



The OSCILLATOR

Volume 35 Issue 1
January 2012



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Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club



"MY TWO CENTS" Pat Roberson

Happy New Year everyone! I hope you had a very Merry Christmas, and that Santa brought you lots of radio toys this year.

Our December meeting was the Holiday Dinner which was well attended and a lot of fun. My many thanks go to Warren and Barb Winner for hosting the event, Mel Sutton for becoming Santa Claus for the evening, and Everett Curry for the meal prayer and introductions. The food was great again this year, and the entertainment provided by *In Cahoots Ladies Chorus* was very enjoyable. Warren and Barb have volunteered to host the December 2012 event as well.

I know there were at least a couple of conflicts due to the change of meeting dates for December. Our Board representative for the Church is working hard to get the third Thursday secured for next December. We have had two complaints about not having alcohol available at social events. First of all, the meeting places (Sunset Presbyterian Church and City of Hillsboro Parks) will not permit it. Secondly, and probably most important, it becomes a

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DX-PEDITIONS Part 4: Playing with the Big Boys

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

Every hobby has different levels of participation, from the neophyte just getting started, to the experienced person who enjoys "bigger and better". That goes for astronomy, car collecting, stamp or coin collecting, fountain pen collecting, etc. Ham radio is no exception. When we start we usually have an older used radio and an antenna that we're not sure about. We always remember our first QSO and our first DX contact. As we move up the participation ladder we buy better radios, super antennas, and make plenty of QSOs. Some of us are a bit enthralled with the idea of going on a big DXpedition. We watch DVDs on DXpeditions to South Georgia Island, Kingman Reef, Kerguelen, or Midway Atoll and we want to do "just one" trip like that. Many hams have the technical and operating savvy to perform well but they may lack the physical ability and the financial resources required. The cost of participating in a big DXpedition can be staggering.

See DX-peditions, Page 4

CLUB MONTHLY MEETING Thursday, January 19th

The January Club Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 19th 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.

Start the New Year by making it out to a Club Meeting. 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

QSL POSTAGE GOES UP IN JANUARY



The United States Postal Service will increase postage rates effective January 22, 2012:

- * First Class Letters (1 ounce) will increase 1-cent to 45 cents.
- * First-Class Letters additional ounces will remain unchanged at 20 cents.
- * Postcards will increase 3-cents to 32 cents.
- * Letters to Canada or Mexico (1 ounce) will increase 5-cents to 85 cents.
- * Letters to other international destinations will increase 7-cents to \$1.05

The rate to send a standard No. 6 3/4 or No. 10 envelope with QSL and self-addressed-stamped-envelope will be 45 cents (plus 45 cents on the sase). The same QSL to Canada or Mexico will cost 85 cents (plus \$1.05 Canadian Dollars return).

The International Reply (IRC) is a simple solution for return postage. The cost for an IRC is now \$2.10. The alternative is sending "green stamps." A green stamp is "one american dolla." Most countries now require \$2US for return postage.

Sending QSLs to other countries can be challenging. Using the BUR0 takes a long time, but sending direct requires knowing the postage amount or using the IRC or green stamps. You can us <http://www.k4hb.com/postage.html> to find current rates and "green stamp" recommendations. Sending to most other international hams will cost \$1.05 in outgoing postage effective January 22nd.

Then, you may want to forego the card and use digital methods to acknowledge your QSO. Both Logbook of the World and eQSL are options. LogbookoftheWorld meets requirements for ARRL awards. You may use other online acknowledgements if an official card is not required, e.g. QRZ.com.



YAESU MUSEN

Vertex Standard Co. Ltd has transferred the Land Mobile Radio (LMR) business to Motorola Inc. and has returned to the name of Yaesu Musen effective January 1, 2012. This news came from Jun Hasegawa President and Chief Executive Officer of Vertex Standard Co. Ltd in a letter addressed to "...Amateur, Marine and Air-band Valued Customers."

Hasegawa, in that letter, said. "After four years of joint venture with Motorola, we have decided to transfer the Vertex Standard LMR business to Motorola and focus on Amateur, Marine and Air-band business. The effective date for this reorganization will be January 1, 2012. Our company name will once again be YAESU MUSEN"

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. The Board has appointed Warren Winner, Treasurer, to serve as our Elections Committee Chair. He has invited other members to join the Committee with him. If you are considering a run for club office, make your interest known.

Two Cents, from Page 1

liability issue for the club. If a member were to drink and get into an accident on the way home, the club could be sued. It's simply not worth the risk.

Now that the holidays are over, we can plan on the activities in 2012. The Club Anniversary in May, Elections, *Sea-Dac*, and Field Day are all around the corner. They will be here faster than you think. If asked, please volunteer your time to help out with any or all of these upcoming functions.

73,
Pat Roberson W7PAT
President, OTVARC

2012 EDUCATION PLANS

During 2012, Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club will offer three educational series. The first will be January 7, 21, and 28 for those who wish to obtain their entry level amateur radio license - The **TECHNICIAN CLASS LICENSE**. These classes are based on the ARRL video series for Technician Classes and presentations by active amateurs. Sessions on each Saturday are at 1:00 - 4:00 pm and are held in the Community Room at Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue Station 67 in Beaverton (13810 SW Farmington Rd). Contact Janet Bell WB7FJC at janetnbell@gmail.com or at WB7FJC@arrl.net for more information.

The second will be for current holders of a Technician Class license. It will lead to obtaining an upgrade to a General Class License. This series will be held March 31, April 3, 5, and 7 (Saturday morning, Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and Saturday morning). The Exam will be administered on April 7, 2012 at 1:00 pm at the same location as classes. These sessions will be held at Ronler Acres Fire Station, 4455 NW 229th in Hillsboro (across from Hillsboro Stadium). Saturday classes run from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm, week night sessions are from 6:30 to 9:30 pm. To be added to the class list, send an email to otvarc@gmail.com. Everett Curry W6ABM coordinates, with Carl Clawson WS7L; Will Sheffield N7THL and Ron O'Connor KD7VIK.

