

The OSCILLATOR

Volume 29 Issue 8
August 2006

Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club

The Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club is a special service club related to ARRL: The National Association for Amateur Radio. We seek to advance the Amateur Radio Service through:

- ⇒ Education and Training of new and licensed amateurs
- ⇒ Public Service and Emergency communication
- ⇒ Hobby nets, contests and meetings
- ⇒ Social events

Membership is available to anyone interested in amateur radio. A license is not required.

KK7TN PARAGRAPHS

Don Stettler KK7TN

During the last month or so the club has had a number of people join our club. Further the club was given an operational 220 MHz repeater. To me this again emphasizes just how imp

Lee Strahn, K7TJR,

owner of the 220MHz repeater on

Goat Mountain, offering

to donate the

repeater to OTVARC as he no longer lives in the local area.

ortant it is for our club to maintain its reputation through its outreach to the ham radio community. If

OTVARC didn't have a

good reputation these really nice things would not happen. I

appreciate so much all those who work so faithfully in the club's outreach by its Volunteer Examiner Program, repeaters, *Sea-Pac*, Field

Day, training, and more.

We are quickly coming to the time of year when it is necessary to find candidates to run for club office in our December election. Neither Everett Curry nor I will be available for president or vice president positions so it is important for everyone to consider who should fill these critical roles. For the past several years Claire Johnson and John Anderson have more than willingly agreed to take on the task of being on the elections committee with a board member. My hope is that we can give them a break for this year, at least. Please let me know you are interested in serving on the elections committee. You would

OTVARC RECEIVES 222 MHz

REPEATER

Lee Strahn, K7TJR, owner of the 223.94MHz repeater on Goat Mountain approached Wes Allen with an offer to donate the repeater to OTVARC. He no longer lives in the local area and was interested in a group who understood the operation of a repeater and would provide reliable service to the amateur radio community. The offer was discussed at the June 28th meeting of the Board of Directors and again at the July 26th meeting. The gift has been accepted. The call sign on the 223.94 MHz machine will be changed to W7OTV as soon as possible. Notification has been sent to the Oregon Radio Relay Council, frequency coordinators for our repeaters. A formal request to allocate this frequency pair to OTVARC for this machine on Goat Mountain will be made.

There are nine 222 MHz repeaters in Oregon (known to this author). Additionally, there are two 222 MHz machines in the Vancouver Washington area (See list in this issue).

A recent poll by the Northwest VHF/UHF Society identified more than fifty hams who were active on 222 MHz. Some are FM only, others are SSB/CW only. Many operate in all modes.

If you have 222 MHz capability, why not monitor our new repeater and identify yourself there from time-to-time to demonstrate activity,?

CLUB MEETING

WEDNESDAY, August 9th

We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at the **Beaverton Elks' Lodge, 3500 SW 104th Ave, Beaverton**. Meetings begin at 7:00 PM. Guests are welcome. Come at 6:00 PM to enjoy a no-host dinner from the Elks' Buffet.

This meeting will feature our summer Ice Cream Social. Enjoy getting to know some members of the club you haven't met in a pleasant social setting.

See you on August 9th. Bring or invite a guest.

OTVARC ADDRESS:

880 NE 25th Ave Ste 2-160
Hillsboro OR 97124-6258

Happy August Birthday

- 8 John M Hays KD7OHK
- 10 Patrick Mohr KC7ZZV
- 16 Jim Blanchard W7HOW
- 19 Russell Graham KD7BSA
- 21 Dana Gehm KB6VIV
- 23 Verne T. Smith W7GRN
- 30 Jill Mohr KC7ZZY

Updates and corrections to
w6abm@arrl.net

SEA-PAC LOCKS IN NEW DATES

SEA-PAC '07, the 25th Anniversary edition will be held June 1-3, 2007 at Seaside, Oregon. Note these new dates for the annual event sponsored by OTVARC with the cooperation of four other amateur radio clubs.

