



ARRG Newsletter

Amateur Radio Relay Group



June 1st, 2012

Amateur Radio Relay Group, Inc.
P.O. Box 91213
Portland, OR 97219
www.arrg.org

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The ARRG Mission Statement

ARRG is dedicated to the advancement and enjoyment of amateur radio, to promote our hobby, to provide reliable repeaters for community service activities, emergency communications and other types of ham radio activities.

Welcome

By Marc Peterson - W7PM ARRG President

Welcome to the restart of the ARRG Newsletter for 2012.

It's really a great a great opportunity for me to be writing the 'Welcome' portion for the restart of the ARRG Newsletter. I've been working with ARRG for a relative short time, but I was immediately attracted to the group's expert Technical Team. When I first got involved with the ARRG, I hadn't even explored the wonderful repeaters or their coverage, but I knew right away that ARRG was something very special.

Having been a repeater system owner and Director of the Rocky Mountain Radio Group for many years, I understand how important it is to have a reliable, knowledgeable technical team in place. The group's enthusiasm and ability to respond to technical issues won me over right away.

I want to salute the current team and say a huge 'thank you' to all of our past team members who designed, built and maintained our system over the years. It was a herculean effort to put all this together and they should be thanked at every opportunity. Maybe we can even spotlight some of them in future newsletter articles.

I want each of you to know that your ARRG team is working very hard to implement new upgrades to each of our repeaters, including working on more linking projects, updating our wide area *911 Autopatch services and IRLP node services. Your leadership team has been busy working in the background on our 5-year plan which included some pretty lofty goals. I'm very happy to report that we have met and even exceeded many of our original goals and there's much more to come.

The team is serious about keeping ARRG fresh and up to date. In fact, the entire team went through many Corporate Training sessions to help us identify our weaknesses, strengths and abilities. Hopefully you are beginning to see our professionalism shine through so that we can keep ARRG recognized as Oregon's premier amateur repeater group.

Because of our member's input and wonderful suggestions, the team has been working hard on designing and implementing an entirely new web presence, including the process of publishing this quarterly newsletter.

I'm glad to announce that it's easy and safe to renew your ARRG annual membership (or family members) over at <http://www.arrg.org>

Another exciting aspect of the Newsletter is that it will include a column spotlighting a different ARRG Member monthly. In closing, let me say how excited I am to be following in the footsteps of our past ARRG President Jim Campbell, N7QME, I know they'll be big shoes to fill! 73's until next time.

Amateur Radio Relay Group, Inc.

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Officers

President Marc Peterson, W7PM
Vice-President Terry Biggs, WB7CHK
Secretary Peter Jones, KE7CKB
Treasurer Warren Winner, W7JDT

Board of Directors

Chairman: Terry Biggs, WB7CHK
Vice-Chair: Brian Nordlund, AC7QE
Directors:

Jim Campbell, N7QME
Marc Douglas, AE7KK
Peter Jones, KE7CKB
Dale Justice, K7WW
Dee Lynch, K7JRB
Marc Peterson, W7PM
Jeff Scheetz, KF7HG
Mark Walker, W7CLU
Warren Winner, W7JDT

Committee Chairmen

Electronic Communication

Jim Campbell, N7QME

Web Site & Newsletter

Marc Peterson, W7PM

Membership

Peter Jones, KE7CKB

Purchasing

Warren Winner, W7JDT

Sea-Pac

Dale Justice, K7WW

Standardization

Terry Biggs, WB7CHK

Technical & Site Maintenance

Jeff Scheetz, KF7HG

FCC Seeks Higher Vanity Call Sign Application Fee

ARRL Bulletin 9 ARLB009 From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT May 7, 2012

To all radio amateurs: SB QST ARL ARLB009: The FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on May 4, seeking to raise the fee for Amateur Radio vanity call signs. The NPRM can be found in PDF format on the web at,

http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2012/db0504/FCC-12-48A1.pdf

Currently, a vanity call sign costs \$14.20 and is good for 10 years; the new fee, if the FCC plan goes through, will go up to \$15 for 10 years, an increase of 80 cents. The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934 (as amended) to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program.

