



Watts Up

Monthly Newsletter of the Umpqua Valley Amateur Radio Club
Dec., 2023

New Hams, and Upgraded Licenses

The Umpqua Valley Amateur Radio Club meets monthly.

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 No December VE test
Next Meeting Dec. 21 @ 6pm at The Way Church – Christmas Party

No tests give this month. We were there, but nobody showed up.

General Exam Question of the Month

G1A04

Which of the following amateur bands is restricted to communication only on specific channels, rather than frequency ranges?

- A. 11 meters
- B. 12 meters
- C. 30 meters
- D. 60 meters

Answer at the end of the newsletter

Where is our Club Going?

President Greg would like us to tell him where we would like the club to go and what kinds of things we should be doing. Among the suggestions at the October meeting, were doing projects and presentations that alternate between advanced, and those that are geared for our new Technicians. We all agreed that it would be a good idea to have the Club grow. We will work harder to invite new Technicians to our Club, as they pass their tests.

How are the Current Band Conditions?

With the Solar Fluxes reaching up into the 160's, what does that really mean for us as far as band conditions go? For me, I have found that I really do best when the Solar Flux is down about 120 to 130, but that may just be my setup.

I recently did the California QSO Party. The SF that weekend were in the 150 to 160 range. Most of my contacts were in the southern part of California. Most of them were on 20-meters. The few northern counties I got were on 40-meters. I tried 15-meters, but only got a few contacts, all in the central part of the state. The CQ WW DX contest saw the SF down around 130 for the whole weekend. 20-meters was the usual zoo, with everybody trying to use it. I did get some good DX contacts, mostly in the Caribbean and S. American areas. I did get as far as Madeira. It was the 15-meter band that really came alive for me that weekend. That

was where I got my European contacts, although I still did well in the Caribbean and S. American areas. 10-meters was active, but it seemed like it was much more focused on the Caribbean and eastern part of S. America. I had no northern European contacts, which was telling me that routes over the pole weren't open. Germany was as far north as I got.

Most of my radio work was done during the day, with some early evening work. I tried 40-meters in the evening both days, but it was noisy and didn't hear much activity.

I guess the bottom line is if you think a band isn't working for you (like 20-meters). Don't forget about the other bands. With my success on 10-meters, I would say that has the possibility of being active when the solar conditions are right. This is good news for Technician class operators because you have privileges from 28.300 to 28.500. I have reached much of Europe, and even hit New Zealand and Australia on 10-meters in the last year. Don't forget, Technicians – Dec. 8th thru the 10th is the 10-Meter contest, and you can participate.

Election Results

President – Greg Hesseltine
1st Vice Pres – Mark Rowell
2nd Vice Pres – (vacant)
Secretary – Dohnovan Reed
Treasurer – Stan Russell

Christmas Party and Potluck

Dennis Riggs has arranged for us to use The Way Church auditorium for our Christmas Party and Potluck. It will be on Thursday, Dec. 21st, at 6pm. Note that the starting time is 6pm, not our regular meeting time. At the Christmas party we will install our new club officers and announce the Ham of the Year.



Whitetail Repeater Changes

We are making some temporary changes at our Whitetail Ridge repeater. Due to trees, clouds, low sun angle, etc. our batteries are not staying charged as well as we hoped they would. Except for the Fusion Net on Monday nights, we are shutting off the digital portion of the repeater to save power. The tree is scheduled to become firewood, and we are moving the solar panels to give them a better sun angle. Hopefully, before long, the batteries will be back to normal and all systems will be GO again.

Winter Field Day

Our first event after the first of the year is Winter Field Day. Saturday Jan. 27 11am to Sunday Jan. 29 11am. Stations are limited to 100 watts, so you won't lose good contacts due to a big East Coast pileup. You can be a Home station, Indoor station, Outdoor station, or Mobile. The Exchange is Callsign, number of operators, class and section. Example: W7PEB 1 O OR. My callsign, 1 operator, Outdoor and Oregon. If you are setup on a sheltered area like a garage or other protected building, you would be Indoors. A tent or popup awning are Outdoors.

All bands except 30- and 60-meters are available, including the VHF, UHF, SHF bands, but you cannot use repeaters. All modes may be used. See the Winter Field Day webpage at: winterfieldday.org
Logging programs that are set up for Winter Field day include HAMRS, N1MM, N3FJP

No VE test in December

Because of our shift in meeting places, Christmas, lazy VE Liaison and so forth, we have decided not to have a testing session in December. The next testing session is scheduled for Jan. 10, in room 300 at the Courthouse.

Potential Meeting Location Changes

We may be moving our meeting location, again. It appears that the Red Cross building at 870 NE Alameda will allow us to have our meetings there. The tentative plan is to hold our January 18th Meeting there. Stay tuned for final details. We are also looking into using the Red Cross for our VE testing, but that is more in limbo. Stay tuned.

General Test Answer: D