



The OSCILLATOR

Volume 33 Issue 3
MARCH 2010



Editor: Everett W6ABM
w6abm@arrl.net

Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club



"MY TWO CENTS" Pat Roberson

It was great to see so many hams at Rickreall yesterday, and perfect weather for it. I remember one year when the parking lot was nothing but muddy slush.

I must apologize that the seating arrangements at the February meeting were back to where we started. It appears that our seating arrangements in January were a failure as far as Peppermill management is concerned. Management received too many complaints from the back of the room about music, waitresses and cooks being too loud. We are back to the original seating. It is too bad, since we filled the room at the February meeting and I think we had one or two standing in the back. Management would not even discuss this with me.

My question is, "do we really need to have sit-down dinners before club meetings?" Is this what the club is all about? Would it be better to have members bring snacks, coffee and drinks? We'd be able to have longer programs in a location where we are not bunched in?

See TWO CENTS, Page 4

Celebrating the 2010 Winter Olympic Games



For Amateur Radio operators in British Columbia, the Olympics offer a grand opportunity to provide a link from the Province to other Amateur Radio operators around the world. To bring this into reality a small group of Amateur Radio operators, known as the Vancouver Olympic Amateur Radio Group (VOARG), met in the Metro Vancouver area to explore ways to promote Amateur Radio, British Columbia, and the Olympics around the world.

VOARG applied for three Special Events call signs. Industry Canada issued the calls VG7V; VG7W; and VG7G. Active during February and March is VG7G. The V - W - G in the suffix of the calls indicates Vancouver Winter Games. These calls are during contests and daily activities. Through them, VOARG is continually promoting Amateur Radio and the Olympics. They are looking for your participation by making contact with the special event station.

CLUB MEETING WEDNESDAY, March 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. Come at 6:00 pm and enjoy a dinner off the menu before the club meeting opens.

For our March program, JD Fort K7JDF and Dan Smith KK7DS will be presenting on D-Star.

Guests are always welcome. An amateur radio license is not required.

GRANT HOPPER KB7WSD NW VICE DIRECTOR

ARRL President, Kay Craigie, N3KN, has appointed Grant Hopper KB7WSD, of Everett, Washington, as the new Northwestern Division Vice Director.

During March, the station will be on the air March 7; 9; 10; 13; and, 24. Check the VOARG web site for bands and times. Additional days may be added as operators are available.
<http://www.voarg.ca/>

HAM RADIO LIFELINE

After the Earthquake, University of Miami's New Ham Radio Station is a Lifeline in Haiti. Like so many post-quake emergencies, this one was urgent. Doctors at the University of Miami's hospital in Haiti knew a 13-year-old survivor of the January 12 cataclysm would not live without surgery. But they were not equipped to perform it.

With cell phone and satellite phone coverage spotty, and land lines destroyed, neither could the doctors summon an ambulance nor call other makeshift hospitals to search for one that could help the teen-aged girl.

Fortunately, they had the world's first, and still most reliable, wireless technology just 25 yards outside the hospital's pediatrics tent - the impromptu ham radio station Ronald Bogue, assistant vice president for facilities and services, and UM alumnus Julio Ripoll established to ensure uninterrupted communications between the hospital at the edge of the Port-au-Prince airport and the Global Institute/Project Medishare's Haiti Relief Task Force on the Miller School campus.

Bogue never dreamed, though, that Haiti's WX4NHC, an offshoot of the ham station Ripoll founded at the National Hurricane Center as an architecture student 30 years ago, would evolve into a vital lifeline that has saved countless lives.

See LIFELINE, Page 3

I hope you will consider checking in to nets and taking a turn at being the Net Control Station. Net regulars, the Net Manager and Assistant Net Manager, are there to help you if you need it. And "Amateur" means you don't have to be perfect, just willing to try.

Kristin k7kwt
Beaverton, Ore.

What Does It Take To Be Net Control?

If you have not been a Net Control Station (NCS) I hope you will try it sometime. I have been NCS and a standby or alternate NCS many times in my short career as a ham.

First thing to do is find a net you can check into regularly. Amateur radio networks are scheduled on various frequencies at regular times to facilitate camaraderie and fellowship of the sport. Many subjects and topics are discussed as well as those nets formed around only one theme or topic.

Depending on your radio's capability you may be able to hear and check in to net meetings locally or far away. You may be invited to join a particular net or may find one by searching the World Wide Web. The ARRL as well as specific clubs have lists of frequencies and nets that meet in an area. In Washington there is the WORC, <http://www.worc.info/>. They manage the Evergreen Intertie and the Wednesday Night Users Group which can be heard from California to Montana.

