

Watt's Up

*Newsletter for the Umpqua Valley
Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 925 Roseburg, OR 97470*

January 2014

*Watt's Up Staff: Editor, email distribution - Wayne W9AE
Paper distribution - Russ, W7DUR*

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Jim AE7QK

Member-at-Large

Rick, W7DFV
Hutch, KE7JFQ

Club Call Signs

**KC7UAV
KC7TLY**

ARES Nets

Douglas County ARES
146.900 repeater
Mondays at 7 PM

District 5 ARES
3964 kHz
Sundays at 5:30 PM

President's Message

Happy New Year to all the UVARC Members

Well another year has gone by and I must say one of the best December Pot Luck Dinners I can remember. Thank You to everyone who attended and brought the great food. For Karen and I it was a special time meeting everyone.

As always the Ham of the Year was a great time, and Jim Stuntz (KF7FIB) was given the 2013 award. I want to thank everyone for the great honor. I was surprised and honored to be given that coveted award.

As we look into 2014 the next VE session will be February 12th so mark your calendars.

Our repeaters appear to have survived the cold snap in November which caught quite a few off guard with frozen pipes.

At the January meeting we will draw for the "Early Bird" winner, have a presentation about power meters by Wayne (W9AE) as George will be in Hawaii, and see what everyone got for Christmas.

As I finish we want to send CJ (WB3DRF) and Jeanne (KE7KDZ) get well wishes and a speedy recovery.

73's to everyone and a Happy New Year

Jim, KF7FIB

UVARC MEMBERSHIP

2014 membership update coming soon...

Join or renew **online** at

<http://aa7gc.net/uvarc/rails/uvarc/public/>

December Meeting Minutes

There was no business meeting at the annual potluck dinner in December, but there was some discussion about the direction of the club in 2014.

George Roth KE7MVX presented the Ham of the Year award to Jim Stuntz KF7FIB. The next meeting will be in the courthouse at 7 PM on January 16.

Presentation at January Meeting

At the January meeting Wayne W9AE will give a presentation about AC and DC power/energy meters.

He will demonstrate the meters and show how hams can use them in various applications.

Editor's Note

I always need articles about club activities, operating events, etc.

Every member is encouraged to submit articles and photos to w9ae@charter.net

Wayne Estes W9AE



SUNSHINE

If you hear of someone who is ill or in the hospital, please let me know. Also notify me of any silent keys.

Russ Nelson, W7DUR, at 440-3840

UVARC REPEATERS

146.900-, PL 100 (Lane Mountain)

147.120-, PL 100 (Boomer Hill)

PACKET NODE

144.930, DC:WB6RHW-1

UVARC Web Page

<http://aa7gc.net/uvarc/>

NOTES:

1. Watt's Up is **on line** in the UVARC web Page.
It may be viewed in PDF format.
2. Members **E-mail addresses** are on the web page as a link.
Password required.
3. The **club roster** is included in the web page as a link.
Password required.
4. Club **constitution** is available as a linked page.
5. Back issues of **Watt's Up** are available through the club web page in PDF format.

VE Testing in Douglas County

Testing sessions are affiliated with the ARRL. They are scheduled the second Wednesday of even months except August. Sessions are held in Roseburg at the Douglas County Courthouse, room 310, 6 PM.

ARRL VEC Test Fee for 2014 is \$15.00

This fee is charged once, no matter whether taking any one, two, three or all four test elements, one time. Retests of an element failed at the same test session will require payment of an additional test fee.

2014 Testing Dates

Second Wednesday of each even Month

February 12

April 9

June 11

August - None

October 8

December 10

**For further information contact Jim WA6KHG,
at (541) 496-2262**

Photos From the UVARC Christmas Potluck Dinner



George Roth KE7MVX presenting the *Ham of the Year* award to Jim Stuntz KF7FIB.



