

# The OSCILLATOR

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## Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club



### "MY TWO CENTS" Pat Roberson

Thank you to Bonnie Altus, AB7ZQ, Oregon Section Manager, for installing the officers of the club at the January meeting. Bonnie kindly offered a few words about each officer and administered an oath to all of the board members. I look forward to working with the new Board of Directors this year.

I am looking forward to many upcoming events including The Salem Ham Fair in Rickreall, SEADAC, Field Day, Monthly Lunch Bunch, The Ice Cream Social, camping with The Travelers', contests with The Contesters Group, and more.

There are a few changes in the Club Functions Contacts. Janet Bell WB7FJC is the new Fifth Wednesday Chair. Jim Schaeffer KB7ADH is now our Community Service Chair. JD Fort K7JDF is our Emergency Services liaison. Kristin Tomson K7KWT has picked up our Monthly Drawings. Thank you all for stepping up.

I am wondering if there is interest in a holding a project night? If there is interest, anyone interested in becoming a project night coordinator?

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### OTVARC GIVES TO HAM AID FOR HAITI

The Club is making a contribution of \$100.00 from our annual dues to HAM AID through the ARRL, and members will be given opportunity at the February meeting to contribute. In 2005, the ARRL established the HAM AID Fund to accept contributions in support of Amateur Radio's response to Hurricane Katrina.

Now, a new disaster calls for our help. The ARRL HAM AID Fund welcomes your contribution! *"Now we are facing another devastating event in Haiti and Amateur Radio is ready to respond..."* said Mary Hobart K1MMH. *"...With equipment contributed by our generous industry partners, the ARRL invites contributions to the HAM AID Fund from hams who wish to help ARRL deploy equipment where it is needed most. Contributions from Amateur Radio clubs and individuals in any amount will go directly to supporting Amateur Radio's response efforts in Haiti."* Your personal contributions may be made at the ARRL secure contributions site:

[www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/basic/](http://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/basic/)

### RICKREALL HAM FAIR

The SALEM HAM FAIR will be held on Saturday, February 20th. Ticket sale begins at 8:00 am and doors open at 9:00 am. Drawings at 2:30 pm. Advance tickets are \$7.00, a dollar more at the door. HAM FAIR is sponsored by The SALEM REPEATER ASSOCIATION. More at [www.w7sra.com/flyer/Flyer.pdf](http://www.w7sra.com/flyer/Flyer.pdf)

### CLUB MEETING

WEDNESDAY, February 10th

OTVARC is affiliated with ARRL: The National Association for Amateur Radio and is a *Special Service Club*. We meet at The Peppermill Restaurant, 17455 SW Farmington Road, Beaverton, beginning at 7:00 pm. Guests are always welcome.

The February program answers the question "What is happening to the Amateur Radio population in the US? Delvin Buntun N7QMT tells our story in numbers. Del is a member of the Clark County Amateur Radio Club and made this presentation there.

Guests are always welcome.

## CONSTITUTION AND BYLAW REVIEW

The Constitution and Bylaws for our Club have been reviewed several times in the past 32 years. These documents provide guidance for governance by our Board of Directors.

Any member may initiate an amendment to either document. A proposed amendment, in writing, must be submitted to the Board of Directors with four, or more, additional members signing the proposal. The Board, or a Committee appointed for this purpose, will then recommend that the proposed amendment go to the membership for vote; recommend that it go to the membership with specific changes; or, recommend that it be withdrawn from consideration. If the recommendation of the Board is accepted by the proposing members the amendment will either be referred to the members for a vote or withdrawn.

In order to consider recent informal proposals, the Board, on recommendation of Robert Crocker WN7O, past president, and Pat Roberson N7PAT, current president, has formed a Constitution and Bylaws Review Committee. Ron O'Connor KD7VIK has been appointed Chair of the committee, which is charged to review informal proposals and assist those making them in forming formal amendments for recommendation to the Board. In addition, the Committee is to review both documents and propose amendments, if needed, based on that review. Wes Allen K7WWG; Karl Anderson KUØT; Phil Kane K2ASP; and Mel Sutton KB7PVW complete the Committee.

