



Watts Up

Monthly Newsletter of the Umpqua Valley Amateur Radio Club
March, 2023

New Hams, and Upgraded Licenses

The Umpqua Valley Amateur Radio Club meets monthly at The Way Church, 1352 East Central, Sutherlin.

UVARC.NET is the club website. Check the website for updated information about testing, meetings, events and radio nets. The website also lists local repeaters and frequencies.

VE Test Mar. 8 @ 6 pm

Next Meeting Mar. 16 @ 7pm

Our newest Hams from our February tests:
Doug Clavell – General – KK7IQJ

We had 13 people take our 2-day Technician Class, and all of them passed the Technician test. Pending the payment of their application fees and issuing their new call signs, these will be our new Hams:

Cheryl Cheas	Joe Cook	Kristine Godbery
Christopher Worsham	Caleb Helvie	Allison Clough
Stanley Randall	Gail Young	Brandon Summers
Michelle Bizek	Stanley Miller	Lisa Anglin
Brenda Terry		

Extra Exam Question of the Month:

What is the primary function of an external earth connection or ground rod?

- A. Reduce received noise
- B. Lightning protection
- C. Reduce RF current flow between pieces of equipment
- D. Reduce RFI to telephones and home entertainment systems

Answer at the end of the newsletter

Upcoming Ham Events

ARRL International DX contest – Phone – Friday March 3 1800 hours to Sunday March 5 1800 hours

OK, ID and WI QSO parties – weekend of March 11-12. Check websites for the working hours.

Rookie Roundup – April 16 10am to 4pm. Hams with licenses less than 3 years old are encouraged to participate. Check the ARRL contest calendar for rules.

New Meeting Format

President Dennis announced that from now on, the business part of the meeting will not exceed 15 minutes. The remaining time will be given to presentations, classes, or projects. So, we can really learn how to become better ham operators.

HamFest in May

There will be a HamFest on Saturday May 6 at the Winston VFW Hall. Hours will be 9am to 2pm. One of the coordinators of the event is JC Smith, you can contact him at the email address listed below. We will be giving our May VE test at the HamFest from 9am to Noon. Admission will be \$5 per person. Tables are \$10 each. For more information, email: vfwpost9745@gmail.com There will be a raffle for two radios.

Club Meeting Minutes

Looking for the minutes of the last club meeting? Check our website, www.uvarc.net. Read the minutes and check for any errors or missing information. We will not read the minutes at the meeting, so bring corrections to the meeting and bring them up before the vote to approve the minutes.

Emergency Power

Omygosh !! The snows coming, high wind. I know I don't live in the boondocks, but even here in the big city, the squirrels keep building nests on the power poles and shorting out the transformers. I'll never be able to make the Club nets if the power's out !! Ah, but rest assured, there are solutions.

Generators – starting at about \$400 for a 1500 to 2000 watt generator. Be sure to get the inverter type, these have the smoothest output and will protect your electronic equipment the best. Generators are also good for keeping the refrigerator cold and give you a few lights. Bigger is better of course, but the cost goes up. If you want a whole house generator, you also must do some substantial wiring changes to keep from feeding power back up the power lines.

Batteries – Deep cycle RV or Marine batteries work well, even for HF radios. Putting them on a trickle charger all the time will keep them charged up for emergency use. You can get several hours of radio use out of one of these batteries. If you are going to keep it in the house, you want to look for a sealed type battery so you don't have gases in the house. A step up from Lead-Acid are the Lithium ion batteries. Cost a bit more. I have a 50 ampere-hour lithium-iron-phosphate battery. They are running in the \$400 range. The advantage they have over Lead batteries is that can be recharged more often, and can be run down lower than a Lead battery. If a Lead battery is depleted below 50%, it reduces its overall capacity. I've been told by a POTA activator that his 50Ah lithium battery will let him run his 100 watt HF radio for about 4 hours.

Solar – Solar is best if it is combined with a battery. I have a 100 watt solar panel I use for Field Days. Even if I'm operating all day, if the sun is out I see very little draw-down on my battery. Even if you only have a small battery with your solar panel, the battery will smooth out the supply voltage as you transmit. Doesn't work well at night, though. If you want whole-house power, you will need a sizable bank of batteries and a large inverter.

Wind or Water – Central Douglas county isn't known for good sustained winds, which are needed for wind generators. If your ham shack is located where you can get some steady winds, it can be a good option. Also best combined with some type of battery to even out the supply voltages. Do you have a good year-round stream, it might be a good candidate for waterpower. I have a friend in Tiller who uses it for his whole house.

General Test Answer: **B**

Links: www.bioennopower.com – Solar panels, controllers, Lithium ion batteries and power packs