

# The OSCILLATOR

Volume 30 Issue 1  
JANUARY 2007

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.



## "BOB'S BARREL" Robert Crocker WN7O

I want to take this opportunity to thank both Don Stettler and Everett Curry for their outstanding service to our club. It is due to their commitment to the club that we have had such success. I hope to uphold the standards they set.

The New Year brings with it the opportunity to develop new programs and activities that will bring new members, new growth, and enhance our club experience. Field day 2006 was an outstanding example of this, as well as, the OTVARC Contest Group. Both these activities improved our standing within the Amateur Radio Community, introduced others to our hobby, and opened the door to a better understanding, by our members, of what we can do.

One major goal I have for this coming year is to involve more members in club activities. Any suggestions you may have to do this will be greatly appreciated. We have many, very talented members with years of experience that can be shared with others. I look forward to serving you and please, let me know how we can better serve our club.

73,  
Robert WN7O

## YOUR 2007 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

By vote of the membership, your **2007 BOARD OF DIRECTORS** is:

### President

Robert Crocker WN7O

### Vice President

Vacant

### Secretary

Steven Ward KE7EIQ

### Treasurer

Alvin Carlson KB7VHI

### Trustees (Class of 2007)

Jim Bonner KD7CJS

Phil Kane K2ASP

Will Sheffield N7THL

### Trustees (Class of 2008)

Wes Allen K7WWG

Joel Simmons KE7ANV

The Board of Directors is charged with the operation of the club. It meets monthly. Board meetings are open to all members, and each member is encouraged to attend.

Your 2007 Board is composed of nine members, four officers and five trustees. Two members are new this year. Officers serve a one-year term, trustees for two years.

We thank outgoing Officers **Don Stettler KK7TN** and **Everett Curry W6ABM**, and Trustee **Pat Colton KC7TOA**. Don and Everett have served many years on the Board, Pat completed a two-year term as Trustee. We appreciate their service.

## CLUB MEETING

**WEDNESDAY, January 10th**

OTVARC is affiliated with ARRL: The National Association for Amateur Radio and is a *Special Service Club*. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month, usually at **The Beaverton Elks' Lodge, 3500 SW 104th Ave, Beaverton.**, beginning at 7:00 pm.

Our program for January features Oregon Section Manager, **Bonnie Altus AB7Q**. Bonnie has served as SM since July 1st and will offer her observations of Oregon Section. She will officiate at the Installation of our 2007 Board of Directors.

Guests are welcome. Come early to enjoy a no-host dinner from the Elks' Buffet, with a new spaghetti dinner available.

See you on January 10th.

## Happy January Birthday

2	Gordon Bishop	KA7RNO
6	Will Sheffield	N7THL
6	Arnold Jensen	W7DSA
8	Ted Geroux	KE7BTY
8	Rick Schouweiler	KA5OLH
8	Bob Scott	W7AFR
13	Marti Brucher	W7AYL
14	Peter M Jordan	W7KTM
16	Herb Richardson	KB7SFJ
18	George Brennfleck	W7ILS
21	Lynn Hurd	WB7UNU
22	Jo Orr	KA7MIE
23	Phil Ricker	WB7ARB
24	Dana Johnson	KC7SNQ
24	Jack Smithson	KA7HOJ
27	Marvel Noyes	KA7TZT
30	Rosy Green	KD7PGH

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

## VE EXAM SESSIONs

OTVARC sponsors monthly Amateur Radio License exam sessions. Sessions are at 1:00 pm. on the first Saturday of each Month. The Club offers exams at Ronler Acres Fire Station, 4455 NW 229th Ave, Hillsboro, across from Hillsboro Stadium. The June 2nd session will be held at SEA-PAC in Seaside.

Pre-register for exams by contacting Carl, WS7L, at [ws7l@arrl.net](mailto:ws7l@arrl.net) or by phone at 503.629.5796.

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

Check the OTVARC Web [www.otvarc.org/ve](http://www.otvarc.org/ve) for more information. There are other exam opportunities in the area. Email to [w7otv@arrl.net](mailto:w7otv@arrl.net) for locations and times.

## Board Work

The Board of Directors met on Wednesday, November 29th at Don Stettler KK7TN's home and December 27th at TVF&R Station 67. Don Stettler KK7TN presided at both meetings.

Steve Ward presented Minutes of October 25 and November 29 were received and filed. Treasurer's Reports were presented by Alvin Carlson. The club operated during 2006 within its adopted budget and will close the year after Holiday Dinner invoices are paid.