The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 14 years of the current program -- from a low of \$11.70 in 2007 to a high of \$70 (as first proposed in the FCC's 1994 Report and Order). The FCC said it anticipates some 14,300 Amateur Radio vanity call sign "payment units," or applications, during the next fiscal year, collecting \$214,500 in fees from the program.

The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. The first vanity call sign licenses issued under the current Amateur Radio vanity call sign program that began in 1996 came up for renewal six years ago. Those holding vanity call signs issued prior to 1993 are exempt from having to pay the vanity call sign regulatory fee at renewal, as Congress did not authorize the FCC to collect regulatory fees until 1996. Such "heritage" vanity call sign holders do not appear as vanity licensees in the FCC Amateur Radio database.

Amateur Radio licensees may file for renewal only within 90 days of their license expiration date. All radio amateurs must have an FCC Registration Number (FRN) before filing any application with the Commission. Applicants can obtain an FRN by going to the ULS web site at, <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home> and clicking on the "New Users Register" link. You must supply your Social Security Number to obtain an FRN.

ARRG

Wishes to welcome all of its new Members

Tom Bingham, WB7EUX
Joseph, OR.

Donald Elkins, W7DWE
Oregon City, OR.

Dana Jones, K6BRR
Portland, OR.

Roger Linscheid, KF7SZJ
Aloha, OR.

Charles, McCarthy, AE7ED
Portland, OR.

David Hunter, KE7BJB
Portland, OR.

Loren Stelzenmueller, K7PHN
Saint Helens, OR

Silent Keys**Roger Noyes, 80, KA7RNN**

became a silent key on April 12, 2012. Roger was raised in Newberg and served in the US Navy during the Korean conflict and was employed by Tektronix for 27 years. He was a member of ARRG and OTVARC. Roger is survived by his wife of 56 years, Marvel, KA7TZT and four children, eight grandchildren and 5 great-grand children. A memorial gathering of family and friends will take place later this summer at a designated location.

Fred Maia, 76, W5YI, passed on March 28, 2012. W5YI was probably one of the most recognized calls in amateur radio. Fred organized the W5YI VEC, operated a publishing business with the W5YI name, and, until 2003, published the newsletter, W5YI Report.

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Member Spotlight

In each issue, we will be spotlighting ARRG members in our community. We will be reporting on how their efforts impact Amateur Radio and our community. This month we are happy to spotlight a supporter of ARRG, John Tornblad, N7JDT.



John is the leader of the Beaverton CERT Radio Team and since February of 2009, he has been operating a weekly net for the City of Beaverton's hams who are involved with the Community Emergency Response Team program. The CERT Net is on Monday nights at 8pm. It's open to all Amateurs, with a focus on those living out on the Westside who want to become involved with Community Emergency Response. The Net takes place on ARRG's Cedar Mill 147.38 (+) (tone 100.0 hz) repeater. John says they've enjoyed using this repeater over the years and that ARRG has continually provided excellent public service. John went on to say that their team has relied on the repeater for years and that they've never had a problem or technical issue with the repeater. The 147.380 repeater is also used weekly for emergency drills, exercises and events. John said that the repeater's great coverage in the area is a real asset to the community.

The Beaverton CERT Radio Team proudly supports the Amateur Radio Relay Group. John encourages everyone to support ARRG through membership and volunteering of time and resources.