Historically, SEA-PAC, the ARRL Northwestern Division Ham Radio Convention was held in late May and early June. Beginning in 2003, SEA-PAC moved to the third weekend of June. The SEA-PAC Committee sought to make it easier for families to attend (when school sessions had ended) and wanted to avoid conflicts with The Rose Festival in Portland. Unfortunately, the new date was also the weekend of Father's Day, brought competition with Ham events in other areas of the country, and placed SEA-PAC and Field Day one weekend apart. Most hams who attend are not from the Portland Oregon area and are unaffected by the scheduling of The Rose Festival events. After a four-year experiment, SEA-PAC is returning to the first weekend of June.

If you have made arrangements for room accommodations in Seaside, you will want to move them to these new dates. You can assist in spreading the word that SEA-PAC '07 will be June 1-3.

In other SEA-PAC news, the Board has re-appointed Al Berg, Will Sheffield, and Wayne Schuler as the leadership team for the SEA-PAC Committee. The 2006 recap meeting was held recently and closing financial reports are being compiled.

Once again, thanks go to all who helped make SEA-PAC '06 a success.

LUNCH BUNCH

Join in a great social event

Saturday, August 26
1:30 p.m.

Santa Fe Mexican Restaurant
11900 S. W. Beaverton Hillsdale Highway
Beaverton, Oregon
503-646-8161

Questions?

Contact Linda Sutton, 503.246.8879

Skamokawa Park - TRAVELERS'



Anyone see ham gear on that table??



Everyone has a great time when the Travelers' gather



Board Meeting Summary – June 28, 2006

The Board of Directors met on Wednesday, June 28th at TVF&R station 67, President, Don Stettler presided. All Board members were present except for Alvin Carlson and Pat Colton, who were excused. Ron O'Connor, Al Berg, and Rick Banton were also in attendance.

Wes Allen reported that he has been approached by Lee Strahn, K7TJR, owner of the 220MHz repeater on Goat Mountain, offering to donate the repeater to OTVARC as he no longer lives in the local area. Since a formal letter had not yet been received, no board action was taken. Other club repeaters were reported to be working normally. Wes also reported there have again been vandalism issues at some repeater sites.

Everett Curry presented some press clippings from Field Day coverage in the Hillsboro Argus. We had some 50 participants sign the log at Field Day, and recorded 374 CW, 66 Digital, and 216 Phone contact on the Main Station. There were an additional 107 contacts made on the Get On The Air station. The board is interested in beginning 2007 Field Day planning in the very near future. In addition, the Governor proclaimed the week prior to Field Day to be "Amateur Radio Week" in Oregon, in response to Everett's request.

Will Sheffield reported on SEA-PAC. There had been a rumor of a theft of equipment at SEA-PAC this year, it turned out not to be the case. Banquet attendance was similar to 2005 and overall event attendance was down slightly from the previous year. A donation to the repeater fund was received at the OTVARC booth, and two membership applications were handed out. Robert also reported selling a number of new OTVARC T-Shirts.

Ron O'Connor informed the Board that the audit of the SEA-PAC books is progressing, but somewhat behind schedule due to his medical issues.

Ron also requested permission from the board to activate W7OTV for the North American QSL Party. The board approved his request.

NEW IRC January 2007

The Universal Postal Union has announced that a new International Reply Coupon (IRC) will be issued when the current document expires at the end of 2006. IRCS obtained after January 1, 1975 have an unlimited exchange and continue to be good postage. For more information, see www.qsl.net/w9ol/ircchart.txt.

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10-10 Introduces Digital Award

10-10 International has introduced a new award for ten meter contacts using various digital modes. The award is issued to members (its easy to become a member) for 25 contacts with Ten-Ten members using a digital mode. Included modes are: FSK (AMTOR; G-TOR; TOR; THROB; RTTY; MFSK16) and PSK (PSK; CLOVER; PACTOR; Packet). Once contacts have been completed, the cost of the award is \$2.00 in the US and \$3.00 for DX stations. Forms are available at the Ten-Ten website (www.ten-ten.org). Mel KD5DE, Jeff N7YG, Bill WD5EDR, and Brad K0DBK are running the effort for Ten-Ten.

Most ten meter activity may be found around 28.120.15 MHz. After the initial contacts are applied to the basis award, endorsements will be available for 50, 75, and 100 additional contacts.