Wes Allen requested, at the November meeting, consideration of an unbudgeted item to upgrade the antenna system for the 440.350 MHz Repeater through joining a consortium of ham radio users sponsoring a new combiner. This was approved at the December meeting. The cost will be approximately \$375.00. The contract for the Goat Mountain Repeater site for 2007-08 at \$450.00 annually was received and signed.

Will Sheffield reported the availability of a special period of early registration for SEA-PAC through February Rickreall. There will be an additional luncheon at this year's event for those interested in DX.

Our Club Call Sign, W7OTV, will again be entered in the January 20-21 Sweepstakes event and a "Special Event" station honoring the 25th Anniversary of SEA-PAC and the 30th Anniversary of OTVARC at SEA-PAC, June 1-3.

All members are welcome to attend meetings of the Board of Directors.

## LUNCH BUNCH

January 27, 2007  
1:30 pm

### Honey Baked Ham

Beaverton Town Square  
11657 SW Beaverton Hillsdale Hwy  
Beaverton, Oregon  
503-646-4446

For More Information  
call KC7YTD Linda  
503.246.8879

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## TRAVELERS'

General information on Travelers' events may be obtained from Betty N7REX at [n7rex@teleport.com](mailto:n7rex@teleport.com) or by phone, 503.642.1284..

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## 146.960 MHz Repeater By Shoutcast

The club's 146.960 MHz Repeater is heard via the Internet at [www.shoutcast.com](http://www.shoutcast.com). Search for W7OTV. The stream is up 24/7 at 48 kbps with a max of 32 listeners. Listening only, no transmit capability.

16 NOV 06 to 16 DEC 06

Geographic Location	Visitors	Duration
United States	123	20:24:48
Germany	12	2:09:10
United Kingdom	11	8:57:38
Canada	10	12:35:15
Poland	4	0:13:30
Italy	4	0:06:15
Netherlands	4	0:17:07
New Zealand	2	0:09:03
Russian Federation	2	0:02:35
Sweden	1	0:01:31
Venezuela	1	0:10:00
via Satellite	1	0:02:06
Austria	1	0:06:36
France	1	0:01:12
Spain	1	0:01:07
<b>Total</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>1d 21:17:53</b>

73. Frank, [K2NCC@arrl.net](mailto:K2NCC@arrl.net)

## FCC ELIMINATES MORSE CODE AS EXAM REQUIREMENT!

It may be the ultimate S O S — Morse Code is in distress.

The language of dots and dashes has been the lingua franca of amateur radio, a vibrant community of technology buffs and hobbyists who have provided a communications lifeline in emergencies and disasters. But that community has been shaken by news that the government will no longer require Morse Code proficiency as a condition for an amateur license. It was deemed dispensable in part because other modes of communicating over ham radio, like voice, teletype and even video, have grown in popularity. While the decision had been expected, some ham radio operators fear that their exclusive club has been opened to the unwashed masses — and that the very survival of Morse Code is in question. -- New York Times, December 27, 2006

Early next year, the US will join the growing list of countries that no longer require Amateur Radio applicants to pass a Morse code test as the entry ticket to HF. Announcement of the pending historic rule change arrived with no fanfare December 15 in an FCC public notice. A full-blown Report and Order (R&O) in the proceeding, WT Docket 05-235, followed December 19. The best estimate of when the Morse code requirement will go away officially is sometime in February -- 30 days after the R&O appears in the Federal Register.

"We . . . believe that the public interest is not served by requiring facility in Morse code when the trend in amateur communications is to use voice and digital technologies for exchanging messages," the FCC said in its R&O. "Rather, we believe that because the international requirement for telegraphy proficiency has been eliminated, we should treat Morse code telegraphy no differently from other Amateur Service communications techniques."

The FCC also ordered that all Technician licensees present and future -- whether or not they've passed a Morse code test, will get privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters identical to those of Novice licensees. "In eliminating this disparity between Technician and Technician Plus licenses, we are simplifying the Amateur Service licensing structure and promoting regulatory parity," the FCC said.

Although the FCC's Morse code decision came as no surprise, it nonetheless revived debate on the issue. The

See MORSE, Page 6

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### Richard M. Gosney W7QMD SK

We are sorry to report that Richard M. Gosney, Life Member of The Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club, has become a Silent Key. He was licensed as an Advanced Class ham with the call sign W7QMD.

Richard was born October 3, 1917 and passed away on December 28, 2005 in Tacoma, Washington. He had moved to the Puyallup, Washington area but retained his interest in OTVARC.

