



# The Repeater

## Next Club Meeting

Thursday December 7, 2017,  
6:30 PM

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

Program: Pot-Luck Dinner, pro-  
gram: Remote station operation

Volume 2017, Issue 12

December 2017

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## Club Notes

The club's December meeting will be a pot-luck dinner followed by a presentation on remote station operation.

It will be held at the Red Cross meeting room (our normal meeting location), but start 30 minutes earlier than normal.

Allan and the newsletter editor had the opportunity to operate ARRL Sweepstakes Phone from (former President) Jeff Statchwick's W7KNX station near Eugene. The solar flux is quite low at this point between two solar cycles, and the high bands were not in the best shape. Ten meters did not open, while 15 meters was in good shape with a lot of contacts for a few hours each day.

*(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

The November 2017 meeting was brought to order at 7PM by President Scott Cummings.

He displayed our newly arrived club insurance certificate for all to see. Paid in full and in force.

One visitor was noted and introduced: Doug Wierenga, presently unlicensed. Doug lives in Medford and has a background in electronics and computers.

"What to do for the December meeting?" was discussed. It was decided to have a potluck for members and spouses at the Red Cross meeting room on December 7. A "spouse-friendly" presentation will follow -- TBA. Darrell Barker N7CZX 'may' have a live demo of remote operating via internet to his home station.

The unavailability of wifi or internet at the Red Cross building was discussed.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Club Notes, Continued.

*(Continued from page 1)*

Twenty meters was busy busy busy and crowded. However 20 closed about 4:30 PM local time on Saturday afternoon, forcing everyone down to 40 and 80 meters.

Forty meters is really tough from the west coast even with an amplifier. A high dipole is not really enough to contest effectively on this band, a 3 or 4 element yagi on a very high tower is probably the minimum antenna that will result in being able to hold a run frequency. Whilst stations in the Midwest, South, and East coast had the majority of their contacts on 40, we had very few.

Eighty meters was in great shape for the hours of darkness, and we made a lot of contacts on 80 (high dipole fed with ladder-line). In the evening it was open to the east coast with good signals. Activity was spread out from about 3625 up to about 3875 or so, this resulted in less crowding than 40m and higher rates.

There were several normally-hard-to-get multipliers active—Northwest Territories, Santa Barbara, Mississippi, Ontario North. But some common multipliers were very difficult to find: Puerto Rico was spotted, but we never heard it, North Dakota never heard, Los Angeles was extremely hard to find, Ontario East was difficult. We worked Eastern Washington and British Columbia late in the contest—both were very scarce, the EWA station had enormous pile-ups.

This part of the sunspot cycle favors the Midwesterners who can work both coasts on 40m and 80, and disfavors the west coast. During high sunspot cycles, west coast stations can run 10m and 15m for hours with resultant high scores.

Looking for new solar activity anyone ?

## Secretary's Report, Continued.

*(Continued from page 1)*

Apparently there will not be any accommodation for us from the Red Cross in spite of their asking us to rejuvenate and supply the radio room upstairs. The suggestion was made to look into a wifi hotspot from a cell provider or using mesh network and a directive antenna to access the internet at the RV Manor.

After a major eyeball QSO session, Dick Lemke AD7AF gave a great travelogue with amateur radio DXpeditioning of his last year's tripping. Rarotonga, Cuba, Marshall Islands, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Penzeance, Italy, Samoa, and Belize all entered into the photos and presentation. Dick will be traveling to Western Samoa this February using the call 5W0LR, CW mostly.

John Armstrong, the club's secretary for 2018, has volunteered to give a mesh net presentation and demo early in the upcoming year. Patrick Cunningham will assist.

Allan Taylor secretary RVARC

## This Month's Programs

### 1. Pot Luck Dinner, Remote Station Operation

- **Program:** - We will have a pot-luck dinner starting at 6:30 PM. Suggested items to bring are organized by last name (to reduce overlap on items)
  - A through F—bring desert, fruit, or beverage
  - G through M—bring appetizer or finger food
  - N through Z—bring hot dish, vegetables, or bread
- Program will be on Remote Station Operation, hopefully with demo.
- **Biography:** Darrell Barker, N7CZX will give the presentation. He has setup a remotely-operated station at his QTH, and will give a demonstration (assuming we can work out Internet access at the meeting location). Darrell is a member of both the RVARC and the Cascade Amateur Radio Enthusiasts (CARE). He assists with a weekly 2M net on the CARE repeater 147.100

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

- **January:** TBA
- **February:** TBA
- **March:** TBA
- **April:** TBA
- **May:** TBA
- **June:** TBA
- **September:** TBA
- **October:** TBA
- **November:** TBA
- **December:** TBA

## Ideas for Club Meetings & Presentations

Allan (our new President as of January 1st) has been hard at work thinking up ideas for club meetings and presentations. Here's a list of topics he's come up with, the club encourages members to voice their opinion on the topics (add new, change, remove, etc.). If you have something of interest you would like to present at a club meeting, by all means let any of the officers or the newsletter editor know! Emails and phone numbers on the newsletter masthead.

