



# SOARC Wireless Gnus

Issue 169

July 2007

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN OREGON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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

## July Meeting

The July meeting of the SOARC will be held at 7 pm on Tuesday, July 17<sup>th</sup> at the Fruitdale Grange on Rogue River Highway.

We expect to discuss how we did on Field Day 2007 and what we learned. Generally, those who participated had a good time. The weather was perfect! Band conditions were not very good this year, however. We had some equipment problems which slowed things down a bit.





We had good media coverage from the Daily Courier and from KOBI, the NBC affiliate in Medford.

We had 42 individuals sign at the site – which is not bad at all. People drifted in at all hours, it seems. A city counselor also came to see what we were doing.

See you on Tuesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>.

Jim W7PUP

### Stolen ham radio equipment

*Note: the following message was recently received on the Internet.*

To: <Undisclosed-Recipient:>  
Sent: Tuesday, July 03, 2007 3:50 PM  
Subject: Fw: [OTVARC] Stolen Ham Radio Equipment

As some of you know most of the new ham radio equipment that was recently purchased for the emergency ham radio station at St. Charles Medical Center in Bend was stolen this past week. The theft is currently under investigation by Bend Police Department. Should you gain any information that might be of assistance in the recovery of the stolen equipment, please direct your information directly to the City of Bend Police Department, 541 322-2960, Case #070305718, Attention Officer Jason Gault. Of course any information provided will be kept confidential.

The following is a of the stolen equipment:

1 – Icom IC-756 Pro III HF transceiver, serial no. 3204395. New, no box.

1 - Kenwood TM-D700 VHF/UHF transceiver. Serial no. 60900056. Used, may have box.

1- Icom IC-V8000 VHF transceiver. Serial no. 2523020. New, may have box.

1 – West Mountain Rigblaster plug & play. Serial no. not available. New, in box.

1 - Kantronics KPC-3 plus packet. Serial no. not available, new in box.

1 – Pactor PCTC II including PACTOR III License. Serial no. OP04070100000E84512FD4. New, in box.

1 - PACTOR 9090 audio cable, new.

1 - PACTOR 8081 Transmitter frequency control cable, new.

1 - PACTOR 8120 audio cable, new.

1 - PACTOR 2330 packet radio DSP module II, new.

Note\*\* The PACTOR equipment may be identified as coming from Farallon Electronics.

2 - Telex 2400-142 boom microphones, used.

We appreciate any help that you can provide. Please feel free to share the above information with your fellow hams and anyone else that might assist in recovery of this equipment.

[http://www.arrl.org/contests/soapbox/?con\\_id=133](http://www.arrl.org/contests/soapbox/?con_id=133)>.

From the June 29, 2007 ARRL Letter.

## Field Day at W1AW: "It Was a Blast!"

With the 2007 Field Day now a part of history, it's time to begin planning for 2008. With that in mind, ARRL Regulatory Information Branch Manager and Field Day Coordinator Dan Henderson, N1ND, said, "From the phone calls and e-mails I have received, people all over the country had a great Field Day. It was a blast. Now it's time to get started planning for next year!"

W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, said, "Field Day conditions were weak, but we managed some good contacts, nonetheless. All the W1AW Field Day bulletins were sent without a hitch."

Henderson agreed. "Propagation was not the best up here in New England. But we managed to pull through, and had a lot of fun doing so." W1AW made a total of 804 contacts: 317 on CW, 466 on Phone and 21 on the digital modes; each mode ran at 100 W. Taking into account all the bonus points available, W1AW's claimed score is 2284. "We ran Field Day as 4F. Since W1AW is an EOC station, we are allowed the 'F' designator. Although we didn't make any satellite contacts, we did demonstrate it to staff and visitors," Carcia said.

W1AW managed to make contacts with 42 of the 50 US states. Unfortunately, operators were not able to make contact with South Dakota, Wyoming, Alaska, Hawaii, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon or Kansas. "We're okay with that, because at W1AW, we view Field Day as more of a teaching, or educational, experience. There are times where we are not operating, or not operating that much, because we are showing new or prospective hams what Amateur Radio is all about," Carcia said.

