



The OSCILLATOR

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Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club



"MY TWO CENTS" Pat Roberson

Greetings...I hope all of you have survived Winter so far without any major damage. Its been kind of a wild one at times. Spring will be here soon and it will be time to repair those antennas.

Speaking of Spring, from reports received at our January Board Meeting, it sounds like a lot of planning and progress for both *SEA-PAC* and Field Day. We need the artistic folks in the club to create a design for the 30th Anniversary year *SEA-PAC* pin. I understand the winning design will go on the Commemorative 30th Anniversary Tee Shirt.

When you're approached to help with *SEA-PAC* or Field Day, please volunteer. This is your club and *SEA-PAC* is our event. The *Oscillator* carries more information each month.

A couple of weeks ago, there was a search and rescue event near Estacada. Mountain Wave Emergency Communications members were called in to help with the search. They came up on our 146.96 repeater trying to set up a remote base. Their UHF repeater was not covering the area they needed. I got on the

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DX-PEDITIONS Part 5: Realistic Opportunities

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

All of us can participate in a DXpedition without risking life and limb and without spending a fortune if we join groups (or form groups) of hams that enjoy remote operations on a simplified plan. In this article we'll explore two options, the Buddipole DXpeditions, as an example of a realistic opportunity and the Micro-Lite Penguins as a less expensive and simplified approach to the mega-expeditions.

Budd Drummond, founder of Buddipole, has been an enthusiastic ham operator for decades. Budd takes his love of the hobby with him wherever he goes. He has an antenna on his Model A Ford, his truck, his bicycle, and always has Buddipole antennas close at hand. Budd, his son Chris, and friends enjoy taking their portable radios and their antennas to remote areas that include islands, lighthouses, mountain tops, and exotic locations. Those trips inspired them to start a series of

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CLUB MONTHLY MEETING Thursday, February 16th

The February Club Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 16th 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.

Our February program will outline the mission of *Mountain Wave Search and Rescue*. The atmosphere is casual, the friendships rich. Guests are always welcome.

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

Questions? otvarc@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Annual Membership is due prior to January 31, 2012

Regular Membership \$20.00
Family Membership \$5.00

Complete Renewal Form
Check Payable to Oregon
Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio
Community Services
(OTVARCS)

Send to Club Address

ARISSat-1 WAS NOT A STUNT

ARISSat-1/KEDR was deployed from the International Space Station on August 3, 2011 during EVA-29 on by Cosmonaut/Flight Engineers Sergei Volkov and Alexander Samokutyaev. It's final pass was on January 4, 2012. ARISSat-1 is a second "suitsat" type vehicle. However, it is more than a stunt. Many firsts for amateur radio were registered.

The satellite carried a student experiment from Kursk State University in Russia which measured atmospheric density. Students from around the world provided the voices for the FM voice announcements.

The amateur radio payload aboard ARISSat-1/KEDR achieved many "firsts" for amateur radio in space:

- + First flight test of AMSAT Software Defined Transponder which transmitted simultaneous:
 - FM voice downlink cycling between student messages, spoken telemetry and SSTV from cameras on the spaceframe.
 - 16KHz bandwidth linear transponder,
 - CW beacon with telemetry and callsigns of radio amateurs noting their significant contributions to amateur radio in space.
 - Robust, forward error corrected 1K rate BPSK downlink with satellite telemetry and Kursk experiment telemetry.
 - Development and release of the ARISSatTLM software for PC and Mac platforms enabled amateur stations worldwide with reliable reception of the BPSK telemetry, CW telemetry, display on the station's computer, and automatic upload of received data via the internet to the ARISSat engineering team.
- A new Integrated Housekeeping Unit was developed and successfully flown.
- A new Power Management System was developed and successfully flown.

AMSAT President Barry Baines, WD4ASW noted, ARISSat-1/KEDR marked a new type of satellite which has captured the attention of the national space agencies around the world for the unique educational opportunity we have been able to

WRC 12 NOW IN GENEVA

World Radiocommunication Conference 2012 (WRC-12) is meeting now through February 17th in Geneva, Switzerland. The unprecedented number of proposals, 1,700+, addressing items on the agenda cover all radio services and applications. Go to: www.itu.int/net/newsroom/wrc/2012/index.aspx

Two Cents, from Page 1

air and invited them to continue to use our repeater for the duration. A week or so later the same sort of communications incident took place with a six-year-old girl being swept into the Clackamas River. I was in contact with Russell Gubele K7RLG, Mountain Wave President and we agreed to propose an agreement for use of the Goat Mountain repeaters as alternates for their normal repeater. Your Board considered and agreed to this proposal. So, don't be surprised if you hear some search and rescue activity in the future on our repeaters, please yield and be courteous to them, they are trying to save lives.