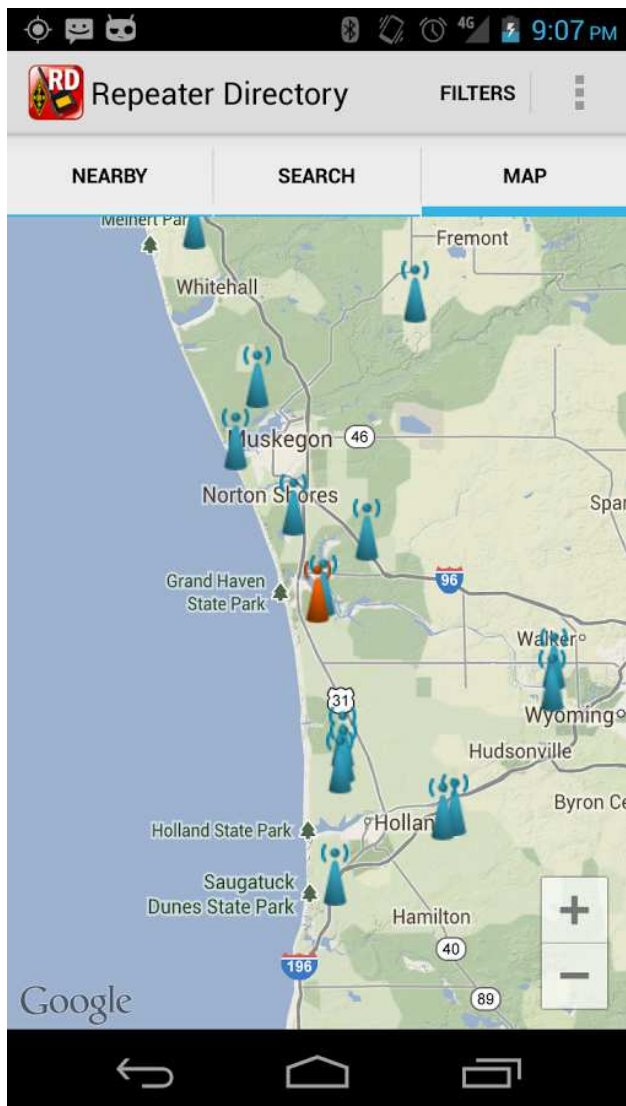
Thanks to George KE7MVX for taking the photos.

Notice the new name badges!

ARRL Repeater Directory For Android Smart Phones

The ARRL has released an online North America repeater directory app for Android smart phones. Right now it's a beta version that is free to all users. The ARRL has not announced if the final version will be free to all, free to members only, or pay for all.

The beauty of an online repeater directory is that it's continuously updated. The app works using cached data when there is no Internet connection. You can filter the search results by band or repeater function (D-star, EchoLink, IRLP, etc.). You can also filter the search results for things like open repeaters only, linked repeaters only, or ARES repeaters only.



The app knows your location, so it automatically displays the area repeaters from closest to farthest, telling you the distance and direction to each repeater. A Search screen allows you to search for repeaters near a specific location. It's very easy to use, and it should be more up-to-date than any printed directory.

Location names don't match what we are familiar with. For example the 146.9 Lane mountain repeater is listed as being in Roseburg. And the 145.43 Mt. Scott repeater is listed as being in Glide. Town names are probably more useful to a traveler than mountain names not shown on road maps.

To find the app in the Google Play/Store, search for "ARRL repeater". The ARRL has not announced plans to release an iPhone version of this app.



Amateur Radio Showing Steady Growth in the US

The Amateur Radio population in the US has continued to show steady growth. As of the end of 2013, the FCC database showed 717,201 [licenses](#) in its Universal Licensing System ([ULS](#)). That's the greatest number of US hams ever and up from 709,575 in December 2012. The [volume](#) of Amateur Radio applications slowed somewhat to 141,943 from its zenith of 176,826 in 2007, the year the FCC dropped the Morse code requirement.

"The three current license classes also peaked at the end of 2013," notes ARRL [VEC](#) Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM. "FCC-issued club station licenses are also at an all-time high in the FCC database at 11,363. The number of new licensees has increased by 7 percent over last year (28,886 in 2013 and 27,082 in 2012)." Somma said that a significant number of Technician licensees were earned through large emergency communication and Community Emergency Response Team ([CERT](#)) classes.

The breakdown by license class shows Technicians as the largest group, at 349,163 licensees, followed by General licensees at 167,257, Amateur Extra licensees at 133,391, and Advanced licensees at 54,293. There are still slightly more than 13,000 Novice licensees on record too. The FCC no longer issues the Novice or Advanced class license. Technician numbers have grown by 8.2 percent over the past decade, with an impressive comeback since 2007 after the population had plummeted from a peak of 338,334 in March 2000. The General class population has risen by slightly more than 18 percent over the past 10 years. But the Amateur Extra class has shown the most remarkable growth over the past decade, climbing by slightly more than 27 percent, with no dramatic spike after the Morse requirement went away.

While Amateur Radio application volume slipped somewhat overall, that was not the case at the ARRL VEC. "ARRL VEC served 34,896 exam applicants in 2013, up slightly from 32,866 in 2012," Somma said. "July will mark 30 years that ARRL VEC has been certified by the FCC to administer Amateur Radio exams. We're delighted to celebrate our important milestone in the same year as the ARRL's [Centennial](#) celebration and look forward to the promise of another record year."

