



# High Desert Amateur Radio Group

Monthly Newsletter



VOLUME 1 NUMBER 5

MAY 2015

## 2015 Leadership

### Elected Positions

#### President

Ray Spreier, KG7AV  
hidarg-pres@hidarg.org

#### Vice President

Joe Barry, K7SQ  
hidarg-vpres@hidarg.org

#### Secretary

Max Vaughan, KF7MAX  
hidarg-sec@hidarg.org

#### Treasurer

John Cherry, KE7GYB  
hidarg-tres@hidarg.org

#### Director At Large

Brian Case, KF7WPK  
hidarg-mal@hidarg.org

### Appointed Positions

#### ARES Coordinator

Andy Johnson, KE7TMU

#### St. Charles R7HPP Liaison

Pending

#### Technical Director

Bill Johnson, N7RGB

#### W7JVO Repeater Trustee

Joe Barry, K7SQ

#### Licensing / VE Coordinator

Joe Barry, K7SQ

#### PIO / Media Contact

Don Shurtleff, WB0DVS

#### Scouting / JOTA Liaison

Mike Williams, KB7KLT

#### Newsletter Editor

Ray Spreier, KG7AV

#### Webmaster

Bryan Ivie, N7VME

### Meetings

#### Weekly Lunch Gathering

Wednesdays at Noon  
Jake's Diner in Bend

#### Monthly Business Meeting

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the Month  
7:00pm  
Saint Charles Medical Ctr. Or  
Mid Oregon Credit Union

#### HIDARG - W7JVO

PO Box 723  
Bend, Oregon 97709  
USA  
www.hidarg.org

## What Happened?

“Why is the newsletter so skinny this month?”, you may be asking. Simple answer – the newsletter takes a group effort. The editor puts out the call for articles and invites suggestions and people to step up to be featured in the bio. If no one comes forth with articles, or no one is willing to be the highlighted operator of the month, then the result is predictable. QUA becomes QRU.

In January the club indicated that communication, building social community, and honoring our past were all important. The newsletter is a key vehicle for helping to make that reality. I'm grateful for all the efforts of those who have helped with material for the newsletter to date, and I look forward to what is yet possible. May is upon us, and we're entering into high activity season. There will be lots to report. Please, don't be bashful – the point of the club is to honor all of the personalities and various ways that one can approach amateur radio. Every operator, every station, and every interest is important and we all have a great story to tell.

73 / Ray KG7AV



## Comms Trailers. When it Rains...

This past month, the trailer working group took delivery of the trailer that will eventually serve as a home to the 50 foot telescoping mast that was graciously donated by Austin WA5CAW. The team is now embarking on the work of engineering the additional topside structures and storage.

And when it rains it pours. ODOT has approached ARES with an offer to let ARES modify and use a trailer with a telescoping mast that had previously been used as a mobile traffic light / warning sign. This trailer will come equipped with support for solar power and rack mount equipment. Plans are to provision the trailer as a mobile repeater.

It's a blessing to have such options.

## Radio Merit Badge Update

The planned May 2 meeting at ODOT fell through due to facility restrictions mandated by the State of Oregon. Mike KB7KLT continues to work with individual Scouts who are trying to wrap up their merit badges.

Stay tuned, and let's look for additional opportunities for getting the Scouts on the air.



## KF7IKY St. Charles Bend

Many thanks to all who worked hard to get the KF7IKY station up and running in time for the Cascadia SET on April 25<sup>th</sup>. The station was powered up for the SET, and successful contacts were made on all critical modes – VHF voice and digital, HF voice, and HF factor. We will continue to trim out the station with updated documentation and creature comforts (like chairs).

The station is now located in an FAA secured facility – the AirLink hangar. This necessitates some access restrictions that we are currently working to address. At this time, we're developing a picture ID sheet of key HiDARG and ARES operators for the AirLink personnel who monitor their security / comms room 7x24. Concurrently, Ken Quiner, the SCMC Emergency Manager, is inquiring on our behalf in hopes of obtaining a limited number of access badges for the building. Ken also shared that he is an incoming Board member for the local Red Cross chapter, and plans to advocate for participation in comms training. This is all new territory for all involved, and SCMC is committed to doing whatever it takes to support their emergency communications.