Hope to see you all at Rickreal.

73 for now,

Pat Roberson, W7PAT
President, OTVARC

design, launch, and operate. By designing an educational mission aligned with NASA's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics goals amateur radio operators around the world have been able enjoy a new satellite in orbit."

ARISSat-1/KEDR Project Manager, Gould Smith, WA4SXM said, "Dozens of amateur radio volunteers, AMSAT, ARRL, NASA, and Energia teamed up for this successful mission to bring you the most unique and innovative amateur radio satellite mission. Congratulations to all who made ARISSat-1 successful!"



SEA-PAC 30



SEA-PAC 30 will be held in the Seaside Convention Center, Seaside, Oregon, June 1 - 3, 2012. This is the 30th Year of the Convention, and promises to be filled with CELEBRATION.

OTVARC has provided leadership since 1982. SEA-PAC is held at Seaside Convention Center, Seaside, Oregon. Our Saturday Banquet includes speaker: Dr. Michael Barratt KD5MIJ, NASA Astronaut.

OTVARC is sponsoring a W7OTV Special Event Station at the convention. The Special Event will begin earlier in May with opportunity for members to participate from their home station. Ron O'Connor KD7VIK is coordinating.

Saturday Seminars and Flea Market are highlights for most participants. Register Beginning February 18th online at: <http://seapac.org/registration/registration.php>

ELECTION COMING

Elections for Board positions will be held in April, 2012. Newly elected Officers and Trustees will be installed at our Annual Meeting, May 17, 2012.

We will elect four officers and three trustees to our Board of Directors. Two other trustees continue in office until 2013.

The Board has appointed Warren Winner, Treasurer, to serve as our Elections Committee Chair. Jim Schaeffer KB7ABH and Kristin Tomson K7KWT join with him. If you are considering a run for club office, make your interest known.

We will publish bio statements by those candidates who provide one to the editor by the March 27th deadline for the April OSCILLATOR.

5TH WEDNESDAY THIS MONTH

Our "unusual" 5th Wednesday Contest this month will be on February 29th from 8:00 to 9:00 pm Pacific Standard Time. This one is unusual because it only happens every 40 years in a leap year.

Check the Fifth Wednesday Information sheet: www.otvarc.org/documents/FifthWednesdayFeb2012.pdf

CQ WORLDWIDE WPX CONTEST

Put March 24 - 25, 2012 on your calendar for the annual CQ World Wide WPX SSB Contest. Hams seek to work as many amateur radio prefixes as possible in the contest period, which will be 36 or 48 hours depending on category of operation. The CW version of CQ WW WPX takes place May 26 - 27, 2012.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership in Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club is on an annual basis. Currently, our annual dues are \$20.00 per person, with a family membership available to a person living in the same household for \$5.00 additional.

The annual renewal is due prior to January 31, 2012 to be included on the 2012 Roster of Members. To date, twenty-one members have completed the Renewal Form and paid their 2012 dues. Thank you to those who have completed renewals. You may download the Renewal Form at:

<http://www.otvarc.org/MembershipRenewal.htm>
Checks should be made out to OTVARCS and returned with the form.

Life Members are those who reach age 70 and have been a member of OTVARC for ten years or more. No dues are requested from Life Members. It is possible to "purchase" additional years to achieve 10 years. Email otvarc@gmail.com for more information.

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For more information, contact:

Jim Schaeffer <ADHWDEB@aol.com>

John Dolan <John.Dolan@lcreources.com>

CHUCK MICKLEY SCHOLARSHIP

The Chuck Mickley Scholarship is awarded to an amateur operator who will be attending college as a new or returning student. The Scholarship award is made at *SEA-PAC*.

Make sure any eligible amateurs that you know are aware of this club-sponsored scholarship opportunity. Applications are due by March 31, 2012. Full qualification criteria and application materials are at <http://www.otvarc.org/scholarship/index.html> or contact Carl Clawson, WS7L at 503-629-5796 or WS7L@ARRL.NET

DXpedition, from Page 1

DXpeditions that get hams like you and me involved in trips that are fun and educational while providing us with real DXpedition experiences at reasonable costs.

