



The WA7VE

www.freewebs.com/wa7ve_stars 1300 2nd Avenue #12 Seaside, OR. 97138 503-717-3484

March 2011
Volume 4
Issue 5

Area Nets

The STARS ARES net meets on the WA7VE repeater at 145.490 Mhz. at 7:00 PM Wednesday evening.

The WH0Net (Women Ham Operators) meets on the W7BU repeater at 145.450 at 8:00 PM Sunday evenings.

The Clatsop County 10 Meter Net runs at 7:00 PM every Tuesday evening on 28.305 Mhz. Chuck (NN7U) usually operates as net control. Technician class operators may use this frequency. It is a good way to break in to the HF world. It is not an ARES check in. You check in and tell the net what you have been up to in Ham radio for the week and rag chew a bit.

The monthly STARS membership meeting is scheduled for Saturday May 14th. at 5pm at the Clatsop Community College Seaside campus at 1455 N. Roosevelt.

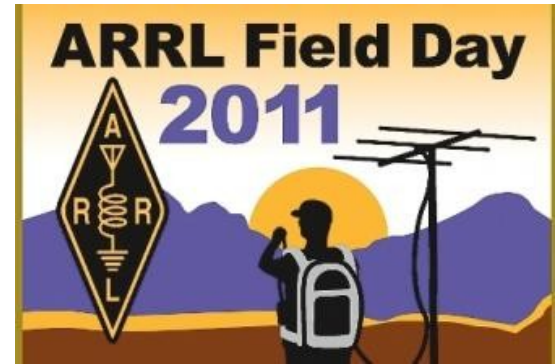
Fox Hunt Report

Once upon a time in a land far, far away (behind Seaside High School), eight intrepid, indomitable hams began their trek to find The Fox. They met on a cold and blustery Saturday (April 2nd) and set out on their epic journey. They gambled their lives and their fortunes to find out which one would come out on top. Okay, okay so that was a bit melodramatic. The fox itself was a bit recalcitrant. It failed for a brief time, but our fearless leader, Jeff Holwedge (AB7DN), healed said aforementioned fox with divine intervention and the chase was back on. One participant powered wheelchair broke down and he fell out of the competition. If you want to know who won, come to the membership meeting.



Has The Time Arrived to Upgrade Your License?

With Field Day (and the fun of outdoor ham operations) approaching, isn't it time to sign up for that upgrade class? Contact Roxanne at ab7ho@charter.net and advise her you are interested in a class. Remember, the General Question Pool changes at the end of June 2011.



Field Day Planning Continues

ARRL Field Day

Northgate Park — Seaside, OR.

June 25-26th 2011

We want to take a good bit of time in our next membership meeting discussing our plans, reviewing our needs and discussing our goals. If you are unable to serve on one of the committee's please help by spending some time at Field Day, helping us and helping the public.

Thanks COSTCO!

Your donation of \$25.00 towards STARS 2011 Field Day expense is *really* appreciated.

Please coordinate all donation and/or discount requests through the club. We do not want several different members approaching the same businesses for the same type of donation.

SEAPAC

We will raffle off a Kenwood TH-F6A (a tri-band handheld) with all the goodies as a fund raiser for this year. We will have a table at SEAPAC. If you would like to sell tickets and/or work at the STARS table during SEAPAC please contact the club.

Please buy tickets for *other clubs radio raffles*. We want to avoid the embarrassment of one of our members winning our clubs raffle. It happened to another club last year.

STARS April Meeting

21 members attended our meeting. A good time was had by all. Invite your interested friends to our May meeting.

Coming Soon!!

<http://www.wa7ve.org>

Bob Lundy (KE7TAI) of Cannon Beach has graciously offered to assist us in porting our web site at freewebs.com to our very own domain of wa7ve.org. There will be more to come on this exciting news!

ARES Check-Ins for April

Last month we had three different net controls and 84 check ins. Yes, you read that right. 84 check ins. We have an amazing group!

Classified Ad's

If you have something to sell or trade, that relates to ham radio or its activities, email the information to wa7ve@charter.net. It will appear in the next newsletter. No charge, of course, but since we operate on dues and donations any donation from the sale would be greatly appreciated.

For Sale — MFJ-290MY hand held microphone for newer Yaesu HF rigs. It has the 8 pin modular plug. The item is new in an unopened box. Contact Cache, KF7IRU 717-3207

This is where your ad could appear next month.

STARS Contacts

If you need to contact the club you may telephone, snail mail, email or try us on the '49 repeater.