Once you find a net you are familiar with, ask to be Net Control. The Net Manager will forward you the material that is read as the introduction to every net. The net introduction is different for each net. It's a matter of history. The net introduction, sometimes called the preamble to the net, has a script to be read with spaces in it where the NCS announces his or her Amateur call sign and name.

The main part of NCS is asking for people to check in. It happens in some order based on call sign prefix, location or some other pre-agreed upon pattern as mentioned in the preamble. This helps to slow down Amateur radio operators from talking at the same time. The NCS will record the call signs of who responds, "checks in," using the station log.

A "Directed Net" means net participants must ask permission to talk. Other nets are undirected nets that range all the way to rag chews in informality.



LIFELINE, from Page 2

Since WX4NHC volunteers in Haiti began broadcasting on January 31, they have coordinated dozens of patient transfers to the U.S. Navy's hospital ship, the USNS Comfort, connected doctors at remote clinics with University specialists for emergency consults, conveyed landing coordinates for helicopter pilots conducting medical evacuations and rounded up urgently needed supplies and equipment – including an incubator for a premature baby, and food for children living in an orphanage on an isolated island off the Haitian coast.

"It's gone beyond our wildest expectations," Bogue said. "It's awesome. I had no idea it would morph into what it has become."

Indeed, the Haiti station proved its worth on February 3 when, just 30 minutes after two doctors at the University's tent hospital asked ham radio operator Jack Satterfield for help, the 13-year-old girl was aboard one of the Comfort's speed boats, racing for the vessel and the surgery that would save her life.

"We contacted the Comfort for authorization to transport," Satterfield wrote in a situation report detailing WX4NHC's role. "The Comfort sent a Fast Boat to the port. We got the girl to the port in less than 30 minutes. The doctor said she would have died if this didn't happen. Not sure what else I can say."

Satterfield, a Military Auxiliary Radio System, or MARS, operator and charter boat captain from Pinellas County, and Louis Cruz, an IT specialist with the federal government who volunteers at the hurricane center's ham radio station in West Miami-Dade County, were the first operators to deploy to Haiti. They set up 300 pounds of equipment, half of it donated by the American Radio Relay League, in less than two days.

FIFTH WEDNESDAY SIMPLEX CONTEST

Have some fun and increase your operating skills. Join in the four Fifth Wednesdays for a 2 meter simplex contest. We meet on 147.54 MHz simplex from 8:00 to 9:00 pm Pacific time. The purpose is to work amateur radio stations in as many 5-Digit Zip Codes as possible.

This exercise is fun...but has the practical purpose of helping enhance operating skills on VHF/UHF under simplex conditions. That is what we expect to use in an emergency situation.

This year, Fifth Wednesday Contests run on March 31; June 30; September 29; and, December 29. The exchange is your class and your 5-Digit Zip Code. Class A is 5 watts or less; Class B is more than 5 watts, both single operator. Class C is multiple operator. A QSO point is earned for each single or multiple operator QSO. Two QSO points are earned for each completed QRP QSO.

Send your log, containing showing time of QSO, Call, Zip Code and Contest Category (email okay) to Janet Bell WB7FJC, Fifth Wednesday Chair. Awards go to the high score in each class for each run of the contest. Each separate 5-Digit Zip Code is scored as a multiplier. A Information and Log Sheet is posted on the Club Web Site: www.otvarc.org and is included in this issue of The OSCILLATOR. Mobile and Rovers are not allowed as entries, but will count for QSO points (no multiplier).

REGISTER ONLINE FOR SEA-PAC 2010

www.seapac.org

CLUB FREQUENCIES

Simplex: 147.54 MHz

Repeaters: 146.96 MHz (Goat Mtn)

223.94 MHz (Goat Mtn)

440.25 MHz (Goat Mtn)

440.35 MHz (127.3 KGON Tower)

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TWO-CENTS, from Page 1

We have had Board Members make inquiries into other possible meeting places. So far, every one charges something, whether it is just a meeting room or a restaurant. It is much cheaper to just rent a room and not have food as a requirement. That brings us back to the question of if food is a necessity for our club meetings.

Personally, I don't think food service is a necessity. I can go either way. The most important thing to me is, we need room, and room to grow. As a big person, I am tired of trying to move through between the tables at our current location and I know many of you are as well.

