



Watts Up

Monthly Newsletter of the Umpqua Valley Amateur Radio Club
April, 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 Apr. 12 @ 6 pm

Next Meeting Apr. 20 @ 7pm

Our newest Hams from our March tests:

Stanley Randall, KK7KQF – General (now KK7SMR)

Dohnovan Reed, KK7GSR – General

Daniel Gilmore, KK7LGL – Technician

Nicholas Cianci, KK7LGK - Technician

Here are the call signs of the people who took our February Technician class:

Cheryl Cheas	KK7KTI	Joe Cook	KK7KRJ
Kristine Godbery	KK7KQJ	Chris Worsham	KK7KUI
Caleb Helvie	KK7KQD	Allison Clough	KK7KQE
Stanley Randall	KK7KQF	Gail Young	KK7KRI
Brandon Summers	KK7KQC	Michelle Bizek	KK7KQG
Stanley Miller	KK7KUH	Lisa Anglin	KK7KQH
Brenda Terry	KK7KQI		

General Exam Question of the Month:

Which of the following frequencies is within the General class portion of the 80-meter band?

- A. 1855 kHz
- B. 2560 kHz
- C. 3560 kHz
- D. 3650 kHz

Answer at the end of the newsletter

Upcoming Ham Events

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. Rookies can contact anyone, but OM's only get to count contacts with Rookies. See below.

Winston HamFest – May 6, 9am to 2pm. Winston VFW Hall

SeaPac – June 2-4. Seaside, OR Website: seapac.org - Registration is finally open.

7QP – The Area 7 QSO party – May 6, 6am to midnight. See below

STEAM at UCC – The science, technology, engineering, art and math exhibit at UCC – May 6

Rookie Roundup

The Rookie Roundup is a contest-like event with the goal of getting new Hams on the air. Rookies get points and may enter their scores with ARRL. A Rookie is defined as anyone who got their first license in 2021, 2022, or 2023. The exchange is (callsign) (Name) (license year) (state). My exchange would be W7PEB Paul 18 OR

A qualified Rookie should send out “CQ CQ Rookie Roundup” This way, a responding station knows you are a Rookie. A non-Rookie should send out “CQ CQ Rookie or Contest”. N3FJP has logging software for the Rookie Roundup. The April Rookie Roundup is for Single Sideband, on the 10-, 15-, 20-, 40- and 80-Meter bands. 100-watt limit for everybody, so you are all on an equal footing.

What the New Band Conditions Mean to You

Before I go too far in here, just understand that I normally work radio stuff during the day. I’m not a night owl, so I’m not going to sit up until 3 o’clock in the morning just so I can talk to Africa. I do a lot of POTA hunting, and some contesting, always during the day or early evening.

The biggest change that I have seen with Solar Cycle 25 is a change to higher HF bands. 20-Meters used to be my go-to band during the day. But I’ve noticed that 20-Meters has gotten “fuzzier” and doesn’t seem to carry to the East coast like it did even a couple of months ago. I just did the ARRL International DX contest. I only had Sunday to work it, and probably spent 3 ½ hours thrashing the airwaves. I made only 4 of my 68 contacts on 20-Meters. 20-Meters was noisy, and harder to understand. Those 4 contacts were made with one full sweep of the band.

10- and 15-Meters were alive. All of the rest of my contacts were on those 2 bands. I made contacts from Japan to Eastern Europe, and had good, understandable exchanges on almost all QSO’s. One observation I made was that occasionally I would have a station with a distorted signal or warble. My guess was that the signal from that station was hitting some kind of weird conditions in the ionosphere that was messing with the signal.

I would have like to have tried 12- and 17-Meters, but the contest only allowed 10- and 15-Meters for the higher frequencies. I have been having good luck in POTA hunting on all 4 of the higher frequency bands in the last couple of months (10-, 12-, 15- and 17-Meters). As a bonus, it seems a lot of hams still are hanging on to 20-Meters, so I have fewer pileups in the higher bands. So, give them a try if you haven’t been using them.

80-Meters ?? I have noticed my 80-Meter nets have been a lot smoother this year. Usually in Winter, we need lots of relays to make the nets work. Plus having to put up with flatlanders from the east coast over-riding our frequency. This year has been a breath of fresh air as far as the 80-Meter nets go. Clearer signals and not as much interference.

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.

Sea-Pac

Sea-Pac is the Northwests largest Ham convention, and also the ARRL’s Northwest division convention. SEA-Pac usually has lots of vendors, seminars, and special events. Go to their website www.seapac.org for more information.

Area 7 QSO Party

I know it’s a little early to think about the Area 7 QSO party, but I also found out it’s the same weekend as the New England QSO party, which includes: CO, ME, MA NH, VT. Indiana and Delaware are also that weekend.

STEAM

The STEAM event at UCC will be on May 6th (along with lots of other events, it seems). STEAM is designed to get young people interested in science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics. The Club will have a table set up. If you are interested in helping, contact Jim WN7COO.

General Test Answer: C