



The OSCILLATOR

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Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club



"MY TWO CENTS" Pat Roberson

The "Dog Days" of summer are arriving and will probably get here before summer actually arrives ;-)

I was listening to a talk show on commercial radio the other day and they were talking about the sun cooling down. According to this report, it is affecting weather patterns which is why the mid-west and east coast are stuck under high pressure and we are not. The prediction for us was no real change for us; we would stay cool and have a very hard winter.

Whether you believe this or not, it might pay to start getting a few things together now, such as wood for fireplace, fill extra gas cans for the generator, and make sure the generator is running properly.

As I am writing this, Warren Winner W7JDT, our Treasurer, is in the hospital after suffering from a mild heart attack on Sunday (July 24). He is expected to be home in the next few days. Take it easy Warren!

You may notice in the classified section of the Oscillator, Jenny and I have decided to sell our travel trailer (and the truck as well). See Two Cents, Page 3

COUNTY HUNTING

Dick Neumann W9JR is an avid County Hunter. We asked Dick to tell us about this part of his ham radio life. More on Dick in a separate piece in this issue.

I really don't know how, or where, to begin explaining my involvement with County Hunting. I think it began back in the early 1970's when my XYL asked me what I was doing while at the radio one winter afternoon. At the time I had just made a two-way radio contact with another ham who was mobile in one of the 3,077 counties of the U.S. As was my usual procedure following such a contact, I was coloring in the county of that particular state in my Atlas. I thought I would collect counties as a kind of lark.

She asked, "How many do you have?" Good question, because I didn't know. So I went through the maps and started to count them. Wow! I had around 250 contacts in my logbook! I wasn't an "official" County Hunter at that time, so she, in her infinite wisdom said, "If you're going to put in the time doing that, why don't you get serious about it and really get involved."

SEE County Hunting, Page 4

CLUB PICNIC & ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The August Club Meeting will be held on Thursday, August 18th at Rood Bridge Park, 4000 SE Rood Bridge Rd, Hillsboro, OR 97123. We have a Picnic Pavilion set aside beginning at 3:00 pm (until Dusk). Brief "meeting" at 7:00 pm. You'll find a map at: <http://tinyurl.com/roodbridgepk> The park is easily reached from River Road via SE Rood Bridge Road. The facility is accessible.

This is our Pot Luck Picnic and Ice Cream Social. We'll have BBQs hot to cook your meat and the club provides the Iced Tea and Cool Water. Bring your favorite ice cream and toppings to share. We'll have an ice chest to preserve your ice cream.

OTVARC is affiliated with ARRL: The National Association for Amateur Radio and is a *Special Service Club*. We usually meet at the *Community Building, Sunset Presbyterian Church, 14986 NW Cornell Rd, just off US 26 (Exit 65) in Beaverton*. Check out the map at: tinyurl.com/otvarc-site

Guests are always welcome.

WHO IS RICHARD NEUMANN?

Richard Neumann was born in LaCrosse, Wisconsin and graduated from Logan High School there in 1949. He attended LaCrosse State University but his progress was interrupted by the Korean War. He joined the Navy in 1952, went to Radio School in Maryland at Bainbridge Naval Training Center. He served in the Communications Dept. of the USS Siboney CVE-112. After his discharge from the Navy and marriage he continued his education receiving a BS in Education and MS in Educational Administration. He began his teaching career in 1956, teaching geology, biology, and math, and retired in 1991.

Dick received his first amateur radio license in 1962 (WA9ELT) and upgraded to Advanced (KC9EU) and to Amateur Extra (W9JR). He received USA-CA #969 on February 22, 1999 and USA-CA II #393 in 2009,

His Master County Hunter (BINGO) #313 was issued in 2009. He is more than 500 counties into another USA-CA using PSK31 only.

USA-CA 3077 #1216 K9JF

Jim Fenstermaker K9JF, has submitted a valid application for USA-CA 3077 (County Hunter Award) and is hereby awarded #1216 dated May 31, 2011. Mixed bands and modes.

CQ USA-CA 3077 #1216 K9JF 5.31.11
Congratulations to our Northwestern Division ARRL Director on his County Hunter success.

PROGRAM IDEAS

Do you enjoy the programs offered at monthly meetings of OTVARC? Herb Hirst K7HRH is our Vice President and serves as Program Coordinator for our meetings. He is the one to thank for the variety of interesting presentations.

If you have a subject you might present to a meeting, or have a suggestion for an interesting ham-radio related presentation, let Herb know. He welcomes your comment and input.

