



SOARC Wireless Gnus

Issue 172

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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.

October Meeting

The October meeting of the SOARC will be held at 7 pm on Tuesday, October 16th at the Fruitdale Grange on Rogue River Highway.

Carter Rose, KD6GN will present a program on work that he has done with a broadband antenna system for 1.8-30 MHz. then.

Remember that we would love to see something you built yourself, 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, October 16th.

Jim W7PUP

Hints & tips

Care to watch the world turn? Here's another attractive daytime/nighttime display program for keeping an eye on the Gray Line or just to look at – www.die.net/earth/hemisphere.html Those are live clouds, too! (Thanks, Matt WVIK)

Dennis N6KI reports that <http://isbn.nu> is a great Web site for finding the best price and shipping cost for interesting new books. The site works with either the ISBN number or author and title. The site computes shipping charges to your zip code, helping to avoid excessive shipping costs so common with super-low-price Web sites.



Hark! Who goes there? If noises that go crackle in the night are vexing you, Dave NORQ recommends a listen to the sound files available at www.arrl.org/tisinfo/HTML/rfi-noise/ Compare known noises to what you are hearing and maybe get a clue to track down the culprit!

A nifty article on using an extension ladder as a temporary ("It's just temporary, dear!") tower has been written by Fred W8FR. The Weak Sister Amateur Radio Group has posted it under "Pipeline" at <http://min.midco.net/wsn> This could be handy in all sorts of ways.

Got a "stuck" Rohn TB-3 thrust bearing? Here's an article by K1IR on repairing such a beast. It was first posted on the TowerTalk reflector <http://lists.contesting.com/towertalk/1998-December/021126.html> and then printed in NCJ. (Thanks, Fred K1VR)

After Jim K5LAD repaired his HAM II rotator the other night,

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he wrote up the details, partly to jog his own memory later and partly to share with others. It's available on his Web site at <http://tinyurl.com/yx4xkr>.

If you're wondering about re-tuning your 80/75 meter antennas for the new phone allocations, George K5TR's final solution was to use the W6NL coax trick described at www.cebik.com/trans/wb.html.

George uses one wavelength of RG8X from sloping dipoles cut to 3.700 MHz back to an RCS-8V switch. The ¼-wavelength of 75-ohm coax is inserted there.

Windirstat <http://windirstat.info/> a freeware app that does a really nice job at showing what files/directories are taking up the most space on a drive. (Thanks, Matt Penning)

If you're looking for good band-pass filter designs, W3NQN's are classic. Both of these articles are available through the ARRL TIS Web site and you do not have to be an ARRL Member to access them. Wetherhold, "Clean up your signal with band-pass filters--Part I," QST May 1997. Wetherhold, "Clean up your signal with band-pass filters--Part II," QST June 1997. (Thanks, Mike, W5UC)

The MetEd Web site http://meted.ucar.edu/topics_spacewx.phy is packed full of useful on-line training courses, some with quizzes and some without. On the home page it says registration will become mandatory in late Jan 2007, but the registration is painless and free. (Thanks, Steve N2IC)

If you teach licensing classes or need an occasional refresher on the fine points of electromagnetism, the tutorials at <http://tinyurl.com/3yt892> will definitely help. (Thanks, Tim W7TRH)

Since Microsoft no longer supports Win2K, 98 or ME, the new US Daylight Savings Time isn't handled properly by those versions of Windows. IntelliAdmin has written a patch <http://tinyurl.com/sfp88> for the US time zones. This is NOT official Microsoft software. (Thanks, Bill KA8VIT)

Jim AD1C shows us how to avoid publishing email addresses directly by using QRZ.com. "Replace AD1C with the person's callsign in the following hyperlink: www.qrz.com/pl?callsign=AD1C By clicking on the linked-to call, you'll be directed to the page on QRZ.com with the graphical E-mail address."