Ten meters is open on a regular basis now. Often, digital modes are quite busy at the bottom of the band when nothing is happening at 28.400 MHz and above on SSB or further up on FM.

Most general coverage amateur radio equipment offers ten meters. A simple dipole can get you into the fun, or just load that 80 meter antenna on ten and start making contacts.

JULY ARRL BOARD ACTIONS

Meeting in Windsor, Connecticut, July 21 and 22, the ARRL Board of Directors accepted an invitation to hold the next ARRL National Convention at the 2007 Huntsville Hamfest in Alabama. The event will take place August 18-19 at the all-air-conditioned Von Braun Center.

The Board agreed to make \$5000 already budgeted to the Grassroots Legislative Action Committee available to cover volunteers' travel and administrative costs and, on a trial basis, to recruit and train volunteers in several ARRL divisions. The Grassroots Legislative Action Program is aimed at encouraging ARRL members to contact their members of Congress to urge their co-sponsorship and support of Amateur Radio-related legislation. It also supports the efforts of legislative action volunteers to contact members of Congress directly on behalf of their Amateur Radio constituents.

"Authorizing the committee to use funds currently budgeted to it as seed money to support development of the project throughout several test divisions will enable the committee to develop the basis for requesting appropriate funding levels for the future," explained Grassroots Legislative Action Committee Chair and Great Lakes Director Jim Weaver, K8JE, in offering the motion.

The resolution said the Grassroots Legislative Action Program "offers great potential to increase the effectiveness of the ARRL to influence legislative efforts." It pointed out, however, that travel and administrative expenses are often required to recruit and train ARRL volunteers to make the program work.

VANITY CALL SIGN FEE REDUCED

The regulatory fee to obtain or renew an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will drop slightly starting with applications received by the FCC on or after Wednesday, September 6th. The new fee will be \$20.80 for the 10-year license term.

This year promises to be a big one for vanity call sign renewals, since the initial round of vanity grants under the current system occurred in 1996. Licensees who want to retain vanity call signs issued under the post-1995 system must pay the regulatory fee when renewing.

VE EXAM SESSION

Monthly VE sessions continue on the first Saturday of each month. Our thanks to Carl WS7L for his leadership. Our next sessions will be held on August 5th and September 2nd. Contact Carl for a seat.

Carl Clawson WS7L is our OTVARC VE team leader. The Club offers all exams on the first Saturday of each month at 1:00 PM at Ronler Acres Fire Station, 4455 NW 229th Ave, Hillsboro, across from Hillsboro Stadium.

Pre-register for exams by contacting Carl, WS7L, at ws7l@arrl.net or by phone at 503.629.5796.

Check the OTVARC Web www.otvarc.org/ve for more information.

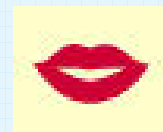
There are other exam opportunities in the area. Email to w7otv@arrl.net for locations and times.

OTVARC TAIL GATE FLEA MARKET

Plan to participate in our annual Tail Gate Flea Market, September 13th (Our September Meeting). Bring your goodies to sell (or give away) to other members...and come prepared to take some of the accumulated "stuff" home with you. Someone has your treasure just waiting for your selection.

Set up prior to our 7:00 pm start...we'll take the first half-hour to look and buy...then go inside to conduct our business.

The annual Tail Gate event was once one of our highlight meetings. This year, we'll restore it to its previous grandeur.



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OTVARC 5TH WEDNESDAY RADIO CONTEST - August 30, 2006