Areas of concern include: Process of recruiting nominees for the Board; Information available to the members on nominees prior to balloting; types of acceptable ballot; secrecy of submitted ballots; whether members are acceptable for ballot collection and counting or have an employee or firm provide election services; whether a vote should be required when a position does not have more than a single nominee or should be declared "elected" without further voting; guidance for operation of Standing Committees. The review is NOT limited to these questions.



## Distance and Bearing

An item in the February 2010 issue of QST (Hints and Kinks, Determining Bearing from Longitude and Latitude, Page 62) reminded me of a small computer program available from *The Stoned Monkey VHF Amateur Radio Club N9UHF*. The Stoned Monkeys are a group of VHF contesters based in northeastern Illinois on the borders of Lake and McHenry counties.

The program, Distance and Bearing by Christopher Burke N9YH, makes it easy to calculate distance, 6-digit Maidenhead Grid Square, and bearing (both directions) for any US City, zip code, latitude and longitude, or grid square. You will find a copy of this free program at the club's web site download page: <http://www.stonedmonkey.org/downloads.htm>.

The program is a tool to keep on hand in your shack and on your travel notebook. It provides useful information during a contest, in attempts to set records for a specific mode over a distance, to set beam headings, and to add the "gee-whiz" factor in your contacts. For example, I entered the Latitude and Longitude for my QTH in Hillsboro and the Latitude and Longitude for a planned portable operation in Tillamook County. Distance and Bearing gave me the Grid Square (CN85nm and CN85bo) for both locations along with the bearing (278.9644) and reverse bearing (98.2505) in degrees and the distance (48.9334 miles or 78.7506 KM as the crow-flies).

Why not try out this nice tool?

- Everett W6ABM

Your ideas, concerns and input will make this effort effective for the continued growth of the Club. The Committee will receive your input by postal mail, email, or in written form passed to any member of the Committee. This is a serious effort to include all members.

Any proposed amendment, whether by individual initiation or from the Committee, will be referred to the members for vote. That referral will include a "Pass" or "No Pass" recommendation from the Board of Directors. All members on the club roster will be included in the referral vote.

## BUDDIES DX-PEDITION IN ST LUCIA

"Buddies in the Caribbean" suitcase dx-pedition is headed to St. Lucia from February 2-10, 2010. The Buddies will operate with nine Buddipoles or Buddisticks from beach, kayak, bike, golf cart, and the top of any mountain.

The Caribbean Buddies DX-pedition will be working all bands on portable equipment and Buddipole antennas. Operating power is always 100 watts or less. Team members are Budd J6/W3FF, Chris J6/W6HFP, Steve J6/WG0AT, Mike J6/KC4VG, Guy J6/N7UN, Paul J6/KB9AVO, and Wey J6/K8EAB. Chris J6/W6HFP is a member of OTVARC and operates BUDDIPOLE ANTENNAS in Hillsboro.

The group's goal is to work stations from all over the world using Buddipole antennas and other newly-developed Buddipole antenna accessory products. The Buddipole antenna system is designed to be a lightweight and versatile way to put an efficient station on the air in minutes in almost any terrain. By utilizing an interchangeable series of custom-made components, the user is able to configure dozens of antenna designs optimized for their particular operating needs. In St Lucia, the group expects to operate dipoles in various configurations, verticals, vertical beams, mini-yagis, and other antennas using Buddipole parts. Several new products will make their debut including a lightweight rotor, super capacity power supply, LiFePo4 battery packs, folding capacity hats, and shock-corded masts.

St Lucia is a stable independent democracy in the British Commonwealth. The island shows influences and nuances hinting at its colorful past. St Lucia has British characteristics and both English and French patois is spoken by locals. The island is influenced by many cultures. St Lucians drive on the left and have a passion for cricket.

St Lucia is 27 miles long and 14 miles wide. Now, 160,000 people inhabit St Lucia. It is IOTA: NA-108 and Grid square: FK94mc. It is 4,178 miles from Beaverton at a bearing of 100 degrees. Map at <http://tiny.cc/cGSUF>.

## SURGE OF NEW LICENSEES IN 2009

2009 was a banner year for new people getting Amateur Radio licenses in the US. The FCC issued more than 30,000 new ham radio licenses in 2009, an increase of almost 7.5 percent from 2008. "When looking at the statistics...these are some the highest numbers we've seen," explained Maria Somma, manager of the ARRL testing programs, Currently there are 682,500 licensed Amateur Radio operators in the USA.