We regret the delay in reporting Richard's passing.



**J. Steven Sanders**  
Certified General Appraiser  
**Sanders Appraisal, PC**  
**503-320-4100**  
sandersappraisal@comcast.net  
Orengo Station, Hillsboro, OR 97124  
**Fax: 503-547-8200**



## NYE COUNTY NEVADA ARES

Jerry Fuge, the emergency coordinator for southern Nye County, spent 22 years in the Navy in communications, running several Mobile Army Radio Stations (M.A.R.S.) before retiring as a chief petty officer.

About two years ago, the entire valley lost telephone service when a backhoe doing work at Indian Springs cut a fiber optic cable. Fortunately for the residents of Nye County, A.R.E.S./R.A.C.E.S. was on hand to alert the emergency manager in Las Vegas of the situation.

Or, to decipher the acronym, the Amateur Radio Emergency Services and Radio Amateur Communication Emergency Service organization went to work. A.R.E.S./R.A.C.E.S. is a volunteer organization of licensed ham radio operators. It is an independent, volunteer organization and the operators provide their own equipment. "We support communications when all other communications fail," explained Gerald "Jerry" Fuge, the emergency coordinator for southern Nye County. "That's our primary purpose in emergencies."

So when the valley lost telephone service, the "hams" (as they call themselves) went to work. "We, through our repeaters, were able to contact the emergency manager," Fuge said. "We told him that we had no telephone services in the valley, and if he needed to communicate, do it via the ham radio operators. So we provided a link to him back to here, if something were to happen, and he would know what was going on in the valley." A.R.E.S./R.A.C.E.S. are actually two groups under one umbrella, prepared to handle different levels of emergency situations.

A.R.E.S. handles "primarily local, town-related events," whereas R.A.C.E.S. is the group that gets involved "when the feds step in," Fuge said. "We are both here. However, in some areas they are separate," Fuge explained. "We find it a lot easier to be just one organization, and if it escalates all we have to do is turn the hat around and then we're the other." →

In the case of emergencies with federal involvement, amateur radio operators without the proper licensing are required to physically leave the area. But the hams aren't just active during emergency situations. They provide a number of services to the community throughout the year. The organization also handles communication for the entire Baker-to-Vegas race each April.

The relay race, during which law enforcement officials run from Bakersfield to Las Vegas, has about 20 stations that need to be monitored, in addition to general supervision. One year, when the race was running ahead of schedule, A.R.E.S./R.A.C.E.S. helped to temporarily stop it, keep track of runners' times and get it back on schedule. The hams also act as a vital back-up communication system for medical personnel during the race.

"Another instance, we had a runner go down (and) we had to call an ambulance," Fuge said. "The medics have their own communication system, and it doesn't (always) work." They also provide communication for the Fall Festival each year, roving around in golf carts and at primary intersections, monitoring the parade and other events.

The organization can also act as additional lookouts for law enforcement or other emergency personnel. For example, when a rash of fires broke out in a short time across the valley, the fire department requested the assistance of A.R.E.S./R.A.C.E.S. They went to reported fires and determined whether a call was a hoax or if there was an actual fire.

In a training exercise, the group was told by the Nye County Sheriff's Office to track a vehicle that had been involved in an accident. The only information they were given was that it was a red pick-up truck with a barrel of hazardous material in the bed and the last three digits of the license plate.

"Well, we deployed to the different areas of town, I came up to where the emergency operation trailer was set up, lit off the radios and starting contacting my

## WB7FJC IN THE NEWS

Janet Bell WB7FJC showed up on the front page of The HILLSBORO ARGUS on December 26th. She successfully identified the metal sculpture at Rose's Bakery in the STREETS OF TANASBOURNE. The sculpture was pictured in the paper's WHATZIT? Contest the previous week. Janet is a long-time member of OTVARC and serves in the Civil Air Patrol with the rank of Major. Good eye, Janet.



With the cold and windy weather of January all around us, reach for an inexpensive "security blanket" for your lips:

### OREGON TRAIL LIP BALM

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

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## OTVARC PROGRAMS - 2006

Programs at our monthly meetings are one of the key strengths of the club. We strive to provide a variety of content and presenters. Your help in suggesting themes, presenters, and sources is a big help.

