



The Repeater

Next Club Meeting

Thursday May 3, 2018,
7:00 PM

New Red Cross Building,
1050A Crater Lake Ave, Medford.

Programs:
1) 80m Broadband Dipole
2) CW Operations

Volume 2018, Issue 5

May 2018

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

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<http://w7dta.org>

President
 Vice President
 Treasurer
 Secretary
 Newsletter & Membership

President's Letter

Not enough time, too many operating options.

As I have been preparing for a presentation on CW and Morse, I have been reflecting on the many ways one can enjoy various operating events. For example, Field Day. One can operate from a club's effort, as a guest op at a nearby club (CW ops are always in demand at Field Day), operate portable from a high mountain peak or plateau, from a riverbank on a raft trip, etc. The possibilities are almost endless. Another is the (by now recent) QRP To The Field event April 21st. There are so many rivers to select, so many nearby SOTA peaks to activate.

For this year's Field Day, I can think of many

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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 2018-04-05 meeting at the New Red Cross Building, 1050A Crater Lake Ave, Medford. Program: FT8 / WSJT-X

Meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by RVARC President Allan Taylor, K7GT. About 23 members and guests were in attendance.

Regarding plans for Field Day, volunteers are needed. Mike, WB6FFC and Darrell, N7CZX said they will participate, and asked for more folks to help out. Allan said that one of the old CW crew has moved out of the area, so the need is great for more hams to get involved on the CW side.

Mention was made of the club giving a \$300 donation to the Red Cross and a note of appreciation for their hospitality.

Allan, K7GT, may have a table at SEA-PAC,

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President's Letter, Continued.

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ways to join the fun. My compromise is to operate Saturday from the Mt Ashland ridge and join the club's effort in the evening. A friend will be climbing Mt Shasta with a local group of hiking crazies and, as he will have his tech by then, he is going to give me a 10-point SOTA peak... Let's see, ... I have found three ways to participate this year. Next year I might try from a rocky island in the Rogue River and then at home in the evening.

In any case, get outside, go do it, take ham radio to the field in whatever way works for you.

Please enjoy the CW/Morse presentation material that is incorporated into this news-letter issue.

Allan K7GT

Secretary's Report

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Jun 1-3, so contact him to see if you can get in on the action.

The CARE club will be participating in the Pear Blossom Parade, Apr 14. Contact: Nikki, K17LUD or Darrell, N7CZX

A club planning meeting was set for Apr 10, 7pm at N5EG's house.

There was news of a new AREDN mesh node operating up on Mt. Baldy, KE7MVI-NSM2-BLDY-N, and another test node soon at the Manor, KG6POV-NSM2-3.

The Treasurer reports that the bank balance is \$5105.04 plus \$75 in petty cash, before the future check for \$300 to the Red Cross, Attn Joe King, at 1050A Crater Lake Ave.

Scott, NA7OM, said the club swap meet could be at the Scala cafeteria this year. Bring tables. Allan, K7GT, said we might consider two swap meets per year, in spring and fall. Mike, WB6FFC, asked: what about a swap meet at Field Day?

Allan, mentioned a possible 2M antenna contest.

Regarding 7QP plans, there was no resolution.

The meeting took a break at 7:21pm for coffee and cookies.

The presentation began at 7:42pm: An FT8 demo on WSJT-X by John Laybourne, W8WOM.

The WSJT-X/FT8 setup needs a radio, an audio-to-USB interface and a PC.

The WSJT-X program features:

All platforms: Windows, Linux, OS X, ...

- Rig control for nearly all modern radios
- Error-free communication (minimal QSOs)

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Searching for New Meeting Location

The Red Cross has been good to work with over the years, RVARC has been meeting in their facilities for almost 20 years thanks to the effort of Herb Grey, W7MMI, and others.

The new Red Cross facilities however are a lot smaller than the old location, so the meeting room is filled up pretty tightly.

The club officers and board members have been working to locate some other alternates for our club meeting.

Some of the criteria that seem important are:

1. Adequate size of the meeting room.
2. Permission to make and serve coffee at the meeting.
3. Adequate parking.
4. Not too expensive.

If you have ideas or suggestion for a new facility, the club would appreciate your input. Please email our club president, Allan Taylor, K7GT at:

k7gt@arri.net

Secretary's Report

(Continued from page 2)

- State-of-the-art decoders
- Decoding at S/N = -20 dB and below...
- Accurate frequency calibration

Best results are from transmit powers from about 5 watts to 100 watts. Higher powers can cause ghost echos.

For the demo, John was running about 100 watts to a mobile antenna in the parking lot. The audio interface was the Signalink integrated USB sound card by tigertronics.com, located in Grants Pass, OR. It can be found at HRO or ordered from the Tigertronics web store. Cost is about \$130. Contacts could be made at a rate of about 60 per hour.

See these resources online for all the details:

"The NEW FT8 mode for WSJT-X"

<https://www.wsjtx.net/home/ft8-mode.html>

<http://grznw.com/work-the-world-with-wsjt-x-dr-joe-taylor/>

Links to a one hour, 17 min video presentation on youtube:

https://youtu.be/233HQs_8JGQ

or the powerpoint presentation at:

<https://microhams.blob.core.windows.net/content/2018/03/MHDC2018-K1JT.pdf>

FT8 Operating Guide by Gary Hinson, ZL2IFB:

<http://www.g4ifb.com/>

[FT8 Hinson tips for HF DXers.pdf](#)

"Accurate timing is quite important for FT8: if your computer clock is wrong by more than a second or so, you will probably experience problems."

