

# The OSCILLATOR

Volume 29 Issue 9  
September 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

Compared to many of you I am very young in my experience with ham radio having received my technician ticket in May 1993, a little over 13 years ago. A surprise to me has been to learn that ham radio has a culture that is very unique. Perhaps a recent happening will illustrate what I mean.



Recently my sister and her husband who live in Southern California came to visit my wife and me for a few days. One thing they wanted to do while they were here in

Oregon was to visit their friends who are now living near Pacific City. These friends are hams and by happenstance I met them at this year's *Sea-Pac*. The night before we were going to the coast to visit them I got an email giving directions to their house. They didn't have my email address but they did know my call sign. Making the assumption that I was an ARRL member they sent their email addressed to [KK7TN@ARRL.NET](mailto:KK7TN@ARRL.NET). That is an assumption that has a good chance of being valid because many hams are members of ARRL and take advantage of the email reflector service. I thought that was pretty neat.

The club has had some really good news of late. First, it was determined that the primary antenna for the 146.96 repeater does not need to be replaced.

See Paragraphs, Page 4.

### CLUB ELECTION PROCESS BEGINS THIS MONTH

OTVARC's Bylaws provide for four officers (President; Vice President; Secretary; and Treasurer) and up to five trustees. Officers are elected for one-year terms, while Trustees serve two-year terms. Any member of the club in good standing who holds a valid amateur radio license may stand for election. Everyone in an office may succeed themselves.

The Board of Directors is responsible for guiding the club through the year. The Board meets once a month [or more] to consider club business. Meetings are open to all members. Current meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Fire Station 67 in Beaverton, at 7:00 pm.

The president's role carries responsibility for convening meetings, appointing committees and interest chairs, representing the club at community and amateur radio events, and providing direction to meet club purposes. The vice president backs up the president and serves as program chairman. The secretary maintains club records and validates a membership list for elections and other purposes. The treasurer maintains financial records of the club and provides status information to the Board at each meeting.

The 2006 election will fill four officer and two trustee positions on the nine-member Board of Directors. See **Election**, Page 3

### CLUB MEETING WEDNESDAY, September 13th

We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at the **Beaverton Elks' Lodge, 3500 SW 104th Ave, Beaverton**. This is **Tail Gate Flea Market Month**, beginning at 6:30 PM. We'll go indoors at 7:30 for business and program. Bob and Dar Young will recount their **Katrina Recovery Experiences**. You'll not want to miss this one!

Guests are welcome. Come early to enjoy a no-host dinner from the Elks' Buffet.

Remember to bring your flea market items -- whether one or two -- or a truck-load.

See you on September 13th. Bring or invite a guest.

### [Happy September Birthday](#)

1	Thomas Hill	WA3RMX
3	Adam Ferris	KD7TQX
7	Luther Brisky	KC7KVL
14	Neil McKie	WA6KLA
15	Dale Planer	KA7TZU
15	Bob Heath	KD7OHF
23	Ryan Heath	KD7QZL
28	Dick Lukins	KD7YGB

Updates and corrections to  
[w6abm@arrl.net](mailto:w6abm@arrl.net)

## LUNCH BUNCH

Join in a great social event

Saturday, September 23rd

1:30 p.m.

Reedville Café  
7575 SE Tualatin Valley Highway  
[Corner of Cornelius Pass Road]  
Hillsboro, Oregon

Questions?

Contact Linda Sutton, 503.246.8879

## GOOD TREATS

LEMON BLOSSOMS  
Recipe courtesy Paula Deen

### Ingredients

1 8 1/2-ounce package yellow cake mix  
3 1/2-ounce package instant lemon pudding mix  
4 large eggs  
3/4 cup vegetable oil

### Glaze

4 cups confectioners' sugar  
1/3 cup fresh lemon juice  
1 lemon, zested  
3 tablespoons vegetable oil  
3 tablespoons water

### Instructions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F  
Combine the cake mix, pudding mix, eggs and oil and blend well with an electric mixer until smooth, about 2 minutes.  
Spray miniature muffin tins with vegetable oil cooking spray.  
Pour a small amount of batter, filling each muffin tin half way. Bake for 12 minutes. Turn onto a tea towel.