Seaside Tsunami Amateur Radio Society C/O
Hal Denison
1300 Second Avenue #12
Seaside, OR. 97138

Email: wa7ve@charter.net

Phone: Pat Haggard (KE7DOX) 503-717-3484.

STARS Officers & Board of Directors

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Trustee | Hal Denison WA7FIV |
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Help us Grow The Club

It is our goal to reach a membership of 100 this year. We cannot do it without the help of all our current members. Please contact a ham that you know and ask them to join our club. Discuss emergency communications and disaster preparation with your friends and acquaintances. We are building a great circle of friends as well as learning more about amateur radio and how to provide more versatile and effective communications during emergencies.

Hams & Eggs in Seaside

We meet at 8:00 AM Thursday at McKeown's restaurant. The first Thursday of each month we meet at a different restaurant. The location will be announced the night before on the Wednesday evening STARS ARES Net.



Fox Hunting With Your HT

There is no "standard" two-meter RDF setup for on-foot use by hams in the USA. Every ham who is experienced at it has his or her own idea of what works best in a given situation. Try the various methods described below and see which ones you like most.

Handie-Talkie (HT) Tricks

If you are a typical ham radio operator, all you need to get started quickly and find foxes successfully is your VHF/UHF handi-talkie (HT) and some simple accessories.

The most basic way is called the "body fade" or "body shield" technique that Jeff AB7DN showed us. Hold your HT tight against your chest and turn around slowly, looking for the direction at which your body blocks the signal while increasing the SWR of the antenna and diminishing the signal most effectively (the signal null). At this point, the signal is coming from *behind* you. Walk in the direction of the null, taking bearings at regular intervals, and observe the signal strength get stronger.

When the signal is so strong that you can't find the null, tune 5 or 10 KHz off frequency. If your hand-held is dual-band (144/440 MHz) and you are hunting on two meters, try tuning to the much weaker third harmonic (3 times the VHF frequency) of the signal in the 70 cm band while performing the "body shield."

Disconnecting the HT's "rubber duck" antenna will reduce the signal even more. Hearing the signal with antenna off is usually a "You are here!" indicator. Some foxhunters wrap aluminum foil around their HTs to attenuate the signal even more. If you do this, be sure to put insulating tape over the battery charging terminals on the bottom of the set first. You might damage the radio by shorting these terminals with the foil.

The "body fade" null, which is rather shallow to begin with, can be filled in by signal reflections (multipath), nearby objects, etc. When using this method, stay away from large buildings, chain-link fences, metal signs, and the like. If you do not get a good null, move to a clearer location and try again. Good luck finding that fox next time.



Nuggets for Newbie's

So *where* is this '49 (145.490) repeater I have been using actually located, *what* does it look like and *how* did we get it?

Jeff Holwedge (AB7DN), one of our (STARS) founding fathers is the person who convinced the City of Seaside to fund a repeater. He did the foot work, leg work and brain work. He made the contacts and worked many hours on the project. The club and Seaside owe him a special note of gratitude for his tireless efforts to improve emergency communications in the area.

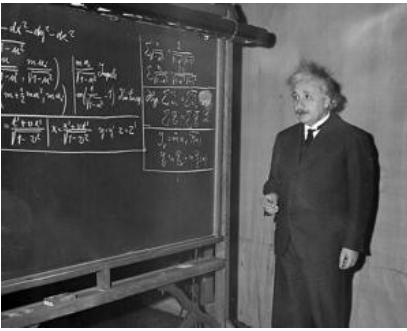
The repeater is owned by City of Seaside. We (STARS) did not get it. We are allowed to use it. It is a commercial quality system made by ADVANCED COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS, in Groveland, MA.

The controller is made and setup by COMPUTER AUTOMATION TECHNOLOGY, INC, in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

The installation at the water treatment plant, South of Seaside, was performed by Pacific Public Safety from Warrenton.

Photo by Hal Denison WA7FIV





Ask an Elmer

Packet Shmacket!!, can someone take me through the process of setting up a packet station from beginning to end, step by step for a rookie? You betcha!

This is Part 1 of a multi-part tale. In this episode we will begin to set up a packet station using your computers sound card instead of a TNC (Terminal Node Controller).

FIRST, I could/would not dedicate my work horse Yaesu 857D HF/VHF rig to this project. I found a n inexpensive 2 meter rig on Ebay for \$55.00. It was an older Yaesu FT-2200 mobile rig. I planned on using it for EMCOMM so 12 volt DC operation was best for my situation. The little rig can put out 5, 25 or 50 watts all day long. It can do sub audible tones so it can also be pressed into use for repeater work if needed. The rig has a reputation of being as reliable as an anvil. I like that.



