



SOARC Wireless Gnus

Issue 168

June 2007

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN OREGON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SOARC, P.O. BOX 1164, GRANTS PASS, OREGON 97528
VISIT THE SOARC WEBSITE AT: <http://www.qsl.net/soar/SOARC/index.html>
SOARC Newsletter Editor: Jim Woods, W7PUP 956-5287 W7PUP@arrl.net

If you have anything to be considered for publication in the *Wireless Gnus*, see the contact the editor.
Deadline is 10 days before the next meeting.

June Meeting

The June meeting of the SOARC will be held at 7 pm on Tuesday, June 19th at the Fruitdale Grange on Rogue River Highway. The main discussion will be final planning for Field Day which will be held at Schroeder Park the weekend of June 23rd and 24th. We may also have a report from Rob W7GH who attended the Hamvention at Dayton.

Jim W7PUP

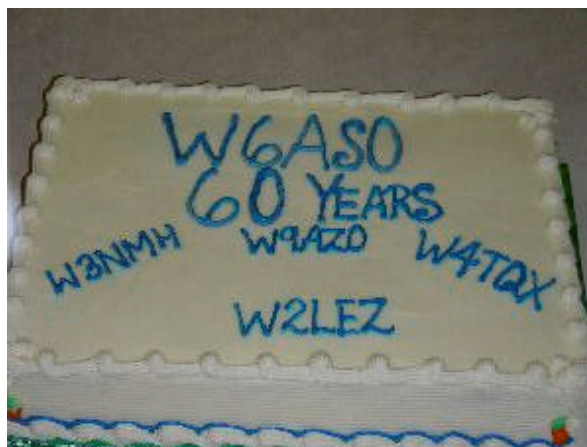
May meeting

The May club meeting was held on May 15th. We had a special treat this month: Chuck Smith, W6ASO discussed his ham career over the past 60 years. To help celebrate this milestone, Chuck and his wife, Deirdre W6PDS treated club members to a tasty cake with ice cream. See pictures below.



Additionally, we heard from our President, Dennis who showed some of the latest electronic gadgets including MP3 players. See picture of Dennis on page 2.

Jim W7PUP



Club Field Day to be held at Schroeder Park

The SOARC Field Day operation will again be held at Schroeder County Park next to the tennis courts and baseball diamond. Josephine County graciously allows us to set up operations there without charge. We have found that the trees offer shade not to mention sometimes support wire antennas.

2

We are planning to have the club trailer and tribander beam up to help with crowded band conditions.

This year we are asking you to sign up in advance for operating time slots. Forms will be available at the June meeting. This will help us keep the station going for a full 24 hours. For more information or to e-mail operating time requests please contact Burton Griffin at wb6cyk@roguelinkdsl.com. Thanks!

Jim W7PUP



Dennis demonstrating MP3 player

Results of VEC testing on May 25th

The results from the May License Exam have been compiled. 20 individuals came for testing and 17 passed their exams. Five new licensees are General Class while the remainder became new Technicians! It probably wasn't the brightest thing for me to schedule the exam on a Boatnik day however three examiners were there to handle the load. Elmer Seutter worked the crowd like a master inviting all of the newly licensed to join the club. John Stubbe watched the money and collected \$280 in exam fees. We all got writers cramp and worked harder at this exam than normal due to the newness of the material, new exams, slightly different band allocations for the different new license classes and way more people than I expected.

This calls attention to our volunteer examiner training/retention/recruitment program. While we all are attentive to the new rules as they seemingly change every few months it's more important than ever that volunteers understand the material that is being tested. It's not very hard to keep up with the licensing changes but one must be ready for lots of mysterious new rules. There is a very lightly used list for VEs that you get to through the ARRL - USVE. You can ask anything there and get 4 different answers. Usually though, the right choice gets hammered out after a few hours.

We are looking for new examiners to help us cover the vacations and other activities (like Boatnik) that winnow down our numbers at exam time. Just get on the ARRL website, go to the VE area and order a "blue book", study it, take the open

Wireless Gnus

book exam and join our group. General, Advanced and Extra Class licensees may function as examiners but we certainly welcome helpers.

Thanks for considering this move to get further into volunteerism.

