



SOARC Wireless Gnus

Issue 171

September 2007

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN OREGON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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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.

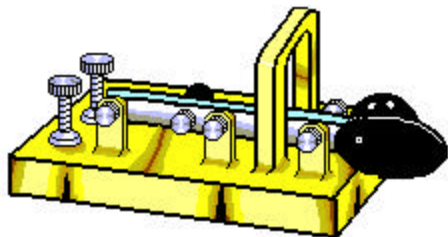
September Meeting

The September meeting of the SOARC will be held at 7 pm on Tuesday, September 18th at the Fruitdale Grange on Rogue River Highway.

Remember that we love to see something you built, interesting QSL cards, or other things, so bring 'em to the meeting! You are never too old for "show and tell".

See you on Tuesday, September 18th.

Jim W7PUP



Canadian special event planned for September

A demonstration of cooperation in emergency communications preparedness between Canadian radio amateurs and those in the United States is planned for September 29-30 with a special event station VO1ARES

<<http://www.rac.ca/fieldorg/aresjointevent.htm>>. It will be

located at the Marconi memorial station on historic Signal Hill, St John's, Newfoundland, where reception of the first transatlantic wireless transmission occurred in 1901. Sponsored by Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada (DFAIT) and Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC), the facilities are provided by Parks Canada and coordinated by the Society of Newfoundland Radio Amateurs (SONRA).

The objectives of the special event are threefold: To highlight the capabilities of Amateur Radio in providing emergency communications in times of crisis, to illustrate the cooperation between Canada and the United States on emergency preparedness within the context of the Security and Prosperity Partnership signed by the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Canada in 2005, and to create a database of communications "first responders" that the Government of Canada could contact for emergency communications assistance in times of crisis.

Radio amateurs from across Canada and the US are being invited to participate in this first-time official activity, with opening festivities scheduled September 29 from 1430-1730 UTC. In particular, ARES units in both countries are encouraged to take part and to "talk up" the value of Amateur Radio as a community resource. Officials from the Canadian government have been invited, and ARRL Joel Harrison, W5ZN, has confirmed his intention to attend. Operations will feature virtually all transmission modes on most HF bands over the two-day period. Times and frequencies are yet to be determined.

A commemorative QSL card will be issued. QSLs may be sent direct to VO1ARES via VE9GLF, G. L. Friars, 35 Upper Quaco Rd, Baxters Corner, NB E25 2S2, Canada. All replies from VO1ARES will be via the bureau. Those wishing a direct

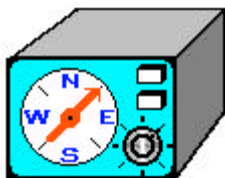
2

reply, including Short Wave Listeners, must include an envelope and sufficient postage. Within Canada, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope. If outside of Canada, please include sufficient International Reply Coupons (IRCs) to cover the cost of a letter from Canada to your country. This is imperative in order to receive a card directly; otherwise it will go via the bureau.

Listen for VO1ARES both before and after the special event. The call sign will be active September 27-October 1.

Upcoming issues of RAC's The Canadian Amateur (TCA) magazine and the RAC Web site <<http://www.rac.ca/>> contain further details of the event.

Information provided by Bob Cooke, VE3BDB and published in the August 17 ARRL Letter.



Contests and special events

- Scandinavian Activity Contest CW 9/15 1200Z to 9/16 1200Z 80 to 10 meters
- Washington Salmon Run SSB/CW 9/15 1600Z to 9/16 2400Z 160 to 6 meters
- South Carolina QSO Party 9/15 1800Z to 9/16 1800Z 160 to 10 meters
- Scandinavian Activity Contest SSB 9/22 1200Z to 9/23 1200Z
- MIA/POW Recognition Day 9/23 0000Z to 2359Z 7.250, 14.253, 18.150 & 21.350 MHz
- U.S.Coast Guard 68th Anniversary 9/28 2200Z to 9/30 2100Z 7.240, 14.345 & 21.405
- CQ World Wide RTTY DX Contest 9/12 0000Z to 9/30 2400Z 80 to 10 meters
- Texas QSO Party CW/SSB 9/29 1700Z to 9/30 0200Z & 1400Z to 2000Z
- FISTS Coast to Coast Contest 9/29 1700Z to 9/30 1700Z 80 to 10 meter
- YLRL Anniversary Contest CW 10/2 1400Z to 10/4 0200Z
- Oceania DX Contest SSB 10/6 0800Z to 10/7 0800Z