### To make the glaze:

Sift the sugar into a mixing bowl. Add the lemon juice, zest, oil, and 3 tablespoons water. Mix with a spoon until smooth. With fingers, dip the cupcakes into the glaze while they're still warm, covering as much of the cake as possible, or spoon the glaze over the warm cupcakes, turning to completely coat. Place on wire racks with waxed paper underneath to catch any drips. Let the glaze set thoroughly, about 1 hour, before storing in containers with tight-fitting lids.

- - From Linda Sutton KC7YTD

ENJOY!! Got something to share in the GOOD TREATS space?  
See Linda Sutton. She'll coordinate this for us.

## OTVARC Contest Group

I like to contest. OK, there I admit it; I look forward to going on the air during those hectic weekends when the HF bands are filled with CQ, CQ, CQ, contest! But for all the excitement of "working a new one", contesting by yourself can be pretty lonely.

So I decided several weeks in advance to invite a few friends and acquaintances over for the North American QSO Party, (NAQP) to be held on Saturday, August 19th 2006. Then just to keep things interesting I asked the OTVARC Board of Directors for permission to activate our club call, W7OTV for the contest. With the boards approval in hand it was time to start planning.

With the clubs well deserved reputation for doing things well on the line, I upped the stakes with plans for a two-transmitter, multi-operator club entry. Recruiting interested operators and loggers was easy and soon a new "Official/Unofficial" contest group was formed, at least on paper.

Since it was originally my idea, my QTH in Aloha became the designated contest shack. My XYL, Mary was a bit surprised when I told her we would be having 8-10 Ham guests over all day and evening for the next NAQP contest.

Of course there were a few tasks to manage in preparation for our first group contest. First and foremost there was cleaning the garage, (location of Amateur Radio Station KD7VIK) to make enough room for all the equipment and people. Then there was the challenge of setting up a second comfortable operating position and computer network.

Did I mention I only own one transceiver, power supply and antenna? No worries, in the end members of the group pitched in and we soon had a second station up and running. By the day of the contest there were a total of three antennas to choose from.

For me the anticipation and preparations were just all part of the fun. It also gave an incentive and a deadline to get the garage cleaned up.

Officially the contest started at 11:00 AM, (local time) on Saturday and ended at 11:00 PM. As a two transmitter multi-op entry we were allowed to operate all 12-hours of the contest.

The day of the contest a box of donuts was on the counter and fresh coffee was brewing by 9:00 AM when Everett Curry (W6ABM) and Mike Fuller (K7CIE)

See CONTEST GROUP, Page 4

## Board Meeting Summary – July 26, 2006

The Board of Directors met on Wednesday, July 26<sup>th</sup> at TVF&R Station 67. Don Stettler KK7TN presided. Board members present were: Don Stettler, Everett Curry, Phil Kane, Will Sheffield, Robert Crocker, Pat Colton, while absent and excused were: Alvin Carlson and Wes Allen. Other Club Members present were: Ron O'Connor and John Anderson

Alvin Carlson was unavailable so no Treasurer's Report was available. Everett reported four new memberships and the \$20 donation to the repeater fund. Pat Colton reported that unused 2004 scholarship monies were rolled over into the 2006 fund. Don Stettler reported that the 223.940-MHz repeater at Goat Mountain has been transferred to OTVARC. The Club will ask ORRC to officially transfer use of the frequency pair. Frank Ravenscroft has begun internet streaming of the 146.960 repeater.

Will Sheffield presented the contract change to move the 2007 SEA PAC to the first weekend of June. Don Stettler sign the contract after it was reviewed at the meeting.

Will Sheffield reported the estimate of proceeds from 2006 SEA-PAC will be about \$4000. Robert reported on the OTVARC booth at Sea-Pac. We need more volunteers for booth duty and should have some more activities scheduled in the future.

Ron O'Connor reported progress on the 2004 Sea-Pac audit. Everett Curry reported that the August meeting would continue the "Ice Cream Social" as we did last year and the September meeting would continue to promote the "Tail Gate Flea Market." Ron O'Connor asked about the W7OTV QSL card. Everett Curry will seek pricing to make the cards available for club events (Field Day, Contests, JOTA, etc.). John Anderson reported a new class starting on Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **ELECTION**, from page 1

The president and vice president have indicated that they will step down and not stand for election again. Both have served several consecutive terms as officers. They are available to assist, on request, newly elected officers in 2007. The election committee has been appointed: Robert Crocker WN7O; John Anderson KA7BRZ; and others, will serve the club in this role during the 2006 election cycle. They will be approaching members with an invitation to consider service to the club as an officer or trustee. The election is held in November, with ballots due by the December 13 meeting. The new board will meet with the current board in December and assume office on January 1st.

