



# The REPEATER



The OFFICIAL newsletter of the Rogue Valley Amateur Radio Club

W7DTA

Volume 2012, Issue 5

May 2012

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Club Web Page:			<a href="http://www.gsl.net/w7dta">http://www.gsl.net/w7dta</a>	

### Next Club Meeting

Thursday, May 3, 2012, 7:00 PM  
 Red Cross Building, 60 Hawthorne St., Medford, OR  
 Across from Hawthorne Park  
 Program: HF Mobile, Jeff Statchwick W7KNX

### President's Letter

One thing I have found as a long time resident of the Rogue Valley is that spring weather can pretty unpredictable. So far this has not been the best spring for antenna projects. HI. Although I understand that Dan, N6WN and Rita, KI6SSQ have managed to put up 500' of new antenna. Dan gave a great show and tell of his "potato launcher" he uses to turn trees into antenna supports. Hopefully you have found enough breaks in the rain to get those antennas tuned up following their annual winter thrashing and with May approaching hopefully we will have some sunshine and mild weather. Fortunately our winters in the Rogue Valley are usually pretty mild and easier on HF antennas than some areas.

Speaking of antennas, Ellis, K7MFR gave a great presentation at our last meeting on an-

(Continued on page 2)

### Secretary's Report

MINUTES OF THE 5 APRIL 12 ROGUE VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEETING.

The meeting was called to order by President Jeff Statchwick K7KNX at 1900L in the Red Cross building in Medford, OR.

Guests in attendance where: Joe Planiski KB8AP, Chuck Herudon KE6ADJ. Jeff introduced a new ham John Armstrong KF7UMK. The minutes were not read as they are in the newsletter. Lud KB2EVN reported that the club treasury has \$4710.78 in it.

#### Old Business:

1. Allan Taylor K7GT cannot replace Bud W7LNG as club trustee until he gets released from a previous trusteeship.
2. V/Chairman Scott KD7EHB has no report yet on club equipment.
3. Scott a made a motion, which was second it and carried to adopt Carl's W7BRO

(Continued on page 2)

## President's Letter, Continued

*(Continued from page 1)*

tennas. If you missed it, he had on display great examples of some of the high quality antennas manufactured at SCALA and took us through the manufacturing process and advanced engineering behind their design. Thank you for a fascinating presentation Ellis.

Whether or not you're an avid contester, a great spring contest coming up is "7QP" (7th call area QSO party) on May 6th. It's an easy exchange and can be a great way to work some counties in the 7th call area that you have never worked before. A lot of mobiles will be traveling throughout the call area to activate as many counties as possible.

At our May meeting I will be giving a presentation on HF mobile installations that I hope you will find interesting.

I hope to see you all there.

73,

Jeff W7KNX

## Allan's Contest Corner

Some contests of interest to our members:

The 7th Area QSO Party—7QP will be held 6AM to Midnight the first Saturday of May. This is one not to miss from 7-land. Rules can be found at: <http://www.7qp.org>

The CW session of CQ WPX (Worked All Prefixes) contest is held over Memorial Day weekend (Friday 5PM to Sunday 5PM PDT). There are all kinds of unusual prefixes on the air for this contest. Rules at: <http://www.cqwp.com>

Allan

## Secretary's Report, Cont'd.

*(Continued from page 1)*

new club logo design as the official RVARC logo. He said "no yellow colored jackets will be offered as no one liked them before." So he will solicit color ideas.

4. Scott's Field day report. The parks commission unanimously approved us using the Christian High School park for our field day. The city council will look at it but it looks OK. JCARES will also join us.

### New Business:

1. Jeff received a letter from the Grants Pass chapter wanting to know if we could find an Elmer for a young man in Merlin. Anyone interested please call Jeff.

2. Rita Derbas KI6SSQ invited club members to joint in on a search and rescue "fox hunt" to locate a simulated downed airplane on 29 April 2012.

3. Public Affairs Joe Gunderson KB7QMT, asked for a motion that we purchase some stands to display a club informational poster he made and \$25 to purchase a self inking stamp for our informational brochures. Ellis K7MFR made motion and Tom N5EG seconded it and the motion passed. Joe then took a group picture of the club members present.

Jeff put the meeting on hold for coffee and an "eyeball QSO" at 1945L and called the meeting back into session at 2015L.

Dan N6WN showed the group his home brew "air gun" to shoot a weight over a tree to pull up a wire antenna.

Ellis K7MFR presented a very interesting program on his experiences at SCALA Antenna concerning rugged, commercial antennas used in the broadcasting and cell phone industry. Karl KD7EAY told us that the Rail Road Park needs CW operators. Jeff adjourned the meeting at 2130L

Submitted by Jacob O. (Jack) Schock, WA7IHU secretary.

New Club Logo

Carl Van Orden, W7BRO has designed a new logo for our club. Great job, Carl!



**RVARC Club Photo—April 2012 Meeting** (thanks to Joe Gunderson, AF7GN)



**Photos from the April meeting (thanks to Walt Deutsch).**



Club President Jeff, and Secretary Jack



Ellis show the front of a variable-down angle multiband directional cellular antenna

**PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER'S Thoughts. Joe Gunderson, AF7GN**

It is official, I am now a Certified Public Information Officer, I completed the course, took the test and even passed.

