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The Newsletter of the Multnomah County Amateur Radio Emergency Services

July 2015

Meetings

Multnomah County ARES

Every 4th Thursday

7:00 P.M.

Portland Fire & Rescue CTR

4800 NE 122nd Avenue, Portland

<http://www.multnomahares.org/>

PARC Meeting

Every 4th Friday

7:30 P.M.

One Liberty Center

650 NE Holladay Street, Portland

<http://www.w7lt.org/>

HARC Meeting

Every 3rd Thursday

Mount Hood Comm. College

Room 1001

<http://www.wb7qiw.org/>



ARES trailer at field day- working that HF station

Nets

Multnomah Co. ARES Net

Wednesdays at 7:00 P.M.

146.84 (no Tone)

District 1 ARES Net

Daily at 7:30 P.M.

147.320 (PL Tone 100.0)

Northwest Oregon Traffic

and Training Net

Daily 6:05 P.M.

145.27, 145.43, 145.47, 146.84,

443.150 & 442.275

(All have a PL tone of 107.2)

Upcoming Events

July 23 MCARES General Meeting

Go Kit Show and Tell in the parking lot. All members encouraged to bring their personal survival and radio go kits to show and share.

Aug. 9 Providence Bridge Pedal

Contact Jim Schaeffer KB7ADH scmmpdx@aol.com

Aug. 15-16 Multnomah ARES Radio Camp Out

Contact Robert WX5TEX RGAnglin@gmail.com

Sept. 12 Drill From Home

Practice writing and sending NTS formatted traffic and going off frequency to handle traffic.

Sept. 20 Race for the Cure

Contact: Pat Roberson W7PAT 7pat@yahoo.com

Oct. 4 Portland Marathon

https://portlandmarathon.org/volunteer/volunteer_individual.php

Oct. 10 Fall SET Quake EX II

We will need everyone possible to participate. Please save the date!

Oct. 17 Disaster Relief Trials

Cargo bike challenge. Communications for this event are provided by Multnomah County ARES. Contact Brian: KE7QPV ke7qpv@arrl.net

FOR SALE

- Yaesu MH-31a8j microphone
- Yaesu NC-50 dual slot rapid charger (2 available)
- Comet CF-142 duplexer (3 available)



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- Comet CF-530 duplexer (1 available)
- Comet CFX-4310 triplexer (1 available)

\$25.00 for each item

Contact: Robert Anglin:
rganglin@gmail.com or 503-747-8696

Training News

The July meeting is one of our most popular. It's an informal time to socialize and see everyone's latest go kits from the humblest HT to the most robust of portable radio gear. Our trailer will be there for all to check out as well. Also I know some of our members have some great personal survival gear from tents to cookware to meals, so bring the items that are interesting and fun to share. If you missed Field Day, this is the next best thing.

Thanks to Steve W7SRH and John KG7JKN for volunteering to write feature articles for our newsletter. They will alternate months with Steve giving us a great Field Day piece this month.

Membership News

Welcome to our newest member, Andrew Thomas W7TKX.

Many thanks to all of our ARES members who attended Field Day on Kelly Butte

We are hoping to have an ARES information and recruiting booth at the Sunday Parkways event on July 26 in NE Portland.
<http://www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/58929>

There are two more of these events happening this year: Aug. 23 in SE Portland and Sep. 27 in SW Portland. If you would like to meet your neighbors and promote Multnomah County ARES, contact our PIO Steve W7SRH at hallstr@hotmail.com

We are making progress on the state ARES "Red Cards." It is our hope to have cards for all of our eligible members by the end of the year. You must be an active, ARRO certified member and pass a background check. I may be contacting you for a new background check authorization form.

Field Day 2015 by Steve Hall W7SRH

I have been a licensed ham for nearly twenty years but this is the first year I participated in Field Day (FD). But hey... thanks to the folks at the Portland Amateur Radio Club (PARC) and Multnomah County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (MCARES), I'm already looking forward to next year.