After a good question & answer session, meeting adjourned at 8:41pm

John, KF7UMK, Secretary.

Coos County Radio Club 2018 Hamfest / Swapmeet

The Coos County Radio Club will hold their annual hamfest / swap meet on Saturday, July 21st at the North Bend High School. Tables are \$15.00 if you want to sell. Admission is \$4.00. For more information, see the Coos County Radio Club webpage at:

<http://www.coosradioclub.net/Documents/2018HamfestFlier.pdf>



Coos County Radio Club

Presents their Annual

Hamfest and Swapmeet

at the **North Bend High School**

2323 Pacific Ave., North Bend, Oregon

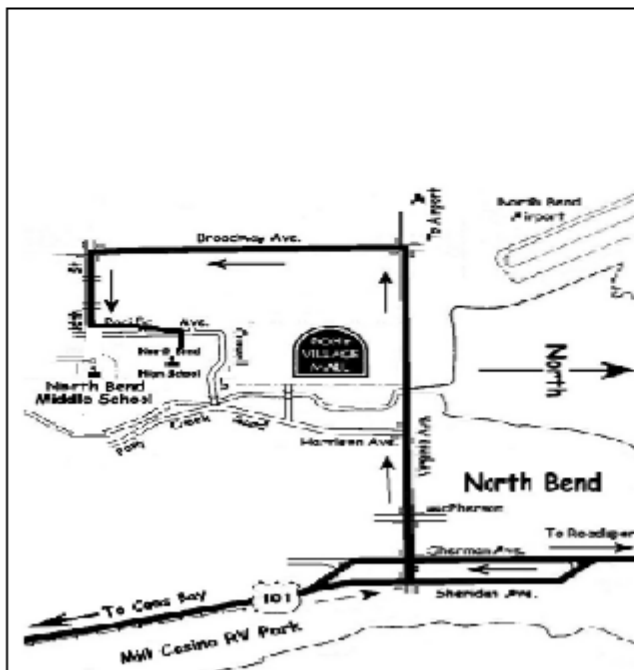
July 21, 2018 from 10:00 A.M. till 2:00 P.M.

Vendor Setup: Friday 5-7 P.M. Saturday 8-10 A.M.

Vendors - VE Session – Snack Bar

RV Parking - ARRL Reps – Seminars

Door Prizes: Kenwood TM-V71A 2M/440 Mobile - N3FJP Logging Software



Talk-in on 146.610 – (PL 110.9) or
147.280 + (PL 146.2)

Admission for all Amateurs is \$4.00
Spouses and Children are
FREE.

For tables and pre-registration please
contact:

Joe Burkleo WA7JAW at (541) 396-4926
Coos County Radio Club
P.O. BOX 698
Coos Bay, Oregon 97420
joeburkleo@hotmail.com

This Month's Programs

1. How-To: Broadband an 80 meter Dipole

- **Program:** This How-To program will show several different methods to achieve an acceptable SWR using a dipole across the entire 75 / 80 m band without requiring an antenna tuner.
- **Biography:** Tom McDermott, N5EG is the club newsletter editor.

2. Operating CW

- **Program:** FT8 CW operation used to be the main route to ham radio HF operation. CW enjoys a significant performance advantage compared to SSB, and permits contacts with simpler antennas, simpler equipment, and lower power levels. Contesting with CW is usually less stressful than phone due to the narrow bandwidth of CW and narrower receiver filters making the band seem much less crowded.
- **Biography:** Allan Taylor, K7GT is the club president and a mostly-CW operator. He is an accomplished CW contester.

Programs Planned for 2018 (subject to change):

- **May:** 80m broadband dipole, CW operations
- **June:** TBA
- **September:** TBA
- **October:** TBA
- **November:** TBA
- **December:** TBA

May 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 • 2M SSB Net	2 • 2M SSB Net	3 • RVARC Club Meeting	4	5
6 • CP ERC Net	7 • CARE Net	8 • 2M SSB Net • CARE Meeting	9 • 2M SSB Net	10 • Rogue Hack Lab • Sis-Q ARC Net	11	12
13 • CP ERC Net	14 • CARE Net	15 • 2M SSB Net	16 • 2M SSB Net • JCARES Meeting	17 • ARES Net • Sis-Q ARC Net	18	19
20 • CP ERC Net	21 • CARE Net	22 • 2M SSB Net	23 • 2M SSB Net	24 • ARES Net • Sis-Q ARC Net	25	26
27 • CP ERC Net	28 • CARE Net	29 • 2M SSB Net	30 • 2M SSB Net	31 • ARES Net • Sis-Q ARC Net		

Events

Meetings

- **RVARC** Thursday, May 3rd — 7:00 PM **NEW RED CROSS LOCATION.**
- **Rogue Hack Lab** Thursday May 10th — 6:30 PM, Medford Library
- **CARE** Tuesday, May 8th — 6:30 PM —New Far East Restaurant
- **JCARES** Wednesday, May 16th — 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

Mirage B108 2m amp. An oldie goodie. 10W (max) in, 80W out. RF sense or T/R PTT. Make reasonable offer or trade.

Contact Allan Taylor, K7GT (541) 855-2054

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: Jun 30 Oct 27

Contact: Don Bennett, Email: 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: May 18 Aug 17 Nov 16

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.

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