I am asking Everett to send an online survey so that we can get a better feeling for what you would rather have. I hope you will take the time to answer the survey questions. Your reply will affect our effort to solve this recurring issue of a meeting place.

Kristin K7KWT is circulating an interest-finder for Clark County ARC to see what interest there is in an Extra License Class.

73,
Pat N7PAT

PANNING FOR GOLD IN QST CLASSICS

Panning for Gold on the ARRL website: Classic QST articles set the standard. The online QST article archive on the ARRL website is one of the membership benefits which I use most often. Spanning from the very first issue of 1915 through December 2005, it contains some real gems.

On occasion, I get asked how an SWR meter/directional wattmeter works. Having designed a few of these things as a part of my job in the instrumentation industry, I can start drawing figures on white boards, and writing equations. That's the hard way. Instead, a now 50 year old article in QST serves up the most understandable explanation of the two basic forms of this circuit.

In "An Inside Picture of Directional Wattmeters," by Warren Bruene, then W0TTK (now W5OLY), Bruene shows, how the "monimatch" and "micromatch" work. The article does assume some working knowledge of circuits, and he uses some algebraic equations using complex numbers - but no calculus. The results are in convenient graphical form, though, so you don't HAVE to understand the math. And this is not dead technology - one or the other of these two circuits is inside every rig with an SWR display. They serve as the analog interface between the RF circuits and the DSP magic. Warren Bruene was a consultant to legendary Collins Radio, and went on to be an editor for one of the best books written about Single Sideband hardware design: "Single Sideband Principles and Circuits," edited by Pappenfus, Bruene and Schoenike, published in 1964 and an absolute classic.

Give the article archive a try. I was looking for past articles on methods of speech processing for SSB, for instance, and found some of the most readable and comprehensive articles to be from the 1960s or before. If you're interested in size-reduced verticals, you could do much worse than the excellent series of articles starting in 1978 by the late Jerry Sevick, W2FMI.

Some of those old-school guys really knew how to write!

Dave W8NF

HAMFESTS & CONVENTIONS

6 March 2010
Electronics Show and Fleamarket
Mike & Key Amateur Radio Club
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
 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
 C. Wayne Schuler AI9Q
 16414 NE 21st Street
 Vancouver, WA 98684
 360-892-5580
 ai9q@arrl.net

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MARCH LUNCH BUNCH

Saturday March 27th at 1:30 PM

Mandarin Palace
9225 SW Allen Rd
Portland, OR 97223
503) 245-2775

Please note my new e-mail address:
 kc7ytd@gmail.com

Questions?
 Linda KC7YTD
 kc7ytd@gmail.com
 503.246.8879

HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY

UNK	Ellen White		14	Jack Brutcher	W7AAJ
1	Richard Cross	WA7GFS	17	Patrick Roberson	N7PAT
1	Lynn Burrell	KE7WKM	18	John Mewha	KE7UKD
2	Bob Recny	N8SQT	19	Will Hobbs	WI7O
2	J.D. Fort	K7JDF	20	Robert Crocker	WN7O
6	Gene Buell	KA7KBH	21	Joe Mohr	KC7ZZX
7	Everett Curry	W6ABM	22	Al Berg	W7SIC
10	Randy Stimson	KZ7T	23	Joe Kelly	KE7ZZO
10	Geno Gray	K7GY	24	Ray Casey	KB7YVN
11	Warren Winner	W7JDT	24	Ira Rubin	KF7QS
12	Ray Deeth	K7VDQ	27	Ron Kinder	K7VMN
12	Dale LeBarron	W7FBP	28	Arch Doty	W7ACD
			31	Randy Hayden	W7TUT

FIFTH WEDNESDAY CONTEST—MARCH 31, 2010

Have some fun, and increase your operating skills. Join us in months with five Wednesdays for a 2 meter simplex contest. We meet on 147.54 MHz simplex from 8:00 to 9:00 pm Pacific time. The exchange is your classification (Class A is 5 watts or less; Class B is more than 5 watts, both single operator. Class C is multiple operator) and your Zip Code.

Logs are sent to Janet Bell WB7FJC, Contest Coordinator. An award is given in each class for each occasion.