While taking the PIO course, ran into a fantastic award that you can honor your Elmer, who has motivated and helped you on the way, it's call the Elmer Award (strangely enough) and you fill out the information and they will either send it directly to your Elmer or to you so you can present it to him or her personally. And all for the grand total of free. It is available at ARRL.org, under awards.

The wonderful world of public information has kept me busy and then some. I have been working on many avenues to get our name out in the public view. Scott KD7EHB has been a valuable asset as my default editor, which I wish to thank him publicly. He has plenty on his own plate with being Vice President and Field Day honcho still he volunteered to edit my work. I have been ordering a ton of flyer's from ARRL for dissemination. Actually I have approximately 70 lbs, I tend to exaggerate on occasion . It comes down to the point I need some help, if anyone reading this has ideas to promote Amateur Radio and our club or wishes to help please contact me.

RVARC.PIO@gmail.com or (541) 941-7186

[editor's note: Joe just changed his callsign to AF7GN]

## More April Photos (Walt Deutsch)



Ellis and Don show the back of the same variable-down angle multiband directional cellular antenna



Dan describes his home made air gun to launch antenna wires over tall trees.

## TAPR HERMES High-Performance SDR Project

The HERMES high performance SDR radio project is moving ahead quickly. Last I looked, 370 people were signed up to receive an assembled tested board. This board is a direct ADC-at-the-antenna board with digital down conversion. The transmitter is a digital up conversion with DAC driving a 0.5 watt PA. The radio operates from very low frequency up to 61 MHz.

All I/O to the host computer is via 100Meg Ethernet (optionally provision-able to 1Gig Ethernet in future software).

Several applications have been released for it, and updates to the FPGA code have also been released. The FPGA code now has a dual-channel receiver and some bug fixes to the wideband data acquisition modes.

The KISS (Keep it Simple) console provides both a narrowband (200 KHz) receiver mode and a wideband 0-61 MHz spectrum analyzer mode. The wideband spectrum analyzer appears to have pretty good performance.

The PowerSDR software (used with the FLEX radios) has been updated to take advantage of a new dual-receiver capability added to the FPGA code in HERMES. The receiver can independently down convert separate 200 kHz wide spectral blocks. Apparently the FPGA has room for a 4-receiver implementation, but not everyone is sure that's the best use of the remaining empty FPGA code space.

There's also a new experimental SDR radio GUI—'cuSDR' from Hermann, DL3HVH. I've not tried it but several have and are impressed.

The project mailing list is at:  
<http://lists.openhpsdr.org/pipermail/hpsdr-openhpsdr.org/>

### RVARC Dues

RVARC membership dues run from January 1 through December 31. Please bring cash or a check payable to RVARC to a club meeting, or mail (checks only) to:

RVARC Membership  
c/o 3950 Southview Ter.  
Medford, OR 97504

Regular Member:	\$20.00
Senior Member (62 and over):	\$15.00
Family Member:	\$20.00
Student Member:	\$10.00

### Clark County Washington Hamfest

The Clark County Washington (right next to Portland) Amateur Radio Club (W7AIA) Ham Fair is August 25, 2012.

Could you please distribute and/or post in your Club Newsletter.

Thank you.

73

Jamie Heim, KL7WP

Assistant PIO

Clark County Amateur Radio Club

The preregistration form and Flyer are available from:

[http://www.w7aia.org/activities\\_files/docs/12-CCHF-HamFairFlyer.jpg](http://www.w7aia.org/activities_files/docs/12-CCHF-HamFairFlyer.jpg)

### Amateur Radio Examinations

In the Rogue Valley, amateur radio exams are provided by the RVARC and the SOARC. The 2012 exam schedules have been announced. New exam participants need to provide identification, while upgrading amateurs need to **provide a copy of their current license** as well as show identification. Exam fee for 2012 is \$15.00. To search for other exam locations, go to:

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.phtml>

#### **Medford (White City)**

**Time:** 8:30 AM. Walk-ins welcome.

**Location:** White City VA Facility (Room 223), Crater Lake Highway, Rt. 62, White City OR 97503-9999

**Dates:** June 30th

**Contact:** Don Bennett, Email: [kg7bp@rfwarrior.com](mailto:kg7bp@rfwarrior.com) Phone: (541) 973-3625

**Note:** the ARRL page may also list June 23rd (incorrect date)—the correct date is June 30th.

#### **Grants Pass**

**Time:** Arrive 6:00 PM. Exam session starts at 6:30 PM. Walk-ins welcome.

**Location:** Fruitdale Grange. 1440 Parkdale Dr., Grants Pass OR 97527-5288

**Dates:** May 18th Aug 24th Nov 16th

**Contact:** John Stubbe, K7VSU, email: [K7VSU@arrl.net](mailto:K7VSU@arrl.net), Phone: (541) 218-2244

#### ***Next Club Meeting***

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**Across from Hawthorne Park**

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