Surplus vacuum relays are often available at quite a savings, but require 26 Vdc to operate. Tom W8JI suggests a simple solution to using these relays in the usual 12-volt environment of ham radio - connect a simple, cheap, common "wall wart" 12 Vdc supply in series with the normal 12 volt supply. If you have a 24 Vdc supply, Tom cautions that running relays at low voltage (that still allows transfer) slows down pull-in times. Of course the release time speeds up! Paul W5DM recommends Tony K1KP's circuit at www.k6xx.com/radio/fastrely.html and Thomas AC7A recommends PE1MWB's circuit <http://tinyurl.com/2snzuf> to address this problem.

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Tom also notes that placing a "kickback" or "backpulse" diode across the coil (needed to clamp the inductive transient when coil current is interrupted) slows down release time as well.

An EMI-fighting product called "ScotchTint(TM) Shielding Window Film" is available in rolls 100 ft long by 40 or 60 inches wide. You can apply it yourself to a plain glass window; it attenuates visible light by 3 dB; and it attenuates RF by 24 dB at 30 MHz or 1 GHz. This and a variety of similar products are for sale at www.lessemf.com/plastic.html Be sure to specify conductive adhesive when ordering. (Thanks, Chuck W1HIS and Tom K1KI)

Doc KD4E relays the URLs for a helpful pair of Web sites regarding mobile installations: <http://k0bg.com/beads.html> and <http://members.cox.net/nx7u/mobile/noise.htm>

Darek SP6NVK invites us all to enjoy his new on-line Ham Radio Atlas at www.hamatlas.eu. It contains complete information on all 337 DXCC Entities, as well as over 3000 pictures and more than 1100 maps. Thank you, Darek!

On a smaller scale, are you looking for a county map of any state? Check the Census Bureau Web site <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/index.html> for maps and statistics. (Thanks, Mike W0MU)

Every ham needs a Robotic Beer Can Launcher <http://brkout.org/8h2> don't you think? Why, there are all sorts of useful purposes to which something like this could be put. (Thanks, Trey N5KO)

Do you secretly yearn to be a metrologist? Tim K3HX relayed the URL of an Agilent Web page <http://metrologyforum.tm.agilent.com/download.shtml> crammed full of technical software utilities for unit conversion, math formula wrangling, mismatch and SWR calculation, and so forth. Technical professionals may find the measurement utilities useful, as well.

With electronics becoming ever more sensitive, sometimes the leakage current from a soldering iron tip can prove more damaging than the heat it delivers. The video "Checking your Soldering Iron" www.pan-tex.net/usr/r/receivers/elrconstrknow.htm#before shows a simple method of checking your soldering equipment. (Thanks, Sam KA5OAI)

If trigonometry wasn't your favorite high school subject, you will be pleased to learn the Victor KB4TCU has made some updates to his tower guy wire length calculator at www.gerogiacapital.net/scantest/hamhelp.htm This could certainly help avoid some costly ordering errors.

Here's an interesting PowerPoint presentation by Steve K6OIK on "Antenna Impedance Models". It's downloadable in PDF format at <http://tinyurl.com/366nfn>. This pertains to free-space dipoles, but that's the only reliable comparison environment. (Thanks, Kevin N7WIM)

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Kevin N7WIM also contributes this fine Web site www.qrp.pops.net for homebrewers and builders. Whether you build entire radios or gadgets and adapters, you'll find lots of interesting ideas here.

Grey line fans, rejoice! Here's the complete information on sunrise and sunset, courtesy of Jim K9YC and Bob W7LR:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twilight>
http://aa.usno.navy.mil/faq/docs/RST_defs.html
www.sunrisesunset.com

You think you have a risky job? Try the "High Power" video at www.glumbert.com (Thanks, Dave N0RQ)

And who could stop at just one "arcs'n'sparks" video?

CADWELDS on EHV transmission lines
www.youtube.com/watch?v=OY72athewvA&mode=related&search

Snap Crackle Pop; Fuse Puller on HV lines

www.youtube.com/watch?v=2tCuzys-1P8&mode=related&search

Darwin Award Candidate; Notice how reporter picks up downed line
Line: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=773dN-iFGks&NR=1>

High Voltage Explosion on Distribution Lines

www.youtube.com/watch?v=eYUmdqQ94Ao&mode=related&search

High Voltage Arcs on Neighborhood Distribution Lines

www.youtube.com/watch?v=WHSBph71GX8&mode=related&search

Transformer Explosion and Fire

www.youtube.com/watch?v=FA6LDkNc4Qo&mode=related&search

Zapps and Sparks

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ewdi89DNbRs&NR=1

HV line Inspections by Helicopter

www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZSep9lkfwQ&mode=related&search

Frank W3LPL also contributed a Web site

<http://tinyurl.com/yv2c6o> with an excellent discussion of vertical phasing techniques, including background on why some work better than others.