## TERAC PRESENTS SECURITY PROGRAM

Spend an evening discussing practical computer security with Grant Moyle, CISSP. Personal Computer Security, Passwords, Protecting Files and Folders, Safer Web Surfing and Wireless Network Security are included:

[www.confuzer.com/ComputerSecurityNight.pdf](http://www.confuzer.com/ComputerSecurityNight.pdf)

Thursday, February 11, 2010 at 7:30 pm  
TVF&R Training Building  
20665 SW Blanton Street  
Aloha, Oregon

## FEBRUARY LUNCH BUNCH

Saturday February 20th at Noon

The Salem Ham Fair  
In The Lunch Room  
Rickreall, Oregon

Please note my new e-mail address:  
[kc7ytd@gmail.com](mailto:kc7ytd@gmail.com)

Questions?  
Linda KC7YTD  
[kc7ytd@gmail.com](mailto:kc7ytd@gmail.com) or 503.246.8879

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE

JANUARY 31st  
Is Our Renewal Date

[www.otvarc.org/documents/2010RenewalApplication.pdf](http://www.otvarc.org/documents/2010RenewalApplication.pdf)

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**OTVARC ADDRESSES:**

**880 NE 25th Ave Ste 2-160**  
**Hillsboro OR 97124-6258**  
**otvarc@gmail.com**

## TWO-CENTS, from Page 1

I hope you all have a great month and I'll see you at the club meeting and in Rickreall.

73

Pat N7PAT

with some resistance. A drill press is the best way to drill these holes.

David Kuhns KD7MNI of Olympia put this antenna together. Watch the creation of this antenna on YouTube at

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=kPGmad2MMWM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kPGmad2MMWM)

David says, "I took this antenna to the summit of Mt. Adams, 12,281 feet, and was able to check into a net through a repeater in Pullman, WA, which was 211 miles away, using only 5 watts.

**Paul Dryer KD5IVP**  
**And David Kuhns KD7MNI**

## THE KD5IVP BACKPACKER YAGI

I designed this antenna with a specific purpose in mind, that is, to provide the lightest, most collapsible Yagi antenna possible for backpacking. It needed to be dual purpose in that the mast may be used for tarp/shelter support. It needed to have the highest forward gain possible with the fewest parts and no matching network. Collapsed, it had to fit in a pack pocket like any tent pole. This design weighs in at 2.1 ozs., and is predicted to have better than 6 dBd gain! This antenna is for the 2-meter Amateur radio bands and will easily handle 5 watts of the average handy talkie.

Materials you will need:

- 1 Aluminum or Carbon Fiber Arrow shaft
- 1 SMA connector
- 3 feet of RG174U coaxial cable
- 1 "tube" of .025 music wire (tube usually has 5, 3ft rods. You'll need 4 rods)
- 3 inches of scrap vinyl insulation from some 20 ga. Speaker wire. Clear vinyl works best. This will act as an insulator for your elements as they pass through the arrow shafts.
- 1 1/2" x 3/4 inch piece of thin Plexiglas. This will separate your feedline at the feed point.
- 2 of the smallest alligator clips you can find.
- 1 cap off the tube of music wire to be glued to the handle end of your new antenna.

Refer to the instructions posted at [www.backpacking.net/makegear/yagi-antenna/index.html](http://www.backpacking.net/makegear/yagi-antenna/index.html)

Start by drawing a pencil line down your arrow shaft to provide a centerline for drilling. Using the molding on a doorframe as a vee notch straight edge makes this easy. Remove the 'nock' end from the arrow by gripping with pliers and twisting. Measure 1/2 inch from this end and mark your first hole. This hole will be your reference for the rest of the elements leaving you about 6 inches for a handle. Driven element holes should be 1/2 inch apart.

