

Watt's Up

*Newsletter for the Umpqua Valley
Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 925 Roseburg, OR 97470*

April 2010

*Watt's Up Staff: Editor-Wayne W9AE Publishing-Russ, W7DUR
E-Mail Distribution, Dick, AA7GC*

President

Jim, WA6KHG

1st Vice President

Jerry, AE7ER

2nd Vice President

Wayne, W9AE

Secretary

Russ, W7DUR

Treasurer

Jerry, K7ETU

Member-at-Large

John, KE7LDZ
Doug, WB6MFV

Club Call Signs

KC7UAV
KC7TLY

ARES Nets

Douglas County ARES
145.430 repeater
Mondays at 7 PM
District 5 ARES
3964 kHz
Mondays at 6:30PM
State ARES
3964 kHz, first/third
Tuesdays at 7 PM.

President's Message

Greetings to all of the UVARC members.

We had a great meeting in March and had a chance to discuss a lot of projects that are in the works. Field Day plans are still on hold until we hear from the Glide School District but I don't anticipate any problems. Anyone interested in being a "band captain" should talk to Jerry AE7ER.

Jerry AE7ER, Joe Brown W7ZQD, and Mike WB6RHW are working on expanding the current packet backbone to be able to communicate into Reedsport and Coos County.

The move of the repeaters on Lane Mountain is still on hold until we have some nicer weather and get some antennas and polyphasers in so we can begin that project.

I am currently burning in the UHF repeater that will go on Lane Mountain when we move in the new building.

In the repeater department the 146.900 Lane Mt. repeater is running well. The 147.120 Boomer Hill repeater developed a problem and was off the hill for about 10 days but is back up and running since the weather gave us a break so we could take it back up there.

The next VE session is April 14, 2010 at 6:00 P.M. at the courthouse in Room 310. Don't forget to bring a copy of your original license if you are upgrading. You also need some form of acceptable identification. The VEC license fee for 2010 is \$15.00. Cash or a check made out to ARRL is acceptable.

Jim WA6KHG

MEMBERSHIP 2010

As of April 1, 2010 membership is 65.

Each month updated information will be provided in this space so members may keep their roster current.

Please take the time to review your information and notify me of any corrections or changes.

I may be reached via:

1. E-mail: aa7gc@arrl.net
 2. Telephone: (253) 631-3467
 3. Regular Mail: 15823 SE 254th Pl., Covington, WA 98042-4183
- 73, de Dick, AA7GC, Membership

** NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS **

N6MOK, n6mok@charter.net

KB7WTA, fulton@dcwisp.net



SUNSHINE

If you hear of someone who is ill or in the hospital, please let me know. Also notify me of any silent keys.

Russ Nelson, W7DUR, at 440-3840

Editor's Note

If you want to be in the UVARC Spotlight, send pictures of your shack, antennas, or mobile setup to w9ae@charter.net. Please also send any club news, pictures, for sale announcements, etc.

Wayne W9AE

UVARC REPEATERS

146.900-, PL 100 (Lane Mountain)

147.120-, PL 100 (Boomer Hill)

PACKET

Node - 144.930, DC:WB6RHW-1

UVARC Web Page

<http://aa7gc.net/uvarc/>

NOTES:

1. Watt's Up is **on line** in the UVARC web Page. It may be viewed in PDF format.
2. Members **E-mail addresses** are on the web page as a link. Password required.
3. The **club roster** is included in the web page as a link. Password required.
4. Club **constitution** is available as a linked page.
5. Back issues of **Watt's Up** are available through the club web page in PDF format.

VE Testing in Douglas County

Testing sessions are affiliated with the ARRL. They are scheduled the second Wednesday of even months except August. Sessions are held in Roseburg at the Douglas County Courthouse, room 310, 6 PM.

ARRL VEC Test Fee for 2010 is \$15.00

This fee is charged once, no matter whether taking any one, two, three or all four test elements, one time. Retests of an element failed at the same test session will require payment of an additional test fee.

2010 Testing Dates Second Wednesday of each even Month

February 10

April 14

June 9

August - None

October 13

December 8

**For further information contact Jim WA6KHG,
at (541) 496-2262**

FCC Issues *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* on Government Disaster Drills and Amateur Radio

On March 24, the FCC released a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* ([NPRM](#)) proposing to amend the Commission's Amateur Radio Service rules "with respect to Amateur Radio operations during government-sponsored emergency preparedness and disaster readiness drills and tests." While current rules provide for Amateur Radio use during emergencies, the rules prohibit communications where the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer. In October 2009, the [FCC released a Public Notice clarifying the Commission's rules](#) relating to the use of Amateur Radio by licensed amateurs participating in drills and exercises on behalf of their employers. To date, the FCC has granted several dozen waivers under this new policy.