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## OTVARC TAIL GATE FLEA MARKET

Plan to participate in our annual Tail Gate Flea Market, September 13<sup>th</sup> (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.

We'll start at 6:30 pm...and take the first hour to look and buy...then go inside at 7:30 pm to conduct our business and hear from Bob and Dar Young about their Katrina experiences..

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

### **OTVARC ADDRESS:**

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

**CONTEST GROUP**, From Page 2

showed up with a DX Engineering multi-band vertical antenna that Mike previously donated to the club. Soon they were busy assembling the vertical and stringing ground plane wires across the backyard.

With the vertical installed and tuned, our "Antenna Farm" consisted of a multi-band wire dipole @ 20 ft., 20-meter rotatable dipole @ 30 ft, and the ground-mounted vertical. Transceivers included an Icom-747 and an Icom-737, thanks to Dan Thompson's (KD7NHJ) generosity. Output power for the contest is limited to 100 watts, so we fit right in without any amplifiers.

A new tool we hadn't tried using before was contest logging software. The inexpensive network software allowed each operating position to enter data to a common log file, eliminating the hassle of keeping paper logs and warning when stations had already been worked. Even better it kept track of multipliers, operators, and total score.

At the appointed hour W7OTV went on the air. Carl Clawson WS7L led the way on 20-meters. We soon found that this band, which had been active earlier had dropped out, not recovering much for the first couple of hours. Stations were heard, but were difficult to contact. The 15-meter band wasn't much better, yielding only 3 contacts all day.

Propagation improved during the afternoon as the effects of a recent solar flare faded and east coast states moved into their evening hours. Persistence and patience paid off in the end with our QSO rate increasing on both 20-meters and 40-meters in the late afternoon.

Finally, as anticipated, 20-meters closed for the night, the 40-meter band improved dramatically and the 75-meter  
SEE CONTEST GROUP, Page 8

**Paragraphs**, from Page 1

The problem turned out to be a faulty relay. That saved the club from a rather large expenditure. Secondly, the 2005 and 2006 *Sea-Pac* efforts have eased the financial problems the club has experienced during the past two years.

The elections committee has begun their work in seeking candidates to run for the 2007 club leadership positions. Please welcome their call.

Enjoy your September!

Don  
KK7TN

**LEAD BASED SOLDER SK**

If you've tried to buy lead-based electronic solder lately, you may have found it in short supply. The reason? Lead-based solder is starting to be phased out due to environmental concerns.

The electronics industry worldwide is being required by new environmental regulations to move fairly quickly to "lead-free" solder. Lead-free solder is already going mainstream in Europe where electronics products using lead-based solder reportedly cannot be sold after mid-2006.

While lead is certainly a hazardous metal and the move to get it out of the mainstream is likely a good idea, doing so poses more than a few problems. Lead-tin alloy solders melt at about 183° F while the lead-free replacements melt at 215° F and higher. The higher melting temperature stresses sensitive components and makes replacing them more difficult.


Also, at least some of the new lead-free solders do not mix well with older lead-tin alloy solder, further complicating repair work. The leading contender to replace the traditional leadtin alloy solder is one made with tin, silver and copper. It melts at approximately 218° F.

Other possible replacements include small amounts of gold and/or Santimony with the tin, silver and/or copper. One other possible replacement is a tin-bismuth alloy that melts at a low 138° F, but it does not work well with some metals.

There is even some experimentation going on with conductive epoxy glues. Stay tuned on this one. It will probably jump out of the woodwork pretty soon.

-- From, NOISE FLOOR, PNW VHF Society

September is a good month to give your lips a treat!  
Oregon Trail Lip Balm just can't be beat...



Use Oregon Trail Lip Balm!

**OREGON TRAIL LIP BALM**

Created by: Maureen O'Rourke KA7LAP  
mcorourke@netzero.com

Available: *Oregon Mountain Community* store - now on Sandy Blvd.

## VE EXAM SESSION

The OTVARC VE team conducted a special session on Thursday August 17 to follow a class that was held as part of the Provident Living Fair at the LDS church in Aloha. One of their themes was emergency communication, and David Sommers KD6DDW taught the license class as well as emergency communications.