The drill bit size will depend on the vinyl insulation you are using. Measure its thickness and use the next size smaller bit. The .025 music wire needs to pass through this insulation

**HAMFESTS & CONVENTIONS**

**6 March 2010**  
**Electronics Show and Fleamarket**  
**Mike & Key Amateur Radio Club**  
[www.mikeandkey.org/flea.htm](http://www.mikeandkey.org/flea.htm)  
 Talk-In: 146.82/22 (PL 103.5)  
 Michael Dinkelman N7WA  
 22222 148th Avenue SE  
 Kent, WA 98042  
 253-631-3756  
 n7wa@arrl.net

**10 - 11 APRIL 2010**  
**CommAcademy 2010**  
 West. Washington Med Services Team  
[www.commacademy.org](http://www.commacademy.org)  
 Marina Zuetell N7LSL  
 PO Box 15624  
 Seattle, WA 98115  
 206-524-6567  
 n7lsl@arrl.net

**4 - 6 JUNE 2010**  
**SEA-PAC**  
**NW Division ARRL Convention**  
 Seaside Convention Center, Seaside Oregon  
[www.seapac.org](http://www.seapac.org)  
 C. Wayne Schuler AI9Q  
 16414 NE 21st Street  
 Vancouver, WA 98684  
 360-892-5580  
 ai9q@arrl.net

Your business advertising in THE OSCILLATOR is seen each month by more than 200 members who read THE OSCILLATOR. To include your "Business Card" ad (\$48.00 annually) or "Display" - HRO size ad (\$60.00 annually), contact Maureen O'Rourke at 503.591.9641.



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**CLUB FREQUENCIES**

Simplex: 147.54 MHz  
 Repeaters: 146.96 MHz (Goat Mtn)  
 223.94 MHz (Goat Mtn)  
 440.25 MHz (Goat Mtn)  
 440.350 MHz (127.3 KGON Tower)

HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY

- |    |                  |        |    |               |        |
|----|------------------|--------|----|---------------|--------|
| 1  | Mary Jo Mosby    | KB7NJE | 15 | David Bennett | N7DPO  |
| 4  | Ken Davenport    | K7SIX  | 15 | Alvin Carlson | KB7VHI |
| 5  | Janet Bell       | WB7FJC | 21 | Sharon Coan   | KA7NAN |
| 6  | Thomas Hill      | WA3RMX | 24 | Richard Booth | W7VPV  |
| 7  | Edwin Elder      | KE7DOL | 26 | Roger Noyes   | KA7RNN |
| 8  | Willis Ranes     | N7DZR  | 27 | Dale Mosby    | K7FW   |
| 9  | Eric Kosko       | WA7YSU | 27 | Alan Chinnock | KB7POR |
| 13 | George Lottes    | WG7U   | 28 | Paul Lucas    | WB6SHR |
| 15 | C. Wayne Schuler | AI9Q   |    |               |        |



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Provides amplified signal to rear UHF connector

Use 9 volt battery

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for the Commodore 64

With Operating Manual on CD

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Contact:

Everett W6ABM

arsw6abm@gmail.com or 503.522.7142

Members may place Ads for amateur radio equipment for sale or trade in THE OSCILLATOR without charge.

Send your information to w7otv@arrl.net. The Editor reserves the right to modify or edit entries.

Ok so you don't have your own QSL cards? Stop your whining! A search on the web under QSL cards will turn up plenty of vendors willing and able to help you out. One of my own favorites is "cheapqsls.com". You can even make your own cards. Standard card size is 5" X 3 1/2", your can make four cards from an 11" x 8 1/2" sheet of card stock.

I hope to hear you on the air working these fun events. Let me know how you did.

Ron O'Connor KD7VIK

## State QSO Parties – A Busy Month

February provides more than the usual number of opportunities to participate in U.S. State-sponsored QSO parties. With many more stations on-the-air from some hard to work states, it is a great way to increase your States worked total for the ARRL-sponsored "Worked all States" (WAS), award. If you haven't started collecting QSL card confirmations, why not use these contests to get started?

All QSO PARTIES listed below are for Phone, CW and Digital contacts on HF frequencies, (1.8 to 28 MHz), 10-meter to 160-meter bands.

- Vermont Feb. 6, 0000Z – Feb 7, 2400Z
- Minnesota Feb. 6, 1400Z – Feb 6, 2359Z
- Delaware Feb. 6, 1700Z – Feb. 7, 2359Z
- New Mexico Feb. 7, 1500Z – Feb 8, 0300Z
- New Hampshire Feb. 13, 0001Z – Feb. 14, 0001Z
- Louisiana Feb. 13, 1500Z – Feb. 14, 0300Z
- Mississippi Feb. 27, 1500Z – Feb. 28, 0300Z

**Note:** For Pacific Standard Time (PST), add 8-hours to local time to determine UTC time. For example: 4:00 PM PST is 1600 hours local, plus 8 hours is 2400Z or 0000Z. The new UTC day begins at 4:00 PM PST.

