



# SOARC Wireless Gnus

Issue 170

August 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>  
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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.

### August Meeting

The August meeting of the SOARC will be held at 7 pm on Tuesday, August 21<sup>st</sup> at the Fruitdale Grange on Rogue River Highway.

See you on Tuesday, August 21<sup>st</sup>.

*Jim W7PUP*

### Recent SOARC T-Hunt results

A T-Hunt was held on August 4<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. There were two "hunters": Rob K7HMN and Bob WA6HWW. Galen KE7LM was the "fox". We had a good time. The hunt was about an hour long. The hidden fox was at the old hospital on Highland Ave.

We are going to try later next month so watch your email and newsletter.

*73, Galen KE7LM*

### Contests and special events

-North American QSO Party SSB Aug 18 1800Z to Aug 19 0600Z

- Scandinavian RTTY Contest Aug 18 0200Z to 0800Z & 1600Z to 2400Z & Aug 19 0800Z to 1600Z 80 thru 10 meters

- New Jersey QSO Party Aug 18 2000Z to Aug 19 0700Z & Aug 19 1300Z to Aug 20 0200Z 80 thru 10 meters

- Russian District Award Contest SSB/CW Aug 18 1400Z to Aug 19 0800Z 80 thru 10 meters

- Hawaii QSO Party SSB/CW/Digi Aug 25 0700Z to Aug 26 2200Z 160 thru 10 meters

- Ohio QSO Party SSB/CW Aug 25 1600Z to Aug 26 0400Z 80 thru 10 meters

- Australian Ladies ARA Contest SSB/CW Aug 25 0600Z to Aug 26 1159Z 80 thru 10 meters

- Romanian DX Contest SSB/CW Aug 26 1200Z to Aug 27 1200Z 80 to 10 meters

- All Asian Contest SSB Sept 1 0000Z to 9/2 2400Z

- German 10 Meter Digital modes Sept 2 1100Z to 1700Z 28.050 to 28.150 MHZ

- Russian RTTY Contest Sept 1 0000Z to 2400Z 80 to 10 meters

- Young Ladies Howdy Days Sept 11 1400Z to Sept 13 0200Z 7.233,7.288,14.233

- Arkansas QSO Party SSB/CW/PSK-31 Sept 1400Z to Sept 9 0600Z & Sept 9 1500Z to 2400Z

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- Tennessee QSO Party SSB/CW/Digi Sept 9 1800Z to Sept 10 0300Z 160 to 10 meters

- Scandinavian CW Contest Sept 15 1200Z to Sept 16 1200Z 80 to 10 meters

- South Carolina QSO Party SSB/CW/DIGI Sept 15 1300Z to Sept 16 2100Z 160 to 10 meters

- CQWA Fall QSO Party SSB/CW/DIGI Sept 15 1800Z to Sept 16 1899Z 160 to 10 meters

- QRP Afield SSB/CW/DIGI Sept 15 1500Z to 2100Z 160 to 10 meters

*That's it for August, see you on the airwaves...73 Elmer  
W6IGK*

### Hints & tips

QDG - What's Your Darn Grid? Bernd DF2ZC notes that Laurent F6FVY has programmed a tool <http://f6fvy.free.fr/qthLocator/fullScreen.html> based on Google Earth so that clicking on any spot on a world map automatically displays the corresponding full grid locator. Adjust the map to the desired resolution and click on the spot you want. A small window pops up with longitude, latitude, and grid. (If you have pop-ups blocked, you'll have to press the Control key while clicking.)

-URL of the Week - Snowed in? Here's just the Web site to pass the time. The November "Monitoring Times" Digital Digest column is titled "What's That Sound?" and includes just what you need. Leif Dehio seems to have recorded and posted [www.signals.taunus.de](http://www.signals.taunus.de) samples of just about every digital mode active today. Now you can identify just exactly what those blurbles and bleebles are doing! My favorite is The Chinese 32-tone MFSK 37.5 + 75 Bd. (Thanks, Cortland KA5S)

-The days of those simple "choose your Q-point" Class-A audio output amplifier stages are history. In case you hadn't noticed, a lot of audio gadgets now use a switch-mode Class-D output stage. If you are the electronically inquisitive type, there is a good design article on these circuits at [www.electronicdesign.com](http://www.electronicdesign.com) if you enter '13874' into the Drill Down ID window.

