



The Repeater

Next Club Meeting

Thursday
March 2, 2017, 7:00 PM

Red Cross Building,
60 Hawthorne St., Medford, OR
Across from Hawthorne Park

Program: Fast-Scan Low-Cost
Amateur Digital Television

Volume 2017, Issue 3

March 2017

Scott Cummings	NA7OM	kd7ehb@yahoo.com	President
Mike Bach	WB6FFC (541) 830-3346	eaglepoint.or@juno.com	Vice President
Bob Deuel	K2GLO (541) 482-8752	k2glo@ikasystems.com	Treasurer
Allan Taylor	K7GT (541) 855-2054	k7gt@arri.net	Secretary
Tom McDermott	N5EG (541) 734-4675	n5eg@tapr.org	Newsletter & Membership
Club Web Page:		http://w7dta.org	

Club Notes

At the February meeting, we overlooked club badges from three members who renewed a few months early, in October 2016. Those badges will be printed and available at the March meeting.

Secretary's Report

February 2 2017 RVARC meeting called to order at 6:58PM by President Scott Cummings.

Visitor and new member: Patrick KD7MPA, a hack lab friend of John Armstrong.

The next VE session was announced. It will be held at FD district 5 HQ so of Phoenix Saturday 25 Feb.

Treasurer's report: \$4580.77 with a check returned uncashed still pending.

Tom N5EG asked how the club-donated HF radio was to be conveyed to the St Mary's radio club.

Field Day plans were briefly discussed, lead by Mike Bach WB6FFC. He asks all members to consider and suggest where the 2017 FD effort might be located.

The Repeater is the official newsletter of the Rogue Valley Amateur Radio Club, Inc. It is published 10 times a year—once per month excluding July and August.

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Club Web Page

The club webpage, <http://w7dta.org> had a For-Sale / Swap page for club members. Unfortunately the applet that runs that page is broken, and had to be disabled.

After several failed attempts, it seems like we have a functional replacement. There is now a REPLY box, where you can post your items, or reply to others (similar to the reply box on the Welcome page).

All postings (replies) and sur-replies (replies to replies) have to be moderated. This requires our website admin to periodically log in, check, and approve (if appropriate) replies, so there will be a time delay until it shows up depending on the admin's schedule.

All this moderation stuff is necessary because of the huge amount of auto-generated spam that is posted by robots. Some robot-generated spam contains malicious links.

Secretary's Report, Continued.

Bob Deuel K2GLO announced that there will be an auction of old radio equipment in support of the Holly theatre renovation project. Date is 25 Feb at 10th & Front St, Medford. Contact Jefferson Live for further information.

The business portion was adjourned at approx. 7:30 for coffee and cookies. (Thanks, Mike!)

The evening's presentation was by Tom McDermott N5EG about SDR radios. The presentation was enjoyed by all present and is available at his web page: www.tapr.org/~n5eg. There are MANY links to other SDR information sites at the end of the presentation's powerpoint file.

Submitted by Allan Taylor, K7GT
3 Feb 2017

This Month's Programs

1. Fast-Scan Low-Cost Amateur Digital Television

Program: This program is an excellent video recording of the presentation given at the 2016 ARRL / TAPR Digital Communications Conference in St. Petersburg, Florida last September. Mel Whitten, K0PFX walks through (in a non-technical way) what is required to operate digital fast-scan television, equipment setups, what kind of performance he is achieving, and a list of low-cost equipment supplies that make it easy for many hams to get on the air. The performance and range of digital Amateur TV (ATV) signals is significantly better than analog ATV according to Mel's on-the-air experience.

Biography: Mel Whitten, K0PFX operates HF, VHF, and UHF in St. Louis, Missouri. He has been instrumental in putting one of the first digital HF voice stations on the air, and is currently using digital fast-scan television based on DVB-S. He has previously published in QST magazine on various HF digital formats.