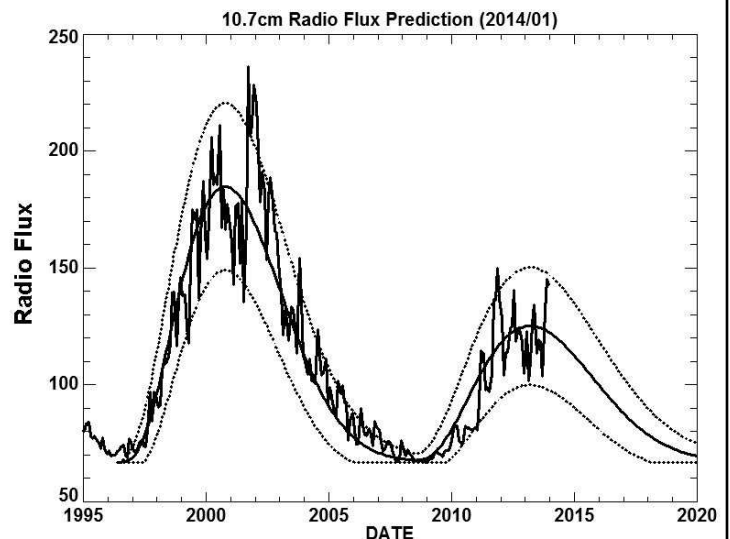
Solar Flux Record High Could Herald Better Propagation

Sunspot Cycle 24 has generally been a disappointment, but the 10m band has been really hot lately thanks to an abundance of sunspots.

The 10.7 centimeter solar flux index (SFI) jumped to a Cycle 24 record of 262 on January 4, suggesting that Cycle 24 has not yet begun drawing to a close and may be approaching or at a "second peak." The previous peak for the current cycle was 190 on September 24, 2011. As NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center ([MSFC](#)) [explains](#), the flux of the sun's radio emissions at 10.7 centimeter (2.8 GHz) is another indicator of solar activity levels, since it tends to follow changes in the solar ultraviolet that influence Earth's upper atmosphere and ionosphere.

[The Daily DX](#) reports that "the last time the SFI was above 200 was during Solar Cycle 23 in late October 2003, for about a week ranging from 210 to 298," *The Daily DX* reported January 6. SFI numbers above 200 were common 12 years ago during the second peak of Cycle 23, from mid-October 2001 through mid-February 2002. It was during that period that the last instance of "almost-daily transatlantic" F2 propagation took place on 6 meters.

As Ian Poole, G3YWX, explained solar flux in his article, "[Understanding Solar Indices](#)", "High values generally indicate there is sufficient ionization to support long-distance communication at higher-than-normal frequencies. Typically values in excess of 200 will be measured during the peak of a sunspot cycle, with high values of up to 300 being experienced for shorter periods".





Just a reminder: If you have e-mail capability, Let Russ, W7DUR know! you'll be able to see all pictures in color and save money for the club !

January 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 UVARC net 7 PM 146.90 rpt	2	3	4 Club breakfast 7 AM Denny's Roseburg
5 ARES Dist. 5 net 3964 kHz, 5:30PM	6 DC ARES net 7 PM 146.900	7	8 UVARC net 7 PM 146.90 rpt	9	10	11 Club breakfast 7 AM Denny's Roseburg
12 ARES Dist. 5 net 3964 kHz, 5:30PM	13 DC ARES net 7 PM 146.900	14	15 UVARC net 7 PM 146.90 rpt	16 Club Meeting 7PM, Room 310, D.C. courthouse	17	18 Club breakfast 7 AM Denny's Roseburg
19 ARES Dist. 5 net 3964 kHz, 5:30PM	20 DC ARES net 7 PM 146.900	21	22 UVARC net 7 PM 146.90 rpt	23	24	25 Club breakfast 7 AM Denny's Roseburg
26 ARES Dist. 5 net 3964 kHz, 5:30PM	27 DC ARES net 7 PM 146.900	28	29 UVARC net 7 PM 146.90 rpt	30	31	

ON-LINE FORM AVAILABLE ON CLUB WEB PAGE

UMPQUA VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC

ON-LINE FORM AVAILABLE ON CLUB WEB PAGE

NAME _____ CALL SIGN _____ LICENSE CLASS _____

STREET _____ CITY/STATE _____ ZIP _____

ARRL MEMBER YES [] NO [] E-mail Address _____

Other names at your address desiring family membership _____

NAME _____ CALL SIGN _____ LICENSE CLASS _____ ARRL MEMBER YES [] NO []

NAME _____ CALL SIGN _____ LICENSE CLASS _____ ARRL MEMBER YES [] NO []

Please show names the way you want them to appear in the roster

HOME PHONE _____ RECEIVE YOUR NEWS LETTER BY: U.S. MAIL [] OR E-MAIL (PDF) []

RENEWAL _____ *AMT. ENCLOSED _____ DATE _____ DATE OF BIRTH (STUDENTS) _____

SPOUSE 'S NAME _____ SIGNATURE _____

Membership dues are \$10.00 for individuals and \$5.00 for each additional family member living at the same address per calendar year. Associate membership dues are \$5.00. Dues are prorated (NEW members only): Jan - Mar \$10/5 (each additional member); Apr - Jun \$7.50/3.75; Jul - Sep \$5/2.50; Oct - Dec \$2.50/1.25. Membership is free for **Licensed** students, 18 and younger. Make checks payable to: **UVARC, PO Box 925, Roseburg, OR 97470.**