A short, but interesting article entitled "Well-grounded Principles" by Jay Jacobsmeyer, P.E., appears in the April issue of Mobile Radio Technology magazine at

http://mrtmag.com/techspeak/radio_wellgrounded_principles/
Worthy of note are comments on the Ufer ground and a picture (Fig. 4) of a damaged tower leg pier due to a lightning strike. (Thanks, Dave K1FK)

That's it for October W6IGK Elmer

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Events & contests

- Annual NASCAR Day 10/20 1300Z to 1730Z 7.268 & 14.270 MHZ
- U.S.S. Midway 10/20 1600Z to 2300Z 7.260 & 14.325 MHZ
- Jamboree on the AIR 100 Years of Scouting 10/20 1600Z to 10/21 0500Z W6Y
- Illinois QSO Party CW/SSB 10/20 1700Z to 10/22 0100Z
- W/VE Islands QSO Party 10/20 1600Z to 10/21 2359Z
- Worked All Germany CW/SSB 10/20 1500Z to 10/21 1459Z
- Asia/Pacific Sprint CW 10/21 0000Z to 0200Z
- 140th Anniversary of the Chisholm Trail 10/27 & 10/28 1400Z to 2300Z daily
- CQWW DX Contest SSB 10/27 0000Z to 10/28 2400Z 160 thru 10M. If you ever wanted to work some DX this is your opportunity.
- 10-10 International CW/Digital 10/27 0001Z to 10/28 2359Z
Here's your chance to work 10 meters again. There should be a lot of activity.
- ARRL November Sweepstakes CW 11/3 2100Z to 11/5 0300Z
- Ukrainian DX Contest 11/3 1200Z to 11/4 1200Z
- Veterans Day 11/9 to 11/12 1400Z to 2000Z daily 3.985, 7.030, 7.283, 14.235 and 21.375 MHZ
- Marine Corps Birthday 11/10 1600Z to 2300Z 7.240 & 14.240 MHZ
- Japan International DX Contest SSB 11/10 0700Z to 11/11 1300Z

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- Kentucky QSO Party CW/SSB 11/10 1400Z to 11/11 0600Z
- OK-OM Contest CW 11/10 1200Z to 11/11 1200Z 160 thru 10M
- LZ DX Contest CW 11/17 2100Z to 11/18 0100Z
- RSBG 1.8 MHz Contest 11/17 2100Z to 11/18 0100Z
- CQWW DX Contest CW 11/24 0000Z to 11/25 2400Z 160 thru 10M

See you on the airwaves. 73 Elmer W6IGK

Get ready for the second annual ARRL on-line auction

The Second Annual ARRL On-Line Auction kicks off October 24, running until November 2 on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/auction>. This is your chance to pick up one-of-a-kind Amateur Radio items. To see what the Auction will offer this year, be sure to check out the Auction preview that begins October 17. Last year, the Auction attracted more than 4300 bidders from 36 countries. While the majority of buyers were from the USA, Canada and the UK, there were buyers from Australia, Malaysia, Grenada and Tanzania.

According to ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, "Last year's on-line auction was our first and it was a great success. When the bidding ended, we realized that we had sold 104 items and we had raised just over \$37,000." Proceeds from the auction benefit ARRL education programs including activities to license new hams, strengthen Amateur Radio's emergency service training, offer continuing technical and operating education, as well as creating instructional materials.

This year's auction will include many products tested by the ARRL Lab for QST Product Review. These items include an ICOM IC-7800, a Ten-Tec Omni VII, a Palstar Auto Antenna Tuner, an MJF 974H Balanced Antenna Tuner and a Heil Traveler Headset. There will be many vintage items offered, including the antique transmitter featured in John Dilks' "Old Radio" column in the November 2007 issue of QST. Also, returning by popular demand will be five ARRL Lab unique "junque" boxes.

