

**W7OEK**

**Volume 2008, Issue 11** **November 2008**

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<b>Jack Schock</b>	<b>WA7IHU</b>	<b>535-8471</b>		<b>Vice President</b>
<b>Lud Sibley</b>	<b>KB2EVN</b>	<b>855-5207</b>		<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Bill Cook</b>	<b>N0DMC</b>	<b>951-6644</b>		<b>Secretary</b>
<b>Tom McDermott</b>	<b>N5EG</b>	<b>734-4675</b>	<b>n5eg@tapr.org</b>	<b>Newsletter and Membership</b>
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<b>Club Web Page:</b>		<b>http://www.qsl.net/w7oek</b>		

***Next Club Meeting***  
**Thursday, November 6th, 2008. 7:00 PM**  
**Red Cross Building, 60 Hawthorne St., Medford, OR**  
**Across from Hawthorne Park**  
**“Show and Tell”**

**President’s Letter**

It is time for another Newsletter and meeting. It is hard to believe that when we gather again, we will (hopefully the votes will be counted right) know who the next President of the US will be. This segues nicely into the subject of next year’s club officers. Finding individuals who are willing and able to serve is and evidently always has been a frustrating process. The Nominating Committee met on October 16 with less than encouraging results. We have a slate of candidates but it would be nice to at least have some backups. Please consider what you would be willing to do to contribute to the club. Our main concern is the post of President.

The Holiday season is around the corner. That means that we will be discussing a venue for a Christmas Party, if there is enough interest. It is notable that The Hungry Woodsman, where last year’s party was

**Secretary’s Report**

Meeting Minutes of the ROGUE VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

October 2nd 2008  
 Meeting called to order by President Don Bennett (KG7BP) at 7:01 pm

- Introduction of members and guests followed.
- The September 4<sup>th</sup> minutes were read. Motion to accept them was made and seconded. Motion carried.
- Treasurer’s report by Lud Sibley (KB2EVN) was given en absentia. We currently have \$1905.00+ in the treasury. Motion to accept the report was made and seconded. Motion carried.
- Old business: There was none.

President's Letter, Continued

held, is now closed. Put on your thinking caps and see if you can come up with a suggestion.

As I mentioned at the last meeting, Harry, AE7NY, has come up with a source for some more yellow RVARC windbreakers. The minimum quantity is 12, and will come in at a price of \$25 or so.

Please join us at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, November 6 at the Red Cross Building on Hawthorne. CU there.

73,

Don KG7BP

Secretary's Report, Continued

- New Business: Club windbreakers will be available for about \$25.00 or so. Monies must be paid up front.
- A nominating committee consisting of the club president, vice-president, secretary and Van Sias (K7VS) will meet at Van's home on October 16th, 2008. Business of the meeting will be potential selection of officer to run for the year 2009.
- Al Edwards (N7CGC) asked that someone take over the duties of the monthly newsletter. Tom McDermott (N5EG) has graciously offered to take over the newsletter. Many many thanks to Al for his unending support over the years.
- The meeting was suspended at 7:52 PM in order to have coffee and doughnuts. Vice President, Jack Schock (WA7IHU) consented to bring the doughnuts.
- It resumed later with a very informative presentation by Van Sias (K7VS) and Tom McDermott (N5EG). It dealt with SDR or Software Defined Radio. With a one watt output, the right antenna and good band conditions, one can use these radios to make contacts all over the world..
- Meeting was adjourned after 9:00 PM.

DON'T FORGET: NOVEMBER MEETING IS SHOW AND TELL.....

Respectfully Submitted,  
Club Secretary  
Bill Cook (N0DMC)

## Transition to Digital Television

We've all (hopefully) heard about the transition to digital television that's supposed to occur on February 17, 2009. Broadcast of NTSC (analog) signals will cease on midnight, replaced by ATSC (digital).

box to bypass it.

Right now, the major network broadcasters in Medford are transmitting their ATSC signals on temporary UHF channels. Come February 17th, many of the broadcasters in