Another interesting article ("Thermocouples Join Forces") about how thermocouples work in the 6 November issue of Design News at <http://rbi.ims.ca/4939-527> Thermocouples are used in some high-power radio gear to manage thermal issues, so a little know-how can come in handy.

To keep a turnbuckle from loosening up, put a loop of cable through both eye bolts (or the guy cable thimbles) and the

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body, then clamp the ends together with a cable clamp. (Thanks, Jim K0XU and others)

Sometimes components need to be installed directly on the ac line, especially capacitors for filtering. How do you choose an adequately rated part? The folks at [www.justradios.com/safetytips.html](http://www.justradios.com/safetytips.html) have assembled an excellent collection of safety information on line-rated capacitors. (Thanks, Roger N1RJ)

Want to give EME a try, but can't put the necessary station together. Tree N6TR contributes couple of samples of EME signals at <http://web.jzap.com/k7rat/rateme.html> that might be interesting to listen to. If you are "trained" at hearing weak signals, you should hear them FB. Untrained ears take awhile to finally get it.

Discussing whether it's better to use high/low pitch and wide/narrow filters when copying weak stations, Jim N2EA offers the slightly-edited following. "Depending on the statistical nature of the prevailing noise, you may hear better with a lower frequency OR with a higher frequency. It isn't always the same. Moreover, despite our tendency to use tight filters, they may not be the best for small signal detection. First, the brain needs a fair statistical sample of the noise, to be able to compare signals to it. A narrower filter may not provide enough noise input. Second, narrower filters may have ringing and phase distortion, which confuse the brain...such that the SNR is NOT improved with the narrower filter. Widening the filter and shifting to a higher pitch often brought the desired signal out of the noise, even though I prefer listening to a lower pitch. Try both approaches before you give up."

Continuing the consideration of pitch sensitivity, Eric K3NA relays that "The ear can resolve nearby tones more easily at low frequencies than high. Two tones separate by 10 Hz at 1000 Hz are only 1% apart, but at 200 Hz they are separated by 5%. There are many conflicting factors at play here. A just-noticeable-difference in pitch depends on frequency, volume, duration, and the speed at which frequency changes (for a changing tone). As a result, there is a band of frequencies for which we have maximum pitch discrimination. If you want to measure this for yourself, take the test at [www.ucihs.uci.edu/hesp](http://www.ucihs.uci.edu/hesp) (You must use Internet Explorer for the test.) Click on "Hearing Test" at the left and pick frequency discrimination". The other tests are fun, too."

Pete N4ZR contributes this tip to help others avoid an irritating "oops" when installing chassis-mount SO-239 connectors. "I wanted to use single-hole SO-239s in one box, and found that the ones I could get had the thread on the outside - so you would stick them through the box from the inside, and then put the nuts on to hold them in place. The trouble was that with the thick walls of the box, the amount of thread remaining was insufficient to pull standard PL-259s down tight against the jacks causing intermittent contacts. You can get SO-239s that have the thread behind the fixed flange, but ask specifically before buying." Short UHF bulkhead connectors with nuts on both sides are also available if the interior connection is to a

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PL-259. (Thanks, Mike WOMU)

-Keith NM5G contributes a link [www.nyeviking.com](http://www.nyeviking.com) of interest to owners of Nye-Viking tuners. The tuners were quite popular, but are no longer made. The site has "everything you need to know," says Keith.

