



The Repeater

Next Club Meeting

Thursday,
June 5, 2014, 7:00 PM

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

Program: Photo tour of Member
Ham Shacks.
Field Day 2014 Plans.

Volume 2014, Issue 6

June 2014

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President & Webmaster
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President's Letter

Cycles

A cultural critique one sometimes hears is that modern life--particularly in the European and American experience--is too "linear." That is, too concerned with the one-way-only passage of time and effect. Others peoples, including Native Americans, are said to be non-linear; just as concerned with the past as with the present. Actually, that's about as far as the insight goes, and I've never fully understood it.

To my way of thinking, almost everything we experience comes in cycles, and they are not linear. They come, again and again.

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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 May 1, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 1905 PDT by Todd Carney, K7TFC in the meeting room of the Red Cross building in Medford, OR. Visitors included:

- Carrie Clifford-Bishop, KD7HSD
- Nancy Fritch, KG7HNB

Recently licensed is Sandra Peters, KG7KNW. Robert Pickthorn, KG7KNX, upgraded to General class. Congratulations!

Treasurer's report

Lud, KB2EVN, reported a balance of \$3641.87 in the club treasury. He also announced that we are now customers of Umpqua Bank, as they have acquired Sterling Bank.

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President's Report, Cont'd.

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Each calendar day is a cycle, as is a week, the month, the seasons. As of this writing, I've experienced those 20622, 2938, 678, and 226 times respectively. As radio amateurs, the eleven-year solar sunspot cycles are always somewhere on our minds as they determine the coin of our realm: propagation. I was born during the solar minimum between Cycle 18 and 19. My life-insurance company is probably figuring I'll ionize away sometime during Cycle 27.

As Hams, we have some special cycles of our own. The sweepstakes, QSO parties, and the hamfests come around every year, and so does Field Day. The latter is always held during the last full weekend of June. This year's FD will be only my second of actual participation. We have club members who've been through almost seventy. The event began in 1933, the very bottom of the Great Depression (part of another cycle?). Some of our members were born before that, and some of them participate in Field Day every year.

For most of its history, the stated purpose of Field Day has been to practice setting up and operating under emergency conditions. It was clear from the beginning of Ham radio that amateur operators could play vital roles in establishing or supplementing communication during the myriad of natural disasters that come around every year (hey, more cycles!).

Since September 11th, 2001, though, responses to emergency situations have been organized at the national level under the Department of Homeland Security, and a uniform system of command, control, and resource deployment has changed the nature of Ham involvement in EmComm-- emergency communication. It is now neces-

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Secretary's Report, Cont'd.

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Old business

Don Bennett, KG7BP presented an article from the June 2010 issue of QST concerning triplexers. It includes instructions for construction of the unit as well. Other matters relating to Field Day were discussed, including Permits for Table Rock Park, and equipment issues. There is a need for operators to come forward so plans can be made in terms of scheduling the Field Day event.

New business

Dale Trautman, N7IXS, and Don Bennett, KG7BP, reported that the special test session of Kirby Wheeler's students produced 11 candidates, of which 8 passed Technician, 1 became General class, and two passed Extra class. Additionally, the Klamath Falls area has recently licensed 14 new hams. The next test session is June 21.

The meeting was put on hold at 1930 PDT for "eyeball QSOs" and coffee. The meeting was called back into session at 2000 PDT
Presentation

Tom McDermott, N5EG gave a presentation on receive-only small loop antennas. These receive-only loop antennas differ considerably from the magnetic loops discussed last month by Michael Grier, KB1UM, in that they can be extremely broad-banded. These antennas are small, and somewhat directional. Additionally, they are relatively inexpensive to construct. Tom discussed the theory of these antennas as well as physical construction. Tom also gave a demonstration of his own antenna.

The meeting was adjourned at 2045 PDT

Submitted by Carl VanOrden, W7BRO Secretary.

President's Column, Cont'd.

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sary for amateurs to receive prescribed training and certification, including a criminal-background check, to be deployed and used by local officials during emergencies. The training is not difficult nor terribly time-consuming, but it does mean that non-certified Hams won't be used by local emergency and public-safety officials. In fact, they may be asked to stay off the air--certainly the repeaters--to keep the bands free for EmComm.

This development has changed the stated purpose of Field Day, at least officially. But it continues also to be mostly the same as from the beginning: a great time for all Hams. Though not really a contest, it still has a friendly competitive edge that adds interest. It's an opportunity for teamwork, problem solving, teaching new members, exercising technical skills, and just plain fun in the company of other Hams.

It's also a public event to let people know about amateur radio. Public relations opportunities such as FD may seem oblique, but favorable public perceptions of ham radio will help to minimize complaints from neighbors, and therefore also to keep municipal authorities on our side in antenna-related disputes and policy. It could help to soften the hard line usually taken by homeowners associations and in deed covenants. Is ham radio just a goofy, geeky, idiosyncratic obsession of techno-nerds, or is it educational and service-oriented? It might be both, of course, but Field Day and good public relations helps to accentuate the latter and render the former harmless . . . or even charming.

