



# The OSCILLATOR

Volume 34 Issue 11  
November 2011



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w6abm@arrl.net

## Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club



### "MY TWO CENTS"

Pat Roberson

Aloha everyone. I don't know about you but this kind of weather makes me want to jump a plane to Hawaii. Oh well, tis the season...

Speaking of the season, thanks to Warren and Barb Winner for volunteering to head up the Holiday Dinner again this year. I think it is going to be a lot of fun. Don't forget to mark December 8th on your calendars for this event. Details and Registration are in this newsletter.

Due to Thanksgiving on November 24th the Board rescheduled the Board meeting to Monday November 21st.

If you're new to the club, or even if you've been a member for awhile, and would like to get involved, have we got a deal for you! The *Sea-Pac* committee is looking for a few good members to help out. Your help is needed, so if you would like to help, contact Vice-President, Herb Hirst K7HLH.

I hope you are all getting a chance to work the HF bands as they seem to really be hopping over the past few weeks. I worked Uruguay yesterday

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### DX-PEDITIONS Part 2: Resources for DX-pedition Planning

Joe Kelly N7BF has prepared a series of articles on DX-peditions. The series will run monthly.

If you have an interest in DXpeditions, either getting QSOs with DXpeditions or participating in one yourself, you have a multitude of resources to gather information. In this second article we will list some of those resources so you can start to gain a working knowledge of the topic.

CQ magazine has an article on DX in each issue under the title of DX. For example the September 2011 issue featured South Sudan and the July issue featured Mt. Athos and Monk Apollo.

QST magazine has an occasional feature article on a DXpedition. It has a monthly section entitled "HOW'S DX?" It lists current activities from around the world.

The DX Magazine is dedicated to providing accurate information to the DXer on DXpeditions around the world. Most of their articles are written by hams who want to tell about their specific DXpedition. These hams will often help us by

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### CLUB MONTHLY MEETING

The November Club Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 17th at *Community Building, Sunset Presbyterian Church*, 14986 NW Cornell Rd, just off US 26 (Exit 65) in Beaverton. The Meeting begins at 7:00 pm.

"Summits On The Air" will be presented by JD Fort K7JDF. SOTA encourages portable operation in mountainous areas.

OTVARC is affiliated with ARRL: The National Association for Amateur Radio and is a *Special Service Club*. Check out the map at: [tinyurl.com/otvarc-site](http://tinyurl.com/otvarc-site)

Guests are always welcome.

Questions? [otvarc@gmail.com](mailto:otvarc@gmail.com)

### CQ WW SSB CONTEST

As we go to print, we've learned that our affiliate Tualatin Valley Contesters put W7TVC on-the-air for the CQ Worldwide Contest October 28-30. With increasing propagation, the group increased their 2010 preliminary score by more than twice! They report a preliminary score of 820,680. More in December.

## ELECTION COMMITTEE

Elections for Board positions will be held in March and April, 2012. Newly elected Officers and Trustees will be installed at our Annual Meeting, May 17, 2012. The Board has appointed Warren Winner, Treasurer, to serve as our Elections Committee Chair. At least two members of the club who are not on the Board will be joining him. If you are considering a run for club office, make your interest known to Warren and the Elections Committee. We will elect all four officers and three trustees to the Board.

## FEEL GOOD HAM SHACK



Does this make you feel better about how your "Shack" looks. If you get pressure from other residents at your QTH to clean up your area...offer this as an example of what COULD happen.

## EXTRA CLASS UPGRADE COURSE?!?

(yes Ron, I really did), and look forward to more contacts.

Is there any interest in a weekly club net on the 146.96 repeater? We would need a net manager and net control operators to make it work. If you're interested please let the Board of Directors know.

73 and Mahalo,  
Pat Roberson KA7PAT, OTVARC PRESIDENT

## CLUB MEMBER RENEWAL

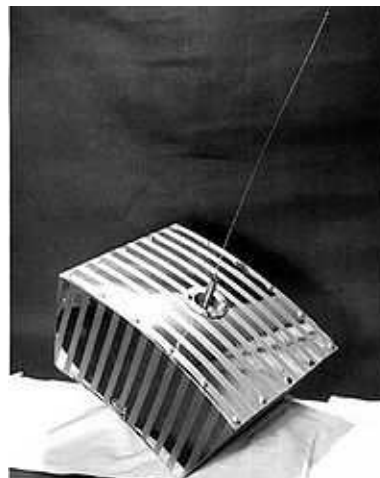
Membership renewal for 2012 will open at the November 17 Club Meeting. Renewal is \$20.00 for Regular Members, and \$5.00 for additional Family Members at the same address. Dues are in arrears after January 31, 2012. No Annual Dues are due from Life Members.

As always, complete an updated Membership Data Page and make your checks to OTVARCCS.