Bill WX7U, VE Liaison

ARRL Oregon section news summary

FIELD DAY COMING UP

Field day is coming up on June 23 and 24. Everett Curry, W6ABM has volunteered to issue invitations to your local state representatives and senators to visit your field day site. He is prepared to send invitations now with a follow-up reminder right before field day. Please make sure he knows where your field day is to take advantage of this opportunity to educate our legislature members. His email address is w6abm@arrl.net.

SUMMER PLANS

For about the last month I have been exceptionally busy with work and school and that will be the case until about June 1 but then my schedule will settle down. I am starting to mark up my calendar with summer plans so let me know about events, especially weekend events, that I might be able to make it to. This coming Saturday I plan to be at the 145.29 repeater chili cook-off in Salem. I have the hamfests in Bandon (Coos Bay Radio Club) and Pendleton on my calendar and of course, Seapac. I hope to find events in Central Oregon and Southeastern Oregon that I can attend.

OO (OFFICIAL OBSERVER) REPORTS

Four OO's reported 362 hours of monitoring with one possible unlicensed violation requiring more monitoring.

PENDLETON SKYWARN COORDINATION MEETING AND NWS OPEN HOUSE

The Pendleton National Weather Service (NWS) Weather Forecast Office (WFO) will hold a SKYWARN Coordination Meeting on Saturday, May 19, 2007, beginning at 3:00 PM PDT. The meeting will address the creation and implementation of an Amateur Radio SKYWARN Net on the Amateur Radio HF bands for the purpose of collecting real-time severe weather reports in the Pendleton NWS WFO's County Warning and Forecast Area (CWFA).

The Pendleton NWS WFO will also host an Open House on May 19, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

3

All hams are invited to attend the SKYWARN Coordination Meeting and the NWS Open House.

The Pendleton NWS WFO has responsibility for issuing weather forecasts, advisories, watches, warnings, and Terminal Aerodrome Forecasts (TAFs) for civilian aviation, for a total of nineteen counties in south central and southeast Washington and in central, north central, and northeast Oregon.

Twelve Oregon Counties are in the Pendleton WFO's CWFA: Crook, Deschutes, Gilliam, Grant, Jefferson, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wasco, Wheeler, and Wallowa.

NTS REPORTS

The complete report from Scott Gray W7IZ will be posted on the Oregon Section website at <http://www.arrlOregon.org>.

Net Activity April 2007 (All reporting nets had 30 sessions):
Western Oregon VHF Emergency Net, 525 QNI, 38 QTC,
K7WWB Net Mgr Northwest Traffic and Training Net, 390 QNI, 126 QTC, N7YSS Net Mgr Oregon ARES Traffic Net, 667 QNI, 135 QTC, WA7FXF Net Mgr Beaver State Net, 787 QNI, 70 QTC, N7CM Net Mgr Oregon Section Net #1, 161 QNI, 117 QTC, WS7L Net Mgr Oregon Section Net #2, 83 QNI, 49 QTC, KC7SRL Net Mgr

Station Activity Reports April 2007, (SAR, Totals): W7IZ 298, N7CM 215, N7YSS 203, K7PMB 123, W7IG 95, K7EAJ 92, W7VSE 46, K7HQA 44, KD7ZLF 42, KC7SRL 33, WS7L 22, N7APE 8

Public Service Honor Roll April 2007 (PSHR, Totals): K7EAJ 189, N7CM 170, W7IG 120, KD7THV 112, N7XG 110, N7YSS 110, K7HQA 100, W7VSE 97, KD7ZLF 90, KK7TN 82

REQUEST FROM ARRL 7TH AREA QSL BUREAU -- K SORTER

The K sorter for the incoming QSL cards has cards for the following people and would like help getting in contact with them. If they want their cards, there are instructions for obtaining your cards at the Willamette Valley DX Club website at <http://wvdx.org/dotnetnuke/QSLBureau/Introduction/tabid/69/Default.aspx>.

The cards at the bureau for: NK7K, Hillsboro; W7KA Portland; W7KAQ, Newberg; KA7KBW, Baker City; KA7KEF, Portland; K7KEV, Forest Grove; W7KFB, McMinnville; AA7KH, The Dalles and N7KNF, Portland.