I sat down with Pete Rodabaugh W7PR, Secretary Treasurer of PARC, a few days after FD to get his perspective on this year's event. According to Pete, this was the first year the MCARES unit officially partnered with PARC in the FD contest. And yes, it is a contest. One of about 19 contests sponsored by the

American Radio Relay League (ARRL) each year.

The real purpose of FD, along with being a contest and having fun, is to practice and demonstrate ham radio capabilities for emergency situations. The objective, according to the ARRL web site, is "To work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur bands (some exceptions) and to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions." FD is regularly scheduled the fourth full weekend in June and begins at 11:00 a.m. Saturday and runs through 11:00 a.m. Sunday local time.

FD operations were set up at Kelly Butte east of Portland, just off of I-205. Pete told me that years back, PARC used to hold their regular meetings up at OMSI when it was at the zoo. This was also the site for FD. Along with being a good operating site, it also provided good public exposure for amateur radio.

For those of you who are history buffs, Kelly Butte is named after pioneer Clinton Kelly, who, according to Wikipedia, settled the area east of the Willamette River, in what's now southeast Portland, in 1848. It is a natural area, maintained by Portland Parks and Recreation and covers an area of about 23 acres. Pete told me that there are still descendants of Mr. Kelly in the area, and a couple of years ago one of the family members attended the PARC FD. The Butte was once the site of a civil defense emergency operations center, built in 1955-56. The bunker is no longer in use and has been sealed. In the past the Butte was also home to a sixty-bed



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municipal hospital, a quarry, and a ten-million gallon water tank, replaced by the Mt. Tabor reservoirs.

My FD actually started on Friday. Along with about a dozen other volunteers we met mid-morning to prepare the site and set the lines which would be used to raise the antennas on Saturday morning. Pete uses what I would refer to as a “mini-spud-gun.” This is an ingenious contraption made out of PVC pipe fitted with some valves and a pressure tank that is charged by a small, portable compressor. Pete uses the “gun” to launch a tennis ball which is attached to fishing reel and line. The ball is launched over the huge fir trees on the site. Then, stronger support line is attached and is then used to support the actual antennas. My hat is off to Pete and the rest of the antenna crew. Knowing where to locate the antenna and stringing it up is as much art as science.

On FD Saturday morning I met MCARES members John K7TY and Ross KD7TUR at the “Texas Hydro-Park” near Multnomah Village here in Portland. It is close to where I live and at an elevation of about 600 ft. The three of us set up QRP stations and operated for several hours with only minimal success. John and Ross both used Elecraft units and I set up Yaesu 817. By the way, John biked all the way from his home in north Portland pulling his gear in a mini bike trailer. That's dedication to both ham radio and biking.

Saturday afternoon, I made my way

over to Kelly Butte to join the PARC/MCARES FD operations. I partnered with several other operators using Adam's KF7LJH Elecraft HF unit on 20 and 80 meters. We took turns at the radio and entering contacts in the logging software. Sorting out some of those pile-ups was a real challenge. But when you finally make the contact... that's a great feeling. For those who haven't experienced it, it's quite “addictive.” I remember thinking... “I got to get this one.”

At the PARC FD site, we operated as W7LT, category 4A, (four stations, club, battery), Oregon section. This category limits transmit power to 5 watts. One of the reasons to operate low power (QRP) according to Pete, is that each contact is worth more points than if you were operating at say 100 watts.

MCARES played a prominent role in this year's event by locating the com-trailer on the site. Numerous MCARES members participated on air or visited the site. Many contributed food and beverages for the event. I especially enjoyed the fried chicken!

According to Pete, Lea, AL7W, who was essentially the only CW operator, made approximately 175 contacts on 20, 40 and 80 meters. Lea was operating a vintage ICOM radio. Other equipment used included the Elecraft K3, an ICOM 7100 and a Yaesu 857. The antenna included a ZL special wire beam, a 40 meter horizontal loop and an 80 meter dipole as well as a “Buddipole.” Official results from the contest are still being tabulated according to Adam and will be published in the December issue of QST Magazine.

