



# The Repeater

## Next Club Meeting

Saturday August 25, 2018,  
9:00 AM—1:00 PM

Kathrein / Scala  
555 Airport Rd.,  
Medford, OR

Program:  
Annual Swapmeet  
(no business meeting)

Volume 2018, Issue 9

September 2018

Allan Taylor K7GT (541) 855-2054  
John Laybourne W8WOM  
Mike Bach WB6FFC (541) 830-3346  
John Armstrong KF7UMK (541) 899-1917  
Tom McDermott N5EG (541) 734-4675  
Club Web Page:

[k7gt@arrl.net](mailto:k7gt@arrl.net)  
[w8wom@hotmail.com](mailto:w8wom@hotmail.com)  
[eaglepoint.or@juno.com](mailto:eaglepoint.or@juno.com)  
[john@kf7umk.com](mailto:john@kf7umk.com)  
[n5eg@tapr.org](mailto:n5eg@tapr.org)  
<http://w7dta.org>

President  
Vice President  
Treasurer  
Secretary  
Newsletter & Membership

## President's Letter

Big announcement: RVARC now has a new and ongoing place for club meetings. Thanks to John Laybourne for good detective work and following up on leads. Bravo! The club will meet at the usual time and dates but will be at the Medford Police Department community meeting room. This is adjacent to city hall and the courthouse in Medford. We need to be good guests and, needless to say, concealed carry or unconcealed carry are both big no-nos. A club officer will pick up the key before 6:30 PM each meeting day to get access to the room. It is BIG, capable of some 150 occupants. Plenty of parking, too.

More big news: Mike Bach WB6FFC has negotiated with Kathrein and with Cascade

*(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

2018-06-07 RVARC Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 7:01pm by Club President Allen Taylor, K7GT. Attendance was of about 23 persons including newer folks: Cody, Trinidad Flores, KG7VXO and Tom Hartkop, N8BKJ.

Preparations for Field Day weekend June 23-24 were discussed. The club got the 1x1 callsign K7N for this event and the category will be 3A, comprising a GOTA, a CW, and 2 phone stations of under 150 watts transmit power. (Logging programs should be able to provide output in the Cabrillo or ADIF file format.)

Permits were obtained from Ashland Fire Dept and fire extinguishers were recertified. Porta-potties were ordered at a cost of \$25.

Setup will begin at Noon on the 22nd and teardown at 11am on the 24th.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## President's Letter, Continued.

*(Continued from page 1)*

Christian to use a large room in the SCALA building for the RVARC swapmeet. 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Saturday August 25. Bring tables and chairs! as there are none there presently. Again, be good guests. Bravo Mike!

After the Medford PD room is in use, we will need to thank the Red Cross folks, Rod King especially, for their allowing us to use the training room at their Crater Lake Ave suite. They have been good to us over many years.

It would appear that summer is coming to a close. Hopefully your summer went well enough in site of the smoke and fires. My summer had three main goals:

- 1) be an active SOTA (Summits on the Air) activator,
- 2) purchase and set up a nontrivial emergency power system,
- 3) spend at least 8 days rafting on a river.

I was on a good run as far as SOTA activations until the fires broke out. My last of three was in northern California with Matt KC7OOY. We had activated Condrey mountain about 10 miles south into Siskiyou county. It was an easy hike and, except for leaving my primary rig at home (!!), and was successful as a SOTA activation (I borrowed his KX2 when he was through!). As we looked to the east we noticed a less than clear sky. A general haze was there where it had been much clearer when we arrived on the summit. We had driven together from Silver Fork gap and upon our return Matt went east and I went north through the Applegate.

That general haze was the first signs of what would soon be called the Klamathon fire. He drove into the mess around Coles-tine road and that freeway closure. As a result, the main access to those enticing summits was closed (and remains closed). I learned a bunch in the activations, though. CW rules. I always had several times the

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Secretary's Report

*(Continued from page 1)*

Scott, NA7OM, will provide a tribander. Mike, WB6FFC, will provide a 2 element 40M beam, a 5 element 20M beam, a 40 M wire antenna, and an 80M wire antenna.

Food costs last year were in the \$300 range, so a motion was made by Tom, N5EG, that the club authorize a maximum of \$350 for all field day expenses. Jason Davis, KI7ITJ, seconded. The vote passed unanimously. The CARE club volunteered to share in the field day food expenses.