Upcoming Programs for 2017 (subject to change):

- **April:** American Woodpecker (Over The Horizon Radar) - Scott Cummings, NA7OM
- **May:** Echosounding the Ionosphere with SDR - Tom McDermott, N5EG
- **June:** Field Day - Mike Bach, WB6FFC
- **July:** No meeting
- **August:** No meeting
- **September:** RVARC Swap Meet
- **October:** TBA
- **November:** TBA
- **December:** TBA

Puyallup Hamfest—March 11th

Hello All

We would just like to take this opportunity to remind your club members of the upcoming Mike & Key ARC Hamfest in Puyallup, WA. This year's event is March 11, 2017. This is an ARRL sanctioned event.

We would be pleased if you would consider including this information in your monthly newsletter or on your website. There is an attached flyer in PDF format. Additional details such as maps, lodging, and VE exams can be found at:

<http://www.mikeandkey.org/flea.htm>

Many thanks and 73

Mike, N7WA
Event Publicity

From the flyer:

ANNOUNCING THE 36th ANNUAL MIKE AND KEY ARC ELECTRONICS SHOW & FLEAMARKET.

MARCH 11, 2017 @ 9AM PAVILION EXHIBITION HALL WASHINGTON STATE FAIR GROUNDS 110 9th Avenue SW, Puyallup, WA 98371

ADMISSION - \$9 (UNDER 16, FREE w/ ADULT) TWO FLOORS WITH 44,000 Sq. FEET OF EXHIBITION AREA (>300 tables)

TALKIN 146.82/22 (PL 103.5)

RADIO GEAR * COMPUTERS * CLUB & INFO TABLES * PARTS SNACK BAR * FREE PARKING * CONSIGNMENT AREA OVERNIGHT SC/RV Camping Available * LICENSE EXAMS

Amateur Radio Continues Growth

Amateur Radio license counts have continued growing in 2016 according to ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM.

2016 licenses issued were up 1% over 2015.

- 32,552 were granted in 2016
- 32,077 were granted in 2015
- 33,241 were granted in 2014

The total number of US Amateur Radio licensees has continued to grow each year since the FCC eliminated the Morse code exam requirement in 2007. The net number of Amateur Radio licensees has risen by nearly 87,000 according to Joe Speroni, AH0A.

As of December 31, 2016, the total number of licensees in the FCC database was 742,787. There were:

- 143,337 Amateur Extra
- 45,071 Advanced
- 172,807 General
- 371,560 Technician
- 10,012 Novice licensees.

The FCC no longer issues Advanced or Novice class licenses.

Visalia DX Convention 2017

Dear DXer,

I would like to extend a personal invitation to you and Members of your Club to attend the International DX Convention 2017 in Visalia, California on April 21-22-23, 2017.

IDXC 2017 will be our 68th annual International DX Convention. DXers from around the world will gather once again to meet their fellow DXers, attend interesting and informative programs, see the latest in new products from the top vendors – and have a chance to win some great raffle prizes! This year Friday, April 21, 2017 will be a full day of training, presentations and vendor exhibits.

DXers from around the world will be at IDXC 2017. We have registered DXers from Germany, France, England, Scotland, Hungary, Columbia, Japan, Norway, Isle of Man, Sweden, St. Kitts & Nevis, Canada and Mexico - so far!

Full details of IDXC 2017 are at this website: <http://www.dxconvention.com/>

Thank you, and I hope to see you and many of your Club members at our International DX Convention in April!

- 73 and good DX de Mike, K6MKF,
IDXC 2017 Committee

From the flyer:

IDXC 2017 is sponsored by the Northern California DX Club at the beautiful Visalia Convention Center in downtown Visalia, CA. IDXC is the premier DX Convention in the United States, and is attended by hundreds of serious DXers and Contesters looking to improve their skills, upgrade their stations and spend some quality hands-on time with the vendors' latest equipment offerings. If you're interested in getting involved in DXing, this a great place to start!