The FCC notes that while there are some exceptions to this prohibition, "there is none that would permit amateur station control operators who are employees of public safety agencies and other entities, such as hospitals, to participate in drills and tests in preparation for such emergency situations and transmit messages on behalf of their employers during such drills and tests." Based on that, the Commission proposes to amend the rules to provide that, under certain limited conditions, Amateur Radio operators may transmit messages during emergency and disaster preparedness drills, regardless of whether the operators are employees of entities participating in the drill.

Background

Per [Part 97.1\(a\)](#), one of the fundamental principles underlying the Amateur Radio Service is the "[r]ecognition and enhancement of the value of the Amateur Service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications." The rules, in [Section 97.403](#), also state that "[n]o provision of these rules prevents the use by an amateur station of any means of radio communication at its disposal to provide essential communication needs in connection with the immediate safety of human life and immediate protection of property when normal communication systems are not available."

In the *NPRM*, the FCC recognized that Amateur Radio operators provide essential communications links and facilitate relief actions in disaster situations: "While land mobile radio services are the primary means of conducting emergency communications, Amateur Radio plays a unique and critical role when these primary facilities are damaged, overloaded, or destroyed." The FCC gave Amateur Radio operations during 2005's Hurricane Katrina as an example, saying that Amateur Radio operators "volunteered to support many agencies [and]...provided urgently needed wireless communications in many locations where there was no other means of communicating and also provided other technical aid to the communities affected by Hurricane Katrina." The FCC acknowledged that since Amateur Radio is often an essential element of emergency preparedness and response, many state and local governments and public safety agencies incorporate Amateur Radio operators and the communication capabilities of

the Amateur Service into their emergency planning. In this regard, some entities, such as hospitals, emergency operations centers and police, fire, and emergency medical service stations have encouraged the participation of their employees who are Amateur Radio operators in emergency and disaster drills and tests.

The FCC said that its rules "expressly permit operation of amateur stations for public service communications during emergencies, as well as on a voluntary basis during drills and exercises in preparation for such emergencies." But since the Amateur Radio Service is primarily designated for "amateurs, that is, duly authorized persons interested in radio technique solely with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest," and rules expressly prohibit amateur stations from transmitting communications "in which the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer," the FCC has mandated that public safety entities seeking to have employees operate amateur stations during government-sponsored emergency preparedness and disaster drills presently must request a waiver.

Discussion

The FCC is seeking comments on whether to amend the rules to permit Amateur Radio operators to participate in government-sponsored emergency and disaster preparedness drills and tests, regardless of whether the operators are employees of the entities participating in the drill or test. The Commission's rules already recognize the importance of Amateur Radio in emergencies, and permit participation in such drills and tests by volunteers (defined by the FCC as "non-employees of participating entities").

The FCC recognizes that based on experience, it knows that amateur operations "can and have played an essential role in protecting the safety of life and property during emergency situations and disasters. And as evidenced by recent waiver requests, state and local government public safety agencies and other entities often conduct disaster and emergency preparedness drills to be best-prepared for such eventualities."

The proposed rule would preclude the need for a waiver in such instances by allowing employees of public safety agencies and other entities to operate amateur stations for testing and drilling of emergency communications preparedness. The FCC "tentatively conclude[s] that employee status should not preclude or prevent participation in government-sponsored emergency and disaster tests and drills. Further, we tentatively conclude that extending authority to operate amateur stations during such drills will enhance emergency preparedness and thus serve the public interest."

In reaching these "tentative conclusions," the Commission asserts that it agrees with the core principle of the Amateur Radio Service as a "voluntary, non-commercial communication service carried out by duly authorized persons interested in radio technique with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest."

(continued on next page)

Per the NPRM, the FCC believes that the public interest will be served by "a narrow exception to the prohibition on transmitting amateur communications in which the station control operator has a pecuniary interest or employment relationship, and that such an exception is consistent with the intent of the Amateur Radio Service rules." As such, the FCC proposes that amateur operations in connection with emergency drills "be limited to the duration and scope of the drill, test or exercise being conducted, and testing immediately prior to the drill, test or exercise."

The FCC also proposes that the emergency tests and drills must be sponsored by federal, state, or local governments or agencies "in order to limit the narrow exception to ensure that drills further public safety." The Commission does understand, however, that there may be circumstances where conducting emergency drills for disaster planning purposes, even if not government-sponsored, would serve the public interest. Accordingly, the FCC seeks comment on whether it should permit employee operation of amateur stations during non-government-sponsored emergency drills "if the purpose of the drill is to assess communications capabilities, including Amateur Radio, in order to improve emergency preparedness and response."

According to the FCC, a large number of agencies and organizations at the state and local levels coordinate with their local volunteer Amateur Radio operators to conduct drills and exercises in concert with other modes of communication: "This joint activity is essential to allow for a practiced response on the part of the first responder community. Because some of those drills and exercises include transmission of amateur communications by employees of participating entities, we believe the proposed rule changes would be in the public interest, consistent with ongoing national emergency preparedness and response priorities. We therefore seek comment on the tentative conclusions contained herein."