ARRL Oregon Section

Section Manager: Bonnie M. Altus, AB7ZQ

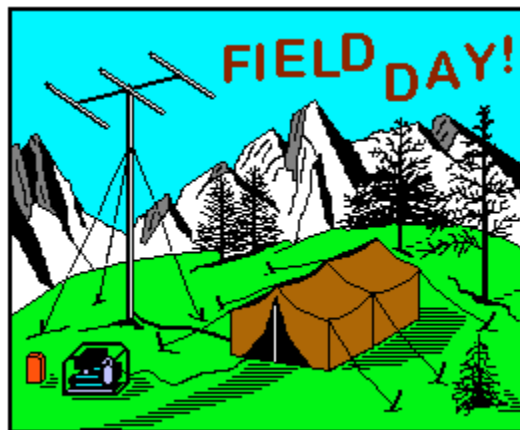
Wireless Gnu

Contests and events

- Kids Day June 16 1800Z to 2400Z
- West Virginia QSO Party June 16 1600Z to June 17 0200Z
- All Asia DX Contest CW June 16 0000Z to June 17 2400Z
- Quebec QSO Party CW/SSB June 16 1700Z to June 17 0300Z
- Light Houses on the Air June 21 to June 24 7270, 14.270 & 21.270 MHz
- FIELD DAY June 23 1800Z to June 24 2100Z
- His Majesty of Spain SSB Contest June 23 1200Z to June 24 1200Z
- Canada Day Contest CW/SSB July 1 0000Z to 2400Z
- Colorado QSO Party CW/SSB July 15 1200Z to July 16 0400Z
- North America RTTY QSO Party July 21 1800Z to July 22 0600Z

See you on the airwaves 73 Elmer W6IGK

Elmer W6IGK



Hints & tips

For all of us that find ourselves dozing at the radio from time to time, there is reason to think that we are engaging in personal improvement! The June 2006 issue of the "IEEE Antennas and Propagation Magazine" features the short column "Napping Improves Ethics" by Randy Haupt of Pennsylvania State University. If you don't have access to it, the basic idea is that by satisfying our need for sleep with a nap, "...alert and

5

Items for sale

Alliance Radio Shack Rotor, complete with control cable. Suitable for a light beam with minimum wind loading. Price - \$40

40 foot push up mast with all brackets and guy rings. These sell new for \$139 plus freight at Radio Shack. An inexpensive way to get that light beam up at 40 ft. Price - \$40.

Ten foot Schedule 40 - 1 1/4" PVC sections suitable for roof mounting an inverted V antenna with a 2 meter ground plane antenna on top. Also make a great ground plane vertical for 20-6 meters using section(s) to support internal conductor. Use your imagination. \$3 per section.

Burton Griffin 479-7888

Riley reiterates recommendation to "lighten up" on ham bands

FCC Special Counsel in the Spectrum Enforcement Division RileyHollingsworth's main message at the Dayton Hamvention@ <http://www.hamvention.org> 2007 FCC Forum may not have been a new one. But it's certainly one he believes bears repeating -- at least until it starts cutting through the QRM and QRN that pervade more communication channels than our Amateur Radio bands.

"Well, you could have gone to the flea market, but you came to church instead," Hollingsworth quipped to his Dayton forum audience. "I've got you now."

Hollingsworth repeated what for many Riley Watchers has become a familiar refrain: That the Amateur Radio community needs to "lighten up" on the air. Acknowledging that he was repeating himself, Hollingsworth urged his audience to take his message more to heart. "All of you can learn from each other," he said, "and you need to work together more and show a little more respect for your diverse interests and for the Amateur Service as a whole. It isn't about you. It isn't about enforcement. It's about Amateur Radio."

As radio amateurs take to the airwaves, he continued, they need to decide what's most important -- the best interests of ham radio or their ego, pride or perceived "rights."

"I realize I may be preaching to the choir here, but on the air you need to be more cooperative and less argumentative -- and I need you to take this message with you when you go home," he continued.

As a "homework assignment," Hollingsworth encouraged his listeners to read the "It Seems to Us . . ." editorial, "Most Effective Use"

Wireless Gnu

<http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2007/05/01/1/>, by ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, in May 2007 QST. In his commentary, Sumner stressed that interference occurring as a side effect of legitimate Amateur Radio activities in crowded bands "is simply a fact of life" and that it's "unfair to your fellow amateurs to assume that every instance of interference you may encounter is a hostile act."

