



The Repeater

Next Club Meeting

Thursday October 4, 2018,
7:00 PM

**Medford Police Department
Community Room
219 S. Ivy St.,
Medford, OR**

Program:
Arduino Essentials

Volume 2018, Issue 10

October 2018

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President
 Vice President
 Treasurer
 Secretary
 Newsletter & Membership

Club notes

The club had a successful swap meet the last Saturday in August, thanks to Mike Bach. Mike was able to find a location to host the event, and brought donuts and coffee. We are going to have some difficulty next year as the building has been sold to a local high school who will be renovating and moving in over the next year or so.

Speaking of moving, we've moved to a new monthly permanent location. The meeting space we have been using the last few months is too small to accommodate us, and we needed something a bit larger. Fortunately John Laybourne was able to find what looks to be a great location at the Medford Police Department, with room for something

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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.

Secretary's Report

The September meeting (held the last weekend in August) was the club's annual swap-meet. There was no business meeting held, so there are no minutes for last month.

Remember we change meeting locations starting with the October meeting:

**Medford Police Department
Community Room,
219 S. Ivy St., Medford OR**

President's Letter, Continued.

(Continued from page 1)

like 150 attendees.

Last week our website was attacked, we don't know by whom. The site is down and may be down for an extended period of time. Our former club president Todd Carney has graciously continued to host our site on his server. Unfortunately our contact information is stale and we can't contact Todd presently, he is the only one with root access to the system. We sent postal mail to his FCC database mail address. Keep your fingers crossed.

This month's program will be on Arduino, the small, simple, low cost single-board computer that is used in many different projects. There will be a live demonstration of several different applications.

Club elections will be held at the November meeting. Please be thinking if you can volunteer or help out with club activities.

Traditionally we've had a club pot luck party for the December meeting. We will have discussions at the club meeting on when and where to hold it this year.

Contested NW Division Election

This year's ARRL Northwest Division Director election has produced a very contested race. Incumbent Division Director Jim Pace, K7CEX, has opted not to seek a new term on the Board.

Incumbent Vice Director Bonnie Altus, AB7ZQ, is in a three-way race for the Director's seat. The other two candidates are Horace Hamby, N7DRW, and Mike Ritz, W7VO.

A three-way race also exists for the Vice Director's seat that Altus is vacating in order to run for Director. The candidates are Delvin Bunton, NS7U; Daniel Stevens, KL7WM, and Mark Tharp, KB7HDX.

The candidates have been active in mailing or emailing members of the division, while Mike, W7VO was on the YouTube program Ham Radio Now earlier this week.

Most have a web page to outline their position, you may want to take a look:

Director

AB7ZQ

<http://www.bonnie-altus.com>

N7DRW

<https://horacehambyarri.wordpress.com/>

W7VO

<http://www.w7vo.com/election.html>

Vice Director

KB7HDX

<https://www.facebook.com/NWARRLVD>

NS7U

<https://www.qrz.com>

You will need to do a callsign lookup on NS7U to display Delvin's statement.

KL7WM

I couldn't find an election related webpage, just general information on his qrz.com page.

New Meeting Location starting October

Our current meeting space at the recently-downsized Red Cross facility has been cramped and lacking sufficient chairs.

John Laybourne has secured a new meeting location for RVARC. The first meeting in the new facility will be the October 4th meeting.

The new facility can hold about 150 people, has tables and chairs, a ceiling mounted projector, and a coffee pot !

We will be using the **Community Room** of the **Medford Police Department**.

The address is: 219 Ivy St., Medford. It's between Holly St. and Ivy St. along the northwest side of 10th Street.

There is on-street parking as well as a parking garage nearby. The on-street parking is plentiful, time restrictions expire at 6:00 PM. There should be little issue parking for the duration of the club meeting. The MPD facility is far enough away from Rogue Community College to avoid congestion issues from evening classes and parking.

The Medford PD parking garage is not available. Jackson County Health & Human Services shares the block with MPD, and has their own separate parking garage which was open last time I looked.

Nevada QSO Party—Oct 12-14

The Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society will host the Nevada QSO Party starting at 2000 hours Nevada time (PDST) on Friday, from October 12 (0300z 10/13/2018) to 1400 on Sunday, October 14 (2100z 10/14/2017).

The objective of this contest is to activate and work all 17 of the counties in Nevada. Nevada stations work anyone, anywhere, and out of state stations work Nevada Stations. All stations may be worked on the three different modes for up to three times on each HF band and once on the VHF+ frequencies.

i.e.: Work stations per band and per mode.

Rovers in Nevada can be worked again when they change counties. The VHF+ band consists of all legal frequencies from 50 MHz up to 1300 MHz. Use of repeaters is allowed.

On HF: Phone, CW, and Digital modes add multipliers to the QSO points. All conversational digital text modes are allowed with all counting the same. Currently, the WSJT modes do not have a contest exchange message that is handled as a valid regular message, so those modes are not allowed

Logging software from N1MM will have the ability to work on this contest. All entries over 10 contacts must submit an electronic Cabrillo log.

The Nevada QSO Party website is:

<http://nvqso.com/>

Complete rules are listed under the "Rules" tab. Please read the FAQs for additional information.

Thanks to Jim Shepherd, W6US

New Version of WSJT 2.0 Beta

Ed note: The *final (post Beta)* version of WSJT 2.0 apparently will have BREAKING CHANGES to the FT8 and MSK144 modes. Both sides will need to be on the same version (1 or 2) to communicate.

