



Watts Up

Monthly Newsletter of the Umpqua Valley Amateur Radio Club
February 2022

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 Feb. 9 @ 6 pm
Next Meeting Feb. 17 @ 7pm

Silent Key

Leighton Stumpe, K7AZW became a Silent Key on Dec. 21st. Lee was a past club president, Ham of the Year and an active Ham operator. Lee and Brandy were important to both the social activities of the club and technical radio use. They often offered their home for projects and social activities. Lee's Memorial was at the Roseburg VA National Cemetery, and was attended by 24 club members.

New Hams, and Upgraded Licenses

On Jan. 12th, we tested 5 people for new licenses and upgrades.

Our newest Hams are: Don Jeske, Sr. - KK7CZD

Isaac Saylor – KK7CZE

Henry Hanson – KK7CZF

Russel Wilson – KK7CZG

Aaron Wilmot – KK7CZH

Last Newsletter? Oh, No !!

If you aren't current on your dues, or a Life Member, this may be your last newsletter. Sending email newsletters may be cheap, but it takes you dear editor/publisher a fair amount of time to get the email addresses arraigned and sent. Plus having to maintain an email address database with the current members. Your dues support all the Club's activities, so if you would like to keep getting this precious newsletter, get your 2022 dues into the Club Treasurer. Pronto.

General Exam Test Question - E1C02

Which of the following types of communications may be transmitted to amateur stations in foreign countries?

- A. Business-related messages for non-profit organizations
- B. Messages intended for users of the maritime satellite service
- C. Communications incidental to the purpose of the amateur service and remarks of a personal nature
- D. All these choices are correct

Upcoming Ham Events

Feb 5 – Vermont & Minnesota QSO parties

Feb 27 – North Carolina QSO party

Feb. 19 – Salem Hamfair in Rickreall. Check their website at: w7sra.com

Registration forms and more info on the hamfest are on the website. Once again, it will be held in Rickreall at the Polk Co. Fairgrounds.

June 3-5 – Sea Pac in Seaside. Registration will open on Feb. 15 at: seapac.org
Registration will be on-line only at the SeaPac website. Check out their website.

ARRL Contest Rule Change

The ARRL is changing the break between Low and High power in their contests. Beginning this year, 100 Watts will be the maximum power output for Low Power. Previously it had been 150 Watts. The only event not affected by the change will be Field Day, because it is an “event” not a “contest”. There is strong feeling that even Field Day should be limited to 100W in the future. This ruling does not affect non-ARRL contests, although we should probably look to see many of those contests change in the future, also.

What Time is it?

Now that we are well into the digital age, we often need to know the exact time for our computers and radios. Sometimes it’s nice to know if the clock on the wall is telling the truth, also. Put in time.is into your search engine (Google, Bing, etc). The server www.time.is is connected to an atomic clock. You can select local time, UTC (zulu time) or any other time zone. The website has access to loads of other information, besides telling you how far off time your computer clock is. I use time.is to let me know the exact time to begin when I’m a Net Controller.

Spark Gap Transmitter

A spark-gap transmitter is an obsolete type of radio transmitter which generates radio waves by means of an electric spark. Spark-gap transmitters were the first type of radio transmitter, and were the main type used during the wireless telegraphy or "spark" era, the first three decades of radio, from 1887 to the end of World War I. German physicist Heinrich Hertz built the first experimental spark-gap transmitters in 1887, with which he proved the existence of radio waves and studied their properties.

A fundamental limitation of spark-gap transmitters is that they generate a series of brief transient pulses of radio waves called damped waves; they are unable to produce the continuous waves used to carry audio (sound) in modern AM or FM radio transmission. So spark-gap transmitters could not transmit audio, and instead transmitted information by radiotelegraphy; the operator switched the transmitter on and off with a telegraph key, creating pulses of radio waves to spell out text messages in Morse code.

During the Transatlantic Test of 192, no spark gap transmitters were able to make contact with England, only the new-fangled superheterodyne transmitters.

January Meeting minutes

Below are the un-approved minutes of the Jan. 20 UVARC meeting. Corrections or additions to the minutes need to be referred to Sec./Treas. Pam KK7BWM

President Burke called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance; a call for a moment of silence for recent Silent Key members and K7AZW, Lee; followed by Introduction of Attending Members.

Treasure Report: Accounts are in good standing. The Oregon Business Registry was updated to reflect this year’s new board President and Treasurer.

Repeater Report: Lynn Patterson, W7HDU, Reports: White Tail Ridge is working fine, any recent issues were from powerline work; Wires-X is running well; and the recent noise on Sheep Hill because someone had fooled with the system. Lynn and Dean, K7FS, rebooted the system and everything is working as it should.

Item 1: Winter Field Day, January 29-30, 2022

Winter Field day will be held at 1st Vice President, Mark N7MHR’s home. Mark passed out directions to location to the members. He stated that if members wanted to set up antennas the night before, they are

welcome to do so. President Burke also suggested that attendees might consider collection of donations to supply Pizza for the event.

Note: Summer Field Day will be the last weekend in June, 25th and 26th, 2022.

Item 2: Members at Large: President Burke asked for volunteers to be Members-at-Large for the board. Jim, WN7COO, and Clancy, K7CAM volunteered and are now Members-at-Large.

Item 3: Events: 1st VP, Mark, stated that this week's Contest is North American QSO, for all bands. This and other contests are listed on the club Website.

President Burke brought fliers for the Salem Hamfair, held in Rickreall, OR, February 19th, 2022. This will be further discussed at next meeting regarding that possibility of having a table at the fair to dispose of items donated to the club by ham families.

Item 4: Available Ham Books: WN7COO, Jim, brought ham books, that were donated, for attendees to go through during the break. Those selecting to take books are encouraged to donate to the club.

Item 5: Morse Code Education. President Burke asked for a show of hand of those interested in learning Morse Code. If there is enough interest, he will offer a course. He also stated that there are good sources for learning the code at: c.w.ops/C.W.MORSE Academy

Item 6: Emergency Frequencies for Club: 1st VP Mark, distributed a form, UVARC Emergency Capabilities, to be completed by members and returned. By completing and compiling everyone capabilities, the best frequencies can be identified for use and the club will be prepared when the need arises.

Item 7: NET Controllers Needed: President Burke stated that there is a need for a 2 meter side band net controller and a 6 meter side band net controller.

Item 8: Early Bird Drawing: Each year, members who pay for their membership renewals before the renewed year are assigned an Early Bird number. The winning member this year is KI7MUH, Dan. The prize is a refund of dues; the winner also has the option to donate his winnings to the club.

Item 9: Ham Radio Hats: 1st VP Mark, N7MHR stated that he likes to lead by example. Knowing that many have a hard time remembering names, call signs, and putting names to faces, he asks that all members consider getting ham radio hats or badges with call signs and names on them. Suggested online sources for hats purchases were HamCrazy.com, Etsy.com, and others.

Item 10: Wires-X Presentation: K7CAM, Clancy

The presentation told of ways to get into Wires-X: Gateway, EchoLink, White Tail Ridge, digital or simplex. There is a Wire-X calendar on the Club Website. Also at www.yaesu-system-fusion-nets.net (Google calendar). It is best to connect to the NODE; easier to make a faster, cleaner connection when using.

Item 11: Presentations:

President Burke asked that anyone interested in making presentations should let him know so that they can be placed on the agenda for the next meetings.

Extra Test Answer: C