If you just want to vote 'for' or 'against' any topic below, please let us know as well.

- Monthly (more or less) antenna design contest -- curious, novel, designs for 2m so as to be easily demonstrated in the meeting room -- must work!
- Monthly show and tell of your latest gadgets, electronic or otherwise
- Monthly bio and station tour.
- Major or minor presentations on:
  - Station automation, both simple and hi-tech.
  - Arduino 101, 102
  - Raspberry Pi
  - Git, Github, Dropbox, Googledrive, etc.
  - Python programming.
  - Data Visualization using Python.
  - Review of logging programs (both daily and contest), N1MM+, N3FJP, TR4W, others? Setting up N1MM+ for digital WSJT-X as a demo case.
  - Beacons both international and strictly local. (KA7BGR?).
  - SDR radios usage, interfacing, tricks. Flex 6x00 demo.
  - Eclipse, science, and amateur radio - report and summary.
  - QRP portable operation, both hike in and drive up.
  - Show and tell DXpeditions, contest operations, mobile adventures.
  - New digital modes (for example:

FT8, WSJT-X).

- Review of digital voice modes.
- Review of new radios, HF, VHF/UHF, DC to daylight.
- History of Morse code, how to learn Morse and join the fun.
- Kit building in the 21st century
- Vintage radio rebuilding.
- 160m propagation and operating.
- The new bands: VF/VLF and all that!
- Setting up a contest station, other details.
- Operating activities: POTA, SOTA, IOTA, lighthouses on the air, the art of DXing on digital modes.
- WW2 radar and microwave history. (Lud? Bob? Mike Bach?)

Please add your ideas to our list to stir up. What do you want???

- Also, ideas as to how to have more socialization with members and other clubs/groups. The CARE group seems to be more social--maybe we should be also.
- An ad hoc 2m SSB group holds a lunch meeting monthly at Centennial GC, should we do something like that?
- The club I was in in CA had a Christmas/Holiday gift exchange--the highlight was to see who got the brick-- a fun tradition!

## ARRL 2018 International Grid Chase

In 2016, the ARRL launched the National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) operating event, encouraging operation from the various national parks. By all accounts that was an extremely successful activity.

The new 2018 event is to work stations on any band (except 60 meters) in as many different Maidenhead grid squares as possible, and then upload your log data to ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW). Registration is free, and it costs nothing to use LoTW. Many hams are familiar with grid squares from VHF/UHF and satellite operation, and everyone lives in a grid square. ARRL's VUCC is based on grid squares, and some contests on HF, as well as on VHF and UHF, use them as a scoring factor.

Grid Squares divide the earth into 324 fields, each containing 100 grid squares 1° latitude by 2° longitude in size. There are 32,400 grid squares, it's unlikely anyone will work all of them. Some grid squares are surrounded entirely by water, are in areas that are uninhabited (i.e. most of Antarctica), or are difficult to access. David Levine, K2DSL, has an online calculator: [http://www.levinecentral.com/ham/grid\\_square.php](http://www.levinecentral.com/ham/grid_square.php) Just enter your address, ZIP code or call sign, and his site will tell you the 6-digit grid square for that location. For the ARRL International Grid Chase, just the two initial letters and the two numbers that follow (e.g., FN31) are all you need.

Once you are active in the chase and start uploading your log data, each new grid square contact confirmed through LoTW will count toward your monthly total. <http://www.arrl.org/aigc2018> Call CQ or "CQ Grid Chase," make the contact, exchange grid squares, log it, and move on to another. At the end of each month, your totals on the Grid Chase [Monthly] Leader Board will reset to zero, although the system retains all monthly data to determine top finishers in various categories at the end of the year.

Any contact made in 2018 counts for your

Chase score; it doesn't have to involve an exchange of grid squares. Because LoTW already knows the grid square of everyone entering logs, and both sides of the contact must use LoTW, you aren't required to enter that information, LoTW will figure it all out automatically. Contest contacts also count, as do contacts with special event stations, or other on-air activity that uses LoTW to confirm contacts.

