

THE VALLEY VOICE  
Valley Radio Club - W7PXL  
146.72 (100.0) & 147.42 simplex  
August 2009 Issue  
Editor: Jeff Newton, KE7OUR



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Valley Radio Club Gets new Newsletter Editor  
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### **Tonight's program: Part Two**

A continuation of Russ Ruby, W7AU's  
Mountain Rescue from the Northern Wa.  
Cascades.

### **The Valley Voice gets new editor:**

The Valley Voice Newsletter is getting a makeover and a new editor. Jeff Newton KE7OUR has taken over the editors job from Tom Cleveland KE7GBO who will be stepping down to pursue his video photography & business.

Cleveland will remain active with the Valley Radio Club and pursue his license upgrade to General, he said, recently during the transition of editorship to Newton.

Newton will be taking his first ever stab at publishing a monthly newsletter where every ham is the subject of the story. He brings several years of journalistic reporting and photography experience to the Valley Voice.

Newton gained his his amateur radio license in September 2007, shortly after he received his Cochlear Implant and has been actively involved with the Valley Radio Club's Public Service Events, such as the Cascade Cream Puff 100 mile bike race in Westfir, Oregon, The March of Dimes walk for babies and is an active member with Lane County

ARES.

He feels privileged to take on the newsletter as he is giving it an entire revamp and plans for more exclusive stories related to those involved in the area ham radio clubs. If you like to submit a story or photo to the newsletter he encourages all ham radio operators to get involved in helping spread the news, regardless of which ham radio club they are involved with the newsletter is not just about the Valley Radio Club, but about the amateur community as a whole.

Please send your photo's and stories to [KE7OUR@arrl.net](mailto:KE7OUR@arrl.net), if you would like to include them into the newsletter. Material deadline will be two weeks before each month's scheduled Valley Radio Club meeting.



### **Lane Co. ARES/RACES get another revamp:**

If you've ever taken taken an Amateur Radio Emergency Service course from Lane County Amateur Radio Emergency Services Coordinator Mark Perrin, N7MQ – you should already know about the Lane County ARES.

If you are a new ham and haven't yet learned what ham radio and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service can do – your dedication

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and professionalism could go a long way in making your ham radio career worthwhile, by volunteering with the ARES.

Each year Perrin gets an influx of students wanting to advance their ham radio operations and get involved with the Amateur Radio Emergency Services. It takes a lot of time and practice and every new ham is encouraged to join up and provide a valuable community service to the communities they serve under the Lane County Amateur Radio Emergency Coordinator's authority during emergency incidents and call outs.

When Perrin first took over the EC wings from former Lane Co. ARRL EC Rick Iverson, W7NB, his first job was to get the ARES groups back up and running and up to par in time for the big test – in 2008 that test came, when several amateurs mounted up in posse and provided 24/7 radio operations during the Olympic Trials at Hayward Field in Eugene, Or.

Several weeks later, after a job well done during the trials, Perrin got an emergency call from the Central Lane 911 Center in Eugene, about a severe 911 phone outage in the Marcola area, that lasted into the night.

His troops mustered and sprang into action with hams station at the 911 center EOC, Marcola Fire Dept. The operation went smoothly, until another breach came about a couple weeks later.

Editors note:

Each month the Valley Voice will include a copy for of the Lane County ARES/RACES frequency at the end of each newsletter. Tear it off, print a couple copies and laminate them for your go-kit, shack and one for your wallet, when your out and about with your HT.

**Can't make the meeting each month?:**

Rest assured you can never miss a meeting with our LIVE monthly webcast, just point your browser to the following URL to [ustream.tv/channel/valley-radio-club-meetings](http://ustream.tv/channel/valley-radio-club-meetings) and you can enjoy our monthly club meetings right from comfort of your own home, shack or while hanging out in Hawaii with “Dog the Bounty Hunter” or sailing the “Love Boat” with Captain Stubing and crew on the high seas!

The Valley Radio Club webcast meetings are produced by several members of the Valley Radio Club each month and optimises the opportunity for hams outside of the Eugene and Springfield area to participate in the clubs meetings each month.

Valley Radio Club's popularity has been gaining momentum with the ham community online and several new hams have been getting involved with the radio club as well, giving the growth of the club to climbing numbers each each.

**Attention hams – repeater changes!!!**

There has been some repeater changes in Lane County lately, repeater owner Matt Ward, W7ARD has recently decommissioned his 146.630 repeater and has been replaced with 145.450 with a 100.00, those hams that encode and decode will also use a 100.0 as well.

Coverage is reportedly to be better and there is also an Autopatch installed as well for those interested in using the autopatch.

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### **Hams provide ongoing radio support to Puff:**

Each summer mountain bikers from all over the country, invade the Willamette Pass Community of Westfir, Oregon, for the annual Cascade Cream Puff 100 mile bike race.