Wireless Gnus

- California QSO Party 10/6 1600Z to 10/7 2159Z
- RSBG 21 & 28 MHz Contest 10/7 0700Z to 1900Z
- Pennsylvania QSO Party 10/13 1600Z to 10/14 0500Z & 1300Z to 2200Z
- ARRL School Round Up 10/15 1300Z to 10/19 2400Z
- Worked All Germany Contest 10/20 1500Z to 10/21 1459Z
- W/VE Islands QSO Party 10/20 1600Z to 10/21 2359Z
- Illinois QSO Party 10/21 1700Z to 10/22 0100Z
- Run For The Bacon QRP Contest 10/22 0100Z to 0300Z
- CQ World Wide DX Contest SSB 10/27 0000Z to 10/28 2400Z
- 10 -10 International Fall Contest 10/27 0001Z to 10/28 2359Z

As we move into Fall the bands should start to open up and with all the scheduled contests many more hams around the country and the world will become more active. The RSBG and the 10 -10 contests should be interesting as they will give us some idea as to what 10 meters is going to be like this winter. Long distance north / south contacts should be possible. East / west contacts will be problematic, however they will be fun activities.

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

Field Day logs received are posted

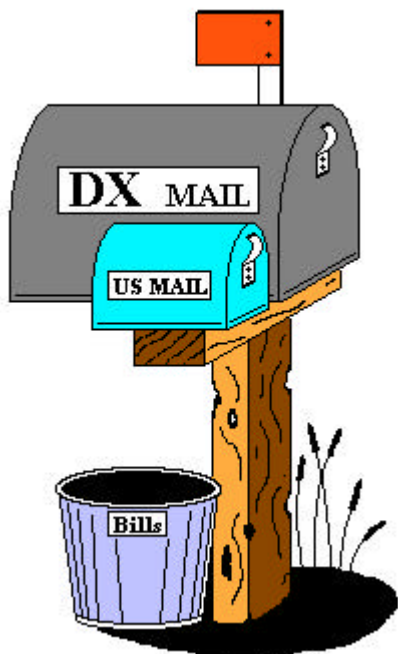
All 2007 Field Day logs have been received and posted to the Claimed Scores page on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/claimed/>>. They reflect all applications sent from the b4h Web applet, as well as those received via the US postal service and usable electronic submissions sent via regular e-mail (non-Web applet submissions). According to Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, "In some cases we did not receive sufficient information, and those entries are not allowed to be used at this time.

A follow-up e-mail was sent to those concerned that included a blank summary sheet and a request to please complete the form and resubmit. In cases where we have not heard back from those requests, the entries are currently not on the list and can't be included until complete information is received back by the ARRL." Those with missing entries, who have questions or who find errors in their listing should contact Henderson via e-

3

mail <n1nd@arrl.org> or by phone at 860-594-0236 after Tuesday, August 28 when he returns from vacation. If you call before that date, Henderson asks that you "please leave a message and please be patient. I will work with you to resolve any problems."

From the August 17th ARRL Letter



Hints & tips

- For those of you who have a fancy new handheld with their incredible lists of features. Checkout Mini-Manuals, Quick References, and Radio Cards from <http://niftyaccessories.com> it can be very helpful in jump-starting your memory cells. New hams will also find them useful and maybe others who have infrequently-used radios.

-Here is Cecil W5DXP's scheme for an adjustable (i.e. - tunable) Top Hat. "I ran a wire down the inside of the vertical. The two ends of the wire were attached to a Dacron cord run through a pulley in a tree. When the wire was inside the vertical's aluminum tubing, there was no top hat. When the wire was pulled outside the tubing, there was a top hat.

Resonance at any frequency on the 80 meter band could be had by adjusting the length of the top hat wire that was outside the aluminum tubing. I installed small metal pulleys at the top and bottom of the vertical to avoid wearing out the wire and Dacron cord.

Steve K6SGH sends word of another Web site devoted exclusively to Moxon antennas – www.moxonantennaproject.com . It has Moxon designs, including multiband and experimental Moxons, from hams all over the world.