Proposed Rules

Part 97 of Chapter 1 of Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended as follows:

[§ 97.113 Prohibited transmissions.](#)

(a) (3) Communications in which the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer, with the following exceptions:

- (i) A control station operator may participate on behalf of an employer in a government-sponsored emergency preparedness or disaster readiness test or drill, limited to the duration and scope of such test or drill, and operational testing immediately prior to such test or drill.
- (ii) An amateur operator may notify other amateur operators of the availability for sale or trade of apparatus normally used in an amateur station, provided that such activity is not conducted on a regular basis.

How to File Comments

Information on how to file comments via e-mail or by other means can be found on pages 4-6 in the [NPRM](#). The deadline for comments is 30 days after publication in the [Federal Register](#). The deadline for reply comments is 45 days after publication in the [Federal Register](#).

March 18 Meeting Minutes

UVARC meeting Mar. 18, 2010 24 present

Jim opened the meeting. Roll Call with name and call sign.

Reading of February meeting minutes.

Treasurer's report by Jerry.

Jim and Doug removed the 147.120 repeater from Boomer Hill site for repair.

Jerry AE7ER reported about the Pacific tsunami warning exercise scheduled for Mar 24.

Jerry and Hutch put up a cross-band repeater on Lane Mt. 445.055 frequency in - output is linked to 147.180+ in Winchester Bay on the coast.

James KF7FIB , reported the emergency ham station at Mercy Medical has been moved to new location to the first floor.

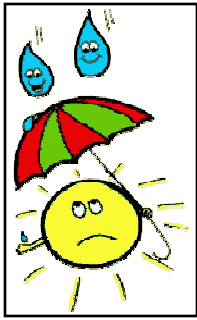
Tom ,W7TCH suggested people purchase a radio scanner for use in emergency communication. It would be a wise investment.. Roseburg actually needs an emergency powered broadcast radio station to broadcast to the public in an emergency..

Sandra KE7YZL, noted Red Cross training session at City Health Dept. the 2nd Tuesday of May.

Jim Zurcher ,WB7OTM, needs a radio tuned. Lee,K7AZW, may go by.

CJ, reported AARP driving class at Linus Oaks April 14th.

no further business-----adjourned. Sec.--Russ,



Just a reminder: If you have e-mail capability, Let Russ, W7DUR know! you'll be able to see all pictures in color and save money for the club !

April 2010

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1	2	3 Club Breakfast Rsbg IHOP 7AM
4 Easter	5 DC ARES net 7 PM 145.430 rpt	6 Oregon state ARES HF net 3964 kHz, 7 PM	7 UVARC net 7 PM 146.90 rpt	8	9	10 Club Breakfast Rsbg. IHOP 7 AM
11	12 DC ARES net 7 PM 145.430	13	14 VE Testing UVARC net 7 PM 146.90 rpt	15 Club Meeting 7PM Courthouse Room 310	16	17 Club Breakfast Rsbg IHOP 7AM
18	19 DC ARES net 7 PM 145.430 rpt	20 Oregon state ARES HF net 3964 kHz, 7 PM	21 UVARC net 7 PM 146.90 rpt	22	23	24 Club Breakfast Rsbg IHOP 7AM
25	26 DC ARES net 7 PM 145.430 rpt	27	28 UVARC net 7 PM 146.90 rpt	29	30	

ON-LINE FORM AVAILABLE ON CLUB WEB PAGE

UMPQUA VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC

ON-LINE FORM AVAILABLE ON CLUB WEB PAGE

NAME _____ CALL SIGN _____ LICENSE CLASS _____

STREET _____ CITY/STATE _____ ZIP _____

ARRL MEMBER YES NO E-mail Address _____

Other names at your address desiring family membership _____

NAME _____ CALL SIGN _____ LICENSE CLASS _____ ARRL MEMBER YES NO

NAME _____ CALL SIGN _____ LICENSE CLASS _____ ARRL MEMBER YES NO

Please show names the way you want them to appear in the roster

HOME PHONE _____ RECEIVE YOUR NEWS LETTER BY: U.S. MAIL OR E-MAIL (PDF)

RENEWAL _____ *AMT. ENCLOSED _____ DATE _____ DATE OF BIRTH (STUDENTS) _____

SPOUSE'S NAME _____ SIGNATURE _____

Membership dues are \$10.00 for individuals and \$5.00 for each additional family member living at the same address per calendar year. Associate membership dues are \$5.00. Dues are prorated (NEW members only): Jan - Mar \$10/5 (each additional member); Apr - Jun \$7.50/3.75; Jul - Sep \$5/2.50; Oct - Dec \$2.50/1.25. Membership is free for **Licensed** students, 18 and younger. Make checks payable to: **UVARC, PO Box 925, Roseburg, OR 97470.**