-Marek SP7DQR [www.sp7dqr.waw.pl/eng/index\\_en.html](http://www.sp7dqr.waw.pl/eng/index_en.html) has written several freeware log converter programs that use ADIF, Cabrillo, and text formats. (Thanks, Jan SM3CER)

On the subject of log conversion, if you are using a spreadsheet as a logging program for casual entries, WA7BNM's log conversion Web site <http://brh.net/cabforms/> makes converting it to Cabrillo format a lot easier. Jim WA7KYI gave it a try for Sweepstakes contacts in his spreadsheet. "I first filled in the necessary data (on the Web site). When it was happy, it then sent me to a page where I could enter the data. I had to rearrange the spreadsheet to match the order of columns that it wanted. I then just copied the relevant columns from the spreadsheet and pasted the whole thing onto the page. I then clicked on "Submit QSO Info". The next page showed where the errors were. I found it didn't like the format of the date or time I had used. It wanted, 12/9 and not 12/9/06. It wanted 1359 for time and not 13:59. It took me several tries before it was happy. When I had no errors, I clicked on "Submit" and that was it. Here is the format it wanted: Mode Date Time Call RST ST or Ser# CW 12/9 450 K6NR 599 CA SSB 12/10 2104 LT7W 59 1112"

-A set of photos describing K3LR's PL-259 soldering technique are now on-line at <http://k3lr.com/engineering/pl259/> Bill W6WRT uses a similar technique, but simply trims the jacket back enough to expose braid at the back of the connector shell and solders there. Bruce WA3AFS solders at the body holes, but uses a small hook to pull braid up through the holes so that it can be heated easier.

The Rhombic Pages of Ian W. Cummings, KB1SG, were an important and popular resource for this fine antenna. Due to hosting problems, the site disappeared in 2002. Fortunately, Tim EI8IC has managed to retrieve most of the original pages and photos, and with Ian's permission has placed the pages on his own Contester Resource and Ham Mapping Web site [www.mapability.com/ei8ac/rhombic/index.html](http://www.mapability.com/ei8ac/rhombic/index.html), for the benefit of others who would like to know more about the rhombic. We can dream, can't we?

-Need something to do in your spare time? A great deal of MIT's technical curricula is on line at: <http://ocw.mit.edu/OcwWeb/index.htm>. University of CA at Berkeley also publishes course content at <http://webcast.berkeley.edu/courses/index.php> Thanks, Mike AE6WA and Michael Taylor)

While you're waiting for the weather to improve, here's some good reading in preparation for antenna season: The Handbook of Rigging by W.E. Rosnagel is widely available or you can try the on-line resource "Wire Rope 101"

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<https://www.hanessupply.com/page1.html> from Hanes Supply. (Thanks, Eric K3NA)

Trying to remove a ground rod? Let Jim N2EY give you some tips. "The first step is to break the adhesion to the soil by turning the rod. Get a large pipe wrench - not an adjustable wrench or gripping pliers, but a true pipe wrench. Use the pipe wrench to grab the ground rod in the classic 3-points-of-contact way. Turn the rod. If you need more leverage, put a breaker bar or length of pipe on the pipe wrench. A couple of turns will loosen most ground rods so well that you can yank them out with one hand. Jacks and chains and such should only be used after the turning process has been tried."

If you're looking for nearby broadcast stations, "Go to the FCC Web site [www.fcc.gov/mb/audio/](http://www.fcc.gov/mb/audio/) and click on the link for AM query. Plug in the lat/lon of your QTH near the bottom of the form, with a distance of 15 miles or so. You'll get all the licenses, with their powers, whether they have different day/night power and/or patterns, and distance from you. DA means directional antenna, DA-N means directional at night, DA2 means directional with different patterns day and night." (Thanks, Jim K9YC)

Many of us that have opened up a rotator learned many interesting things during that first surgery - about ball bearings, gears, center of gravity, and other similar topics. Randy WB4UNA provides three helpful hints for disassembling and reassembling Ham-II/III/IV and Taitwister rotators.

- Before disassembling, turn the unit to the north or center position
- Make an alignment mark between the housings before separating them
- Hold the rotator upside down when disassembling to keep the ball bearings at home in the top housing.

After the recent big solar flares - quite rare at the bottom of the solar cycle - there is renewed interest in sunspots. For those interested in some illustrations, Paul NA5N has put together a very nice one-page guide to solar phenomena. It's available from the G-QRP Web site [www.gqrp.com](http://www.gqrp.com) under the SPRAT button as "Handiman's Guide to Solar Activity" in the Datasheets list. There's quite a lot of good information on that site, as well.

*That's it for August. 73 Elmer W6IGK*

## Items for sale

Nothing listed in this issue but if you have something for sale please send description to Jim W7PUP via [W7PUP@arrl.net](mailto:W7PUP@arrl.net).