- 1) Object: To work as many amateur stations as possible in as many different 5-digit ZIP codes as possible, using 147.54 FM simplex.
- 2) Contest Period: 2000 local through 2100 local, Wednesday, August 30, 2006 (8:00 – 9:00 PM PDT).
- 3) Categories:
 - A) Single Operator: One person performs all operating and logging functions.
 - B) Single Operator QRP: Same as (A) with a power limitation of 5 watts.
 - C) Multi-operator: More than one person performing operating and logging functions.
- 4) Exchange: Operating 5-digit ZIP Code and Station Category.
- 5) Scoring:
 - A) QSO points: Count one (1) point for each complete single operator or multi-operator QSO. Count two (2) points for each complete single operator QRP contact.
 - B) Multiplier: The total number of 5-digit ZIP codes worked,
 - C) Total score: Multiply the total number of QSO points by the multiplier.
- 6) Miscellaneous:
 - A) Partial QSOs do not count. Both calls, the full exchange, and acknowledgement must be sent and received.
 - B) While no minimum distance is specified for contacts, equipment should be capable of real communications (ie. able to communicate over at least 1 km.).
 - C) Use of repeaters and telephones to coordinate contacts is not allowed.
 - D) Rovers are not allowed as entries in the contest. Mobile stations can be contacted by stations in the contest. Mobile stations will not have a ZIP code and will not count toward the multiplier count.
 - E) Only one call may be used by any station.
- 7) Reporting:
 - A) Entries must be delivered to the contest organizers at or before the September 13, 2006 OTVARC club meeting. (to: Jim Schaeffer, KB7ADH, Jim.Schaeffer@sulzer.com)), or by mail to the Club Post Office Address.
 - B) Entries must be made on log sheets showing time of QSO, Call, Zip Code and Contest Category (email okay).
- 8) Awards:
 - A) Certificates will be awarded for the top points winner in each station category.
 - B) Awards will be made at the club meeting October 11, 2006.

Contest Summary Sheet

Call Used _____ Operating ZIP Code _____

Other Operators _____

Category: A - Single Op B - Single Op QRP C - Multi-operator

Scoring: Category A QSO's _____ x 1 = _____

Category B QSO's _____ x 2 = _____

Category C QSO's _____ x 1 = _____

TOTAL QSO Points _____

Times Number of Zip Codes x _____

TOTAL CLAIMED SCORE _____

Signed _____

Date _____

Attach Log Sheets detailing all contacts, including Call, ZIP Code, Category, and Time.

WIKI ON 222 MHz

1.25 Meters is an amateur radio band unique to ITU Region 2. It ranges from 222 to 225 MHz in the United States and from 220 to 225 MHz in the rest of Region 2. The 1.25 meter band is part of the VHF spectrum, and is primarily used for more local communications as opposed to bands lower in frequency.

The history of the 1.25 meter band can be traced back to the Cairo Conference in 1938. It was there that FCC gave U.S. amateurs two "new" VHF bands: 2.5 meters (112 MHz) and 1.25 meters (224 MHz). Both bands were the natural harmonics of the 6 meter band. The 2.5 meter band was later reallocated to 144 - 148 MHz when the original allocation was used for aircraft communication during World War II, becoming the modern-day 2 meter band, while the 1.25 meter band grew to be 5 MHz wide, spanning 220 - 225 MHz.

Amateur use of VHF and UHF allocations exploded in the late 1960s and early 1970s as repeaters started going on the air. Repeater use sparked a huge interest in the 2 meter and 70 centimeter (420 - 450 MHz) bands, however this interest never found its way into the

1.25 meter band. Many amateurs attribute this to the fact that there was an abundance of commercial radio equipment designed for 136 - 174 MHz and 450 - 512 MHz that amateurs could easily modify for use on 2 meters and 70 centimeters. There were no commercial frequency allocations near the 1.25 meter band, therefore there was no commercial radio equipment available. This meant that amateurs who wanted to experiment with the 1.25 meter band had to do so by building their own receivers and transmitters for the band or by buying one of the few radios available from amateur radio equipment manufacturers.

Further, since the band is allocated only in ITU Region 2, the major equipment manufacturers (Kenwood, Yaesu and Icom), for the most part, do not offer transceivers which cover the frequency range, though they have in the past. This helps to continue the lack of usage of the 1.25 meter band, though the equipment manufacturers argue that when they have produced equipment, it hasn't sold well as compared to other products.