We encourage donations to the club for the Scholarship and Repeater Funds. Donations may be made to the General Fund as well.

## OSCAR I NOW 70 YEARS OLD

A group of California amateur radio operators formed Project OSCAR in 1961. Lance Ginner K6GSJ; Chuck Smallhouse W6MGZ; Ed Beck K6ZX; Al Diem; Chuck Townes K6LFH (SK), and Nick Marshall W6OLO (SK) proposed replacing ballast on the Agena upper stage launching of the Discover 36 Satellite with the 9.9 pound OSCAR I. The United States Air Force would launch Discover from Vandenberg Air Force Base on December 12, 1961 using a Thor DM-21 Agena-B rocket.



The satellite was a rectangle with a single monopole antenna and was battery powered. The 140 mWatt transmitter onboard discharged its batteries in three weeks. Five hundred-seventy amateurs in twenty-eight countries reported receiving signals on 144.983

MHz from OSCAR I. It was first heard by station KCRVSB at the South Pole and one hour later by an FAA Systems Engineer with the call KL7EBM (Now K6???) on Fire Island, Alaska, nearly half-way around the world.

## TRAVELERS' NOVEMBER CAMPOUT

The Annual November Campout and Potluck is set for November 18-20 at Wandering Spirit RV Park in Grand Ronde. Geno Buell KA7KBH is the wagonmaster...and this is his last time to coordinate this popular annual club event. Many RVers arrive in Grand Ronde on Wednesday or Thursday prior to the weekend. Call the Park for reservations: 503.879.5700.

The Spirit Mountain Shuttle comes to the park to transport you to the Casino and Hotel for the Friday Prime Rib Dinner.

Saturday evening, November 19th at 5:30 pm, is the Annual Turkey Potluck. The Bird and Gravy are supplied by the group. Members bring everything else. Non-Travelers welcome for the Potluck.

Come and enjoy the great company and give Geno a proper wagon-master sendoff!

For more information, contact Geno at 503.614.0563 or Dick at 503.5-3.646.4503.

## EXTRA CLASS UPGRADE COURSE?!?

We've had inquiries about hosting an Extra Class Upgrade series similar to the General Class Upgrade series. OTVARC sponsors these educational events for any amateur radio licensee. Many of our own members have upgraded through this program.



The Board will arrange for the location and promote the series. What is needed is someone to coordinate a group of presenters. If you have an interest in serving as the coordinator or as a member of the team, contact our Secretary Everett Curry W6ABM at [w6abm@arrl.net](mailto:w6abm@arrl.net) or 503.681.2345.

Maybe you'd be interested in being a part of the class to reach Extra Class. Drop a note to [OTVARC@gmail.com](mailto:OTVARC@gmail.com) and ask to be placed on the list for more information when the series is set.

## ST LUCIA (J6) DX-PEDITION IN DECEMBER

The "Buddies in the Caribbean" DXpedition group specializes in 100-watt or less low power radios and the Buddipole portable antenna systems. They are back again with an activation of St Lucia (J6) on December 4 – 12, 2011. The north shore Villa location previously used in February 2010 will be the site.

The "Buddies" will demonstrate "ultralite" dxpeditioning in this magnificent "vista" location. Operating a field portable battery-only radio with backpackable, lightweight antennas are the key for "having fun" with a new group of operators who have never experienced the "other side of the pileup!"

The eight operators are: Budd W3FF, Guy N7UN, David WD9CMD, Joe N7BF, Steve WF2S, Tom K9CJM, Bill AA4OC, and BarclayWU1B. Three villa stations will be in operation on 160-10m using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. At the same time, several teams will be battery-only, field portable either from St Lucia beaches or scenic mountain tops. The group will participate in the ARRL 10 Meter Contest using the callsign J68UN on December 10-11th.

QSL via LoTW, eQSL, or postal mail to the operator's home callsign (SASE required). For more details, see the following web site:

<http://suitcasedxpeditons.com>.

## Cascade QRP November Build Day

The November Build Day with the QRP Breakfast is set for Saturday, November 12th at 9 am. The breakfast is on the West side at Home Town Buffet, 13500 SW Pacific Highway, Tigard 97213-4804. This month we'll do a Build Day following the breakfast at the WA7URV shop no later than 11:00 am.

Interested? Contact Phil Westover WA7URV at [492commish@comcast.net](mailto:492commish@comcast.net) by Monday, November 7th to reserve a place, and for instructions.

Phil Westover WA7URV

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### MAKE YOUR RESERVATION:

**2012 HOLIDAY DINNER  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8TH  
SUNSET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Tenderloin or Salmon Dinner**

**All members +1 welcome  
\$10.00 per person**

**Reservation Form In This Issue**

Since its start the OTVARC field activities have centered around Field Day, scouting, and RVing. In discussing the early days of the club Bob Orr stated that most members were busy with work and families and DXpeditions were really not considered. Bob recalled Field Day at Mt. Hood, acreage own by the Berg's, Vernonia, and other scenic spots. The one exception to that was DXpedition to Belize that included OTVARC's Al Berg and Sue Benton to be reported on in the next installment.