## Mentoring activity is 'active mentoring'

Amateur Radio has always been an activity of exploration and discovery as well as personal growth and social interaction. The people who often receive the most satisfaction from Amateur Radio are those who have spent time developing skills. They have made a commitment to increase their knowledge of the subject and who have become a part of the fabric of the amateur community. Obtaining a license and purchasing a radio does not make you a radio amateur any more than purchasing a tennis racket makes you a tennis player. If I may carry this analogy a step further, mentoring in ham radio is like coaching in sports; it is ineffective unless there is an effort from the participant.

"Without involvement, there is no commitment. Mark it down, asterisk it, circle it, underline it. No involvement, no commitment." -- Stephen Covey

Too often time and energy is wasted by well-meaning amateurs who want to help people discover Amateur Radio. Fueled by their good intentions, these disciples of Amateur Radio try to spoon-feed information to apathetic newcomers who somehow meandered through the door to ham radio or have found themselves handcuffed to ham radio either through school, career or family involvement. License mills that systematically churn out call signs and don't offer any follow up training are not the least bit beneficial to the Amateur Radio Service. One new ham who gets involved in a local club and is active on the air will have far more impact on Amateur Radio than a hundred call signs who may never even purchase a radio let alone get on the air. Unfortunately the dormant call signs will clutter the census of Amateur Radio for up to ten years, misleading the actual number of active hams. New hams should already have that wide-eyed zeal of any person who has willingly embarked on a new hobby or venture. The enthusiasm of new hams is often contagious and this can have a positive effect on a club by invoking renewed excitement to the group.

A recent example of this wide-eyed enthusiasm happened at our club's Filed Day event when I met a newcomer to Amateur Radio who had only been licensed about six weeks at the time. I could instantly see in the eager but curious way that he immersed himself in the weekend's activities that this person had the potential to be an asset to our club and to Amateur Radio. Soon after Field Day, the novice operator had a General class license manual in his hand but, more importantly, he was in my shack experiencing DX, SSB, digital and CW operating. Soon after that, I had him in the chair participating in the IARU contest. Immediately after his inoculation of on-the-air operation, my new protégé was planning his first wire antenna and the layout of his shack. He even designed a QSL card to confirm future contacts with other radio amateurs. By the time this newsletter is released I am certain that he will probably have upgraded to General and started logging contacts from his own station.

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Amateur Radio has a wide variety of things to offer but the fact remains that in this post 911 and post-Katrina world, many people have been attracted to Amateur Radio through the emergency communications feature of the service. It is wonderful that these new people are using the EmComm portal to come into the exciting world of Amateur Radio however, if the intention is to get an entry level license, buy a hand-held radio and keep it in a box only to be used for emergencies. All of the spoon feeding in the world is not going to enable these people to become good operators and effective communicators.

Active radio operators are effective communicators and are essential to "maintaining a reservoir of trained communicators," as stated in FCC Part 97 as the basis and purpose of the Amateur Radio Service. Not only do active hams make good communicators, active hams "enhance international goodwill" which is also part of the FCC's basis and purpose of the service.

Effective mentoring in ham radio requires coaching, teaching and above all, encouragement. The mentor who is a cheerleader and promotes activity on and off the air gives new hams a purpose and lets them learn by doing. Activity introduces new hams to other operators and offers opportunities for new friendships and resources that can help develop communication skills.

Contests and awards are not just for collecting certificates and other wallpaper. Operating events are fun and they can be used as mentoring tools to encourage new operators to set goals and get involved. More time spent on-the-air with other hams not only increases an operator's ability to be able to pass information, but it cultivates good listening skills, creates a familiarity and comfort level in using the equipment, and it helps to understand complex topics like propagation.

Proficiency comes by doing, and as one becomes more proficient at something, the more enjoyment there is to be derived from it. People who enjoy what they are doing are more likely to share their avocation with others who show an interest. Mentors who promote activity kick start the machine that generates momentum in a club. Active hams are enthusiastic hams, and enthusiastic hams create commotion that others want to be a part of. As the passion for ham radio activity grows, soon the students become the teachers who mentor a new group of excited wide-eyed novices.