The basic trips are typically in the Caribbean and some can be found on YouTube under *Buddies In The Caribbean* (BIC). Two specific places are St. Lucia (J6) and Montserrat (VP2M). In each place the BIC group has a leader or two. The base stations are located at a very nice facility. Group leaders, through friends on the islands, apply for all licenses, take care of transportation, some catered food services, etc. There is no pressure to produce QSOs and the range of QSOs over a weeks' time range from 50 to 1,000 per operator. Budd averages around 800.

The cost averages around \$150/day per person. Naturally, that depend on the value of the dollar, plus government fees. You'll need to add the cost of getting there. Bottom-line, the total cost is equivalent to Al Berg's DXpedition to Belize in 1983 adjusted for inflation.

Another option is the *Micro-Lite Penguins* (MLP). The MLPs differentiate themselves from the mega-expeditions by not soliciting public money and not taking amplifiers, yagis, big generators, etc. The MLP stress that all equipment must be hand carried, including all generators. They do want to rack up huge QSO totals. On VP8THU (South Sandwich Islands), twelve operators logged 26,698 QSOs in 80 hours operating time. The key to the MLP success without massive equipment is selecting really good operators. To be selected for a MLP DXpedition you must be a top-notch contester who has the ability to control huge pileups. They feel that is more effective than having high power or high gain antennas. These are not cheap DXpeditions but they are less expensive than the mega-expeditions and they are not held to any expectations of QSO totals (hey, they do try to "deliver").

[In the next article in this series, Joe N7BF will offer a plan for a DXpeditions we can produce.]

HAMFESTS & CONVENTIONS

18 February 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 FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY

1	Mary Jo Mosby	KB7NJE
4	Ken Davenport	K7SIX
5	Janet Bell	WB7FJC
6	Thomas Hill	WA3RMX
7	Edwin Elder	KE7DOL
8	Willis Ranes	N7DZR
9	Eric Kosko	WA7YSU
13	George Lottes	WG7U
15	Alvin Carlson	KB7VHI
15	Wayne Schuler	AI9Q
21	Sharon Coan	KA7NAN
24	Richard Booth	W7VPV
26	Roger Noyes	KA7RNN
27	Dale Mosby	K7FW
27	Alan Chinnock	KB7POR
28	Paul Lucas	WB6SHR

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

FEBRUARY LUNCH BUNCH

Saturday, February 25th
at 1:30 PM

Hot Plate Asian Cuisine
14795 SW Murray Scholls Drive
Beaverton OR 97007
Near Murray Blvd and Scholls Ferry Rd
503.590.9808

Talk In: 147.54 MHz Simplex

Questions? Linda KC7YTD
kc7ytd@gmail.com
503.372.6286

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EXTRA CLASS LICENSE SERIES

The Extra Class License Series will be offered this year on three Saturdays and four week nights in April, concluding May 5, 2012. Saturday sessions will be held April 14, 28, and May 5, 2012 from 8:30 am - Noon. The week night sessions will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, April 24, 26 and May 1, 3, 2012 from 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm. The Extra Class Exam will be offered on Saturday, May 5, 2012 at 1:00 pm.

Carl Clawson WS7L will coordinate a team of club members committed to helping you earn your Extra Class license. Seven sessions and a total of twenty-and-a-half hours prepares you to successfully achieve that goal. There is no cost for the course, but you will need a copy either the ARRL or Gordon West Extra Class Study Guide.

The experienced team of leaders for this course is committed to a 100% pass rate for those who do the work and attend the classes. To join the class, send an email to otvarc@gmail.com. Questions? Ask Carl WS7L at ws7l@arrl.net.

FISTS CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY



To celebrate the 25th Anniversary of FISTS CW Club (The International Morse Preservation Society), announces that three versions of a new operating achievement award will be available

starting 0001Z January 1, 2012. Contacts must be made after 0001Z January 1, 2012.

The Perpetual Prefix Award is a basic open-ended award for working 25 unique prefixes in each of the ten call number zones (zero-nine). Each prefix is one point, regardless of country. The contact must be a valid two-way CW QSO between two licensed amateur radio operators. No relays or repeater contacts allowed. Any type of Morse code device may be used.

K6RPT-11 TO THE MEDITERRANEAN

Amateur Radio operators are still making records, conducting meaningful scientific experiments, and inventing useful communication tools. The recent achievements are by Ron Meadows K6RPT and a team called the California Near Space Project (CNSP). Ron is an General Class amateur radio licensee living in San Jose, California.