See WIKI - Page 7

222 MHz Repeaters

ALOHA	224.32-		WO7Z
AUMSVILLE	224.16-	222.56 100.0	W7FLOEP
FLORENCE	224.18-		WA6VQP
GRANTS PASS	224.52-		K6TC EP - Low Level
LAKESIDE	224.92-	223.32 103.5	KA7GGD
MILWAUKIE	222.46+	222.86 107.2	N7NKT Emigrant Hill, 3831 ft
PENDLETON	224.56 -	222.96	K7TJR Goat Mtn - OTVARC
PORTLAND	223.94 -	222.34	
PORTLAND	224.94 -	223.34	
VANCOUVER	224.36 -	222.76	W7AIA
VANCOUVER	224.72 -	223.12	KB7APU

Corrections and Updates to w7otv@arrl.net

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WIKI - from page 6

In recent years, Kenwood and Yaesu have both included the 1.25 meter band in some of their multi-band handheld transceivers. Kenwood's TH-F6A and Yaesu's VX-7R both include coverage of the 1.25 meter band in addition to the more popular 2 meter and 70 centimeter bands. It is widely believed that these are two of the most popular handhelds available right now. [Alinco has both handheld and mobile gear for 222 MHz, ed.]

There are pockets of widespread use across the United States, mainly in New England and western states such as California and Arizona with more sporadic activity elsewhere. The number of repeaters on the 1.25 meter band has grown over the years to approximately 1,500 nationwide as of 2004.

The attention that 1.25 meters received in the late 1980s and early 1990s due to the reallocation of the bottom 2 MHz sparked a renewed interest in the amateur community. Many amateurs feared that if activity on 1.25 meters remained sparse, it would only be a matter of time until the FCC reallocated the remaining 3 MHz to another service.

Today, while not as widely available as 2 meter and 70 centimeter equipment, 1.25 meter equipment is much easier to obtain than it has been in the past and there is new handheld and mobile equipment being produced by amateur radio manufacturers. It is estimated that more amateurs have 1.25 meter equipment now than at any point in the past.

-- From Wikipedia, 222 MHz

[With a new repeater on 223.94 MHz, and the availability of equipment at reasonable prices, why not consider joining the amateurs already using this band on a regular basis? --ed]

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Wes Allen, K7WWG President
665 SW 167th Ave. 503-531-4081
Beaverton, Oregon 97006

HAMFESTS & CONVENTIONS**12 August 2006****Hamfest and Electronics Fleamarket**

Radio Club of Tacoma
<http://www.w7dk.org>
Talk-In: 147.28 (PL 103.5); simplex 147.500
Frank Palmer, AC7JY
3817 169th Street, Ct. E
Tacoma, WA 98446
253.539.7772
AC7JY@MSN.COM

23 September 2006**Washington State Convention**

Spokane Hamfest
<http://www.kbara.org>
Talk-In: 147.24 (+ offset, no tone); 146.52 simplex
Betsy Ashleman, N7WRQ
3903 East 48th Avenue
Spokane, WA 99223-7866
509.448.5821
n7wrq@aol.com

29 September - 1 October 2006**Pacific Northwest VHF+ Conference**

Bellingham Washington
Pacific Northwest VHF Society
<http://www.pnvwvhfs.org>
Talk-In: 144.200 SSB; 146.58 FM simplex
Jim Aguirre, W7DHC
6820 Tranquil Lane
Lynden, WA 98264
360.398.9875
secretary@pnvwvhfs.org

TRAVELERS' AUGUST PLAN

The Travelers' are a special interest group within OTVARC. Any member of the club is welcome, as well as other hams interested in camping and RVing. etc.).

The August event will be our annual trek to Waterloo County Park near Lebanon. The Park is located off Highway 20, 18 miles east of I-5.

For more information, contact
Betty Mickley N7REX at n7rex@teleport.com.

**CLUB MEETING
AUGUST 9TH**



FIRST CLASS MAIL

Web: WWW.OTVARC.ORG
w7otv@arrl.net
Simplex: 147.54 MHz
Repeaters: 146.96 MHz (Goat Mtn)
223.94 MHz (Goat Mtn)
440.250 MHz (Goat Mtn)
440.350 MHz (127.3 KGON Tower)
Editor: Everett W6ABM w6abm@arrl.net

OREGON TUALATIN VALLEY
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www.seapac.org
NORTHWESTERN DIVISION ARRL CONVENTION
Seaside Oregon
New Date:
June 1, 2 & 3, 2007