



Watts Up

Monthly Newsletter of the Umpqua Valley Amateur Radio Club
Feb. 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 Feb. 8 @ 6 pm

Next Meeting Feb. 16 @ 7pm -

Our newest Hams from our January tests:

Edward Hedrick – KF7MJG – re-instated as General

Aaron Wilmot – KK7CZH - General

Ronald Wilmot – KJ7TWB - General

From our December tests:

Michael Blanchard – KK7JRF - Technician

Roger Kochel – KK7IQI - General

What is one way that RF energy can affect human body tissue?
G0A01

- A. It heats body tissue
- B. It causes radiation poisoning
- C. It causes the blood count to reach a dangerously low level
- D. It cools body tissue

Answer at the end of the newsletter

Upcoming Ham Events

International DX Contest – CW Friday Feb 17 @ 1600 to Sunday Feb 19 @ 1600

This is a chance for the CW guys to shine with DX stations. The phone part of the Contest is in March.

George Washington Special Event – Feb. 19-Feb. 22 – see below

George Washington Special Event

Every year, the Columbia Basin DX Club celebrates George Washington's birthday, with a special event, using the Call Sign WS7G. And yes, there is a town named George, in central Washington, where they broadcast from. It starts on Sunday, Feb. 19 at 10am PST, and ends on Wed. Feb 22 at 4pm PST. They will be transmitting on, or near, 14.322/14.255, 7.222/7.260, and 3.855/3.960. They have a nice QSL card and certificate available. Check their website: <http://cbn.homestead.com/ws7g.html>. You can also go to the Columbia Basin Net website, and check Radio Links, go to WS7G.

Sportsmen's Show

UVARC will be having a table at the Douglas County Sportsmen's Show, Feb. 10-12. We still need people to help man our booth. Contact Jim WN7COO or Lynn H7HDU to sign up. This will be a chance for us to meet with real people and give the information on ham radio and our club. We are sharing our booth with the South Umpqua Gun Club, which gives us a big break on the price of a table.

Winter Field Day

Six members braved the cold and showers to operate radio station on Winter Field Day. Five gathered at Mark's. Mark N7MHR, Greg W7HDG, Paul AG7UJ, Dohnovan KK7GSR and Steve KB7WDP. The sixth, Paul W7PEB operated from high up on his tree farm. The group operated FM, SSB, PSK-31 and CW. Propagation was good, but the bands were so crowded that it was tough to pull out a signal and make contacts. All of the operators will receive Winter Field Day patches at the next club meeting.

Salem Ham Fair

The Salem Repeater Assn. is holding their Salem Ham Fair, Feb. 18th, opening at 9:00am. Admission is \$10, they are not taking money right now, but they will hold you a place if you pre-register. They don't want to have to refund money if a covid thing hits again. Tables are also available for \$18 to \$21. Go to the Salem Repeater Assn. website to download the flier.

Dipole Antennas

One of the most basic, but very useful antenna type is the wire dipole antenna. Dipole antennas can be end fed, center fed, or off-center fed. They can be horizontal wires, inverted Vee's. sloped. They can even be folded, if space is problem for you. As you probably remember from your General Class, the length of the antenna should be approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ the wavelength of the band you are trying to transmit in. If you remember the formula from General class, 490 divided by the frequency in MegaHertz will give you the length you need. If you are working 20-Meters on SSB, that would be $490/14.250$ (middle of the SSB part of the band). This gives a total length of 34.4 ft, or 17.2 ft. for each leg. Cut the legs a little long, then use an antenna analyzer trim the ends until you get a low SWR

When I built my 40-Meter inverted Vee, I cut the wires a little bit long. I used an antenna analyzer and kept trimming the ends, a few inches at a time, until I hit a really low SWR near 7.225. It took a little bit of time, but I don't need my tuner at all on 40 meters. I also used all of the coax that goes out to the antenna, to account for any funny stuff the coax seems to do to the SWR.

Club Meeting Minutes

Looking for the minutes of the last club meeting? Check our website, 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.

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 has been a proposal for a HamFest on May 6 at the Winston VFW Hall. Other than that, I don't have much information as yet, so stay tuned. Volunteers will be needed to help set up and run the HamFest.

General Test Answer: A

W7PEB in his Homeless Shelter/Ham Shack on a muddy landing on his tree farm.