New Features in WSJT-X 2.0
September 17, 2018

A majority of new program features involve the FT8 and MSK144 protocols. Both modes have been upgraded to use 77-bit information payloads rather than the 75 bits of the older FT8 protocol. Cyclic redundancy checks (CRCs) that protect against false decodes have been increased from 12 to 14 bits (FT8) and from 8 to 13 bits (MSK144). These changes support structured messages optimized for the following special types of QSOs and exchanged information:

1. NA VHF Contest operation with full support of grid locators and "/R" (Rover) calls.
2. EU VHF Contest operation with the exchange of 6-digit locators, QSO serial numbers, and "/P" (portable) calls
3. ARRL Field Day operation with standard Field Day exchanges such as "6A SNJ"
4. ARRL RTTY Roundup operation with standard contest exchanges such as "579 NJ" or "559 0071"
5. Compound and nonstandard calls (up to 11 characters)
6. A special "telemetry" message format for arbitrary information up to 71 bits
7. All features of FT8 DXpedition mode, as in WSJT-X v1.9.1

Enhancements to the FT8 decoder ensure that in most situations decoding sensitivity is slightly better than for the old protocol. Symbol rates and occupied bandwidths are

Vote on Expenditures

There will be a vote on expenditures exceeding \$150 at the October meeting. It is time (annual) for the club to renew its insurance policy. A motion and vote will be taken at the October meeting. We are currently using the ARRL Club Liability Insurance Plan, which provides a competitive rate. .

New Version of WSJT 2.0 Beta Continued

the same as before, false-decode rates are significantly lower. The decoding threshold for MSK144 is a fraction of a dB higher than before, owing to the slightly larger message payload and higher code rate.

WSJT-X 2.0 has several other new features and capabilities. The WSPR decoder has significantly better sensitivity, by about 1 dB. Color highlighting of decoded messages provides worked-before status for calls, grid locators, and DXCC entities on a "by band" basis. Color highlighting can also identify stations that have (or have not) uploaded their logs to "Logbook of the World" (LoTW) within the past year.

WSJT-X 2.0 introduces no significant changes to any of the modes JT4, JT9, JT65, QRA64, ISCAT, Echo, or FreqCal.

IMPORTANT: For the convenience of beta-testers, the first and second release candidates -- releases with "-rc1" or "-rc2" in their names -- will have Rx and Tx capability for both the new FT8 protocol and the older one. Starting with the third release candidate ("-rc3"), and in the general-availability full release of WSJT-X 2.0, only the new protocol will be supported.

From the WSJT website (with edits).

Swapmeet 2018



This Month's Programs

1. Arduino

- **Program:** Arduino Essentials. This program will go over the basics of the low-cost Arduino family of boards, the GUI development environment, and some Amateur Radio applications of Arduino. There will be several demonstrations.
- **Biography:** Tom is the club newsletter editor and techie.

2.

- **Program:**
- **Biography:**

Programs Planned for 2018 (subject to change):

- **November:** LF and VLF equipment and history. Lud Sibley.
- **December:** Holiday Party. Details TBD.

October 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 • CARE Net	2 • 2M SSB Net	3 • 2M SSB Net	4 • RVARC Club Meeting	5	6
7 • CP ERC Net	8 • CARE Net	9 • 2M SSB Net • CARE Meeting	10 • 2M SSB Net	11 • Rogue Hack Lab • ARES Net • Sis-Q ARC Net	12	13
14 • CP ERC Net	15 • CARE Net	16 • 2M SSB Net	17 • 2M SSB Net • JCARES Meeting	18 • ARES Net • Sis-Q ARC Net	19	20
21 • CP ERC Net	22 • CARE Net	23 • 2M SSB Net	24 • 2M SSB Net	25 • ARES Net • Sis-Q ARC Net	26	27
28 • CP ERC Net	29 • CARE Net	30 • 2M SSB Net	31 • 2M SSB Net			

Events

Meetings

- **RVARC** Thursday, October 4th — 7:00 PM, Medford Police Department Community Room
- **Rogue Hack Lab** Thursday October 11th — 6:30 PM, Medford Library
- **CARE** Tuesday, October 9th — 6:30 PM —New Far East Restaurant
- **JCARES** Wednesday, October 17th — 6:00 PM —Jackson County Sheriff's Office on Crater Lake Highway

Nets

- **ARES** Thursdays 7:30 PM - K7JAX Mt. Baldy Repeater 146.840 (-) [PL 123.0]
- **CARE** Mondays 7:00 PM—. KB7SKB Jacksonville Repeater 147.100 (-) [PL 136.5], open, directed net, visitors welcome
- **2 Meter SSB** Tuesdays 7:00PM and Wednesdays 10:00 AM—144.200 USB
- **Central Point Emergency Radio Communications** Sundays 8:30 PM— KB7QMV Medford Repeater 145.410 (-) [PL none]. Move to simplex net on 147.585 MHz when finished. Directed net.
- **Siskiyou County ARC** Thursdays 7:00 PM—Net K6SIS Repeater 146.79 (-) [PL 100.0]

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 1940 Stevens Rd.
Eagle Point OR 97524-6523

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

For Sale / Wanted

Be sure to visit our club's Sell / Swap webpage for more items.

<http://w7dta.org/sellswap/>

2018 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 2018 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 2018: Oct 27

Contact: Don Bennett, Email: kg7bp@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 2018: Nov 16

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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