

W7DTA

Volume 2011, Issue 9 September 2011

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Club Web Page:		http://www.gsl.net/w7dta		

Next Club Meeting
 Thursday, September 1, 2011, 7:00 PM
 Red Cross Building, 60 Hawthorne St., Medford, OR
 Across from Hawthorne Park
 Program: Multimode Digital with Soundcards, VHF

President's Letter

Welcome back from summer! As I was mulling what comments to make for the September RVARC newsletter, I came across a QST article (September 2011, page 35) about a simple go-kit for VHF/UHF. I am personally preparing for a session operating from a high ridge in the Upper Applegate to support a 100-mile run event and the article appeared timely. Please read this article and assemble/aggregate the gear, parts, and doodads to make up your own variant of a go-kit. Heaven knows we have been fortunate this year to not have any significant fires locally but I recall vividly the column of smoke off of nearby (to me!) Blackwell hill last year.

The September program will be two-fold: Don Bennett will describe a sound card setup for multiple modes. We will also have

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Secretary's Report

Our secretary was not able to attend the June meeting, so the following notes are from Allan:

Our speaker was Rich Harrington, KN6FW, who gave a presentation on transmitter hunting. He gave a short talk, and then we did some real-time hunting. He placed his transmitter in the rhododendron bush outside the building. I have some notes that I will have posted to the club website. He also left a few chips and schematic on how to build a TOA (Time of Arrival) unit.

Allan K7GT

President's Letter, Continued

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a group discussion as to local VHF issues. That is, what repeaters are REALLY available locally, their location, sponsor, etc.

I ask that each of you consider your usage of and experience with local VHF and UHF repeaters. I would like to see assembled a current list of repeaters that are REALLY available and correspondingly those to which 'outsiders' are not really welcome. I hope for a candid but tame discussion.

Field Day 2011 at W7DTA was a smashing success. A big thanks to Carl, Scott, and Tom for their considerable contributions!

A new CW contest takes place this coming weekend. The CW Open is sponsored by a new club called CW Ops. If you have time, please join the fun. I personally will not be able to operate in the inaugural event as we have family coming up for the weekend.

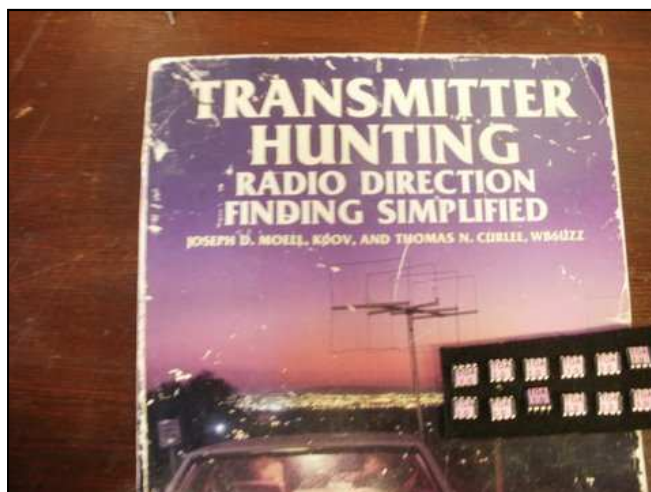
The subject of mobile operating came up recently. I have zero experience. If there is someone out there in the club membership who is current on mobile operating issues or knows someone who is, we would like to solicit a future club talk on that subject. (The September 2011 QST also has an article about RFI issues in new cars...)

See you in a few weeks!

Allan K7GT

Secretary's Report, Continued

Thanks to Walt Deutsch for pictures from the June meeting of Rich Harrington, KN6FW.



Field Day 2011

This year our club held field day jointly with the Jackson County ARES group at Table Rock park in Medford. Thanks to Carl Van Orden, W7BRO for coordinating the use of the field with the city of Medford and Cascade Christian High School, and Scott Cummings, KD7EHB for coordinating our field day committee this year. Everyone agreed that the park was a terrific location - large field, mowed grass, and shade trees. Hopefully we will be able to use it again in the future. We used 4 tents and a cover to provide for operating positions. The weather cooperated, being probably the best Field Day weather that I can remember in 45+ years.