Wireless Gnus

Collars are used to hold tubing, such as a mast, in place against a load or support. They are also used to hold gears or cams in place on a mast. These may be hard to find but Art K6XT and Bruce K0YW have an inexpensive and widely available substitute - use the saddles from two properly-sized muffler clamps and bolt them together around the mast. To hold the gear on his mast, K0YW drilled four small holes to hold 10-32 screws that went through matching holes in the gear. The result was a strong adjustable height gear mounting that had perfect concentricity with the mast. To hold the mast and antenna weight, stacking 2-3 collars works very well for sizeable vertical loads.

GE feed-through's for coax, available at Home Depot, work great with RG-8X. A long 3/8" drill bit and some caulking are all that is required to feed the coax through the wall in professional style (Thanks, Brian K7ON)

-Jim Shrum AB9LM uses his DVM as an inductance or capacitance meter with the adapter described at: <http://tinyurl.com/yrk3z3> including complete schematics and PCB layouts. The adapters work well down into the uH and pF range. There are meters that have this function built-in, but you can save a few bucks and have fun making your own. A kit based on the same design http://electronics-diy.com/lc_meter.php was also found by Mike G8NXD.

-Good stuff for hams new to HF - whether new hams or old - CQ's "HF Operator's Survival Guide" It's a 16-page getting-started guide for newcomers to high-frequency (shortwave) Amateur Radio communications. Written by CQ Contesting Editor John Dorr, K1AR, Contributing Editor Gordon West, WB6NOA, and CQ Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU, the booklet is a practical, hands-on guide to success in HF ham radio. To order, or for more information, contact CQ Communications Inc, 800-853-9797 (toll-free) weekdays 9 AM to 5 PM Eastern Time.

-The 2nd edition of "The ARRL RFI Book" is out and adds resources for filters. The second edition also includes resources for tackling power line noise, cable television interference, and RFI solutions for other electrical devices. (Thanks, Mike Martin)

Antennex www.antennex.com/news/index.html has released "Cubical Quad Notes Volume 3: Multi-Band Quad Questions" by L.B. Cebik, W4RNL. Volume 3 of Cubical Quad Notes extends the work of this series. Beginning with 2-element designs, Cebik analyzes element interaction in spider designs and then sorts those interactions from others that involve the use of a common feedpoint. Volume 3 has 249 pages with 140 illustrations and numerous data tables. (Thanks, Steve K7LXC)

-To avoid putting your email address directly on a Web page while trying to publish contact information, instead publish just the call and direct people to QRZ.COM for email addresses. QRZ.COM displays email addresses in a graphical format that

4

makes it hard for spambots to read. It also saves work because the Web page author does not have to keep all the email addresses up-to-date. (Thanks, Tom N4TL)

-Do you like those "Something Each Day" Web sites? Here's some that will perk up your day: Hack A Day www.misc.hackaday.com - Do It Yourself projects, Franklin Institute Braindrops www.fi.edu/braindrops - science facts, and Astronomy Picture of the Day <http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html> . A new brain wrinkle with every click! (From Wired Magazine's March 2007 issue)

-Emtech has a nice little video demonstrating how to heat-strip enamel wire with a 700F soldering iron at http://emtech.steadynet.com/rm/tinning_200_1.ram Or, if you're using a dialup this will run better (with a little lower image quality): http://emtech.steadynet.com/rm/tinning_56_1.ram These are files intended to run in RealAudio's viewer. (Thanks, Ron AC7AC and Ken K0PP)

There's probably a million useful things a VHF+ operator could use www.heywhatsthat.com for! Basically, it's a Web site that will create what we would recognize as repeater coverage maps or landscapes from topographic map data. It's fun! (Thanks, Jeff N0GQ)

-Out of print technical books may be found at www.pmillett.com/technical_books_online.htm The site already has several copyright-expired electronics books. Another well-known text, 'Radio Antenna Engineering' by Laport, is available at: www.lulu.com/content/159004 (Thanks, Ian GM3SEK)

"I came across a neat way to find buried coax and it should work for radials, too! Use a portable radio tuned to a station, rotate the radio to get a null, then as you move the radio over the coax or radial it distorts the null and the station is received better." (Thanks, Mike "amdx")