We tested 8 applicants, who turned in superb scores and earned their Technician licenses except for one former Novice who got his General. Several applicants also braved the General exam even though they hadn't studied for it. They all get an "A" for Attitude even if they didn't wind up with a credit for the exam.

Thanks go to VEs Paul, KC7PMU and Dick, KA7SPS. Dick is the newest member of our VE team and this was his first session. Welcome, Dick!

Our regular monthly session was held on Saturday, September 2nd at the Ronler Acres fire station. Being a holiday weekend we had a light turnout, with only three applicants.

One candidate took all four exam elements and he went from zero to Extra in one session. One candidate upgraded from Advanced to Extra, and the third candidate was not successful at earning a Technician license. More studying ahead! Thanks go to VEs Everett W6ABM, Dennis AC7UY, and John KA7BRZ.

Our thanks to Carl WS7L for his leadership. Carl Clawson WS7L is our OTVARC VE team leader.

Our next session is on Saturday, October 7 at 1:00 pm. Monthly VE sessions continue on the first Saturday of each month. 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](http://www.otvarc.org/ve) for more information.

## PREPAREDNESS MONTH

An ARRL Web news article about Amateur Radio Public Awareness Day, September 16th, and National Preparedness Month is on the ARRL Web page at: <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2006/09/01/1/?nc=1>.

ARRL is a National Preparedness Month Coalition Member. Although September is National Preparedness Month, the underlying theme is to encourage everyone to be aware of and also prepare for emergencies all year long. Amateur Radio operators, lead by ARRL Field Organization Leaders across the country, are encouraged to consider this year's ARRL Simulated Emergency Test -- and all preparations and post evaluations for it -- as a demonstration of your participation in National Preparedness Month. The focal-point weekend for SET is October 7 and 8. See:

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/setguide.html>  
(September QST, p. 105).

Amateur Radio Public Awareness Day (September 16) and all the fairs and public service events that radio amateurs are a part of throughout the month will also be testaments of Amateur Radio and ARRL involvement in the spirit of National Preparedness Month.

## NEW OREGON SECTION PAGE

Bonnie Altus, newly elected Oregon Section Manager, has appointed Dean Davis, former OTVARC member now living in Salem, to serve as producer of the Oregon Section Web pages. They are located at:

<http://arrloregon.org>

Bonnie's goal is to make sure this website is always current during her term(s) as section manager. She wants to have as many communication methods available as possible to hear what you in the Oregon section have to say. This is one of many ways for her to hear you. She welcomes any suggestions for content. With the help of the section leadership, it will be added to continually. She looks forward to working with you and is making plans to visit all the affiliated clubs in the state during her first year in office and hopes to be able to participate in some of your activities. She has visited some ARES groups as well.

Please keep in mind that this website is a work in progress and we will do our best to keep it updated with the information provided by our amateur radio community.

## YOU MAY BE ADDICTED TO HIS HOBBY IF...

You get up at 03:00 AM for a DX schedule on 75 meters;

You are net control every Wednesday evening and checks in every day of the week;

radios in the airplane, his car and even my car;

back yard looks like Frankenstein's lab;

friends keep asking why the roof is full of aluminum tubes and wire;

You call people on the phone and talk about passing radiograms.

When you notice that the wife and kids have left you, you place a personal ad something like this, divorced male, hardcore ham radio operator, secure job, seeks female ham operator send pictures of radios, amplifiers, towers and antenna farm.

When you have to get your 'ham' fix at all costs and ignore the more important things in your life such as your job, your family and your health.

When you are ecstatic about getting a 200 or 300 watt soldering iron to do up PL 259s the RIGHT way-- And, your wife asks you what its doing in your bed.

When your reaction to a solar flair bringing down the entire electric grid for the North East is that the bands will tank for a week or more.

When you look forward to the Super Bowl, because there won't be a lot of QRM.

When you look at a full moon and wonder how much antenna gain you'd need.

When you know what the second foreign country is above ME.

When you know Antarctica is a continent and you know penguins range as far north as the Galapagos Islands.

When you think ceramics classes teach how to make antenna insulators.

When someone mentions post and beam construction and you envision a tower with a tri-bandier on top.

When you are bored, you tap out CQ.

When you can look at a globe and be able to point to your antipode (when you know what an antipode is).

When you can name three countries completely surround by Italy.

When you know how many ports are on Pitcairn Island, what the most common last name is there, and why it is the most common last name.

When one would rather," entertain", a contest, rather than your wife/girlfriend...or husband/boyfriend, whatever your scenario is.