Links to the Beaverton CERT Page:

[City of Beaverton CERT](#)

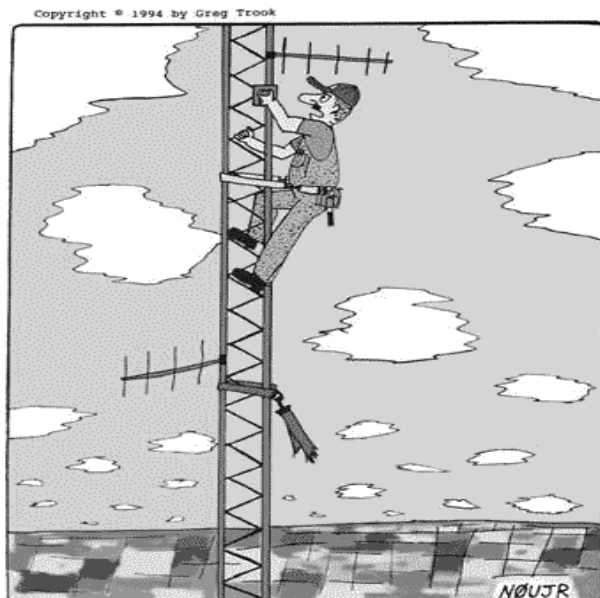
[Beaverton CERT Radio Team](#)

Ed Note: John monitors the 147.380 machine quite often and will be happy to answer any questions about the team and how you can get involved. You can contact John via email at: jtornblad@gmail.com



Talk about a dedicated Technical Team!

This is photo of Dee Lynch, K7JRB who was moving a complete set of 2 meter duplexers down off Mt. Fanny



"So Bob...why did your ex-wife give you a new climbing belt for Christmas?"

Technical Team Corner

By Peter Jones, KE7CKB

Here is a brief summary of some of the work currently being done on the K7RPT Oregon Repeater System:

The present plan is to do a controller swap between Portland/Sylvan and South Saddle Mountain. The goal is to have consistent controller codes between 147.04 and 147.32. Marc Douglas, AE7KK took on the challenge to come up with a standard program for the auto patch, repeater controls and documentation. There will be seven numbers for the various emergency contacts.

Previously the 147.04 radio had an echo distortion problem. An NHRC-7 was installed as a temporary solution, though it didn't have an autopatch controller. Marc and Jeff Scheetz, KF7HG, went through and re-seated all the chips, though they never found an audio problem. After several months of burn-in, there is a high confidence that the radio will operate with no problems.

When that project is done they will take out the South Saddle repeater and install a Micor uni-chassis that Mark Walker, W7CLU has recrystalled and tuned. Then they will re-install and test the repaired controller on site.

The Technical Team is always looking for others to help out on these projects. So if you enjoy digging into repeaters, running hardline up a tower or sweeping an antenna and you want to join the team, drop us a line or tag along on one of our trips! We appreciate any help we can get.

73, Peter Jones KE7CKB

Amateur License Testing Sessions

OTVARC SESSIONS Exam sessions are held on the first Saturday of each month except June at 1:00 PM at the Hillsboro Fire Department, Ronler Acres Station, 4455 NW 229th Street, Hillsboro, Oregon.

All exam elements are administered at each session. You may verify any exam schedule at <http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session> as any changes will be posted there.

The test fee is \$15.00. Bring check or money order payable to ARRL VEC and a photo ID. Applicants upgrading must bring the original AND a photocopy of their current license. Contact Carl Clawson, WS7L, 503.629.5796, ws7l@arrl.net, to preregister.

KA0TP SESSIONS SE PDX/Milwaukie "First Sunday" VE testing. 7:00 pm at the Roundtable Pizza at 82nd Ave and King Rd. Walk-ins welcome! Please come early. Bring Photo ID, photocopy of current license or other paperwork, Pen, pencils, and check for \$15 made out to the ARRL. We accept cash if you have exact change but all funds are submitted to ARRL, as we keep nothing locally. Contact KA0TP - Tom at ka0tp@aol.com or cell 503-318-5399 2012 schedule: July 1, Aug 5, Sep2, Oct 7, Nov 4, Dec 2

PARG SESSIONS PARG has test session on the Westside by Capitol Hwy and Barbur Blvd. on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 8:00 pm. For more information and for info on other test sessions in the area, see ARRL Exam Search at arrl.org website.