

# Umpqua Valley Radio Club

# WATT'S UP

May 2018

Watt's Up Staff: Editor, Email & Paper distribution –LaDon KA7AAR

Newsletter for the Umpqua Valley Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 925 Roseburg, OR 97470

## Club Officers

President Dennis Riggs WA7RIG

1st Vice President Lynn Patterson W7HDU

2nd Vice President Christine Masters AF7OK

Secretary Russ Nelson W7DUR

Treasurer Jim Stuntz KF7FIB

Members-at-Large: Ralph Lamell (Ki7BRN) Lee Stumpe (K7AZW)

Sergeant at Arms Ralph Lamell (Ki7BRN)

Club Call Signs UVARC Club Net Info

146.900 (-) PL 100.HZ Wednesday at 1900 hours

HF Net Wednesday at 1930 hours at 28.400 MHZ USB (This is an open Net)

Club Call Signs KC7TLY (Lane) KC7UAV (Boomer)

ARES Nets Douglas County ARES District 5 Ares 3964 KHz Sundays at 5:30 PM 146.900

repeater PL 100. Net is Mondays at 7 PM

## May 2018 UVARC Minutes of Club Meeting May 17, 2018

Meeting called to order by President Dennis Riggs (WA7RIG) with 16 members Present.

Pledge of Allegiance

No minutes from the last meeting were read.

Treasurers Report was given by Jim Stuntz (KF7FIB) and approved.

Old Business was Breakfast at Denny's on Saturday is growing and to get there by 7AM for a good seat. Lunch on Tuesday's is also very well attended. The repeater report was brief and several projects are being planned to strengthen the Douglas County Repeater coverage.

The second and final reading of the new Constitution was read and unanimously passed by vote.

Field Day 2018 will be at the Glide High School Athletic Field and the final decisions are being made in the coming week.

For new business, Lee Stumpe (K7AZW) is looking for a new leader for the Thursday Echolink Net. Dale Wilson (KC7YFE) has agreed to be the new Leader.

Lee Stumpe (K7AZW) is having a Swap Meet/ Auction on May 19<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM to 2 PM with a Pot Luck at his place.

Submitted by Jim Stuntz KF7FIB

# President's Message

**Greetings, It is good to be back. Thank you Lynn for taking charge while I was gone. I was in Aniston, AL for a week, last month, where I took a couple of classes on Incident Command for my Emergency Management job. While there, more than once, it was mentioned on how valuable Ham Radio was as a means of communications during a disaster. As an example, Hurricane Maria rendered all normal communications useless. ARRL sent ten Amateur radio operators down there to re-establish communications to get things back on track to the road to recovery.**

**In that thought, we all know that the North West is way over due for a 9.0 earthquake. As Ham Radio operators, we must try to keep our equipment up in working order and have back up power to be able to provide communications while the grid is down during and after a disaster. I believe this is one of the most important reasons for being a Ham, is to be ready to serve our community when all other means of communications are not available to assist in getting resources where they need to be, and to connect separated families. In our last meeting, we did a final vote to approve our corrected and amended constitution and by-laws. The new constitution will be posted on our web site soon where you will be able to view at your leisure. Next meeting I will be doing a presentation on Fldigi. This is the second of a two part series. We are beginning to see new Hams come to our meetings and I think we should strive as a club to make our meetings not only productive, but also informative. So if you have anything you would like to share with the rest of us, please email myself, Lynn or Jim. We will get you on the agenda then all of us will benefit from your knowledge. Even if it is something you want to share that you just learned from QRZ or other places.**

**Please share! 73, Dennis Riggs WA7RIG**

**The Following was reprinted from CQ magazine April 2018**

## “Tear Down That Wall”

### ARRL Proposes Full Integration of Technician Class with the Rest of Ham Radio

President Ronald Reagan, in 1987, famously stood at the Berlin Wall and called on Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to “tear down this wall.” Today, the ARRL is proposing to tear down a metaphorical wall that has separated Technician Class hams from the rest of their fellow hams for nearly 70 years. In a petition to the FCC filed on February 28, the League is calling for full integration of Technicians with mainstream (read HF-active) ham radio with a broad expansion of Tech voice and digital privileges on HF. While we have a few quibbles with the League’s reasoning, we strongly support the proposal.