Several local Amateur Radio Operators with joint memberships in the Valley Radio Club, EARS, Lane Co. Sheriff's Amateur Radio Operators (LCSARO) band together and pull off one of the most important tactics of racing Communications support.

Each year 200 hardcore souls spring Westfir's population by a couple of hundred for a grueling 100 mile mountain bike race with 18,000 feet of climbing in the switchbacks of the Hemlock mountains high above Westfir in either 100+ degree greuling heat, early summer rains that make for a muddy appearance of the riders racing in the Willamette National Forest.

With 5 aid stations added in the 2009 puff race, Cream Puff Promoter Scott Taylor, started using the ham radio operators three years ago after reclaiming the directorship from its former director.

This year event went well as expected and was the first time in the puff's history that the hams had provided packet operations during their event, killing some much needed time on logistics and racer stats from the aid stations above in the mountains of the Willamette National Forest, while base operations were at the Office Bridge Park in Westfir.

The following hams have provided public service duty are as follows;  
KE7PGS, KD7FNX, AC7KW, W7EWN,  
KD7GES, KE7CRA, KD7LYJ, KD7WIO,  
KD7KOA, WB7ROB, KE7VXK, W7RIL,  
W7ZQD, KE7OUR, KD7CUT.

### **Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD (SK):**

Famed & Legendary CBS News Anchor Walter Cronkite KB2GSD became a silent key (SK) on July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009, he was 92. Cronkite passed away after a lengthy battle with Cerebral Vascular Disease.

Cronkite has been one of the most trusted men in the news business of TV anchoring, he reported on several major issues during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, such as JFK's Assassination in Dallas, Texas and major political events.

Cronkite earned his amateur license after practicing the code, which drove him nuts and once told his peers, that he'd could never pass the exam, several months later, he passed his code test and became an amateur radio operator like his fellow hams.

Cronkite retired in 1981 from CBS News as Anchor, Reporter Dan Rather was just becoming a household name, after Cronkite retired. Cronkite is well known in the amateur radio community for a video he did for the ARRL to get perspective hams involved in amateur radio. The video is can currently be seen on YouTube and via the ARRL store.

Cronkite leaves behind a legendary void both journalism and amateur radio. He is survived by several family members.

### **Newsletter deadlines for stories and photos:**

If you have an article idea or photo you would like to appear in the Valley Voice Newsletter please send them to [ke7our@arrl.net](mailto:ke7our@arrl.net). The deadline for submissions is Friday, one week before each monthly meeting.

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### Area radioactive news:

There are reports that the Oregon Connection will be throwing up a linked repeater system between the Oregon Coast in Florence and the Eugene-Springfield area along Highway 126.

Rumored reports are stating that a UHF repeater is reportedly going up above town in Florence on Mary's Peak and a series of VHF repeaters along Hwy 126 for coverage back to Eugene, sources have said. No date has been released on when the new addition to the OC system will be released and operational. The Valley Voice will continue to follow the story and update as more information becomes available.

More information can be found on the Oregon Connection website listed below;

<http://www.oregonconnection.org>

### Congress goes to work for hams on Captial Hill:

18 Congressional members of Congress have been working to provide some much needed help to 700,000 amateur radio operators in the United States.

HB 2160 currently in the works will make the CC&R's something of the past. A provisional law being added to the bill in the name of Homeland Security and Emergency Communications support would give amateurs facing antenna restrictions to provide effective communications thing of the past.

With new language being added to the bill, Amateurs will have a federal law on their side to protect them from such antenna restrictions, where it is regulated by such organizations such as homeowners associations

and governmental bodies seeking to restrict such operations involving amateur radio.

The Federal government and the Department of Homeland Security view amateur radio communications as a primary first responder during a major disaster or national emergency or terrorist incident, such as 9/11 during the WTC and Pentagon attacks and Hurricane Andrew and Katrina.

The new provisional law would give the amateur radio community a much needed ally in getting their antenna tower up and running.

### Amazing catch! – Aurora snag's local ham with surprise with QSO!:

On Tuesday night, July 21, 2009 at 0130 GMT, Richard Ewing, KO7N, just happen to be lurking around over the 6 meter band, during his venture into the unknown the Aurora's made a small opening over the Ventea area of KO7N's QTH, he happen to work a station on 6 meters during the event.

Meanwhile, earlier that evening there was another struck of luck running in the bloods of Valley Voice Newsletter Editor Jeff Newton, KE7OUR, he just happen to catch a visual siting of the International Space Station, while docked with the Space Shuttle Endeavor on a flyby over the Eugene area around 10:35pm.