The Treasurer reported a bank balance of \$4608.21 after 7QP food expenses and new members dues.

The club swap meet is traditionally held the last full weekend in August, and we still have not determined where it is to be held. Allen, K7GT, said there could be a suitable room at the Medford Police dept. That needed further investigation.

Jim Brendle requested volunteers to help with communication for the Wild Rogue Relay race to be held June 15th and 16th.

Break for coffee and visiting at 7:31pm.

At 7:50pm, Allen, K7GT, gave a presentation on portable operating.

Three antenna deployments were considered. For Park usage: fiberglass poles and trees are used to hold antennas. Power can be from sch 24 flooded lead-acid batteries.

For backpacking usage: bungee-cord and wire antennas thrown over trees. Radios can be like the 15 Watt Elecraft K2 which Allen powered with a 9x D-cell battery pack, and for SOTA (summits on the air) usage: Allen demonstrated the Sotabeam ( [www.sotabeams.co.uk](http://www.sotabeams.co.uk) ) portable multi-band linked dipole wire antenna. They can

*(Continued on page 3)*

## President's Letter, Continued.

*(Continued from page 2)*

number of Qs as Matt using SSB at the same location. The dB advantage is real. Dipoles or inverted V dipoles rule. His end fed halfwave just didn't perform. Power rules. My KX3 at 15W gave great results and I managed serious pileups for hours. If the summit is well defined and not just a random high spot on a plateau, an antenna height of 20' or more suffices nicely. 20' up on a summit beats substantially 20' up in the flat. I ended up being a chaser rather than an activator and have racked up a good tally from my home station. Hopefully the smoke and fire issues will clear up and allow a few outing before the rains and snow begin. The smoke and issues may impact any serious CaQP venture into Siskiyou county. (Bummer!)

I picked up a Bioenno 5 Ah battery pack and associated folding solar panel. It won't run my big HF rigs, but will run the KX3 or such for hours. A higher capacity LiFePO battery or two are in my future. (\$\$\$)

I had three rafting days on the Rogue before the smoke arrived. Then, in a get out of town event, I was able to raft on the McKenzie. 15 miles on the river and being out of the smoke was great.

As the fall season comes up, I hope to make a foray into digital things yet again. I may ask for your help and experience.

See you in October!  
Allan K7GT  
RVARC president for 2018

## Secretary's Report, Continued

*(Continued from page 2)*

be up to 4 band (20,30,40,80M) in one kit and are reasonably priced and compact. Radios can be like the 2 Watt Norcal NC40A (40M) or the 10 Watt Elecraft KX3 (covers 160-6 meters). Propagation is quite vertical on 40M, so use 20M when needing better distance.

At 8:15pm, John, KF7UMK, gave a presentation on solar power basics.

A few types of photovoltaic panels were considered: single crystal, poly-crystalline, and amorphous. Some homebrew and mail-order battery charge controllers were shown to illustrate that there are constant-voltage, PWM (two or three charge-level) types, and MPPT types available.

Also, some common battery types were discussed: Flooded lead-acid, AGM and gel types, though we didn't get to the newer, lighter, higher power-density Lithium-ion types (that require more specialized chargers), because of their higher cost. (for the experimenter, Harbor Freight has some 20AH Lithium-ion, car-starter devices for about \$70 that might be suitable for portable power via their accessory plugs.)

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

## Field Day 2018

The RVARC collaborated again this year with CARE and JCARES to host Field Day at Ashland Science-Works.

We had good weather on Friday and Saturday with reasonable temperatures and sunny skies. Sunday was a bit warmer.

This year Mike Bach took care of the (increasing) paperwork dealing with permits, agreements, insurance, etc.

We operated 3A this year—one CW station and two Phone stations. The 20m Phone station moved to digital when 20m Phone became just too difficult. The lack of band openings on 10m and 15m means that most of the participants move down to 20m Phone and it becomes too crowded to operate effectively. 20m closed early Saturday because of low or nonexistent sunspots (see snippet by K7JA).

20m CW by contrast is crowded but not overwhelming, and the CW operators did well, making about 400 contacts Saturday.

After difficulties on 40m Phone last year, Mike brought a 2 element shortened yagi (linear loading) which was put on the 30-foot tilt-up tower. It performed amazingly well receiving a lot of reports of 'very strong signal'. The log tells the tale—we had about 630

contacts on 40m phone, the highest number that I can remember.