Callsign	Channel		Network	Signal		Path	Dist(mi)	Azimuth		Height(ft AGL)	
	Real	(Virt)		Xmit(kW)	Rx(dBm)			True	(Magn)	-100dBm	LOS
KMVU-DT	27	(26.1)	Fox	10.25	-50.5	LOS	3.6	125°	(110°)		
KSYS-DT	42	(8.1)	PBS	1.19	-61.0	LOS	3.5	126°	(110°)		
K21BG	21	(21.1)		0.66	-61.7	LOS	3.5	126°	(110°)		
K41IX	51	(41.1)		10.00	-63.0	LOS	12.2	305°	(289°)		
KOBI-DT	15	(5.1)	NBC	26.67	-64.5	LOS	33.2	319°	(304°)		
KTVL-DT	35	(10.1)	CBS	10.20	-64.8	LOS	17.6	165°	(150°)		
KDRV-DT	38	(12.1)	ABC	38.75	-65.0	LOS	33.2	319°	(304°)		
KMCW-LP	14	(14.1)		0.19	-66.3	LOS	3.5	126°	(110°)		
KFBI-LP	48	(48.1)		0.24	-68.5	LOS	3.5	126°	(110°)		
K47LD-D	47			0.22	-68.8	LOS	3.5	127°	(111°)		
K45KE-D	45			0.25	-76.0	LOS	9.0	283°	(267°)		
K19HI-D	19			0.01	-79.8	LOS	3.5	127°	(111°)		
K35IY-D	35			0.25	-83.1	LOS	22.5	291°	(276°)		
K13JR-D	13			0.00	-93.0	LOS	3.5	127°	(111°)		
K31JS-D	31			0.00	-117.4	LOS	12.2	305°	(289°)	---	---
K36HL	29	(36.1)		2.00	-123.9	2Edge	25.0	283°	(268°)	---	---
K34BV	49	(34.1)		1.50	-130.7	2Edge	25.0	283°	(268°)	---	---
KOTI-DT	13	(2.1)	NBC	9.00	-134.8	2Edge	62.0	105°	(89°)	---	---
KO2HC	3	(2.1)		0.00	-137.9	2Edge	60.0	186°	(170°)	---	---

C = Co-channel warning      A = Adjacent channel warning

### Pre-transition Digital Channel Assignments

Some analog translators and repeaters will not transition at this time, but can be converted at a later date. If you use the government-sponsored converter box, reception of the analog format requires either a converter

Medford will turn off the analog transmitters and move the digital ones from UHF to the VHF channels vacated by their analog transmitters, Fox ATSC will remain on 27 (rather than move to 26). In other parts of the US, many broadcasters plan to remain on UHF

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	Real	(Virt)		Xmit(kW)	Rx(dBm)			True	(Magn)	-100dBm	LOS
KMVU	27		Fox	10.25	-50.5	LOS	3.6	125°	(110°)		
KOBI	5		NBC	5.40	-55.2	LOS	33.2	319°	(304°)		
KTVL	10		CBS	9.00	-55.6	LOS	17.6	165°	(150°)		
KSYS-DT	8	(8.1)	PBS	16.90	-57.8	LOS	33.2	319°	(304°)		
KDRV-DT	12	(12.1)	ABC	16.90	-58.9	LOS	33.2	319°	(304°)		
K21BG	21	(21.1)		0.66	-61.7	LOS	3.5	126°	(110°)		
K41IX	51	(41.1)		10.00	-63.0	LOS	12.2	305°	(289°)		
KMCW-LP	14	(14.1)		0.19	-66.3	LOS	3.5	126°	(110°)		
KFBI-LP	48	(48.1)		0.24	-68.5	LOS	3.5	126°	(110°)		
K47LD-D	47			0.22	-68.8	LOS	3.5	127°	(111°)		
K45KE-D	45			0.25	-76.0	LOS	9.0	283°	(267°)		
K19HI-D	19			0.01	-79.8	LOS	3.5	127°	(111°)		
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K36HL	29	(36.1)		2.00	-123.9	2Edge	25.0	283°	(268°)	---	---
KBLN	30	(30.1)	Ind	2.00	-124.4	2Edge	24.3	279°	(263°)	---	---
K34BV	49	(34.1)		1.50	-130.7	2Edge	25.0	283°	(268°)	---	---
KOTI-DT	13	(2.1)	NBC	9.00	-134.8	2Edge	62.0	105°	(89°)	---	---
KO2HC	3	(2.1)		0.00	-137.9	2Edge	60.0	186°	(170°)	---	---
KIEM-DT	3	(3.1)	NBC	9.76	-139.7	2Edge	125.2	208°	(192°)	---	---

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### Post-transition Digital Channel Assignments

box with an analog-pass-through feature, or an antenna switch external to the converter

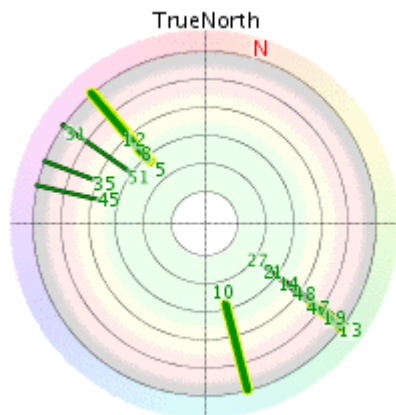
after the transition.

All stations are required to post their plans on the FCC website, and there are several databases of the station information, channel plans, tower locations, coverage estimates, etc. Unfortunately they're hard to find and sort through.