To fully understand its significance, though, we need to look at a little history. When the Technician license was created in 1951 (along with the Novice license), its purpose was to provide “experimenters” with slow-code access to the ham bands to explore and discover whatever might await on the frequencies above 220 MHz. They were to be a “different breed” of ham, a distinction that the FCC and ARRL persisted in making for decades to follow. The point of entry to “real” ham radio would be the one-year, non-renewable, Novice license.

By the time the mid-1980s rolled around, Novice licenses were renewable and privileges included only Morse code, at no more than 250 watts, on limited portions of the 80, 40, 15 and 10-meter bands. No voice, anywhere (the Novice was sometimes sarcastically referred to as the “No voice” license); no VHF or UHF privileges — at the peak of repeater popularity; and no digital modes at the peak of packet radio’s popularity<sup>1</sup>.

Many hams at the time were worried that the entry-level (Novice) license didn’t offer enough “meat” to get new hams active and involved, and eventually to upgrade to higher-level licenses. They worried about the hobby’s future. The amateur community responded with something called “Novice Enhancement,” which the FCC adopted in 1987. It provided limited voice privileges on 10 meters and access to portions of the 220-MHz and 1296-MHz bands, at reduced power levels. It was remarkably successful, at least on HF, with activity levels and purchases of new HF gear soaring. It gave the hobby and the industry a huge boost, which lasted until the next “sky is falling” moment in the early 2000s. That resulted in restructuring and the phase-out of Morse code as a licensing requirement. These changes provided yet another big boost, and made the Technician license the “standard” entry-level ham license<sup>2</sup>, as the FCC stopped issuing new Novice licenses as part of the whole package.

Today, just like a generation ago, many hams are worried that the entry-level (Technician) license doesn’t offer enough “meat” to get new hams active and involved, and eventually to upgrade to higher-

level licenses. They worry about the hobby’s future. They are concerned that, once again, the privileges that come with the entry-level license are out of step with today’s popular activities and technology. A perfect example is FT8, the hot new digital mode that started on VHF but quickly became popular on HF as well — in fact, the WSJT team is working on a DXpedition version that could permit up to 600 QSOs per hour for DXpeditioners. Yet, Technicians have no digital mode privileges on HF, and their HF voice privileges are limited to 10 meters, which will be mostly a local band for the next several years. It is time for another boost, and the ARRL’s proposal is a good start.

#### Technician Enhancement

Here are the basics of what the League is proposing:

- Phone privileges for Technicians on 3.900-4.000, 7.225-7.300, and 21.350-21.450 MHz, in addition to the existing 10-meter phone allocation at 28.3-28.5 MHz. These suggested subbands are big enough to be significant, yet small enough to provide an incentive to upgrade and get additional frequencies.
- RTTY/digital mode privileges on the current Novice/Tech CW subbands on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters. This will allow Techs to enjoy keyboard modes such as RTTY, PSK31 and others, as well as more automated modes such as JT9 and FT8.
- Maximum power levels for Technicians on HF would continue to be 200 watts PEP.

All in all, the proposed changes would give Techs the incentive to get on HF and get a taste of DXing, contesting and digital modes, as well as CW (which, despite ARRL assertions in the FCC petition, continues to grow in popularity). There would still be plenty of *unavailable* spectrum to encourage upgrading, such as the entire 2200, 630, 160, 60, 30, 20, 17, and 12-meter bands, and additional space and power on 80, 40, 15, and 10.

We would encourage the FCC to consider opening up the entire 10-meter band to Techs, to permit them to make use of FM repeaters at the top end of the band. But otherwise, we think the ARRL proposal is on the mark and worthy of serious consideration.

Perhaps most importantly, however, this proposal would finally “tear down that wall” between HF and VHF privileges that, for nearly seven decades, has resulted in Technicians being treated by their HF-focused peers as second-class citizens of the ham bands, even though Technicians today make up a majority of U.S. hams. Adoption of the ARRL’s proposal would fully integrate all hams with significant operating privileges on both the HF and VHF/UHF bands. It’s about time.

Quibble points: The League petition says license growth is essentially stagnant, relying for its assertion on overall numbers of licensees. What it ignores

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