Hollingsworth offered good news and bad news. "The good news: Nothing is wrong with Amateur Radio," he allowed. "It is a good service that is showing its value to the public on a daily basis."

The bad news, he asserted, making a comparison to "road rage," is "that there is an element of Amateur Radio that too often reflects present society generally."

Hollingsworth urged all radio amateurs to cooperate more and depend less on the FCC to solve their operating issues.

"We live in a rude, discourteous, profane, hotheaded society that loves its rights, prefers not to hear about its responsibilities, and that spills over into the ham bands," he said.

Hollingsworth's bottom line: Be flexible in your frequency selection and make regular use of the "big knob" on the front of your transceiver to shift to any of the "thousands of frequencies and hundreds usable at any given time of day or year" as necessary to avoid problems. "The world is ugly enough -- don't add to it," Hollingsworth advised.

"We can enforce our rules, but we can't enforce kindness and courtesy or common sense," Hollingsworth concluded. "And a very wise person, who happens to be standing to my left [FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau staffer Bill Cross, W3TN -- Ed] once told me: 'You can't regulate stupid.' If we could, we'd be working for the United Nations instead of the FCC."

In his comments, Cross singled out the controversy that erupted recently over fears that automatically controlled digital stations would overwhelm the amateur bands, eclipsing most other modes. Cross cited §97.7 of the rules, which requires each amateur station to have a control operator and, in essence, to employ a "listen-before-transmit" protocol."

When a station is under automatic control, regardless of the transmission mode, Cross explained, the control operator need not be at the control point, but must employ station control devices and procedures while transmitting that ensure compliance with the FCC rules and does not cause harmful interference to ongoing communications of other stations.

The operational rule, Cross said, is: "Your call sign, your responsibility."

From the June 1st ARRL Letter

SOARC nets & repeaters

SOARC Repeaters, K7LIX, 146.640(-) and on 147.300(+).
The 64 machine has autopatch.

SOARC ARES/NTS Net: Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m. on
147.300(+) repeater.

ORCA Swapnet - Wednesday evenings at 8 p.m. on the ORCA
system.

FCC licensing exams

In 2007, exams will be given on Friday evenings from 6:30
p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Fruitdale Grange (VEC people come at 6
p.m.). The dates are as follows:

August 24
November 23

Currently the fee for exams is \$14.00.

Remember to visit the www.arrl.org website to get the latest
information about testing, requirements, new changes that are
coming down the pike. The website for Grants Pass exam
schedules is <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.phtml>. If
you will notice the right hand side contains lots of hyperlinks
covering most of the questions about exam sessions. A copy of
this completed schedule has been sent to the VEC and should
appear at this site very soon.

73, Bill (WX7U), VE and Liaison.



The Southern Oregon Amateur Radio Club is a general-purpose
ham radio club and is affiliated with the American Radio Relay
League. Anyone interested in amateur radio is welcome to
attend our meetings. We operate the ARRL-sponsored field
day each June and support emergency communications. We
also promote volunteer exams for those interested in becoming
licensed by the FCC. For more information contact one of the
board members listed below.

SOARC, PO Box 1164, Grants Pass, OR 97528

2006 SOARC officers and board members

President: Dennis Recla, WA5KTC, Tel. 955-1704
Email: recla@magick.net

Vice President: Richard J. Huttenga, KD7WIA,
Tel. 955-2901, email: huttenga@terragon.com

Secretary: Jim Woods, W7PUP, Tel. 956-5287
Email: w7pup@arrl.net

Treasurer: John Stubbe, K7VSU, Tel. 479-3718
Email: k7vus@arrl.net

Board of Directors:

Officers, listed above plus:

Rob Locher, W7GH, Tel. 474-6758
E-mail: rob@rob.locher.com

Elmer Seutter, W6IGK, Tel. 955-5240
E-mail: seutter@earthlink.net

Burton Griffin, WB6CYK, Tel. 479-7888
E-mail: wb6cyk@roguelinkdsl.com

Galen Kelm, KE7LM, Tel. 582-2267
E-mail: ke7lm@charter.net

Robert Goff, W7MKA, Tel. 476-2064
E-mail: robert.h.goff@gmail.com