- 1) **Object:** To work as many amateur stations as possible in as many different 5-digit ZIP codes as possible, using 147.54 FM simplex.
 - 2) **Contest Period:** 2000 local through 2100 local, Wednesday, December 30, 2009.
 - 3) **Categories:**
 - A) **Single Operator:** One person performs all operating and logging functions.
 - B) **Single Operator QRP:** Same as (A) with a power limitation of 5 watts.
 - C) **Multi-operator:** More than one person performing operating and logging functions.
 - 4) **Exchange:** Operating 5-digit ZIP Code and Station Category.
 - 5) **Scoring:**
 - A) **QSO points:** Count one (1) point for each complete single operator or multi-operator QSO. Count two (2) points for each complete single operator QRP contact.
 - B) **Multiplier:** The total number of 5-digit ZIP codes worked,
 - C) **Total score:** Multiply the total number of QSO points by the multiplier.
 - 6) **Miscellaneous:**
 - A) **Partial QSOs do not count.** Calls, the full exchange, and acknowledgement must be sent and received.
 - B) **While no minimum distance is specified for contacts, equipment should be capable of real communications (ie. able to communicate over at least 1 km.).**
 - C) **Use of repeaters and telephones to coordinate contacts is not allowed.**
 - D) **Rovers are not allowed as entries in the contest. Mobile stations can be contacted by stations in the contest. Mobile stations will not have a ZIP code and will not count toward the multiplier count.**
 - E) **Only one call may be used by any station.**
 - 7) **Reporting:**
 - A) **Entries must be delivered to the contest organizers at or before the April 14, 2010 OTVARC club meeting. (Janet Bell W7FJC, (wb7fjc@arrl.net), or by mail to the Club Postal Address (OTVARC, 880 NE 25th Ave, STE 2-160, Hillsboro, OR 97124).**
 - B) **Entries must be made on log sheets showing time of QSO, Call, Zip Code and Contest category (email okay).**
 - 8) **Awards:**
 - A) **Certificates will be awarded for the top points winner in each station category.**
 - B) **Awards will be made at the club meeting May 12, 2010.**
-

HF EMERGENCY FREQUENCIES

The IARU Administrative Council has announced that the three IARU Regions have reached consensus on three global Center of Activity (CoA) frequencies for use in the event of emergencies: 14.300, 18.160 and 21.360 MHz.



When no emergency operations are being conducted, these frequencies are open for normal amateur usage. However, GAREC-09 calls upon IARU member societies, among others, "whenever emergency communications are being conducted on frequencies that propagate internationally, to use any available real-time communications channels, including but not limited to e-mail bulletins, Web sites, social networking and DX-clusters to draw the attention of the largest possible number of Amateur Radio operators to on-going emergency communications, in order to avoid interference with emergency traffic."

During emergency operations in Haiti, most amateur radio operators respected the frequencies announced for the emergency. However, several U.S. amateurs received letters from the FCC for interference with the operations. One operator is yet to be identified. This station continually whistled on frequency. The action did not stop emergency communication, but made it much more difficult.

Why not post these frequencies at your operating location to remind yourself to check for emergency operations before using one of them? See the article on Haiti—Miami operations in this issue.

The IARU is the international organization composed of amateur radio societies around the world. It acts on behalf of amateur radio in relationships between those societies and with the associated countries. The USA is apart of Region 2, including North, Central, and South American societies plus Greenland.

LIFELINE, from Page 3

"The primary goal was to provide back-up communications for the University in case the satellite link went down," said Ripoll."it has evolved into the coordinator of communications between the military, medical and non-governmental relief missions."

A designer of medical labs and clinics, Ripoll has worked with Bogue on numerous Miller School projects over the years, so Bogue knew of Ripoll's ham radio hobby, and wasted no time in soliciting his help.

For Ripoll, and for the two-man teams of volunteer radio operators who are rotating into a disaster zone on their vacations, at their own expense, and without insurance, the rewards outweigh the sacrifices.

As Satterfield wrote in an update about the 13-year-old girl: "She is stable and doing well ... Makes it all worthwhile."

WorldRadio Editor Resigns

Nancy Kott WZ8C, Editor of WorldRadio and a part of that publication for the past twelve years, has resigned. Nancy served as CW Column editor for some time and then took on the editorship of WorldRadio when it was a print publication based in Sacramento, California.

Nancy is a familiar face and voice at various hamfests and conventions...and is usually seen at Dayton Hamvention in May. Richard Fisher KI6SN, editor of the Trail-Friendly Radio column, is the interim editor. Nancy hopes he will become the publication's editor.

The big change in WorldRadio was its purchase by CQ Communications and conversion to an on-line publication. Nancy successfully saw this process through from beginning to end. Her last issue is the March, 2010, issue online now.

CLUB MEETING
MARCH 10TH



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