If you live in a lightly populated grid square, you could find yourself handling a pileup! Expeditions to hard-to-reach or rare grid squares will undoubtedly evolve. You also can travel to one of those grid squares yourself. Some vehicle or hand-held GPS units can be set to display when you are in a particular grid square. Apps are available for smartphones or tablets, such as Ham Square for iOS devices or HamGPS for Android devices.

There are no restrictions on modes or bands (except 60 meters), as long as they are legal. Satellite contacts are valid for the Chase. The event is open to all radio amateurs.

### Awards

All contacts are uploaded to LoTW, participants may use their contacts toward other ARRL awards, in addition to the overall monthly and annual Grid Chase recognitions. Other ARRL awards include the grid-based VHF-UHF Century Club (VUCC) and Fred Fish Memorial Award, as well as Worked All States (WAS), WAS Triple Play, DX Century Club (DXCC), and Worked All Continents (WAC). Complete details of the ARRL International Grid Chase will appear in the December 2017 issue of QST.

For more information, contact the ARRL Contest Branch: <mailto:contests@arrl.org>

(paraphrased/condensed from ARRL News)

## ARRL 2017 Field Day Scores for Oregon

The ARRL has published scores the 2017 Field Day. Our 3-way club effort came in 2nd in the Oregon 4A category, and 4th overall in the Oregon section this year.

Our effort was very successful in that we introduced a large number of new folks to HF and VHF operating for the first time, as well as to Field Day operation.

#	Call	Score	Category	QSOs	Power Mult	GOTA Call	Section	Participants	Club
1	W7OTV	6,582	4A	1,502	2		OR	63	Oregon Tualatin Valley ARC
2	KK7PR	6,278	3E	2,029	2		OR	11	
3	N7LE	5,114	2A	1,209	2	N7XU	OR	14	Central OR DX Club
4	K7M	4,932	4A	1,257	2		OR	49	RVARC + CARE + JCARES
5	W7YAQ	3,902	1E	1,028	2		OR	1	
6	W7LT	3,420	4AB	252	5		OR	30	Portland ARC
7	W7AU	2,898	3A	596	2	W7SST	OR	8	Terrie Hill and Friends
8	W7FLO	2,896	3A	388	2	W7L	OR	35	Central Oregon Coast ARC
9	W7Q	2,664	4A	668	2		OR	30	Hoodview ARC
10	W7SAA	2,564	3A	379	2	K7JLT	OR	15	Salem ARC

# December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 • ARRL 160m Contest	2 • ARRL 160m Contest
3 • ARRL 160m Con- test	4	5	6	7 • <b>RVARC Club Meeting</b>	8	9 • ARRL 10m Contest
10 • ARRL 10m Contest	11	12 • Cascade ARE Meeting	13	14 • Rogue Hack Lab • ARES Net	15	16
17	18	19	• 20 • JCARES Meeting	21 • ARES Net	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 • ARES Net	29	30
31 • Straight Key Night*						

## Events

- The club meeting is Thursday, December 7th.
- Thursday December 14th — 6:30 PM Rogue Hack Lab, Medford Library
- Tuesday, December 12th — 6:30 PM Cascade ARE Meeting—New Far East Restaurant
- Wednesday, December 20h — 6:00 PM JCARES Meeting. Location: TBD
- Thursdays 7:30 PM - ARES Net. **K7JAX Mt. Baldy Repeater 146.840 ( - ) [ PL 123.0 ]**
- Next Newsletter: January Issue.
- ARRL 160m Contest, Friday December 1, 2200Z to Sunday December 3, 1600Z PM
- ARRL 10m Contest, Saturday December 9, 0000Z to Sunday, December 10, 2400Z
- ARRL Straight Key Night (SKN), Monday January 1, 2018 0000Z to 2400Z (i.e. starts 4:00 PM PST Sunday night, December 31, 2017/

## 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

## For Sale / Wanted

Check out the RVARC club SellSwap webpage. You can post for-sale items, wanted items, browse for-sale and wanted items.

The page is moderated—anyone can post, but we require valid contact information (phone number or email) as part of the post.

<http://w7dta.org/sellswap>

## 2017 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 2017 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 2017:** The last test for 2017 has already been given

**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 2017:** Nov 19

**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**

**Thursday December 7, 2017, 6:30 PM**

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

**Program: Pot-Luck Dinner, Program: Remote station operation**