There's a good website:

<http://www.tvfool.com>

that provides coverage, signal strength, and direction information for the pre-transition and the post-transition channel allotments by automatically going the current FCC information based on the receiving station address that you supply. I looked up the digital station coverage maps for an East Medford address with a TV antenna height of 20 feet above ground, and got tables for both the pre-transition (today) channel assignments and the post-transition (after February 17th) channel assignments.



The existing analog station coverage maps can be found on the website as well. In looking through that list, I noticed that the digital stations are mostly about 13 dB less power output than their analog station counterparts (about a 20:1 ratio). The power levels listed on the two charts are no longer available on the website, they have been replaced with a column 'NM' which means noise margin in dB. This is an indication of how much margin

there is in the signal strength.

The website computes the type of propagation (LOS = Line of Site) and the resulting signal strength for each transmitter at your receive location and it color-codes the signals based on some broad categories of expected signal strength.

There's also a 'target' indicator that shows the compass direction, channel assignments, and relative distance indicators (further out on the target corresponds to further away). But the numbers are sort of hard to read.

Additionally, all the broadcast stations are required by the FCC to disclose their digital transition plans on FCC Form 387—Exhibit 4, including construction, antennas, new towers, filters, etc. While some of the plans are pretty complete, others are very brief. Most stations are still working on their conversion, with some testing starting probably this fall and winter.

Several of the stations are using temporary towers and antennas on Grizzly peak according to the database. The post-transition database shows that the current power levels for the digital stations will not be increased once they transition back to the VHF channels.

My experience so far has been that the digital stations are currently about the same difficulty to pick up as the analog stations, and don't seem to be affected by low to moderate levels of multipath. Severe multipath however kills the digital decoding process (pexilation and frame freezes). When the digital decoding stops, the analog equivalent channel is close to unwatchable.

## IS CW DEAD? Bud Larson, W7LNG

If you listen to the low bands (80, 40, 20) during a contest weekend there are many CW signals. On 80 meters there's the OSN (Oregon State Net) 3569 KHz at 630 and 10 PM.

This net is not too fast and takes traffic. Vic, W7VSE is NCS (net control station) on week ends. Often he takes messages at Railroad park (Second and fourth Sundays (April-Oct.) Out there he and Dave, WB7VSN run the telegraph stations using the original Morse code using sounders. Dave calls Morse the "mother tongue". Vic tells about how code saved his life during World War II. He learned CW in the Boy Scouts when 12 and when he joined the Army they needed operators so he was assigned to a station far from the fighting. International Morse Code is like another language but with only about 40 characters to memorize it becomes second nature.

With the opening of sections of the 80 and 40 meter bands to Technicians there should be more on. With simple equipment one can contact stations all over. Practice the code every day for a short while. ARRL has a nice code tape or CD. CW is fun.

The November 2008 *World Radio* magazine has an article about the Amateur Radio "Olympics" that were held in August in and near Portland. Several came from Russia, Canada, and one from Japan. CW sending, receiving, and pileup tests, hidden transmitter "fox" hunt and HF operating competitions filled the week end. It was to see those met in Khabarovsk Siberia, Japan and Victoria BC again. I attended the meets in Russia in 1995, Japan in 1997, Portland in 1999 and Victoria in 2001 plus the current year again in Portland. It's quite a thrill to work a station in Siberia you have visited in person and to talk to them face to face.

## 2 Meters — Where do RVARC members hang out?

During the last club meeting, one member asked why few of the club members were on two meters (or 450) anymore. The response was that there are too many repeaters (all pretty much idle) thus it was difficult to find which machine the other club members were on.

One solution to that problem is for club members to frequent or monitor a specific repeater rather than being spread out .

Of course another possibility is that no one has their radio turned on.

Assuming the problem is the former, a suggestion was made after the meeting that club members congregate on a specific repeater:

**2 meters— 147.62 Input / 147.02 Output, no tone required. K7RPT / R**  
(a great call for a repeater!).

Since there is no PL tone required, the repeater should be accessible by everyone, and it's not linked to a larger system.

If club members have other suggestions, send them to your newsletter editor, and we'll be happy to post them.

If 62/02 turns out to be a bad suggestion, or the sudden heavy usage turns out to be a major problem, we will entertain other recommendations!

**For SALE**

40 foot mast.  
Bud, W7LNG at 773-5214

**Wanted:**

Light weight tower (similar to Rohn  
25G)  
20 to 40 ft. Herb W7MMI,  
[herbg.73@gmail.com](mailto:herbg.73@gmail.com).

***Next Club Meeting***

Thursday, November 6th, 2008. 7:00 PM  
Red Cross Building, 60 Hawthorne St., Medford, OR  
Across from Hawthorne Park  
"Show and Tell"

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**Rogue Valley Amateur Radio Club  
2136 E. Jackson St.  
Medford, OR 97504-6964**