Radio amateurs have many opportunities to be recognized for their operating achievements and mentors ought to be using these programs as training aids. ARRL sponsors or supports many events and awards programs that are designed to get hams on the air. In fact, the very first tab on the ARRL Web page < [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) is "Operating Activities." Along with contests and awards, there are many special event operating activities. On any given weekend there are operating events that hams can participate in. Besides the structured events and activities mentioned we can always sit down with a new ham and call CQ. Effective mentoring comes not from spoon feeding, but by setting a buffet table full of activity and inviting new hams to join in the feast.

Resources:

Checklist for a quality mentor program:

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/club/mentor/check-list.html>

Special Event listings:

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>

ARRL Contest Calendar:

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/calendar.html>

Contest Corral (Non ARRL Contests):

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/months/jul.html>

*From ARRL Club News, August 2007*

## Monthly Oregon Section News Summary

Wednesday, July 18, 2007

### Plans for the next year:

During the next year, I plan to send out more information on club activities, and accomplishments of other appointees, such as PIO's, technical specialists and local government liaisons.

Please send any reports of activities to me.

I will review any club newsletters for activities to report.

### New PIO appointments and activities:

Becky Marks, KE7DXT, is the PIO in Pendleton.

Stuart Lent, KE7BJQ, and Anita Ragan, KE7BJR, are the PIO's for the Salem Amateur Radio Club.

The District 1 ARES PIO, Steve Sanders, KE7JSS, sent a lot of press releases regarding field day to newspapers and radio stations. As a result, a radio station, KAST, in Astoria requested hams to appear for an interview. David Kidd, KA7OZO, the District 1 DEC, participated in that interview.

There was an announcement on Field Day in the Oregonian on June 19th.

The Statesman-Journal visited the Salem Amateur Radio Club field day site and took photos, publishing an article on June 24th. I visited their field day site and was impressed with their activities.

There was an article in the Daily Astorian on July 3 about ham radio demonstrations in the radio room of the Lightship Columbia, put on by members of the Sunset Empire Amateur Radio Club (SEARC).

### Activities:

The Treasure Valley Radio Association, with members from Idaho and Oregon had a public display of ham radio at the

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Fiddle Festival in Weiser, Idaho on field day weekend, led by Ron Morell, KA7U, the Oregon District 6 DEC. Weiser, Idaho is just across the border from Ontario, Oregon and the groups work closely together.

Oregon hams contributed to help purchase new radio equipment that will help keep a prominent Bangladesh Dxer on the air. His equipment died as a result of an electrical storm. He asked his QSL manager, John Core, KX7YT, for help in locating a radio. Those contributing are listed on the section website.

### Mini-SET coming and ARES/RACES reports:

If you do not hear about the mini-SET utilizing airmail during August, please contact your ARES EC.

I will catch up on the sending the ARES/RACES reports out next week.

### Mobile communication bills:

I want to thank everyone who wrote to your legislature members to support a ham radio exemption to the mobile communication bills. The only bill that passed does not allow underage drivers with an instructional permit or provisional license to use any mobile communications device.

We can expect to see more bills next legislative session. We will be on the alert and will let all of you know what action is recommended.

### My activities:

Since the last report, I visited a meeting of the Central Oregon Radio Association, Jackson County ARES, and the Klamath Basin picnic. I also visited the field day sites of the McMinnville Amateur Radio Club and the Salem Amateur Radio Club. Next year I will pick another section of the state and visit some sites there.

For upcoming visits, I will be at the Hoodview Amateur Radio Club, the Coos County hamfest, the Pendleton Hamfest, and the ARES Leadership Conference.

### OO reports:

3 active OO's reported 86 hours of monitoring.