Close-to-final plans for RVARC's 2014 Field Day will be announced and discussed at the June 5th meeting. We will certainly run as a

President's Column, Cont'd.

"2A" club this year, but there's still time to shoot for 3A or even 4A is there's enough participation and sharing of gear to do so. Please give this serious thought, and remember that your commitment need not be a big one. However much you wish to participate will greatly enhance the experience for all, and it will certainly be much appreciated.

The program for the June 5th meeting will consist of a presentation on and discussion of Field Day 2014 plans (during the business portion) and Jack Schock WA7IHU's periodic slide show (another cycle!) on the ham shacks, antennas, and other ham-radio projects of our members. If you have not yet sent him your photos, please do so soon (jackschock@aol.com). If you'd like help taking and sending your photos, I'll be happy to help out with camera and Jack's email address in hand.

73,

Todd K7TFC
k7tfc@arrl.net

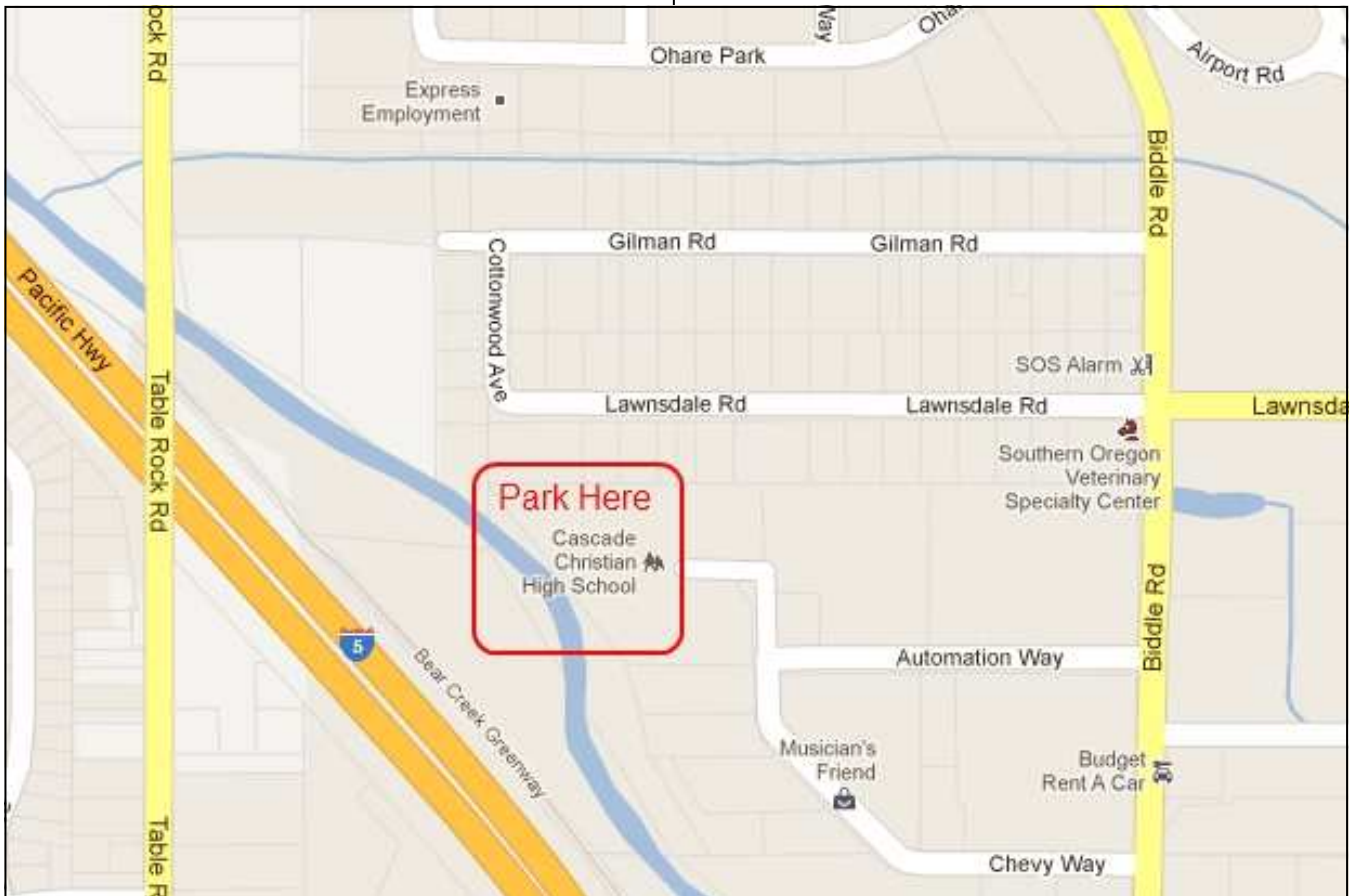
**Field Day is June 28, 29, 2014
Table Rock Park, Medford, OR**

Field day runs from 11:00 AM Saturday, June 28 through 11:00 AM, Sunday, June 29, 2014. Our club will start setup on Friday afternoon at Table Rock Park.

