



# Watts Up

Monthly Newsletter of the Umpqua Valley Amateur Radio Club  
July, 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 Sept 13 @ 6 pm  
Next Meeting July 12 @ 7pm

Our newest Hams from our June tests:

Mark Rowell - N7MHR – Amateur Extra  
Zane Shepherd – KK7NEC – Technician  
David Van Westen – KK7NGN – Technician  
Celeste Dagle – KK7NGP – Technician

Results this time for the new licenses was delayed because the FCC's website for filing new applications was down for almost 2 weeks.

## General Exam Question of the Month

What must you do if an evaluation of your station shows that the RF energy radiated by your station exceeds permissible limits for possible human absorption?

- A. Take action to prevent human exposure to the excessive RF fields
- B. File an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS-97) with the FCC
- C. Secure written permission from your neighbors to operate above the controlled MPE limits
- D. All these choices are correct

*Answer at the end of the newsletter – This question is from the NEW General question pool*

## Preparedness Manual From Mike Harbin

Family Emergency Preparedness Handbook, a Douglas County Publication 2023 for copies of this handbook or to get an electronic copy contact Douglas Public Health Network at:

[WWW.douglaspublichealthnetwork.org](http://WWW.douglaspublichealthnetwork.org) - or 541-440-3571

I read the 58 page handbook and found it superior to an earlier generation work put out by the red cross.  
--Thanks, Mike

### >>>>>Club Treasurer<<<<<

The club is actively seeking nominations for a Treasurer. Our current Treasurer is once again stepping down, and he says, "This time I really mean it". Jim will help whoever decides to seek the position, but he has had enough years in the job, so it's time to pass the baton.

### Another HamFest

There will be a HamFest in Bandon on July 15, hours 10am to 2pm. Contact [N6BLU@Hotmail.com](mailto:N6BLU@Hotmail.com) for more details. This will be an outdoor event, according to their flier.

### ----->>>>>FCC RF Exposure Rules <<<<<-----

The RF Exposure rules went into effect May 3<sup>rd</sup>. I know, you think the FCC isn't going to come knocking at your door, but anyone can complain to the City, the Planning Dept., etc, that you are creating a hazard to them with your radio beams. You need to do calculation sheet for your radios and antennas, and have it in your files, so you can show anyone who asks. A simple calculation sheet is found on the ARRL website, go to ARRL and up at the top, search "RF Exposure". That will take you to a page where you can access the calculator. No Printer? Copy all the information down and keep that in your files. Write the date and time you did the calculation on the sheet.

### Report From SeaPac

This was my first time attending SeaPac in Seaside. SeaPac is the largest Ham convention in the Northwest. There were lots of commercial vendors, so there was a good chance to talk to company representatives about specific products you were interested in. There was also a floor and a half of old junk to tempt the unwary or consummate collector. A number of very good presentations were given about a whole range of ham radio topics.

### Random Wire Antennas

A random wire is exactly that—a piece of wire that's as long as you can possibly make it. One end of the wire attaches to a tree, pole or other support, preferably at a high point. The other end connects to the random-wire connector on a suitable antenna tuner. You apply a little RF and adjust the antenna tuner to achieve the lowest SWR. That's about all there is to it.

Random-wire antennas seem incredibly simple, don't they? The only catch is that your antenna tuner may not be able to find a match on every band. The shorter the wire, the fewer bands you'll be able to use.

Random wires are fine for low-power operating, however, especially in situations where you can't set up a vertical, dipole or other outside antenna. And you may be able to get away with higher power levels if your antenna tuner is connected to a good Earth ground. (A random-wire antenna needs a good ground regardless of how much power you're running.)

A counterpoise is simply a long, insulated wire that attaches to the ground connection on your antenna tuner. The best counterpoise is 1/4-wavelength at the lowest frequency you intend to use.

*-from the ARRL webpage (condensed)-*

General Test Answer: A