



W7DTA

Volume 2012, Issue 2 February 2012

Jeff Statchwick	W7KNX	(541) 951-0488	<a href="mailto:w7knx@arrl.net">w7knx@arrl.net</a>	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	<a href="mailto:n5eq@tapr.org">n5eq@tapr.org</a>	Newsletter and Membership
Dave Basden	W7OQ		<a href="mailto:dave@basden.us">dave@basden.us</a>	Webmaster
Club Web Page:			<a href="http://www.gsl.net/w7dta">http://www.gsl.net/w7dta</a>	

**Next Club Meeting**  
 Thursday, February 2, 2012, 7:00 PM  
 Red Cross Building, 60 Hawthorne St., Medford, OR  
 Across from Hawthorne Park  
 Program: Military Field Radios

**President's Letter**

I think everyone will agree that our annual swap meet was a success. I know I had a great time. There was a nice variety of equipment and parts for sale and quite a few non-members arrived to have a look. I would like to thank Bud, W7LNG for placing a notice about the swap meet in the paper, and Scott, KD7EHB for placing an ad on Craigslist. We also had a surprise visit from the ARRL Northwestern Division Director, Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF. Hopefully everyone got a chance to say hello to Jim and enjoy some "eyeball" QSO's with many of our other visitors.

Here are some of the topics that have been raised for discussion at our February meeting by our Vice President Scott Cummings, KD7EHB:

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**Secretary's Report**

MINUTES OF THE 6 JAN 2011 MEETING OF THE ROGUE VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB.

- The meeting was called to order by President Jeff Satchwick, W7KNX at the Red Cross building Medford, OR at 19:00L.
- Jeff announced the 2010 club dues are due, \$20.00 regular membership and \$15 for seniors.
- We had one distinguished guest K9JF Jim Fenstermaker ARRL Northwest division director.
- Jeff suspended regular business for the swap meet.
- Scott Cummings volunteered to be head of the field day committee and is looking for helpers. He wants to get things organized early this year.

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## President's Letter, Continued

*(Continued from page 1)*

1. That the Club call sign trustee be asked to register and complete application for W7DTA in Logbook of the World.
2. That sufficient funds be allocated from the general fund to obtain a quantity of QSL cards for W7DTA with the club call sign trustee to act as QSL manager for paper requests.
3. That a position be discussed and created for a Public Information Officer of the club with nomination of interested club members to fulfill that position.
4. Cause the formal formation of the 2012 Field Day Planning Committee with at-least three members involved and a budget allocation to be discussed and voted on.
5. Formal invitation to JCARES to participate in Field Day.

Also Lud, KB2EVN suggests we discuss changing the order of our meetings. For example, having the presentation first and then social time to follow.

Please give some thought to these suggestions and we can discuss them at the next meeting.

Lud, KB2EVN will be presenting the topic, "Military Field Radios" at our February meeting. I hope to see you all there.

73  
Jeff, W7KNX

## Secretary's Report, Cont'd.

- Jeff put on the coffee and Jack WA7IHU brought the donuts.
- A good time swapping and eye balling was had by all.

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

## Contest University

Tim Duffy, K3LR started this program at the Dayton hamfest several years ago. It continues to grow and is a very popular event with top name speakers and content.

Contest University will be held on Thursday May 17, 2012, from 7:00am to 5:00pm, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Dayton, Ohio. This is the day before the Dayton Hamvention officially opens. Don't miss this rare opportunity to gain knowledge that may take you years of practice, trial and error or lost time to learn otherwise. Get the edge to improve your scores and put your station in the winners circle today!

### 2012 CTU Professors:

- Doug Grant, K1DG
- Frank Donovan, W3LPL
- Ed Muns, W0YK
- Rob Sherwood, NC0B
- Greg Ordy, W8WWV
- Joel Harrison, W5ZN
- Tim Duffy, K3LR
- Tree Tyree, N6TR
- Kurt Andress, K7NV
- Eric Scace, K3NA
- Scott Dickson, W5WZ
- Ramon Santoyo, XE1KK
- Bob Wilson, N6TV
- Ira Stoler, K2RD

### 2012 CTU Topics are:

- 2012 Contest Radio Performance

*(Continued on page 3)*

## DX University

Announcing: DX University  
First Session: The Holiday Inn, Visalia, California  
Friday 20 April, 2012

For Immediate Release

Enhance your DXing adventure! At last, here is your opportunity to directly benefit from the skills and experience of some of the world's best-known DXers.

We all know about the wonderful success of Contest University (CTU), developed in recent years by K3LR and others, and rolled out internationally. Over 1,000 contesters have attended. DX University (DXU) is the twin, providing high-caliber offerings for beginning and experienced DXers alike.

The all-day program will take place on the Friday of Visalia weekend, 20th April 2012. Among the lecturers are AA7A, G3SXW, K4UEE, K9LA, N7NG, W3UR, W6OAT, W9KNI and XE1KK, many of whom are inductees of the CQ DX Hall of Fame. Learn the secrets of operating techniques for working DX, optimizing stations & antennas for DXing, about propagation, information sources, awards, and ethics, remote operating, QSLing and much more. You will also get the DXpeditioner's view of how DXers should operate to get into the log.