SECOND. I needed a computer with a sound card. I had an old one with a 20 Gigabyte hard drive in storage so I blew out the cobwebs, cleaned the fans and heat sinks and made it appear presentable. *I also made sure my wife knew I had not spent any money acquiring the little gem!* I installed all the latest Windows XP operating system updates and updated the antivirus software and defragmented the hard disk drive. Once I tested the sound card I was good-to-go as they say. The cost of the PC was basically zero. If you need to acquire a PC look for one with a sound card and a serial interface (DB-9). It will provide for more versatility in the future. You also will find more options for the interface device between the PC and the radio.

THIRD, I needed a sound card interface so I Googled for my options and found a Rascal II Plus at BuxComm. You order the radio cable with the Rascal at no extra charge. The whole thing was around \$60 bucks.



At this point, I will refer you to the BuxComm setup guide PDF file that is attached to this email for their instructions.

Next month we will do a TNC setup for you and also include some packet radio nomenclature and some specific packet radio software training that will be relevant to this and any other packet setups you might do.

Remember, you can contact the club if you need technical help for the radio or the computer. We can put you in touch with an Elmer.

TRAINING CLASSES

Contact Roxann Holwedge at ab7ho@charter.net

Technician — TBA

General — TBA

Extra — TBA

Morse Code — TBA

Packet Radio — TBA

Basic Electronics — TBA

Belly Dancing is no longer offered.

VE SESSIONS

Available by contacting Roxann Holwedge at the above email address.

Just When You Thought All You Had to Worry About was an Earthquake and or a Tsunami

Japan Quake Caused Severe Soil Collapse

The scale of Japan's March 11 earthquake and tsunami wasn't the only thing that surprised geologists.

The 9.0 earthquake in Japan — the fourth most powerful quake ever recorded — also caused an unusually severe and widespread shift in soil through liquefaction, a new study suggests.

Near coastlines, harbors and rivers, earthquakes can make the wet, sandy soil jiggle, turning it temporarily from a solid to a liquid state, a process known as liquefaction. Heavy sand and rock sinks, while water and lighter sand bubble to the surface. The slurry spreads, often toward the water, and the surface shifts.

Japan's liquefaction occurred over hundreds of miles, surprising even experienced engineers who are accustomed to seeing disaster sites, including from the recent earthquakes in Chile and New Zealand.

Other areas vulnerable

The study raises questions about whether existing building codes in other vulnerable locations can enable structures to withstand massive liquefaction, including in areas of Oregon, Washington and California.

"We've seen localized examples of soil liquefaction as extreme as this before, but the distance and extent of damage in Japan were unusually severe," said Scott Ashford, a study team member from Oregon State University.

"Entire structures were tilted and sinking into the sediments, even while they remained intact," said Ashford, who is based in Corvallis, Ore. "The shifts in soil destroyed water, sewer and gas pipelines, crippling the utilities and infrastructure these communities need to function. We saw some places that sank as much as 4 feet," or 1.2 meters.

Long-lasting quake

The duration of the Japanese earthquake, about five minutes, could be the key to the severity of the liquefaction and may force researchers to reconsider the extent of liquefaction damage possible.

"With such a long-lasting earthquake, we saw how structures that might have been okay after 30 seconds just continued to sink and tilt as the shaking continued for several more minutes," Ashford said. "And it was clear

that younger sediments, and especially areas built on recently filled ground, are much more vulnerable."

An event almost exactly like Japan's is expected in the Pacific Northwest from the Cascadia Subduction Zone, and the new findings make it clear that liquefaction will be a critical issue in the young soils there.

"Young" sediments, in geologic terms, are those deposited within the past 10,000 years or so. In Oregon, for instance, that describes much of downtown Portland, the Portland International Airport, nearby industrial facilities and other cities and parts of the Willamette Valley.

About 1,100 bridges in Oregon are at risk from an earthquake on the Cascadia Subduction Zone, according to the Oregon Department of Transportation. Fewer than 15 percent of them have been retrofitted to prevent collapse.

Some damage may be reduced or prevented by different construction techniques or retrofitting, Ashford said. But another reasonable goal is to at least anticipate the damage — to know what will probably be destroyed, make contingency plans for what will be needed to implement repairs, and design ways to help protect and care for residents until services can be restored, the researchers say.

OurAmazingPlanet Staff, LiveScience.com
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Are you ready for this? Really??



REALLY???