Convention Highlights:

- We've added a day!
- Onsite Registration begins on Thursday afternoon, April 20, 2017 at 3:00 PM local time
- Convention is now a full 2.5 Days: Friday (April 21); Saturday (April 22); 1/2 day Sunday (April 23)
- 15-20 DX & Technical Seminars now on both Friday & Saturday
- Excellent Keynote Speakers
- 35-40 Exhibitors in large Exhibit Hall offering all the latest gear Friday and Saturday
- ARRL QSL Card Checking
- Great Raffle Prizes
- Open DX Forum; Contest Forum; ARRL Forum; YL Forum
- Optional training on Friday : Contest Academy - Basic & Advanced Contesting Techniques
- Eyeball QSOs with your DXing friends, or make some new ones!
- Optional Friday Dinners: Top Band Banquet or IOTA Banquet or Contest Banquet
- Optional Saturday Visalia Tour
- IDXC Registration is now open.

SeaPac 2017 Raspberry-Pi Workshop

One of the workshops scheduled for the ARRL Northwestern Division Convention this year will be "A Pi In Your Shack and Go Kit" during which attendees will gain hands-on keyboard experience with the ultra-portable Raspberry Pi computer, and at the end of the day be able to walk away with a unit which is fully configured for ham radio use.

In order to facilitate this workshop, Elmers will be needed who can assist the attendees, as needed, with their RPi units. So, if you are using a Raspberry Pi for ham radio, are knowledgeable in one or more RPi applications, and enjoy helping people, please consider becoming an Elmer at this event. There is no "Workshop Admission" for the Elmers who are accepted, and there will be an opportunity to participate in the group buys of RPi and RPi-related hardware.

If you are interested in being an Elmer (or even a topic presenter) at this workshop, please email "workshops at seapac.org" for more information. Additional details are available at:

<http://seapac.org/workshops.html>

Steve Aberle,
WA7PTM
Raspberry Pi
Workshop Co-
ordinator
SEA-PAC 2017

piHPSDR

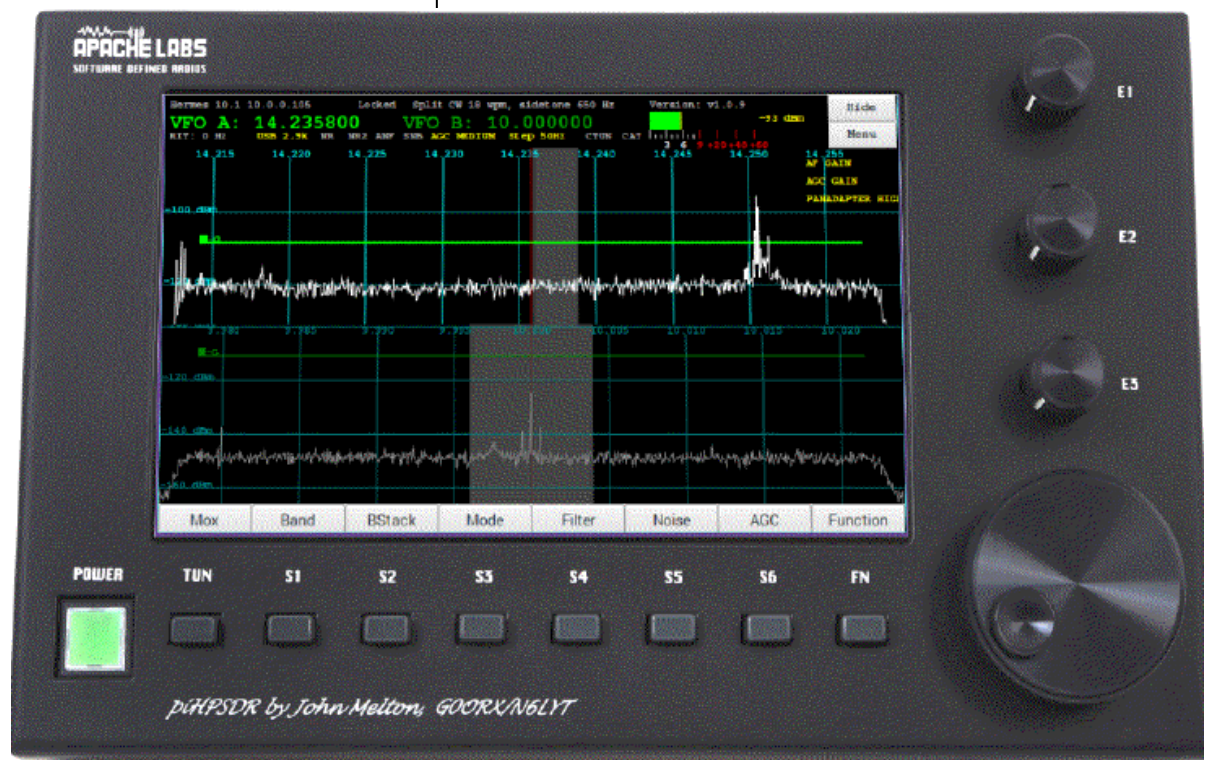
John Melton, G0ORX/N6LYT has announced an initial release of piHPSDR. It's an open-source software package that runs on the Raspberry Pi 3 and allows the PI plus a display screen, buttons, and rotary encoder to serve as a remote display and control unit for the HPSSDR (High Performance SDR) series of radios. Those include Mercury, Metis, etc., Hermes, all produced by TAPR, and the ANAN series of radios. Apache Labs apparently has plans to sell the hardware unit, or you can make your own.