From the September 21st ARRL Letter

1296 MHz WAS #1 awarded to Texas ham

Al Ward, W5LUA, of Allen, Texas, is the first person to

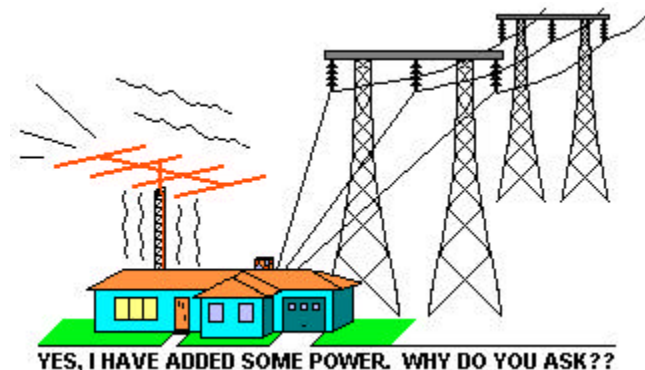
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achieve the ARRL's Worked All States (WAS) on 1296 MHz, making him 1296 MHz WAS #1. Ward first started on his pursuit January 25, 1977, with his first 1296 MHz contact with Leroy May, W5HN (SK). His 30 year quest ended last week, with confirmed contacts with Wyoming, Utah and Idaho, giving Ward his last three needed states, thanks to Paul Perryman's, WA5WCP, EME DXpedition.

"I couldn't have done this without Paul," Ward said. "Also, thanks to Ron Roche, K0ALL, and Barry Malowanchuk, VE4MA, in North Dakota for number 47 in August. Without them, it just wouldn't have been possible."

After collecting his 50th QSL card, Ward drove from his home in Texas to Little Rock, Arkansas so ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, could verify his cards and complete his WAS paperwork. "Verifying QSL cards from 30 years of activity brought back a lot of memories of several stations active on 1296, many who are Silent Keys now," Harrison said.

From the September 14th ARRL Letter



Section leadership changes

Everett Curry, W6ABM, has been the section Public Information Coordinator (PIC) for a number of years. He has accomplished a lot in the role. He obtained proclamations from the governor for amateur radio week for the week of field day each year. He also worked with me and Kevin Curry, KA7KYQ, on the legislative activities that we have been involved in. This year, he compiled a list of field day sites across the state and sent invitations to state legislature members to visit field day sites in their district.

Everett has chosen to give up the PIC position and begin working with the Oregon Section as an Assistant Section Manager (ASM) for ARRL Membership Development. If anyone has ideas on how to promote ARRL membership or who would like assistance in promoting membership in your

organization, he would like to hear from you.

Everett states that, "We are going to be finding our way with strategies to get the attention of non-ARRL licensees in Oregon Section. I am open to your ideas...and would appreciate your help in identifying opportunities in clubs and events. I will work closely with Will N7THL our Club Coordinator. Our work will cross over regularly."

Steve Sanders, KE7JSS, began his Public Information Officer (PIO) assignments with Washington ARES as their PIO. He moved from there to a position as the PIO for District One ARES. Steve has agreed to participate with the Section Leadership Team as the Public Information Coordinator (PIC). If there are PIO's in your ARES group, Club, or other amateur radio organization, who are an ARRL member and have not yet received an official PIO appointment, please provide the information to Steve so he can submit the appointment to me. We currently have PIO's in Salem, Pendleton, and Southwestern Oregon (Coos/Curry County area). Steve would like to recruit more PIO's spread around the state and will be available to advise them as needed.

According to Everett, "Steve Sanders KE7JSS is a competent and highly-motivated member of our team. He will be doing a great job for us. Welcome him, and get to know him at one of our gatherings."

Oregon section ARES net

The ARES/RACES Leadership in Oregon will be starting a new Oregon Section ARES Net. It will begin on Tuesday, October 2, and will meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 8:00 PM local time on a new frequency of 3885.0 kHz. This replaces the former state leadership net that ceased to exist around the end of last year. Note the frequency change. This new frequency is being tried because the former frequency was in between an Arizona net below and regular activity above. There was not enough available space in that frequency range to move to avoid interference with other activity.