### STM (section traffic manager) report:

Net Activity June 2007: (All reporting nets had 30 sessions)

Western Oregon VHF Emergency Net, QNI 472, QTC 44, K7WWB Net Mgr

Northwest Traffic and Training Net, QNI 458, QTC 74, N7YSS Net Mgr

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Beaver State Net, QNI 732, QTC 72, N7CM Net Mgr  
Oregon ARES Traffic Net, QNI 564, QTC 71, WA7FXF Net  
Mgr

Oregon Section Net/1, QNI 179, QTC 143, WS7L Net Mgr

Oregon Section Net/2, QNI 100, QTC 58, KC7SRL Net Mgr

Station Activity Report (SAR) June 2007 (Totals): W7IZ 353,  
N7CM 171, N7YSS 152, W7IG 100, KD7ZLF 74, K7EAJ 56,  
K7PMB 43, KC7SRL 37, W7VSE 36, K7HQA 24, WS7L 21,  
W7WAT 4, and N7APE 3

Public Service Honor Roll (PSHR, Totals) June 2007: K7EAJ  
270, N7CM 215, W7IG 120, N7XG 110, N7YSS 110,  
KD7ZLF 90, W7VSE 85, KD7THV 81, K7HQA 78, KK7TN  
77, and W7WAT 61.

*From ARRL Oregon Section Manager Bonnie M. Altus,  
AB7ZQ, [ab7zq@arrl.org](mailto:ab7zq@arrl.org) .*

## From the ARRL Club News, July 2007

### It Doesn't Hurt To Ask

The West Allis ARC (WI) sent us some pictures of their Field Day operation and I could not help but notice the number of bucket trucks that were used to support the antennas. I was told that as luck would have it a contractor for the local power company was using part of the Field day site as a temporary base for their equipment while working in the area. So the club tracked down the foreman and asked for a favor and just like that, the club had instant support for some full wave loop antennas. <http://www.warac.org/fd/index.htm>

### QSL Party

If your club is looking for a good meeting program that will bring people together then try a QSL party. Many hams have colorful QSL cards with stories associated with the contact.

Ask your club members to bring in their QSL albums or a few of their favorite QSL cards and give everyone an opportunity to share the cards and a few stories with the club. QSL cards can range from a memorable QSO or rare DX or a first QSO on a given band or mode.

This is a great opportunity for new hams to see what QSLing is all about and what they can expect as they become more involved in Amateur Radio activities.

For a free Power Point program and accompanying handout material please visit the ARRL multimedia library at <  
[www.arrl.org/multimedia](http://www.arrl.org/multimedia)

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### Safety First --- Safety Always

Summer is when many radio amateurs perform work on their antennas. A lot of clubs will rally around members' projects to assist with raising antennas and towers. PLEASE keep safety as your number one priority when performing this kind of work.

Watch out for overhead powerlines and other dangerous situations. Care should also be taken not to strain backs and muscles attempting to lift heavy loads. Heat can be another danger to some people when working outdoors. Remember to hydrate and rest when necessary.

The Amateur Radio Community Services club, KI4OIP in Paintsville, Kentucky presented their club with a demonstration on tower safety at the June meeting. The demonstration included all of the necessary climbing gear and a section of tower to show proper techniques on how to use the equipment. The presentation was given by experienced tower climbers Ralph Tuley, KB9ORD, and Mark Holbrook, KE4KAD. Mark climbs towers for a living and routinely ascends to heights of 1000 feet.

The ARRL Technical Information Service (TIS) has information on antenna and tower safety.

<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/pdf/0106091.pdf>

Playing it safe today means that you will have a chance to come out to play tomorrow.

ARCS < <http://www.ki4oip.org/>

### Elmer's Corner

(A letter from a local club)

Thank you ARRL for the great Elmer Award. We presented it today to Alan, WA4SCA at his house. He was very pleased to receive it, and said he never expected such a thing. It was great to see him with the award, thank you so much for supplying it.

Our club, Williamson County Amateur Radio Emergency Service in Williamson County Tennessee, has regular monthly breakfast meetings that usually see 35 club members in attendance. At one such meeting we were discussing Field Day and plans for a satellite station at Field Day.

As soon as a satellite team was recruited, Alan Biddle WA4SCA stepped up to offer his help. Alan is not as active with Field Day as he once was, however he was very enthusiastic about helping the club and supplying much of the equipment needed for this specialized mode.

Alan was never put-out by the excessive e-mails and barrage of questions. He guided us as we procured antenna hardware and tried to assemble an earth station. Alan was always there to offer encouragement when we experienced frustration from not being able to make a contact during many "practice" sessions. Eventually our group was able to make contact with Alan through one of the satellites. He congratulated our success and

presented us with QSL cards confirming the QSO.