John says that if you run two receivers, each at 192,000 samples per second, the CPU on the R-PI-3 gets warm and should have a heatsink installed.

The functionality is somewhat analogous to the Flex Radio Maestro units.

Details, source code, and documentation are on John's GitHub site

<https://github.com/g0orx>



March 2017

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1	2 • RVARC Club Meeting	3	4 • ARRL DX SSB
5 • ARRL DX SSB	6	7 • Women Hams Net	8	9 • Rogue Hack Lab • ARES Net • Women Hams	10	11
12	13	14 • Women Hams Net	15	16 • ARES Net • Women Hams Net	17	18
19	20	21 • Women Hams Net	22	23 • ARES Net • Women Hams Net	24	25 • CQ WW WPX SSB
26 • CQ WW WPX SSB	27	28 • Women Hams Net	29	30 • ARES Net • Women Hams Net	31	

Events

- Thursday, March 2nd 7:00 PM RVARC Club Meeting - Red Cross Medford
- Thursday March 9th — 6:30 PM Rogue Hack Lab, Medford Library
- Tuesdays & Thursdays 7:00 PM—Women Hams Net K7RVM Repeater 147.000 (+) [PL 123.0]
- Thursdays 7:30 PM - ARES Net. K7RVM repeater 147.000 (+) [PL 123.0]
- Next Newsletter: April Issue. Deadline for input: March 23rd.
- ARRL DX Contest SSB — Mar 4 and 5 (UTC) <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>
- CQ WW WPX Contest SSB — Mar 25-26 UTC. <http://www.cq160.com/rules.htm>

RVARC Membership

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 1058 Linda Ave.
Ashland OR 97520

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

For Sale / Wanted

2017 Amateur Radio Examinations

In the Rogue Valley, amateur radio exams are provided by the RVARC and the SOARC. New exam participants need to provide identification, while upgrading amateurs need to **provide a copy of their current license** as well as show identification. The exam fee for 2017 remains \$15.00. All license candidates must provide a picture ID. Upgrading amateurs must also provide a photocopy of their current license to send in with their application. To search for other exam locations, see:

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.phtml> or our club webpage: <http://w7dta.org>

Medford—Phoenix, OR

Time: Saturdays, Registration 8:30 AM. Exam session at 9:00 AM. Walk-ins welcome.

Location: Fire District 5 HQ. 5811 South Pacific Highway, Phoenix, Oregon 97535

Dates 2017: Feb 25 June 17 Oct 28

Contact: Don Bennett, Email: kq7bp@rfwarrior.com Phone: (541) 973-3625

Grants Pass

Time: Fridays Registration 6:00 PM. Exam session at 6:30 PM. Walk-ins welcome.

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

Dates 2017: Feb 17 May 19 Aug 18 Nov 19

Contact: John Stubbe, K7VSU, email: jstubbe7@gmail.com Phone: (541) 218-2244

Roseburg, Bend, Redding, Brookings, Crescent City — Please see our club webpage, <http://w7dta.org> for updates as we receive schedules for these cities.

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