[Next Month: DXpedition to Belize that included  
OTVARC's Al Berg and Sue Benton]

### DX-peditions, from Page 1

answering specific questions by letter or e-mail.

DXpedition DVDs are exciting to watch and indirectly provide information on how to do a trip. They usually chronicle their procedures and difficulties. James Brooks has 11 DVDs out and you can see what they cover on his website: [www.dxvideos.com](http://www.dxvideos.com). Note that OTVARC members have most of these videos so if you would like to see a couple ask our presentation coordinator, Herb Hirst, to show some at one of our monthly meetings.

There are conferences, meetings, and dedicated groups that are great resources of information. They include our own *SeaPac* event that features DXpedition presentations; the Northwest DX Conference that rotates between Spokane, Seattle and Portland. Portland will host in 2012. The International DX Convention is held in Visalia, CA each April (next is April 20-22, 2012).

Great groups to join or support include the Northern California DX Foundation ([www.ncdxf.org](http://www.ncdxf.org)) and our Willamette Valley DX Club ([www.wvdx.org](http://www.wvdx.org)).

The ARRL sends out an e-mail each Thursday (you need to sign up for it, but it is part of your membership) that lists DX and DXpedition activity, along with what is "On the Radio This Week".

If you "Google" DXpeditions you will get numerous personal videos, including some on YouTube. These range in length from a few minutes to a half hour. Most are made by hams like you and me who want to share their adventures.

Buddipole supports DXpeditions for small groups of their customers. OTVARC's Joe Kelly is signed up to go to St. Lucia (J6) December 3-13, 2011. He will be one of eight hams on the trip. The trip leader Guy Hamblen (N7UN) met with some of OTVARC's members recently and it seems like additional OTVARC members will participate in future Buddipole DXpeditions.



**HAMFESTS & CONVENTIONS**

**18 February 18, 2012**  
**Salem Hamfair & Computer Swap**  
**Polk County Fairgrounds**  
**Rickreall, Oregon**  
**www.w7sra.com**

**20 - 22, APRIL 2012**  
**63rd Annual Int'l DX Convention**  
**Southern California DX Club**  
**The Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center**  
**Visalia, California**  
**The Hotel is accepting reservations NOW**  
**Online Convention Registration Opens**  
**Monday January 17, 2012**  
**www.dxconvention.org/index.html**

**1 - 3 JUNE 2012**  
**30TH ANNUAL SEA-PAC CONVENTION**  
**NW Division ARRL Convention**  
**Seaside Convention Center**  
**Seaside Oregon**  
**Online Registration Open In January**  
**www.seapac.org**  
**C. Wayne Schuler AI9Q**  
**16414 NE 21st Street**  
**Vancouver, WA 98684**  
**360-892-5580**  
**ai9q@arrl.net**

**3 - 5 August 3-5, 2012**  
**57th Annual Pacific NW DX Conv**  
**Monarch Hotel**  
**Clackamas, Oregon**  
**Willamette Valley DX Club**  
**wvdx.org/dotnetnuke**

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.

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**HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY**

1	Donald Stettler	KK7TN
1	John Pappenheim	KF7OLJ
1	Frank Wenzl	AE7IS
2	Steven Ward	AD7OG
5	Gerald Davis	KJ7OM
6	Patrick Colton	KC7TOA
8	Art Albin	W7GWR
8	Paul Schaff	W7BBG
9	Jerry Sheffield	KC7EKT
11	Kathy George	KC7USE
16	James Boyd	K7MKN
16	Geoffrey Bunza	AD7JP
18	Barb Winner	No Call
23	Naomi Ballard	KD7JZW
23	Bob Jenkins	W7BKN
28	Mary Berg	N7TRW
28	Linda Sutton	KC7YTD

**NOVEMBER LUNCH BUNCH**

**Saturday November 19th**  
**at 5:30 PM**

**AT**

**Wandering Spirit RV Park**  
**Grand Ronde**

**Talk In: 147.54 MHz Simplex**

**Questions?**

**Linda KC7YTD**  
**kc7ytd@gmail.com**  
**503.372.6286**

**WANTED**

Wanted to keep to borrow for copying:  
 1992 *Sea-Pac* booklet needed for the OTVARC  
 Archives.

Al Berg 503.816.7098

**CLUB FREQUENCIES**

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

CLUB MEETING  
NOVEMBER 17TH



FIRST CLASS MAIL

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Seaside Oregon

**June 1 - 3, 2012**

**[www.seapac.org](http://www.seapac.org)**

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