In 2006, our programs included:

Stanley Hamm at SEA-PAC - Stan Griffiths W7NI  
 DX- Fun on HF  
 75th Anniversary- Clark County ARC - Wayne Schuler  
 Home Security - Washington County Sheriff  
 "Getting To Know You" - Club Members  
 Field Day Plans  
 Ice Cream Social  
 "Tail Gate Flea Market"  
 Katrina Recovery - Dar and Bob Young  
 VHF Hilltopping - Roger Hayward  
 Washington County Amateur Radio Corp. - Robert Crocker  
 Holiday Dinner

Which program was your favorite? Do you have a program you'd like OTVARC to present? Contact Everett W6ABM (w6abm@arrl.net or 503.681.2345) with your thoughts. He is our program coordinator until we select a Vice President.

## CLASSIFIED

**FOR SALE**, From Julie Landers KD7GQW:

**Kenwood TH-G71A \$258.**  
with added accessory equipment

**Alinco DJ-C5T \$168.**  
with added accessory equipment

For Details, Contact Will N7THL

**FOR SALE**, Proceeds to MICKLEY SCHOLARSHIP:

**HAM N-5**

**Miscellaneous Parts \$10.00**

For Details, Contact Everett W6ABM

[Classified Space Available FREE to members]

## NYE COUNTY, from Page 4

people," Fuge said. As a result of the reports that came back to him, the group gathered the full color of the vehicle, the entire license plate number and the vehicle's constant location. "We tracked this thing all over Pahrump," Fuge said. "The guy was told just to drive and see how many places he could be spotted. Well, once we spotted him, we never lost him."

More recently, A.R.E.S./R.A.C.E.S. also helped with the mosquito abatement program by reporting possible breeding sites back to the Office of Emergency Management. "This gives them a database, that if West Nile does get into the valley, they know who's got horses .. where the water could maybe stand ... a working knowledge," Fuge said. Although Fuge said that hams were often "treated as second-class citizens," the importance of amateur radio operators, especially in the event of an emergency, has been brought in to sharp relief by Hurricane Katrina. "We as a ham organization learned a lot, as did others, from Katrina, because it was the first time where people just showed up and said, 'Hi, I'm a ham radio operator, can you use me?'" Fuge explained. "And they had no idea of emergency communications or what their equipment would do ... it was a learning experience for everyone involved, not just the hams." As a result of Hurricane Katrina, however, the attitude toward ham communication has changed considerably.

"Up until after Katrina, whenever the hams would show up, they'd bring their own equipment and put it in emergency operation centers," Fuge explained. "Well now, because of the eye-opening (about) communications that we could provide, a lot of the operation centers now have equipment permanently installed." A.R.E.S./R.A.C.E.S. has permanent equipment installed in its current emergency services trailer, and will have its own center for operations when the new emergency operation center opens next March.

A.R.E.S./R.A.C.E.S. meets once a month and has a weekly radio call. According to Fuge, if you want to join, all you have to do is "stick your head up and say, 'Hey, I want to join.' All you have to be is a licensed ham radio operator." OK, and you also have to fill out an application. The organization will hosted its first Ham Cram class on December 30th. Additional volunteers for A.R.E.S. are always welcome.

Pahrump Valley Times, December 29, 2006

Washington County ARES welcomes new volunteers. Meetings are Tuesdays at 7:00 pm at Peppermill Restaurant in Aloha.

## OTVARC: 30 YEARS AS AN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club is completing its third decade as an Amateur Radio Club this year. In 1978 a few former members, of a defunct DX contesting club agreed to form the present Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club. The club very quickly grew to more than one-hundred-fifty members. Today, we stand at about 175.

At the time of our founding, amateur radio clubs were one of the few gathering places for hams who operate solo most of the time. Clubs were social vehicles, educational entities, sponsored nets and other operating events, and provided personnel for emergency and public service communications. One group could do it all!

Our license structure and exams were quite different when our club was founded. Today's Technician test covers topics not even invented in the 1970s. In the mid-1990s, to become a Technician Class licensee you passed a comprehensive 30-question test. Since April 15, 2000, a even more challenging 35-question Technician written exam was in place until a recent change in the question pool. When our club was founded, most members held a General Class license. Today, the largest segment of members holds the Technician Class ticket.

Amateur Radio licenses were specific to geography at the time of our founding. You had to refile for a new call sign when you moved to another district. That changed soon after our club was founded.

Today, many functions of the 1978 club are carried by separate clubs. One club deals with repeaters. Another DX operation. Yet another contesting. OTVARC has continued to be a full-service club, with a wide range of interests. In the early part of this decade, many hams interested in emergency communication services left the full service clubs and joined ARES "clubs" operated by cities and counties for the benefit of their citizens. OTVARC has maintained its full-range of service in the belief that there is still a need for such in the amateur radio service.