-Here's an inexpensive and simple solution to constructing an elevation or azimuth indicator for an antenna: www.g10gy.com/www.n1bug.net/tech/antposn.html (Thanks, Paul N1BUG)

-Eric N3EF reports that he has used nylon braided sleeving for years in his job as a marine electronics technician. He recently recalled how well it might support a wire dipole antenna and it turns out that it makes building wire dipoles quick and easy. He's put together a Web page with details and photos at <http://home.comeaStnet/~fairbank56/dipose.html>

Two methods of restoring the sliding contacts of roller inductors were reported:

1) Clean the roller surface with a dry non-metallic kitchen scrubber, wipe clean with a dust-free soft cloth, then find some molybdenum or "DuPont Performance" (moly and Teflon) lubricant. Treat the roller and contact surfaces with it. The

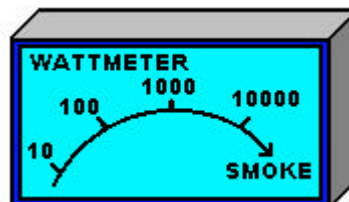
Wireless Gnus

"moly" lubricates without attracting and holding dust and other small abrasive, insulating, and/or acidic debris--unlike most lubricants.

2) Spray contact cleaner on a cloth and then hold the cloth against the inductor while rotating it back and forth. You won't believe the crud that comes off. Also clean the shaft that the little roller contact rides on and then apply a VERY SMALL amount of commercial no-alox type compound on the shaft and run the inductor from one end to the other several times to make sure the shaft is covered. (Thanks, Doc KD4E and Jake K9WN)

-Here's a propagation tutorial site to explore while waiting for the next contest: www.tpub.com/neets/book10/40.htm (Thanks, Larry N7DF)

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 .

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 . 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:

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

Information from the ARRL

5 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.



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.

August 24 VEC test results

The results of the VE test session held on Friday August 24 is
as follows:

There were ten candidates altogether. Five passed the
Technician test and two passed the General exam. One of the
new General Class was Ken Baldwin, KI6KFB, who showed us
his homebrew moxon antenna at the August meeting.

73 Elmer W6IGK

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.

Wireless Gnus



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: k7vsu@arrl.net

Board of Directors:
Officers, listed above plus:

Rob Locher, W7GH, Tel. 474-6758
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Elmer Seutter, W6IGK, Tel. 955-5240
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Burton Griffin, WB6CYK, Tel. 479-7888
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E-mail: ke7lm@charter.net

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

Photographs

We can now include photographs in the *Wireless Gnu*. 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 .

Thanks and 73, Jim W7PUP

application Filing FAQ Web page
<<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/application-filing-faq.htm> . The FCC's forms page
<<http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html>> also offers the required forms.

From the ARRL Letter, September 7, 2007

FCC to lower vanity call sign fees September 17

The FCC will reduce the regulatory fee to obtain or renew an Amateur Radio vanity call sign by more than 40 percent starting September 17. In a Report & Order (R&O) released August 6, "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2007," in MD Docket 07-81, the Commission will cut the fee from its current \$20.80 to \$11.70. This marks the lowest fee in the history of the current vanity call sign program. The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934 (as amended) to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 11 years of the current program -- from a low of \$12 to a high of \$50. The FCC says it anticipates some 14,700 Amateur Radio vanity call sign "payment units" or applications during the next fiscal year, collecting \$171,990 in fees from the program.

The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. The first vanity call sign licenses issued under the current Amateur Radio vanity call sign program that began in 1996 came up for renewal last year. Call signs issued prior to 1996 are not considered vanity call signs, even if the holder was able to request a specific call sign.

Amateur Radio licensees may file for renewal only within 90 days of their license expiration date. All radio amateurs must have an FCC Registration Number (FRN) before filing any application with the Commission. Applicants can obtain an FRN by going to the ULS <<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>> and clicking on the "New Users Register" link. You must supply your Social Security Number to obtain an FRN.

The ARRL VEC will process license renewals for vanity call sign holders for a modest fee. The service is available to ARRL members and nonmembers, although League members pay less. Routine, non-vanity renewals continue to be free for ARRL members. Trustees of club stations with vanity call signs may renew either via the ULS or through a Club Station Call Sign Administrator, such as ARRL VEC.

License application and renewal information and links to the required forms are available on the ARRL Amateur