Carcia noted that just as during regular W1AW operating hours, visitors were "more than welcome" to come by W1AW on Field Day. "We had one visitor from Hawaii. He and his family were in Connecticut on family business, and he operated pretty much both days. In addition to visitors, we had 11 ARRL HQ staffers show up to both operating and to conduct a VE test session on Saturday," Carcia said. A total of eight people took exams, with six passing.

Carcia said that the W1AW 60 kW diesel generator suffered "some nastiness" the Saturday before Field Day, but was repaired in the days prior to the operating event. "As near as we can tell," Carcia said, "lightning struck a power line a street over, inducing voltage in the line. We are guessing the induced voltage arced across from the neutral side in the transfer switch and 'whacked' the solenoid coil and control board in the transfer switch. We think this only because the coil is about an inch away from neutral buss." The generator story, as well as pictures from W1AW's Field Day, are on the ARRL Field Day Web blog <http://www.arrl.org/blog/Field%20Day%202007>>.

Post your Field Day experiences on the Field Day Soapbox <

## Contests and events

IARU HF World Championship SSB/CW 7/14 1200Z to 7/15 1200Z.

Colorado QSO Party SSB/CW 7/15 1200Z to 7/16 0400Z

North American RTTY QSO Party 7/21 1800Z to 7/22 0600Z

CQ WW VHF Contest 7/21 1800Z to 7/22 2100Z

Indianapolis Motor Speedway Special 7/27 to 7/30 7.240, 14.240 & 21.340 MHZ. Event W9IMS.

RSGB Islands on the Air SSB/CW 7/28 1900Z to 7/29 1200Z

Special Event AB5AG Honoring Col.Greg 8/3 to 8/5 1600to 2359Z

Boyington and the Black Sheep Squadron VMF 241 of WW II 10,15,20 & 40 meters

North American QSO Party CW 8/4 1800Z to 8/5 0600Z

South Africa DX Contest 8/5 1300Z to 1630Z

Ten-Ten International QSO Party SSB 10M 8/4 0001Z to 8/5 2359Z

National Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend 8/ 4 0000Z to 8/5 2359Z

Worked All Europe DX Contest CW 8/11 0000Z to 8/12 2359Z

Maryland/DC QSO Party 8/11 1600Z to 8/12 0400 and 8/12 1600 to 2359Z

Navajo Code Talkers Days N7C 8/11 and 8/12 7.265 & 14.265 MHZ

New Jersey QSO Party 8/ 18 2000Z to 8/19 0700Z and 8/19 1300Z to 8/20 0200Z

International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend 8/18 and 8/19 7.270,14.270, 21.370 & 28.370 MHZ

Russian District Award Contest 9/18 1400Z to 8/19 0800Z

If you can't do any of the other contests try the Ten-Ten QSO Party. It will give you a good idea on how ten meters is going. There should be a lot of stations on.

See you on the airwaves. de W6IGK Elmer

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### Hints & tips

Anybody need a Smith Chart or some graph paper? Check out [www.pdfpad.com](http://www.pdfpad.com) to print out Smith Charts, graph paper and even staff paper. Another Web page [www.sss-mag.com/pdf/smithchart.pdf](http://www.sss-mag.com/pdf/smithchart.pdf) has a nice Smith Chart too. (Thanks, Tom KF4YYD and Chris N7ZWY)

Owners of Butternut antennas might be interested to learn that there is a Butternut Antennas group on Yahoo! Groups. Log on to [www.yahogroups.com](http://www.yahogroups.com) and search for butternut-antennas. Lots of good articles, pictures and info available, says Larry K7LJ.

How many of us earned the Radio merit badge back in our youth? Is the badge still available? You bet it is! K2GW runs a Radio Merit Badge day once a year at the David Sarnoff Library in Princeton, NJ. They typically get about 50 Scouts to attend and always fill a follow-on Tech licensing course with a dozen Scouts and parents. There's no better way to get more hams (and potential contestors) than by doing this! Gary's Web page <http://k2gw.tripod.com/radiomeritbadge> has everything a ham needs to teach the Radio merit badge, including downloadable presentations. You need not be a scoutmaster or otherwise a member of the troop - you only need to make yourself or your club known to a Scout leader as someone interested in helping Scouts obtain their merit badge.