Ron's vision was launching a weather balloon to near space. His first effort was K6RPT-1 launched from San Jose, California in September 2009. He recruited his father, Frank Meadows KA6TVU and son, Lee to work with him. Other team members include Don Irving N6DRB and John Glass NU6P. With an initial investment of just under \$2,500, the team continues to launch record-seeking weather balloons. His third launch reached 122,649 feet and landed in Utah. This placed the team in fifth place on the records list, and identified them as a serious competitor. The balloons use APRS on 144.39 MHz to create a path to follow with ground stations. Subsequent efforts reached altitudes of 128,047 and 129,622 feet (more than 24.5 miles).

The last two K6RPT flights have set records. K6RPT-10 reached an altitude of 136,545 feet (25.9 miles), putting the CNSP team in #1 for altitude. K6RPT-11 launched on Sunday, December 11, 2012 at 4:43 pm. It was predicted to reach Colorado. The balloon reached a cruising altitude (it is known as a "floater") and ranged from 100,000 - 115,000 feet. It passed the predicted landing site in Colorado and continued to Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey. It's 450 mile diameter footprint was copied by hams across the continent.

When North America stations lost contact, email dispatches encouraged European hams to listen on 144.39 MHz (they use 144.80 for APRS) and resulted in being heard again by stations in the Azores. It finally descended off the northern coast of Algeria having traveled 6,236 miles in just over 57 hours.

The South Texas Balloon Launch Team will launch on February 11, 2012 from Kansas City, Missouri. It will carry the call sign KT5TK-11.

ELECTION PROCEDURES

The 2012/2013 Election will be conducted by a "secret ballot" cast by postal mail.

The Secretary will supply mailing labels to The Election Committee at the April 19th meeting.

The Election Committee will solicit nominations from the membership during January, February and March, 2012.

Additional nominations will be entertained from the floor by the Club President of the April 19, 2012 meeting.

The Election Committee will print and mail ballots by April 23 - 27, 2012.

Each Ballot Envelope will contain a ballot, a brief biography of candidates for each position and a stamped return envelope.

Ballots will be due by May 12, 2012.

The Election Committee will count ballots on May 12, 2012.

The Election Committee will Install new officers and trustees at the May 17, 2012 meeting.

Submitted ballots shall be retained by The Elections Committee for no less than thirty (30) days after the election, or until the next monthly meeting, June 14, 2012, whichever comes first.

Warren Winner W7JDT, Chair
Jim Schaeffer KB7ADH
Kristin Tomson K7KWT

THIS MONTH AT TERAC:

Each month, we'll try to give you information on what TERAC's program will be. When the information is unavailable at press time, we'll refer you to their web site, <http://terac.org/>

Their next meeting is Thursday, February 9th.

SEA-PAC PIN DESIGN CONTEST

YOU may win two free tickets to the Annual SEA-PAC Banquet. Are you creative? Do you have an artistic side waiting to be expressed? Enter the SEA-PAC Pin Design Contest and you could win two free tickets to the Annual Saturday Night Banquet, plus fame and admiration from all of your fellow HAMS. The contest winner receives two tickets to the SEA-PAC Banquet, Saturday, June 2, 2012 at the Convention Center in Seaside.

Designs may be submitted for consideration no later than April 10, 2012. Pin designs should be sent to SEA-PAC, Post Office Box 25466, Portland, OR 97298-0466. The decision of the SEA-PAC Committee is final. Examples of previous years pins and the complete rules for the contest are on the SEA-PAC web site. http://www.seapac.org/seapac_pins.php

US HAM LICENSES EXCEED 700,000

The number of amateur radio licenses exceeded 700,000 at the end of 2011 an increase of nearly 1% from a year earlier. Nearly 49% of US licensees hold a Technician Class license. The remaining license are primarily General and Extra Class. Nearly 1,200 Novice licenses will expire this year.

50th ANNIVERSARY GLENN PERTH CONTACT

On February 20, 1962 a spacecraft called 'Friendship 7' was launched. In the hot-seat was astronaut, John Glenn. The objective was to place a man into earth orbit, observe his reactions to the space environment and safely return him to earth. During the first orbit of 3, the spacecraft came into radio range of the Mucnea Tracking Station where the first Australian Space Radio contact was made by Gerry O'Connor who spoke with John Glenn as he passed overhead.

John Glenn reported that he saw the City of Perth and a very bright light as he overflowed Perth and the Kwinana refinery which flared for the occasion. The event gave Perth the moniker, the City of Light.

CLUB MEETING
FEBRUARY 16TH



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NORTHWESTERN DIVISION ARRL CONVENTION
SEASIDE CONVENTION CENTER
Seaside Oregon

June 1 - 3, 2012

www.seapac.org

Register Beginning February 18th
<http://seapac.org/registration/registration.php>

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