Alan was very enthusiastic and in the time leading up to Field Day he kept the club informed with satellite tracking information and advice on how to maximize our effort through the software programs that we were using.

Thanks to Alan's help we were up to speed by the time Field Day rolled around, and we were tracking the birds and making regular making FM contacts using yagi antennas. We became proficient enough to be able to successfully use a handheld Arrow antenna with a 5W HT to make a contact through a satellite.

Being inexperienced made understanding the material in 'The Radio Amateur's Satellite Handbook' (ARRL) a bit difficult. This material became clearer as time went on thanks to Alan's help and encouragement.

This has been one of the better experiences of my life and has opened up another new avenue of Amateur radio for me. Thank you again for providing the Elmer Award for Alan. Being able to recognize him with an ARRL certificate for his unselfish deeds meant a lot to our club and to Alan.

73, Dave KI4PSR

## **Pacificon, October 19-21**

The American Radio Relay League Pacific Division & the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club Presents: PACIFICON 2007 Amateur Radio Convention, October 19-21, 2007, San Ramon Marriott Hotel, San Ramon, California. For Events, Schedules and Ticket Sales go to: [www.PACIFICON.org](http://www.PACIFICON.org) . For Hotel Reservations Call 1-800-228-9290 Before October 4, 2007. Ask for the Special Pacificon 2007 Rate of \$84 per night. PACIFICON 2007 Events Include:

- Friday All-Day Antenna Seminar
- Friday Evening Open MDARC Meeting
- Saturday Keynote Breakfast & Evening Banquet
- Outstanding Technical Forums
- Ham Equipment Exhibitors
- Great Swap Meet
- Daily Radio Prize Drawings
- ARRL Forum
- Transmitter Hunt
- Legal Seminar
- Ham License Exams
- Saturday All-Day Technician License Class
- HFpack Activities
- QRP Activities

Hotel Reservations:

PACIFICON returns to the San Ramon Marriott Hotel in San Ramon, California, October 19-21, 2007. The luxurious Marriott Hotel offers great amenities for large events and

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spacious and comfortable accommodations for guests. The site is about 30 miles east of San Francisco and close to the many spectacular sights and activities of the San Francisco Bay Area. The Marriott is offering convention attendees a special PACIFICON 2007 room rate of only \$84 for each night (single/double) if reservations are made before October 4, 2007. There is a limited block of rooms at this rate, so make your reservations early! To make hotel reservations call 1-800-228-9290. Be sure to ask for the PACIFICON 2007 rate.

PACIFICON 2007 Contact information: [www.pacificon.org](http://www.pacificon.org), P.O. Box 272 613, Concord, CA 94527, [pacificoninfo@astound.net](mailto:pacificoninfo@astound.net) San Ramon Marriott Hotel Reservations: 1-800-228-9290 (ask for Pacificon 2007 room rate).

*Information from the ARRL*

## **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

## 8

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.

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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



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### 2006 SOARC officers and board members

**President:** Dennis Recla, WA5KTC, Tel. 955-1704  
Email: [recla@magick.net](mailto:recla@magick.net)

**Vice President:** Richard J. Huttenga, KD7WIA,  
Tel. 955-2901, email: [huttenga@terragon.com](mailto:huttenga@terragon.com)

**Secretary:** Jim Woods, W7PUP, Tel. 956-5287  
Email: [w7pup@arrl.net](mailto:w7pup@arrl.net)

**Treasurer:** John Stubbe, K7VSU, Tel. 479-3718  
Email: [k7vus@arrl.net](mailto:k7vus@arrl.net)

#### **Board of Directors:**

Officers, listed above plus:

Rob Locher, W7GH, Tel. 474-6758  
E-mail: [rob@rob.locher.com](mailto:rob@rob.locher.com)

Elmer Seutter, W6IGK, Tel. 955-5240  
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## Wireless Gnus

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Robert Goff, W7MKA, Tel. 476-2064  
E-mail: [robert.h.goff@gmail.com](mailto:robert.h.goff@gmail.com)

### Photographs

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*