CLUB CLASSIFIED

Bob Crispin KM7Q has the following FOR SALE:

Oak Hills Research OHR 100A

QRP CW 40 meter Transceiver, factory built, with ten-turn tuning pot and auto keyer option with Regulated Power Supply, perfect condition
Retail: \$330. Asking: \$180 OBO

Oak Hills Research DD1 Digital Frequency Dial for above QRP rig, factory built. Perfect Condition. Retail: \$165. Asking: \$85 OBO

Elecraft KX-1 80/30 Meter Band Option Kit

The kit, and updated EPROM in original box, parts in bags they were shipped in. I purchased it with my used KX-1. It had the 30 meter option already. It was sold with the 80/30 kit, not built. I have no interest in 80 meters, so am selling the 80/30 kit. Retail: \$89. Asking: \$45 OBO

I will have these rigs at the next club meeting, or email at pambob@pceez.com

Bob KM7Q



For Sale Keystone Cougar Travel Trailer 2006

Asking \$11,000

26 foot long – 2 doors – slide out living area
queen bed - shower - power hitch
Air Conditioner/Heater - Refrigerator – Freezer
Microwave – 3 Burner Stove – Oven –
AM/FM/CD with built-in stereo speakers
19" TV – awning – Bike/storage rack - spare tire
two 5-gallon (ea) gas tanks with cover
two batteries – manuals

Pat (KA7PAT) - Jenny (KA7JNY) Roberson
503.848.2283

22nd WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE

The 22nd World Scout Jamboree for Boy Scouts is taking place in Sweden through August 7th. SJ22S is operating from the site and will operate through 7 August. Amateur radio stations have been set up at each World Scout Jamboree since 1957. They provide a live-link from the Jamboree to the home countries of the participants.

You can see the operating radio frequencies at <http://www.qrz.com/callsign?callsign=sj22s> Watch our electronic plot chart grow and follow the operators via web cams at http://scout.org/en/information_events/events/jota/world_scout_jamborees/sj22s_at_the_22nd_world_scout_jamboree

JAMBOREE ON THE AIR

Since 1958, JOTA is an annual event in which Scouts and Guides all over the world speak to each other by means of amateur radio contacts. Scouting experiences are exchanged and ideas are shared, via the radio waves.

When Scouts want to meet young people from another country they usually think of attending a World Jamboree. few realize that each year half-a-million Scouts and Guides "get together" over the airwaves for the annual Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA). Modern communication technology offers Scouts the exciting opportunity to make friends in other countries without even leaving home. They do this with our help.

With no restrictions on age, on the number that can participate and at little or no expense, the JOTA provides an opportunity for Scouts and Guides to contact each other by amateur radio. The radio stations are operated by licensed amateur radio operators. The majority participate in JOTA through stations operated by radio clubs. The next JOTA will be held Saturday October 15 through Sunday, October 16, 2011. We need volunteer coordinator(s) to lead OTVARC's effort. Offer your help at otvarc@gmail.com or the club mail box.

SO YOU WANT TO LEARN MORSE

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), in 2003, ratified changes to Radio Regulations allowing each country to determine whether it would require a person seeking an amateur radio operator license to demonstrate the ability to send and receive Morse code. With this change of international rules, the FCC announced it intended to adopt changes which would eliminate the Morse code requirement for amateur operator licenses. The effective date of the new rules was February 23, 2007.

Many observers considered the rule change "the end of CW." However, in the past four years, interest in the use of Morse Code among newly licensed amateur radio operators has increased. There is a demand for tools to learn (and use on-the-air) Morse Code.

The online Morse Code practice sites below will get you on your way to the world of ham radio with Morse Code. Remember, like learning any new skill, it takes consistent practice to achieve the goal. Once you have mastered the basic code, the best way to increase your new skill is to use it on-the-air. Most CW operators will slow their speed to match your transmission. They'll be glad to hear you using your new cw skills.

<http://aa9pw.com/morsecode/>
<http://www.arrl.org/code-practice-files>
<http://www.omnicron.com/~ford/java/NMorse.html>

Two Cents, from Page 1

If you're interested please give us a call.

There are more public service events coming this month. The Providence Bridge Pedal is one. See Jim Schaffer, KB7ADH about volunteering. The race for the cure and Portland Marathon are a couple more events happening this month.

I hope to see you at the Picnic and Ice Cream social on August 18 at Rood Bridge Park. It should be fun for all.

73,
 Pat Roberson, KA7PAT

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



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COUNTY HUNTERS' NETS

County hunters usually can be found participating in *The Emergency and Mobile County Hunters Net*. The net is in operation almost any time band conditions allow. Generally, these times are 1300 to 2200 UTC, but they can be extended when there are active mobiles.

The primary SSB operating frequency of the county hunting net is 14.336 MHz and is considered the net home frequency. A secondary net usually is in operation at 7.188 MHz. On busy days, operators will move up or down 3 kHz.

Occasionally, mobile operators will shift to other bands. The usual frequency on 75 meters is 3.901 MHz plus/minus as necessary. On 15 and 10 meters check 21.338 MHz and 28.336 MHz respectively.