Mike Bach served again as Chief cook (and bottlwasher) putting together several fine

*(Continued on page 5)*



## Field Day 2018, Continued



*(Continued from page 4)*

meals, and a particularly large spread Saturday night. We had a large turnout again this year due to 3 clubs participating.

Curt Hadley called out the media. One TV station did an on-site news story, and the

Medford Mail-Tribune published a very large article in the Sunday paper on Ham Radio and Field Day. Curt did a great job.



## Field Day 2018, Continued

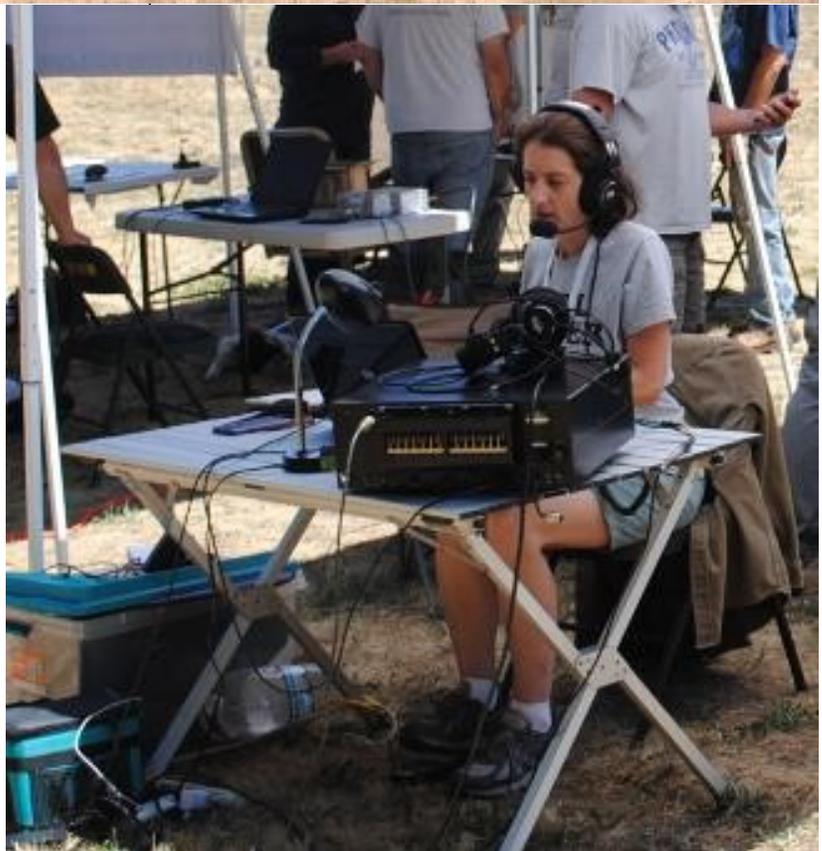


*(Continued from page 5)*

The club may get spoiled by the good weather!

Photos are courtesy of AG7GP and N7GK.

RVARC would like to thank ScienceWorks for hosting Field Day this year.



## New Meeting Location starting October

Our current meeting space at the recently-downsized Red Cross facility has been cramped and lacking sufficient chairs.

John Laybourne has secured a new meeting location for RVARC. The first meeting in the new facility will be the October 4th meeting.

The new facility can hold about 150 people, has tables and chairs, a ceiling mounted projector, and a coffee pot !

We will be using the **Community Room** of the **Medford Police Department**.

**The address is: 219 Ivy St., Medford. It's between Holly St. and Ivy St. along the northwest side of 10th Street.**

There is on-street parking as well as a parking garage nearby. The on-street parking is plentiful, time restrictions expire at 6:00 PM. There should be little issue parking for the duration of the club meeting. The MPD facility is far enough away from Rogue Community College to avoid congestion issues from evening classes and parking.

The Medford PD parking garage is not available. Jackson County Health & Human Services shares the block with MPD, and has their own separate parking garage which was open last time I looked.

## K7JA—Field Day Propagation

This is a snippet from the K7RA Solar Update of July 6, 2018:

Chip Margelli, K7JA, had a comment on the coverage of Field Day conditions last week: "I saw your propagation report re Field Day. I'm still trying to figure out which planet that represented.