CW#1 Tent, CW#2 Tent (mostly hidden), JCARES Tent, 6 Meter SSB Tent.

Our operation this year was W7DTA category 3A—three transmitters, club or non-club group. We set up two CW stations and one phone station. Per the rules, we were allowed to operate a GOTA (Get On The Air) station using Scott's callsign KD7EHB, and a VHF/UHF station without adding to our transmitter count.

The main CW antenna was the club's TH5 antenna, assembled a little bit crooked (in order to improve the circular polarization I've been told) on a crank up tower about 35 feet up. The other CW antenna was a dual-band 80/40 meter dipole, that did not seem to work too well on

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Field Day, 2011—W7DTA 3A

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40 meters. It was converted Saturday night into a 40 meter dipole. The Phone station used an elevated 10-40 vertical antenna (that does not require ground wires) which worked quite well. the GOTA station was set up with a ground mounted trap vertical. Ed Vaughn held down the 6 meter SSB position with a 4-element yagi (an 8-element Yagi with the 4 front directors removed).

Originally the phone tent was right next to CW#1, but the interference between stations on the same or adjacent bands was too much, and we moved the phone tent to the other side of the park about 650 feet away mid Saturday-afternoon. We used the caterpillar method— we left the cover set up, and moved the cover, table, equipment etc., by a large team of many legs. This fixed the inter-station interference problem almost completely, enough to avoid any significant problems.



Phone Tent being moved Far, Far Away

Scott went all-out this year to secure bonus points, and we claimed 980 bonus points. The GOTA station and contacts, public information (did you see the nice handouts?) and public location helped us increase these points compared to previous years. Additionally we originated 4 messages, including one to our Oregon SM, and Bud Larson, W7LNG copied the field day message on CW.

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Field Day 2011



Scott Cummings, KD7EHB and Carl Van Orden, W7BRO check the impedance on the 80/40 meter dipole. Just because you can feed it, doesn't mean that it works well...



Intense strategy discussion? Or maybe something else.