Two well-known causes of key clicks can be easily addressed in many radios, including top-of-the-line units. The first, rise and fall time for the CW keying waveform, is often a menu setting. Don't just take the setting's word for it, though - verify it on a 'scope. Change the menu setting so that the rise and fall times are at least 4 msec. The second cause is driving the ALC system too hard. This is harder to diagnose, but if you are driving the rig such that the ALC is activating on transmit, back down the drive. When in doubt, have some local friends (but not next-door neighbors) check for clicks with everything at full power. Have them use the narrow CW filter and tune immediately adjacent to your signal as if they are the "next" station on the band. Then fight the urge to turn it up "just a little bit" when you're actually on the air! For more information, browse [www.w8ji.com/what\\_causes\\_clicks.htm](http://www.w8ji.com/what_causes_clicks.htm) by Tom W8JI.

In a conversation with a professional radio astronomer, Paul NA5N said that "he described a weird phenomenon where the amplitude of the signals would increase and decrease in a random fashion. Of course, every ham knows this is called fading or QSB. However, I thought you might be interested to know what astronomers call this phenomenon: "Ionospheric induced amplitude scintillation with aperiodic variability." Somehow, QSB just rolls off the tongue a bit better -- and certainly off the old Morse code key!

Here are two ways of bleeding off static charge from antennas when an RF choke might not work for whatever reason. A shorted, quarter-wavelength length of RG-8 looks like an open circuit to RF at the design frequency, but any dc (static charge)

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sees a short circuit to ground. Another tried-and-true way is to place a 100 K ohm to 1 M ohm, 2-watt resistor across the feedline. Either will provide a path for static charge while leaving RF unaffected. Note that nearby strike or surge can cause the resistor to overheat or explode so take appropriate safety action. (Thanks, Jerry K4SAV and Chris KA8WFC)

A recent thread on the RFI reflector [rfi@contesting.com](mailto:rfi@contesting.com) about mobiling noises "Strange radio static problem in vehicle" pointed out that since cars and trucks are no longer constructed with continuous metal bodies, bonding between the sections will degrade over time, possibly leading to RFI problems where once a solid ground was present. This may not solve your problem, but is a tip to be aware.

Whilst searching for information on the Off-Center-Fed (OCF) Dipole, Brian G0NSL came across [www.stroobandt.com/antennas/window](http://www.stroobandt.com/antennas/window) featuring an excellent presentation on the subject. Spiderbeam fans, including expeditioners and other portable operators, will be pleased to learn of the new North American distributor. Paul K4UJ will carry all Spiderbeam antennas, fiberglass and aluminum masts in stock, as well as spare parts at [www.dx-is.com](http://www.dx-is.com) (Thanks, Con DF4SA)

Larry F6FVY has created a small "point and click" interface <http://f6fvy.free.fr/qthLocator> to Google Maps that gives your QTH-locator (grid square), and coordinates. There is also a full screen page <http://f6fvy.free.fr/qthLocator/fullScreen.php> that allows entry of a 6-char grid square, to which the map will be automatically centered and zoomed.

*That's it for July. de W6IGK Elmer*

### Items for sale

Nothing to list in this issue. If you have something for sale please send description to Jim W7PUP. Send to [W7PUP@arrl.net](mailto:W7PUP@arrl.net).

### SOARC nets & repeaters

SOARC Repeaters, K7LIX, 146.640(-) and on 147.300(+). The 64 machine may be down for maintenance.

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 remaining for 2007 are as follows:

August 24  
November 23

Currently the fee for exams is \$14.00.

Remember to visit the [www.arrl.org](http://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.

By the way at the May VE test session the following club members were up graded to General:

Mike Davis  
George Triller  
Bill Childs

Also Chuck Smith has received accreditation as an ARRL Volunteer Examiner (VE).

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  
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**Vice President:** Richard J. Huttenga, KD7WIA,  
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**Secretary:** Jim Woods, W7PUP, Tel. 956-5287  
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**Treasurer:** John Stubbe, K7VSU, Tel. 479-3718  
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### Board of Directors:

Officers, listed above plus:

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## Photographs

Do you recognize club members in the photos on pages 1 and 2? I wasn't sure and didn't want to guess.

We can now include photographs in the *Wireless Gnus*. What works best is a jpg or gif file. 72 dpi looks good without the file size taking up too much room. Please include a caption, if possible. E-mail pictures to [W7PUP@arrl.net](mailto:W7PUP@arrl.net).

*Thanks and 73, Jim W7PUP*