This net is intended for all ARES/RACES membership. It can be used to test radios and antennas and to arrange a schedule to test WinLink communications and to test antennas on other bands. It can also be used to test EOC radios and antennas for statewide communications.

Each DEC will be responsible to be net control or arrange for a net control each month, beginning with District 4, Bruce Bjerke, K7BHB, in October.

This information has already been sent out to the DEC's and EC's and hopefully, they have forwarded it to their ARES/RACES members.

I am continuing to be active in my local ARES/RACES group and plan to participate in this net regularly.

ARRL EMCOMM course completion

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Larry Francis, KD7ZIK, forwarded me his completion notice of the ARRL's Level I -- Introduction to Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course (EC-001). Congratulations Larry.

ARRL emergency notification test

The ARRL conducted an unannounced emergency notification test recently to test the reliability of email for notification to the field organization of an emergency. The newly hired ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager sent an email to all division directors with instructions to obtain specific weather information for their location and email it to him and then to contact the section managers in their division. The section manager was instructed to complete their same tasks and notify the section emergency coordinator (SEC). Due to the unavailability of Oregon's SEC, Bruce Bjerke, K7BHB, responded promptly in his behalf when I contacted him.

Official observer (OO) hours

Four OO's reported over 93 hours of observation during August.

Oregon section traffic manager (STM) report

The complete report is posted on the section website. I try to post it as soon as Scott Gray, W7IZ, sends it to me. It is normally available a week or two prior to sending out the section news.

NET ACTIVITY AUGUST 2007 (ALL REPORTING NETS HAD 31 SESSIONS):
 OREGON EMERGENCY NET, QNI 5159, QTC 11, N7RBO NET MGR
 WESTERN OREGON VHF EMERGENCY NET, QNI 486, QTC 47, K7WWB NET MGR
 NORTHWEST TRAFFIC AND TRAINING NET, QNI 424, QTC 87, N7YSS NET MGR
 BEAVER STATE NET, QNI 768, QTC 79, N7CM NET MGR
 OREGON ARES TRAFFIC NET, QNI 559, QTC 92, WA7FXF NET MGR
 OREGON SECTION NET/1, QNI 191, QTC 140, WS7L NET MGR
 OREGON SECTION NET/2, QNI 126, QTC 82, KC7SRL NET MGR

STATION ACTIVITY REPORT (SAR) AUGUST 2007 (TOTALS): W7IZ 248, N7YSS 172, N7CM 159, W7IG 94, K7PMB 72, KD7ZLF 63, K7EAJ 54, W7VSE 48, KC7SRL 34, WS7L 18, N7APE 2

PUBLIC SERVICE HONOR ROLL (PSHR) TOTALS AUGUST 2007: N7CM 276, K7EAJ 260, KD7THV 197, W7IG 120, N7XG 110, N7YSS 110, KD7ZLF 90, W7VSE 88, KK7TN 83

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ARES/RACES activities

A separate report of ARES/RACES activities during August will be coming out soon. The August mini-set using Airmail that Kevin Hedgepeth, NB7O, planned and distributed was very successful. He is currently in the process of planning the November SET. Kevin is the Oregon ARES Exercise and Training Coordinator.

ARRL Oregon Section

Section Manager: Bonnie M. Altus, AB7ZQ

ab7zq@arrl.org



Contests and special events

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

Hints & tips

That's it for October. 73 Elmer W6IGK

Items for sale

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For sale: 250 Watt Johnson Viking Matchbox. \$175 or reasonable offer. This comes with a built-in SWR meter and original 2kw pickup. Also includes a lot of documentation.

Carter, KD6GN

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).

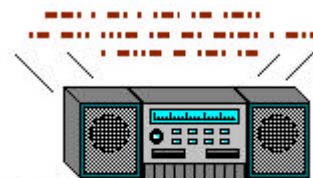
Information from the ARRL

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.



VE Report

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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 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

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Officers, listed above plus:

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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.

Thanks and 73, Jim W7PUP