Please park in the Cascade Christian High School parking lot as shown in the map below. It's just west off Biddle road near the Medford airport. Note that there is no access

3. VHF/UHF station.
4. GOTA station. 4BTV vertical. Callsign will be **K7TFC**. We will also try to make some digital contacts, and may combine this with the GOTA station.

The GOTA station is specifically to help new hams, prospective hams, and anyone who is a little rusty to get on the air, try a new



to the park from Table Rock Rd.

Plans for Field Day will be announced at the June member meeting; we anticipate operating **W7DTA** as **2A Oregon**.

1. CW station / TH5 tribander / crank up tower.
2. Phone station. We're trying to get a tribander and tower. Otherwise dipoles.

mode, and just have some fun.

We will have dinner Friday night after setup, and Saturday night. There will also be coffee Sunday morning (when it's desperately needed by some of us).

See you there.

**License Exams—Have you ever wondered?
Rita Derbas, KI6SSQ**

Have you ever wondered:

- Who decides which questions are included on the amateur radio license exams?
- Why can't you see the questions you missed?
- Is Don Bennett, KG7BP a VEC or a VE?

My May 2014 article in The Repeater focused on the testing process. This month we'll look at the big picture and how big it really is.

When everything changed for Amateur radio licensing in late 1982, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) now accepted the services of private individuals and organizations to act in the preparation and administration of examinations. Immediately the ARRL filed a petition requesting that only non-profit educational organizations be allowed to participate in the program.

It became apparent that the organizations would develop the exams, route the paperwork, and handle the expenses, but how many organizations should there be to cover this huge country?

A series of intermediate steps were taken. The pool of questions mandated by the FCC was originally managed by 3 Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs): ARRL-VEC, the W5YI-VEC and the Western Carolina VEC. This continued somewhat informally for about ten years, until the formation of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC).

Today there are 14 VECs in the United States. The original three are still active plus the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club, Central American CAVEC in Huntsville, Alabama, Golden Empire Amateur Radio Society, Greater LA Amateur Radio Group, Jefferson

Amateur Radio Club, Laurel Amateur Radio Club, MRAC VEC, in Wisconsin, MO-KAN VEC, Sandrac VEC, Sunnyvale VEC, and W4VEC. Two thirds of the licenses issued are through ARRL. Don Bennett, KG7BP, runs our local ARRL VE group.

I've had experience with W5YI in the San Francisco Bay Area. They sponsor Ham Cram sessions which are wonderful for those who are too busy to study. In one day, the student watches overhead slides in several 45 minute sessions. At 4pm, the exam is given. They claim a pass rate of approximately 90%. It might not be real learning, but at least you get your license.

The Laurel VEC is very interesting. They have locations all over the U.S., but the closest is south of San Francisco in Monterey at the Naval Postgraduate School. Laurel is proud that they have not charged for taking the exam since they were founded in 1984. Laurel does another thing differently. After you take the exam, if you want to review the questions you got wrong, an examiner will go over it with you so you can learn what the correct answers should have been. ARRL VEC does not allow you to know which specific questions you answered incorrectly.

The NCVEC is "the" big picture. They work with the FCC to develop the question pool. So if you know anyone thinking about getting their Technician License, tell them to hurry up. The question pool will change after June 30, 2014.

If you have any questions about the VE process or the VECs, drop me a line:
KI6SSQ@arrl.net

Rita Derbas KI6SSQ

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

Summer Vacation

This is the last RVARC Newsletter until September. Your editor will play hooky until August 21st.

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: Jun 21 Oct 25

Contact: Don Bennett, Email: 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: Aug 22 Nov 14

Contact: John Stubbe, K7VSU, email: 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, June 5, 2014, 7:00 PM

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

Program: Photo tour of Member Ham Shacks.

Field Day 2014 Plans.

W7DTA—June 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 • Oregon Railfan Net.	3	4	5 • RVARC Meeting. • ARES Net.	6	7
8	9 • Oregon Railfan Net.	10	11	12 • ARES Net.	13	14
15	16 • Oregon Railfan Net.	17	18	19 • ARES Net.	20	21
22	23 • Oregon Railfan Net.	24	25	26 • ARES Net.	27	28 • ARRL Field Day
29 • ARRL Field Day	30 • Oregon Railfan Net.					

Events

- Thursday June 5th - 7:00 PM RVARC Club Meeting, Red Cross Building
- 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
- Field Day—June 28 and 29. Table Rock Park (see p. 4 for map).
- Next Newsletter: September Issue. Deadline for input: August 21st