The CW operating frequencies can be found at 14.0565 MHz on 20 meters and 7.0565 MHz on 40 meters. The frequency on 30m is 10.1225 MHz. These nets are not as active but put out a call, and someone will usually come back. The abbreviation "CHN" is used to designate the net.

Planned mobile activity is announced in advance here: <http://www.cquest.com/cgi-bin/flynn/trips.pl>

This information comes from <http://www.cquest.com/ch/> which is a collection of resources for County Hunters.

But, I continued my quest of collecting QSL cards...and in the meantime, logged in more contacts. I found the frequencies where the mobile CH'ers hang out, and the logbook began to fill. Those mobiles "running" counties hang out on specific frequencies on all the HF bands, so my "coloring book" began to fill and my QSL card collection began to grow.

[Part II: The Whole Ball of Wax, in September]

County Hunting, from Page 1

Following her advice, I did just that. I searched the web for information on County Hunting and found that in order to confirm the contact to get the award...the USA-CA award...I needed to send a QSL card to the operators with whom I made the contacts, and receive one in return. I also found a source to purchase an "official" County Hunter logbook, and the County Hunter book of state maps with counties...the "coloring book" as it is called.

OK, now having the rules of County Hunting, I began to send QSL cards to the contacts I had already made, from the very first contact I ever made as a ham...shortly after I got out of the military after the Korean War...to the time I really got into the hobby. I went through my logbook to obtain the call signs. We didn't have computers in those days so had to go to my call book to find mailing addresses...and I was on my way.

However, I ran into a few road blocks because several of the hams of my earlier contacts were SK's...I began my serious County Hunting too late to get QSL's from them. That meant that I had to make another contact in those particular counties, which I eventually did.

HAMFESTS & CONVENTIONS**12 AUGUST 2011****PACIFIC NW DX CONVENTION**

Western Washington DX Club

Holiday Inn - Downtown Everett

3105 Pine Street

Everett, WA 98201

wwdxc.org

Denny Bowman W7SNH

6916 160th Street SW Edmonds, WA 98026

425-745-6149

w7snh1@gmail.com

8 OCTOBER 2011**Pacific Northwest VHF Society
Conference**

The Riverhouse

2850 NW Rippling River Court

Bend, OR 97701

www.pnwvhfs.org

Talk-In: 146.94 (PL 162.2) & 144.24 USB

Donald Krug K7HSJ

61245 Paulina Lane Bend, OR 97702

541-382-7561

ghcdk@bendnet.com

1 - 3 JUNE 2012**SEA-PAC****NW Division ARRL Convention**

Seaside Convention Center

Seaside Oregon

Online Registration Open NOW

www.seapac.org

C. Wayne Schuler AI9Q

16414 NE 21st Street

Vancouver, WA 98684

360-892-5580

ai9q@arrl.net

Your business advertising in THE OSCILLATOR is seen each month by more than 200 members who read THE OSCILLATOR. To include your "Business Card" ad (\$48.00 annually) or "Display" - HRO size ad (\$60.00 annually), contact Maureen O'Rourke at 503.591.9641.

DC POWER

Anderson Connectors & More

Wes Allen, K7WWG

665 SW 167th Ave•503-531-4081

Beaverton, OR 97006

e-mail: sales@dcpwr.com

Web: www.dcpwr.com

**HAPPY
AUGUST BIRTHDAY**

5	John Bucsek	KE7WNB
8	John M. Hays	KD7OHK
16	Jim Blanchard	W7HOW
17	Gene Bartsch	WI7N
19	Russell Graham	KD7BSA
29	Barbara Curry	
30	Jill Mohr	KC7ZZY

Did we miss your birthday? Perhaps we don't have it in our list. Drop a note to: otvarc@gmail.com

AUGUST LUNCH BUNCH

**Saturday August 20th
at 1:30 PM**

Talk In: 147.54 MHz Simplex

Questions?

Linda KC7YTD

kc7ytd@gmail.com

503.246.8879

SEPTEMBER TRAVELERS' CAMPOUT

16 - 18 September 2011

Waterloo County Park

near Lebanon on the Santiam River.

<http://www.co.linn.or.us/parks/parks/waterloo.html>

Pot luck at 5:30 on Saturday

CLUB FREQUENCIES**Simplex: 147.54 MHz****Repeaters: 146.96 MHz****(Goat Mtn)****223.94 MHz (Goat Mtn)**

CLUB MEETING
AUGUST 18TH



FIRST CLASS MAIL

OREGON TUALATIN VALLEY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
880 NE 25th Ave. Ste 2-160
Hillsboro OR 97124-6258



**NORTHWESTERN DIVISION ARRL CONVENTION
SEASIDE CONVENTION CENTER
Seaside Oregon**

June 1 - 3, 2012

www.seapac.org

**OTVARC ADDRESSES:
880 NE 25th Ave Ste 2-160
Hillsboro OR 97124-6258
otvarc@gmail.com**