My your wife says "You wake up at 3am on your days off because you say the 'iono-whatever is right. When it rains, walk into the back yard. The antennas are so dense they act like an umbrella".

When your dogs are learning CW. My WYF and kids know what ITU region we are in and understand the GMT offset.

(Collected comments of other Ham's by Martin Brossman - KI4CFS)

**AMSAT** has announced that ISS Expedition 12 Commander William S. (Bill) McArthur KC5ACR has accepted an invitation to be keynote speaker at the 2006 Space Symposium. The Symposium will be held at the Crowne Plaza in Foster City, California October 6-8. Commander McArthur's keynote will be given during the banquet on Saturday Evening. Commander McArthur is well known to ham radio operators - during his six months aboard the ISS he became one of the most active radio amateurs ever to serve in space.

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## AMSAT 2006 Space Symposium

The AMSAT 2006 Space Symposium and Annual meeting will be held October 2006 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel San Francisco Mid-Peninsula hotel located at 1221 Chess Dr, Foster City California. The Symposium will be a joint meeting with the ARISS International Delegates and will include the IARU Satellite Advisory Panel annual meeting, and a meeting of AMSAT International Delegates. Online registration is available at:

<http://www.amsat-na.com/SymposiumReg.php>

## PACIFIC NW VHF/UHF CONFERENCE

The Pacific Northwest VHF/UHF Conference will be held at the end of September this year in Bellingham, Washington. Meetings will be held in Fox Hall at the Hampton Inn. Reservations can be made at the Hampton Inn-Bellingham Airport by calling (800) HAMPTON/(800) 426-7866 and asking for the Bellingham, Washington, location. The three-digit group code to get the special conference rate is "VHF." Be sure to give the reservation operator this code as it not only guarantees that you get the conference rate, but it also allows the hotel to track the number of reservations made in the block so that more rooms can be added, if needed. The Hampton will honor the special rate a couple days before and after the conference. Room at this rate are reserved until September 6th.

## SEA-PAC DATE CHANGE REMINDER

We announced the change of dates for SEA-PAC '07 last month. We want to be sure you noted the move to the first weekend in June (June 1-3, 2007). We've returned to the former schedule at the request of many regular participants, and to secure more favorable coastal rates. If you have already reserved a room on the old schedule, be sure you update your reservation. Let them know you are with *SEA-PAC*.

## DC POWER

We know how to make connections

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

## HAMFESTS & CONVENTIONS

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](mailto: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](mailto:secretary@pnvwvhfs.org)

21 October 2006

### Swap-Toberfest

### Amateur Radio Emergency Services Convention

Rickreal Oregon

[www.swaptoberfest.net](http://www.swaptoberfest.net)

Talk-in: 146.86 MHz (tone 186.2)

Mid-Valley ARES

PO Box 931

Lafayette OR 97127

Fred Rodley N7LQD

[n7lqd@aol.com](mailto:n7lqd@aol.com)

## TRAVELERS' SEPTEMBER 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 September 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  
Al and Mary Berg  
[almaryberg@msn.com](mailto:almaryberg@msn.com)  
503.649.8908

**CLUB MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 13TH**



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440.350 MHz (127.3 KGON Tower)  
Editor: Everett W6ABM w6abm@arrl.net

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[www.seapac.org](http://www.seapac.org)  
NORTHWESTERN DIVISION ARRL CONVENTION  
Seaside Oregon  
New Dates:  
June 1, 2 & 3, 2007

**CONTEST GROUP**, from Page 4

band became active as stations moved to the lower bands. Joel Simmons (AD7IS) did a great job adding to our final score by working the 75-meter band for extra multipliers until the very end.

By the end of the contest, a total of 8 different operators were in the log, with a total of 110 contacts with (32) different states, (1) Canada, (1) Mexico and (1) DX contact with a station in Honduras. Our modest total score for this first OTVARC group contest was 5,989 points with 53 multipliers.

Other highlights of the day included a barbecue

lunch courtesy of my wife Mary's efforts and pizza for dinner. A huge thanks to Dick Booth (W7VPV) for the pizza run and Everett for picking up the tab. Everyone had a great time, got to know each other better, and improved their operating skills for next time.

I'd like to thank everyone who helped and participated, you certainly all gave me personally an enjoyable day that I won't soon forget. Let's do it again soon.

Ron O'Connor KD7VIK