His next attempt will try to get to snag a QSO of a lifetime, even tho, he's got two rooting fans waiting to hear the catch as well. As the aurora's and the ISS flyby's make for some good summer hamming for the curious ham, ISS & Shuttle tracking can be seen on the ISS Fan site at <http://www.issfanclub.com> and the Aurora's can be checked on the Space Weather site at <http://www.spaceweather.com>.

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### California ham assists in rescue

<http://www.otvarc.org/newspapers/documents/09august.pdf>

This story linked above tells of the working relationship that fellow hams during emergencies, but, it also tells of the skepticism of friends wishing you hadn't carried all that weight on a hike. Luckily a California ham told his skeptical friends that, "he never leaves home with out his radio", reminds me of those ongoing American Express Card commercials, wher the motto is; "Never leave home without, it!".

Your Valley Voice editor never leaves home with one or two radios, one his ham radio, the other his fire department radio, which does double duty has a ham radio, when he volunteers with the Westfir Fire Department in Oakridge, Oregon.

### ARES District 4 hold Emergency Drill

On the weekend of July 25<sup>th</sup>, the Amateur Radio Emergency Services District 4, which includes Lane County held a 24 hour emergency drill on the District 4 146.780 repeater with several stations checking in and reportedly passing traffic with the Oregon Office of Emergency Management, W7OEM, in Salem, Oregon.

Lane County Amateur Radio Emergency Service Coordinator Mark Parrin, N7MQ, had put out a general call for amateurs prior to the event & the various area radio club reflectors in hopes of mustering up several teams to participate in the district-wide emergency training drill. Several participates opted not to participate due to conflicting schedules and timing.

Perrin and Assistant Amateur Radio

Emergency Coordinator Elmer McCellan, W7EWM, participated in the drill from a local hilltop and passed several packet and voice messages to OEM, while several other hams monitored the even from their home QTH's. Perrin says, "this may be an annual event, but, we'll have to wait and see", he said during a short report to the Valley Voice after the drill.

### The Importance of Drills – A perspective:

In August 2005, one of the most destructive hurricanes of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century struck the southern Gulf Coast and created an estimated \$81 billion in property damage, 1800 people were killed and thousands left homeless and dreams were shattered – Hurricane Katrina became the ultimate test for the American response system, including the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES).

The storm took out the entire communications infrastructure involving police, fire, emergency medical services, state and local governmental radio communications over a widespread area from Texas to Florida.

Amateur radio operators were the first on the scene setting up communications gaps and reporting to government emergency operation centers with the extent of the damage done during the storm. Floods ravaged the New Orleans area after its levies were breached and cause widespread flood damage in the Jefferson Parish and New Orleans area, trapping people along the way as America & the world watched in horror the destructive nature and force the storm left behind.

The skills you learn, while taking the ARRL Emergency Communications course will provide some insight on how the working structure of emergency communications

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prepares one for an emergency and how radio traffic is handled in a matter of professionalism among your fellow amateurs.

The purpose of state and local amateur radio drills is to help local amateurs prepare themselves in the event of an emergency. Of course there are many reasons on why many people getting to amateur radio, chasing grid squares, collecting QSL cards, making exotic DX QSO's with another ham in another part of the world.

But, nothing prepares a ham better, than, getting involved in public service events were communications goes a long way in just providing communications to one's promotional event such as the Cascade Cream Puff 100 mile mountain bike race, the Springfield Christmas parade, the Olympic trials, just to name a few.

Knowledge becomes a key, as a key becomes the joy of a lifetime to do something worthwhile and to make a difference in the lives and people we serve and the agencies that call us for help, ARES is there and ready to respond at a moments notice – no, matter what your perspective is of amateur radio, there is always something for everyone, no matter how much you hate it, but its worth it!

If your serious about helping with emergency communications and want something as rewarding as fetching the stick with your dog, get in touch with your ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Coordinator and ask how you can help make a difference in the lives and agencies your radio club serves.

Remember, ARES and RACES can't do it all by themselves, there's always a need for more help than you can ever imagine.

### **AMATER RADIO CLUB CLASSES:**

Each month, the various radio clubs in

the Eugene and Springfield area radio clubs get requests for Amateur radio classes in our area. Listed below are the following ham radio related classes currently being offered by members of the Valley Radio Club, including a contact for those seeking to take an amateur radio exam for the first time or upgrading your current ticket.

### **Emergency Communications:**

Contact: Mark Perrin, N7MQ, Lane County ARRL Emergency Coordinator, 485-8957 or via email at [n7mq@arrl.net](mailto:n7mq@arrl.net).

### **Licensing Classes: Technican & General**

Contact: Matt Ward, W7ARD, 689-0640 or via email at [w7ard@msn.com](mailto:w7ard@msn.com).

### **ARRL Exam Testing:**

Contact: Riley McLean, W7RIL at 345-2407 or via email at [w7ril@arrl.net](mailto:w7ril@arrl.net).