hear how you sound live on the air, and from time to time, N3HEE even provides commentary on the QSO (or is he just talking to himself out loud ? You decide!). Ask Joe to send you the link to your session. Here is a Youtube link to one of last week's sessions: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cjDgrfyOERc>

More information online at: <http://cwops.org>
and for this program specifically: <http://cwops.org/cwa-aota.html>

Bottom line: there are ways to learn and improve Morse code and its art. Remember, Technician licensees have CW privileges on HF!

Program suggestions and presenters wanted! If you have a topic you would like to investigate or present, please step up.

73 Allan K7GT

This Month's Programs

Basic Program — “Decibel, S-Unit”

This will cover “What’s a Decibel? What’s an S-Unit?” and provide an audio demonstration with voice and CW signals at various signal to noise ratios with increasing 1 S-unit signal improvements so you can hear for yourself.

Advanced Program — “Global Positioning Satellites” Allan Taylor, K7GT

The program will provide an overview of the GPS global positioning system, a space-based satellite system location and time information service.

7QP / Show the Oregon Flag

Dick Frey K4XU coordinates the 7th Call Area QSO Party for Oregon. He reminds us to prepare for this annual "Show of the Oregon Flag" the first weekend in May:

The 9th annual 7QP will run this year on Saturday, May 2. We have an outstanding record to uphold. Based on number of logs received, 7QP is now the 3rd largest QSO party in the land. For the past several years we have had all 36 Oregon Counties on the air. Info at www.7QP.org.

Remember the Digital category. We can help out all those guys looking for Oregon on RTTY or PSK31. Digital modes provide also another way to get more new operators with modest stations into the activity on HF. And if you log with your computer, please email us a copy of your log even if you don't care to compete for an award. It helps us score the event.

Whether you can participate this year or not, I'd appreciate your reply to confirm your email address and so we can make other arrangements to cover your county. Gilliam, Harney, Hood River, Malheur, Morrow, Sherman, Wasco, and Wheeler remain as targets for expeditions and/or mobiles.

Talk it up when you can. Consider giving a talk to your local club about the 7QP. Your support and enthusiasm for this event is the backbone of the participation in Oregon. And remember to put May 2nd on your wife's calendar so you don't get pre-scheduled.

Thanks and 73,

Dick, K4XU
Bend, OR

April 2015

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1	2 • RVARC Club Meeting • Women Hams Net • ARES Net.	3	4
5	6	7 • Women Hams Net	8	9 • Women Hams Net • ARES Net.	10	11 Georgia QSO Party
12 Georgia QSO Party	13	14 • Women Hams Net	15	16 • Women Hams Net • ARES Net.	17	18
19	20	21 • Women Hams Net	22	23 • RVARC April Newsletter Input Deadline • Women Hams Net • ARES Net.	24	25 Florida QSO Party
26 Florida QSO Party	27	28 • Women Hams Net	29	30 • Women Hams Net • ARES Net.		

Events

- Thursday March 5th - 7:00 PM RVARC Meeting. Red Cross Building Medford.
- Tuesdays & 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]
- April 11, 12 — Georgia QSO Party Phone & CW.
Rules: <http://www.georgiasoparty.org>
- April 25, 26—Florida QSO Party Phone & CW.
Rules: <http://www.floridasoparty.org/rules.html>
- Next Newsletter: May Issue. Deadline for input: April 23rd

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 1058 Linda Ave.
Ashland OR 97520

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

RVARC Silent Keys

2015 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 2015 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, Registration 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 2015: Feb 28 Jun 20 Oct 31

Contact: Don Bennett, Email: kq7bp@rfwarrior.com Phone: (541) 973-3625

Grants Pass

Time: Fridays Registration 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 2015: Feb 20 May 15 Aug 21 Nov 20

Contact: John Stubbe, K7VSU, email: jstubbe7@gmail.com Phone: (541) 218-2244

Roseburg, Bend, Redding, Brookings, Crescent City — Please see our club webpage, <http://w7dta.org> for updates as we receive schedules for these cities.

Next Club Meeting

**April 2, 2015, 7:00 PM Red Cross Building,
60 Hawthorne St., Medford, OR Across from Hawthorne Park
Basic Program: Decibel, S-Unit, audio demonstration
Advanced: Global Positioning Satellites (GPS)**