I asked Pete how this year compared to previous PARC FD events. He indicated that he thought attendance was up, in part due to the joint participation of PARC and MCARES. He anticipated that the number of contacts would be about average compared to previous years and that PARC would once again place in the top five finishers in the FD contest, nation-wide.

In years past, Pete indicated that the club had erected towers, with beams and rotators making set-up more complicated and frankly more dangerous. Safety is much less of an issue with the all-wire antenna set-up. The Butte has plenty of space for other antenna set-ups. PARC has more types of antennas available in the “tool bag” and Pete said if there is interest, the club would be willing help with the construction of other antenna types if they are not currently available. He is hopeful that future events will include satellite communications with other ground stations via orbiting satellites and with the International Space Station. Satellite contacts garner big points! Pete said in coming years he would like to see more CW operators, for two reasons. First, it would help to keep the discipline alive, and second, there is also a point multiplier when CW contacts are made, helping to increase the overall contest score.

I left Kelly Butte at about 10:30 p.m. Saturday evening and returned at about 9 a.m. Sunday. A number of PARC and MCARES members staffed the stations all night. The event concluded at 11a.m. And then it was time to take down the antennas, stow the pop-up canopies and button up the MCARES trailer. As you can imagine, this entails



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a lot of work but thanks to the efforts of the many volunteers who helped, the take-down seemed to go smoothly.

I want to say thanks to those seasoned hams who helped me enjoy my first FD. I appreciated the opportunity to see how the event is set up and to experience the real satisfaction of making those contacts, helping to rack-up what will hopefully be sufficient points to once again place PARC in the top Field Day contest finishers in the country!

Featured Member Profile Steve W7SRH

Steve Hall, W7SRH, has been an active member of MCARES since



January 2014. Asked what he most enjoys about ARES, he emphasized the chance to learn from other members: "Manuals only get you so far.

Working with more experienced operators speeds the learning process and, frankly, makes it fun."

Steve also highlighted the opportunities to participate in community events and to serve as part of the amateur radio community to plan to meet emergency needs.

Steve is a member of the MCARES Red Cross served agency team. Steve has completed the MCARES

ARO certification and is currently working on his Net Control certification. He is also a member of the Portland Amateur Radio Club. Steve has supported the MS Walk, the Reach the Beach ride, the Portland Bridge Peddle ride, and the Portland Marathon. He lends his radio capabilities to his local Neighborhood Emergency Team serving as the Communications Lead/ARO for the Multnomah Village NET.

Steve also volunteers with the American Red Cross and the Columbia Slough Watershed Council. Boating has been a life-long avocation, and he draws on this to help the Watershed Council with their canoe excursions on the Slough. You may also encounter Steve out kayaking our local rivers and lakes.

Steve hails from Petoskey, Michigan and still visits frequently to see friends and family. Before moving to the Portland area, Steve lived in Houston, Texas where he worked for Baylor College of Medicine, Memorial Care System, and St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital in the Texas Medical Center. Steve retired a few years ago from Kaiser Permanente where he worked in Human Resources for nearly 20 years.

Just recently, Steve agreed to serve MCARES as our Public Information Officer and to contribute articles to our monthly newsletter.

More Ways to Stay in Touch

NET net Mondays 7:30 P.M.
146.94 MHz

PSK Digital net Fridays 8:00 P.M.
3.579 Mhz+1500 cycles
Email Focus Groups:

- newham@multnomahares.org
- digital@multnomahares.org
- Technical@multnomahares.org
- Leadership@multnomahares.org
- Trailer@multnomahares.org

This space is for you. Please submit a short article, your own Featured Member Profile Story, ads for items to sell or trade, or pictures of anything radio or ARES-related.
Email to: newsletter@multnomahares.org
Thanks!