"Conditions on Field Day were generally awful. The K index rising to 4 Saturday morning really tore up the bands and blew out the E layer here in the western US. Neither 6 nor 10 meters opened at all on Saturday, and there were only a few pop-up paths that emerged on Sunday on [ 10 ] meters. On six, while much of the eastern part of the country had a big band, but in southern California we worked five whole stations in South Dakota. That was it.

"Twenty meters was fair at best, but it closed early Saturday night. Fifteen was a huge bust, and 40 was very disturbed, with heavy fading and East Coast signals generally huddling right at the edge of being audible. Forty meters never really took off to the east, causing our station to be at least 30% down from our anticipated numbers.

"It wasn't a good weekend for propagation at all. It was especially disappointing because 6 meters had been wide open all week before Field Day, and a week after the event it was open across the country again."

It should be noted that RVARC had the best 40 meter phone Field Day log in years, perhaps ever. The 40m 2-element shortened yagi that Mike Bach brought worked wonders.

# Ham Radio Swapmeet 2018

Rogue Valley Amateur Radio Club

<http://w7dta.org>

Saturday, August 25, 2018

9:00 AM until 1:00 PM

Location: Kathrein Inc. Scala

555 Airport Rd., Medford, OR

**Bring Your Own Table**



## This Month's Programs

### 1. Swapmeet

- **Program:** Club Annual Swapmeet
- **Biography:**

### 2.

- **Program:**
- **Biography:**

### Programs Planned for 2018 (subject to change):

- **September:** Annual Swapmeet—moved up to August to avoid Labor Day weekend.
- **October:** TBA
- **November:** TBA
- **December:** TBA

# September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 • CP ERC Net	3 • CARE Net	4 • 2M SSB Net	5 • 2M SSB Net	6 • NO CLUB MEETING (moved to Aug 25)	7	8
9 • CP ERC Net	10 • CARE Net	11 • 2M SSB Net • <b>CARE Meeting</b>	12 • 2M SSB Net	13 • <b>Rogue Hack Lab</b> • ARES Net • Sis-Q ARC Net	14	15
16 • CP ERC Net	17 • CARE Net	18 • 2M SSB Net	19 • 2M SSB Net • <b>JCARES Meeting</b>	20 • ARES Net • Sis-Q ARC Net	21	22
23 • CP ERC Net	24 • CARE Net	25 • 2M SSB Net	26 • 2M SSB Net	27 • ARES Net • Sis-Q ARC Net	28	29
30 • CP ERC Net						

## Events

### Meetings

- **RVARC** Saturday, August 25th — 9:00 AM, Kathrein, 555 Airport Rd., Medford
- **Rogue Hack Lab** Thursday September 13th — 6:30 PM, Medford Library
- **CARE** Tuesday, September 11th — 6:30 PM —New Far East Restaurant
- **JCARES** Wednesday, September 19th — 6:00 PM —Jackson County Sheriff's Office on Crater Lake Highway

### Nets

- **ARES** Thursdays 7:30 PM - K7JAX Mt. Baldy Repeater 146.840 ( - ) [ PL 123.0 ]
- **CARE** Mondays 7:00 PM—. KB7SKB Jacksonville Repeater 147.100 ( - ) [PL 136.5], open, directed net, visitors welcome
- **2 Meter SSB** Tuesdays 7:00PM and Wednesdays 10:00 AM—144.200 USB
- **Central Point Emergency Radio Communications** Sundays 8:30 PM— KB7QMV Medford Repeater 145.410 ( - ) [ PL none]. Move to simplex net on 147.585 MHz when finished. Directed net.
- **Siskiyou County ARC** Thursdays 7:00 PM—Net K6SIS Repeater 146.79 ( - ) [PL 100.0]

## 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 1940 Stevens Rd.  
Eagle Point OR 97524-6523

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

## For Sale / Wanted

Be sure to visit our club's Sell / Swap webpage for more items.

<http://w7dta.org/sellswap/>

## 2018 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 2018 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 at 9:00 AM. Walk-ins welcome.

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

**Dates 2018:** Oct 27

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

### Grants Pass

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

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

**Dates 2018:** Aug 17 Nov 16

**Contact:** John Stubbe, K7VSU, email: [jstubbe7@gmail.com](mailto: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**

**Saturday August 25, 2018, 9:00 AM—1:00 PM**

**Kathrein / Scala 555 Airport Rd., Medford, OR**

**Program: Annual Swapmeet (no business meeting)**