The third session will help General Class licensees upgrade to Extra Class. The dates have not been confirmed. Carl Clawson WS7L will coordinate. You may send an email to otvarc@gmail.com or to Carl at ws7l@arrl.net to indicate your interest.

Education series by OTVARC are part of our commitment to amateur radio and to our community. You do not need to be a member of OTVARC to participate. There no class fee, however the purchase of a Study Guide and a \$15.00 exam fee will be required to successfully pass your appropriate amateur radio exam.

5TH WEDNESDAYS IN FEBRUARY

There are a number of mathematic cycles related to our calendar. For most days and dates, the cycles run on five, six, and eleven year periods. However, we are about to experience a 28-year cycle with our calendars in February.

It was 28 years ago, in 1984, that we could hold our 5th Wednesday Contest in the month of February. We'll do that next month on February 29th. Then, we'll be waiting until 2040 to do it again. It takes seven leap year periods of four years each to bring a 5th Wednesday to February. They occur three or four times in each century.

Our "unusual" 5th Wednesday Contest next month on February 29th from 8:00 to 9:00 pm Pacific Standard Time. There will be more information in the February issue of The OSCILLATOR and online at www.otvarc.org.

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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K7UGA ON AIR IN FEBRUARY

Arizona will celebrate the centennial of its statehood on February 14, 2012. The Central Arizona DX Association will operate special event station K7UGA the week of February 13th to the 19th. This, in celebration of the Arizona Centennial. This is one of amateur radio's best known calls. For many years K7UGA belonged to an Arizona Senator the late Barry M. Goldwater, K7UGA. It is now held by the CADXA in honor of Goldwater.



Individual club members will be operate from home stations using the K7UGA call. Only special operating locations in Tucson, Prescott and Phoenix will air on Tuesday, February 14th to celebrate Arizona's 100th anniversary as a state.

Operations will be on 160 through 2 Meters using SSB, CW, RTTY, PSK31 and satellite modes. QSL requests with a self-addressed-stamped envelope go to Bob Davies K7BHM, 1623 North Los Altos Ct. Chandler, Arizona, 85224.

DXpedition, from Page 1

I contacted the Braveheart's captain (Capt. Jolly) and asked what an average DXpedition would cost and he stated \$250,000+. That cost is a starting point, add costs for extra fuel, docking fees, customs fees, etc. The team also needs to pay the cost of shipping radio equipment and associated supplies (generators, cable, wire, power supplies, tools, shelters, etc. often adding up to tons in weight). Each individual must bring personal equipment and supplies and get to the point of departure (i.e. flying from Portland to Punta Arenas, or New Zealand). It is not uncommon for each participant to end up with a \$35,000 to \$50,000 tab.

Some costs are subsidized by equipment manufacturers, support from associations like the NCDX club and donations from hams like us who send in money and/or buy DVDs. However the financial support comes with a pressure to deliver QSOs. Financial supporters expect to see a very high number of contacts and individual hams expect that they will get a QSO documented by a beautiful QSL card. To fulfill these obligations most DXpeditions need to operate 24/7, regardless of prevailing conditions, and the operators need to be proven experts in pile-up management and operational skill. If you don't deliver QSOs you will hear about it!

So if you want to enjoy DXing at the ultimate level, the DXpedition, you'll need to be physically fit, a superb operator, mentally prepared to operate long hours in potentially harsh environments, and be willing to spend a big chunk of your children's inheritance. With that said I still dream of participating with the "big boys" but unless I win a big Power Ball lottery my chances are between slim and none.

However with that said keep the faith and in the next article on DXpeditions we'll discuss options that most of us can participate in, have fun, visit interesting places, and not go to the poor-house.

[In the Fifth Article in this series, next month Joe N7BF will offer some "Realistic Opportunities" for DXpeditions we can all enjoy.]

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 JANUARY BIRTHDAY

- | | | |
|----|-------------------|--------|
| 6 | Will Sheffield | N7THL |
| 6 | Arnold Jensen | W7DSA |
| 8 | Bob Scott | W7AFR |
| 8 | Rick Shouweiler | KA5OLH |
| 8 | Ted Geroux | KE7BTY |
| 13 | Mark Dinsmore | KF7HNA |
| 16 | Herb Richardson | KB7SFJ |
| 18 | George Brennfleck | W7ILS |
| 21 | Lynn Hurd | WB7UNU |
| 23 | Margie Simmons | KE7HUR |
| 24 | Jack Smithson | KA7HOJ |
| 27 | Marvel Noyes | KA7TZZ |
| 30 | Donna Rosy Green | KD7PGH |

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

JANUARY LUNCH BUNCH

Saturday, January 28th
at 11:30 AM

Famous Dave's Legendary Pit Bar-B-Que
7121 SW Nyberg Street
Tualatin OR 97062
Just East of I-5 at Nyberg - Exit 289
503.486.5631

Talk In: 147.54 MHz Simplex

Questions? Linda KC7YTD
kc7ytd@gmail.com
503.372.6286

CHANGE OF TIME FOR THIS DATE ONLY
BECAUSE OUR USUAL TIME IS TOO BUSY

CLUB FREQUENCIES

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

CLUB MEETING
JANUARY 19TH



FIRST CLASS MAIL

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Seaside Oregon

June 1 - 3, 2012

www.seapac.org

OTVARC ADDRESSES:
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Hillsboro OR 97124-6258
otvarc@gmail.com