QSO parties are generally laid back operating activities, with operators eager to take your call to add to their logs. Pile-ups of calling stations are usually not a big problem, especially after the first few hours of the contest.

So what do you do after you make some contacts? Send your own QSL card along with an SASE (stamped, self addressed envelope) to the stations you worked. Names and addresses of US stations and many foreign stations (DX) are readily available on the "QRZ.com" website. Enter a stations call sign and you may even see a picture of the operator and their station. You can usually expect a return rate (with SASE) of 50 to 60%, but be patient, not everyone will respond and some will be very slow.



## Where are the Ham Radio Hackers?

On the Ten-Tec Omni VII Yahoo Group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Ten-Tec-Omni-VII/>), one ham wrote:

"If I was 17 years-old I would be hacking I-phones and other items like George Hotz, the 17 year-old from New Jersey who was able to unlock the Apple I-phone so that it could be used on other cell service networks.

"When I was his age, I was hacking dial telephones. Then one day the phone company showed up at my house. My parents were not impressed with my technical abilities.

"This morning there is a story that George has just hacked the 'un-hackable' Sony-3 Play Station. He says the hack was 95% software and 5% hardware.

"A quick check of the modifications site run by that guy over in Denmark, shows that there are NO MODS for the O7...interesting. I just wonder how many strange and wonderful things can be done with those 36 buttons/switches on the front panel. Can the O7 be made even better?"

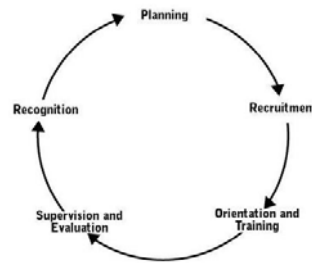
In my reply, I asked, "Why stop at pressing some buttons on the front panel? Why doesn't someone really hack the Omni VII and develop a completely new software package for it?" Rigs like the Omni VII and the Elecraft K3 would seem to be perfect candidates for this kind of hacking.

Sure, there is an order of magnitude difference between a \$300 iPod and a \$3,000 radio, but we're big boys, aren't we? Besides, aside from overdriving the finals, what real damage can you do to the radio? It seems to me that even if you manage to screw up the software in the rig, you can get back to square one by simply re-loading the manufacturer's software.

Ham radio operators have a long history of modifying their radios. Page through any stack of QSTs or CQ Magazines from the 1950s, 60s, and 70s, and you'll find many articles describing modifications to the popular radios of the day. About the only thing hams do to their rigs today is to clip a diode to allow it to operate out-of-band.

## VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are the life-blood of community organizations and projects. OTVARC members are involved in many organizations as leaders, including educational, religious, political, health, special interest, and hobby groups. Without the energy and leadership of volunteers, none of these would be able to reach their goals. A long-time "rule of thumb" is that 10-15% of the members of a voluntary organization provide the leadership and energy to allow it to succeed.



A recent study in Canada confirms that younger members are approaching their volunteer activity in a different way from elder volunteers. Overall, volunteers average 52 hours per year in their work. However, the range is very wide. Many give the equivalent of a part-time or full-time job in hours. As volunteers pass age 65 the average number of hours, 96, nearly doubles that average. "Available time" alone does not explain that change. Younger volunteers tend to be *Episodic Volunteers*, giving time in relatively small, complete units, each with a definite end point measured in hours or days instead of ongoing in-depth commitment. What is your volunteer involvement?

What does it say about the technical capabilities of today's hams that we haven't yet done with our gear what some 17-year-old kid has done with the iPhone and the PlayStation? Why don't we have any third-party software for Omni VII or the K3? I think if a manufacturer actually encouraged third-party software development, they'd quickly gain a following and make their brand even stronger, don't you?

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, blogs about ham radio at [www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com), teaches the infamous One-Day Tech Class, and operates a lot of 40m CW. E-mail him your comments and questions at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

**CLUB MEETING  
FEBRUARY 10TH**



**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

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