Student places are limited. The early registration fee is only \$50, including lunch and breaks. Sign up beginning January 2, 2012 at:

<http://www.dxuniversity.com>

Further information from Wayne Mills, [N7NG@arrl.net](mailto:N7NG@arrl.net) or Roger Western, [G3SXW@btinternet.com](mailto:G3SXW@btinternet.com)

## Contest University, Cont'd

*(Continued from page 2)*

- RTTY Contesting - 3 progressive sessions
- How to Improve your Contest Station
- Contest Preparations
- Updated Contest Propagation
- Ideas for operating which will improve your score
- Contest Antennas - 3 progressive sessions
- New VHF Contesting
- The Spirit of Contest Rules
- CW Skimmer
- Reverse Beacon Network
- Tower Safety for Contest Stations
- Feedline - cable loss and maintenance
- Multi Operator Contest Strategies
- Short Vertical Receive Antennas
- 2012 K1DG Eye Ball Sprint
- Logging Software Review
- Feedline Chokes and Baluns
- Optimizing your Station
- Contesting Clubs - organization and motivation
- Small Station Optimization
- Contest Operating from Outside of the USA
- Selecting Rotors and Antennas

### **CTU 2012 Registration Fee:**

- \$80.00\* early bird sign up --until 1/31/12.
- \$85.00\* 2/1/12 until 2/28/12.
- \$90.00\* 3/1/12 until 5/06/12.
- Sorry, No sign ups at the door!
- Sorry, no refunds - no cancellations.
- Scholarships (registration fee) available for those 25 years old or younger - contact us for info.
- If you have given a talk about Amateur Radio Contesting to any club, hamfest or group since May 20, 2011 - you qualify for a \$10.00 registration fee discount.

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

## RVARC Program Committee Meeting

The RVARC held a program committee meeting on December 29th to discuss programs for 2012. In attendance were Lud, Herb, Allan, Jeff, Jack, Scott, and Tom.

ther discussion.

The club last did a survey of topics that members might find of interest for programs quite some time ago 2004. Since we've



We collected titles of all the program given since the end of 2008, and also scoured the internet for other radio club programs, and the list of topics that the club assembled in 2004.

From all those topics, we came up with a list of potential programs that almost fill the year, with one or two programs still needed. Other program ideas were also brought up, including a club social event in the summer, and a new format for the Christmas meeting in December. Both of those will require fur-

brainstormed a long list of potential subjects, we need to see how members might prioritize the possible topics. We can discuss at a future meeting how to present these and allow members to voice their preferences.

The categories that we've come up with so far are:

- Operating— 23 topics
- Technical—14 topics
- Public Service— 2 topics
- Social — 3 topics
- Other—12 topics



## HF Propagation Resources

Hams are always interested in HF Propagation. There are a lot of resources available in the web to assist in finding current space weather, ionization, and other interesting facts.

### **ARRL Propagation Charts**

Do you remember when QST used to print propagation charts? These were a series of graphs of the MUF vs. Time-of-Day, for the East-Coast, Mid-US, and West-Coast to various areas of the world, and the East coast to the West coast.

Well — they're still available and produced by ARRL each month. They've moved out of the magazine and onto the ARRL website. You can find the current forecast charts (and an archive of past months) at:

<http://www.arrl.org/propagation>

### **Real-time MUF, FoF2, and X-ray flux charts.**

A great resource for real-time maps of the Maximum usable Frequency and attenuation due to X-Ray flux, critical F2 frequency (the frequency at which vertical signals will come straight back), and the height of the F2 layer are available. These are all produced at the Solar Terrestrial Dispatch website.

Real-time MUF map (including X-Ray induced attenuation):

<http://www.spacew.com/www/realtime.php>

F2 Layer Critical Frequency Map:

<http://www.spacew.com/www/fof2.html>

Height of F2 layer Map:

<http://www.spacew.com/www/hmf2.html>

### **Current Spaceweather**

The National Weather Service (a part of the NOAA) hosts a website just for space weather. It contains a lot of real time data on the ionosphere.

The current space weather containing Alerts, the current Solar Wind, the current Auroral Oval, the state of the current 11-year solar cycle, and the Solar X-ray image is at:

<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/SWN/index.html>

The 7-day space weather advisory (forecasting possible solar storms that may affect earth is at:

<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/advisories/index.html>

Today's space weather containing the current X-ray flux, a 3-day Solar-Geophysical forecast, is at:

<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/today.html>

### **Custom VOACAP Predictions**

The Voice of America (VOA) produced a number of excellent propagation forecast programs. The current tool had been placed on-line so that you can make your own custom forecasts. You just need to specify the transmit and receive locations and the antenna parameters. It's located at:

<http://www.voacap.com/prediction.html>

### **Free Propagation Tool**

One of the best and simplest propagation tools was produced by Sheldon Shallon, W6EL. You can download it at:

<http://www.qsl.net/w6elprop/>

## 2012 Dues are Due

RVARC membership dues for 2012 are now due. Please bring cash or a check payable to RVARC to a club meeting, or mail (checks only) to:

RVARC Membership  
c/o 3950 Southview Ter.  
Medford, OR 97504

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

## Wanted—2m Yagis

Looking for a pair of 2m yagis with phasing harness. Each to be of moderate gain and set up for vertical polarization with full band coverage. Contact Allan Taylor, K7GT at (541) 855-2054 or [k7gt@charter.net](mailto:k7gt@charter.net)

## Amateur Radio Examinations

In the Rogue Valley, amateur radio exams are provided by the RVARC and the SOARC. The 2012 exam schedules have been announced. New exam participants need to provide identification, while upgrading amateurs need to **provide a copy of their current license** as well as show identification. Exam fee for 2012 is \$15.00. To search for other exam locations, go to: <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.phtml>

### **Medford (White City)**

**Time:** 8:30 AM. Walk-ins welcome.

**Location:** White City VA Facility (Room 223), Crater Lake Highway, Rt. 62, White City OR 97503-9999

**Dates:** Feb 25th

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

### **Grants Pass**

**Time:** Arrive 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:** Feb 24th                      May 18th                      Aug 24th                      Nov 16th

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

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**Across from Hawthorne Park**  
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