- Everett W6ABM

## MORSE, from Page 3

FCC had proposed more than a year ago to drop the Morse code requirement for all license classes. The record in the proceeding, the FCC said, "reflects a division of views in the Amateur Radio community." After reviewing the more than 3,500 comments and counter-proposals radio amateurs had filed, the Commission stuck with its initial proposal.

"CW is just another mode and should not be afforded any special priority over others," wrote Rick Bernardi K4UUG, a Technician Class ham from South Carolina. "Proficiency should not be required for those who do not wish to use the mode."

"Freed from all pretense of practical relevance in an age of digital communications, Morse will now become the object of loving passion by radioheads, much as another 'dead' language, Latin, is kept alive today by Latin-speaking enthusiasts around the world," opined futurist Paul Saffo, a fellow at the Institute for the Future.

"It's part of the dumbing down of America," said Nancy Kott WZ8C, editor of World Radio magazine a field representative for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Metamora, Mich. "We live in a society today that wants something for nothing." Kott is one of more than 650,000, mostly male, licensed ham operators in the United States. She is U.S. leader of Fists CW Club, an organization that calls itself the International Morse Preservation Society.

ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, had this reaction: "While the Commission's decision to delete the Morse code requirement for an Amateur Extra Class license departs from the ARRL's recommendation, it is helpful to have the matter resolved so we can move forward." ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, expressed a similar viewpoint. "Now that the debate

See MORSE, Page 7

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## How many U.S. radio stations are there?

Some would suggest that radio broadcasting is dead or dying, giving up its strength to the Internet and Cable Television. That would make radio broadcast licenses a dying breed. However, it is not so.

The FCC has updated its tally of radio broadcast licenses issued and active. As of Sept. 30th there were 4,751 AMs, 6,252 commercial FM's and 2,790 educational FM's for a total of 13,793 radio stations.

That compares to June 30th totals of 4,744 AMs, 6,238 commercial FM's and 2,760 educational FM's for a total of 13,742 stations.

There are 746 Low Power FM's; there were 721 at last count in June.

The FCC says there are 4,087 FM translators and boosters. That compares to 4,026 as of June 30th.

Radio broadcasting appears to still have a strong business base.

## MORSE, from Page 6

is over, we can focus on learning Morse code simply for its own sake," he said. Sumner pledged that the League would maintain its traditional support of Morse code as an operating mode and would continue to offer Morse training materials as well as such incentives as bonus credit for CW contacts in ARRL-sponsored operating events. ARRL's Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station W1AW will keep its schedule of Morse code practice and bulletin transmissions.

## DC POWER

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Wes Allen, K7WWG President  
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## HAMFESTS & CONVENTIONS

### 17 February 2007

#### Salem Hamfair - Rickreall

Salem Repeater Association  
[www.qsl.net/w7sra/](http://www.qsl.net/w7sra/)  
Talk-In: 146.86; 186.2  
Denis Miller, WC7M  
4802 Carriage Ct. NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
503-507-6523  
[wc7m@arrl.net](mailto:wc7m@arrl.net)

### 10 March 2007

#### Electronics Fleamarket

Mike & Key ARC  
[www.mikeandkey.org/flea.htm](http://www.mikeandkey.org/flea.htm)  
Talk-In: 146.82/22 (PL 103.5)  
Michael Dinkelman, N7WA  
22222 148th Avenue SE  
Kent, WA 98042  
425-867-4797  
[mwdink@eskimo.com](mailto:mwdink@eskimo.com)

### 27 - 29 April 2007

#### International DX Convention

Northern California DX Club  
[www.dxconvention.org](http://www.dxconvention.org)  
John Eisenberg, K6YP  
25 Parsons Way  
Los Altos, CA 94022  
650-941-7426  
650-941-7426  
[k6yp@arrl.net](mailto:k6yp@arrl.net)

### 1 - 3 June 2007

#### SEA-PAC

#### Northwestern Division Convention

Oregon Tualatin Valley ARC  
[www.seapac.org](http://www.seapac.org)  
Talk-In: 146.660  
C. Wayne Schuler, AI9Q  
16414 NE 21st Avenue  
Vancouver, WA 98684  
Phone: 360-892-5580  
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**CLUB MEETING  
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Editor: Everett W6ABM [w6abm@arrl.net](mailto:w6abm@arrl.net)

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