Field Day 2011

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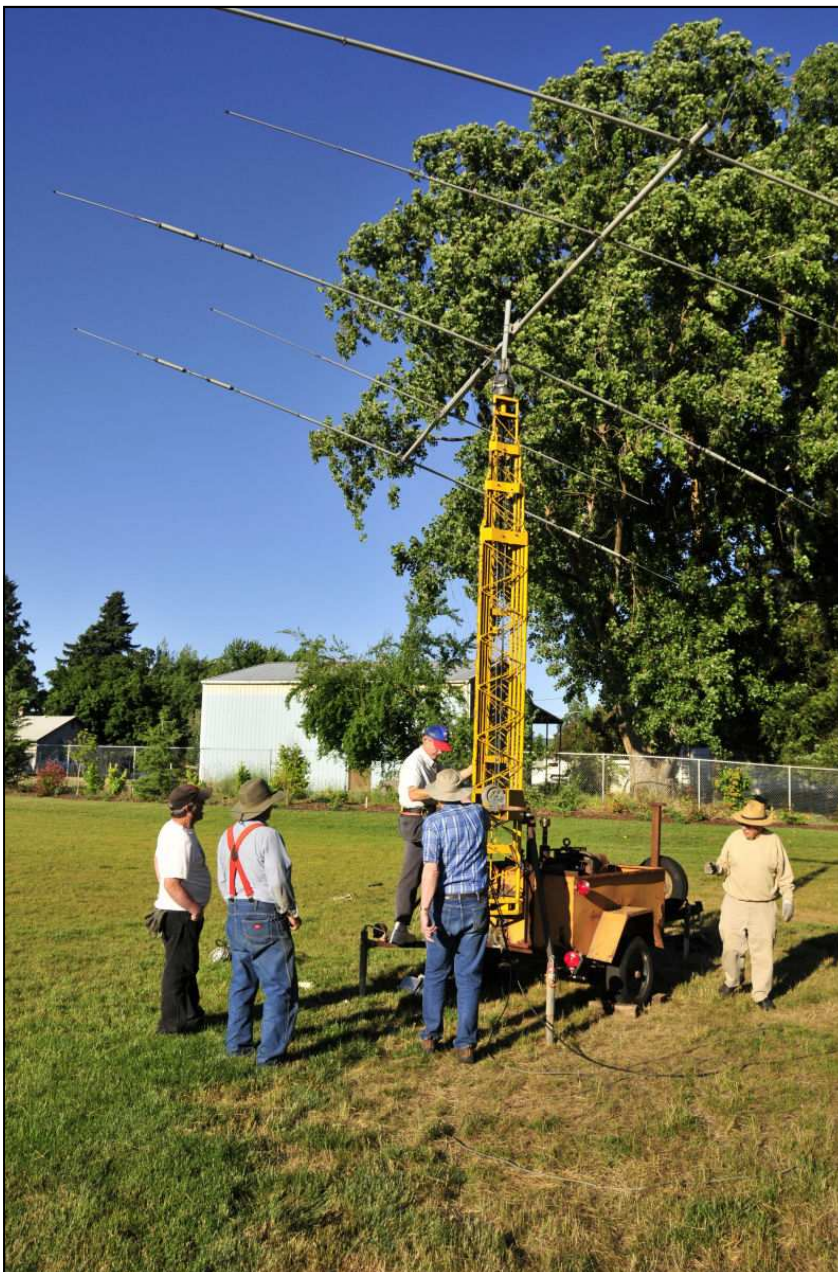
There was a barbeque Saturday night; thanks to all who contributed food, cook stove, propane, etc.

This year we were hoping that 10 and 15 meters might open a bit more than last year—but the signals were non-existent on 10 meters, and weak on 15m. We made a few 15 meter contacts, many of those were a struggle due to the low signal levels. A few east coast stations were able to get good runs going on 15 meters, but those were mostly east coast to midwest, with few apparently pointing antennas to the far west.

Again this year we did not make any 80 meter contacts.

20 meters and 40 meters were the workhorse bands, not only for our club, but for the rest of the USA and Canada it seems. 6 meters did not have any appreciable openings this year.

We had about 15 hams, and 20 others at the site sometime during the event for a total of 35 participants. Overall, we submitted the package to ARRL claiming 4364 points.



The team decides whether or not we really want to crank up the TH5.

Mode	6 meters	15 meters	20 meters	40 meters	Total
CW		45	379	115	539
Phone	23	10	121	346	500
GOTA (phone)		11	9	82	102

Amateur Examinations

Amateur Exams are available near both Medford and Grants Pass. The exam fee is \$15.00— bring proof of license or exam elements passed, for prior credit.

Medford—RVARC

Oct 29th, 8:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed).

Contact: HARRY J EKELUND
(541)282-0854

HEKELUND@EARTHLINK.NET

Location: VA Domiciliary-Building,
223 Crater Lake Hwy -Route 62,
2nd floor North (VA HAM RADIO RM),
White City, OR 97504

Grants Pass—SOARC

Aug 26th and Nov 18th 6:00 PM.

Contact: WILLIAM A TYNER
(541)476-2703

GOODGRENDL@GMAIL.COM

Location: Fruitdale Grange,
960 Rogue River Highway,
Grants Pass, OR. 97526

For Sale

Chuck Mahler, KN6WW has the following antenna items for sale:

MFJ 1786 includes
Super Hi Q Loop Controller
NIB \$95

GAP Eagle DX 40, 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10
meters, with manual
\$85

Flightcraft Model SFX
NIB \$25

Telescoping Vertical, 27ft
Free

Contact:
Chuck Mahler, KN6WW
(541) 282-5454

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