Ken was scheduled to address the HiDARG monthly meeting in May, but ran into a conflict with R7HPP Cascadia meetings in Hood River. He has it 'carved in stone' on his calendar to be with us for the June meeting.



## Experimental Keyboard-to-Keyboard Modes

Two recent modes are gaining notice. ARDOP (Amateur Radio Digital Open Protocol) is a project by Winlink / Winmor developers to create a cross-platform, open source TNC to eventually replace Winmor. Rick KN6KB is one of the primary developers. The ARDOP Chat application that comes with the test release of the TNC supports keyboard-to-keyboard communication. Both ARQ (connected) and FEC (multicast) modes are supported at 200, 500, 1K, and 2K bandwidths. The protocol uses 4FSK modulation, and is supported on both VHF (SSB and FM) and HF (SSB).

FSQCall originates from New Zealand operators Con ZL2AFP and Murray ZL1BPU. FSQ stands for Fast Simple QSO. It is a similar directed message system, but shares some features found in ALE for link establishment, unattended ops, and group messaging. The application also supports image transfer. FSQ is based on offset incremental frequency keying (IFK+), a differential offset variant of MFSK developed by Steve VK2XV.

The editor has been working with both apps for the past few weeks. I eagerly anticipate the arrival of a cross-platform soundcard TNC to replace Winmor. ARDOP Chat is pretty straightforward and easy to use. My impression is that FSQCall is the more mature P2P chat application, as it has features that are quite appealing for emergency net applications.

ARDOP - [https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/ardop\\_development/info](https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/ardop_development/info)  
FSQCall - <http://www.qsl.net/zl1bpu/MFSK/FSQweb.htm>  
ARDOP and FSQCall Frequencies - <http://www.obriensweb.com/sked/index.php?board=digitalradio>

### Statement of Financial Condition as of 7 May 2015

Bank of America Opening Balance 1 Jan 2015.....	7,175.60
Income YTD.....	1,245.50
Expenses YTD.....	1,460.06
Bank of America Closing Balance 24 Mar 2015.....	6,961.04
(a) Paypal Balance (HiDARG).....	262.09
(b) HiDARG (includes (a)) Unrestricted .....	1,931.83
(c) ARES Designated Funds.....	3,352.45
(d) Drew Holmes Fund (Outreach and Education).....	1,938.85
(e) Trailer Fund (included in (b)).....	100.00
(f) Total Fund Balances (b+c+d).....	7,223.13
Subtract PayPal to balance to BofA (f-a).....	6,961.04

### Upcoming Meeting Topics

Monthly Business Meeting – 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the Month  
This month: SET review, SCMC station status, trailer update, website update, High Desert Maker update, upcoming events (there are many!).

### Nets

+ JeffCro Net – Mondays 1900H, 147.38+ PL 162.2  
+ HiDARG Weekly 2m – Tuesdays 1900H  
See the [HiDARG website](#) a list of repeaters.  
+ HiDARG 2m Simplex – Mondays, and Tuesdays following JeffCro and HiDARG nets, 146.58 MHz

### 2015 FCC Licensing Test Sessions

11 Mar, 29 Apr, 03 Jun, 15 Jul, 19 Aug, 30 Sep, 4 Nov, 15 Dec  
Deschutes Public Library, downtown Bend branch, upstairs  
For more information, contact Joe Barry, K7SQ

## Upcoming Club Events

### Pole Pedal Paddle – Saturday, May 16

Volunteers needed to provide safety and welfare communications along the course route. Volunteers are well treated (T shirt, lunch, etc). Please contact Jim Sellers N7RDN at 541-382-5740 or use the web link below to sign up: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/XSMRDQB>

### American Volkspart McKenzie River Walk – Sunday, June 14

The AVA national convention will be held in Eugene, and this event is one of the convention activities. Operators needed to man a roughly 7 mile route from Clear Lake to the Carmen Diversion Reservoir and back. Please use the web link below to sign up: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/9GZMV28>

### ARRL Field Day 2015 – Weekend of June 27-28

Field Day is quickly approaching! Max KF7MAX has been researching potential venues. The club has tried to alternate years between a “remote” QTH for camping and low noise levels, and a more public venue to raise awareness about amateur radio in the community. Stay tuned for updates.

## From the Treasurer

An update to an old story. The club has received a restitution check via the State of Oregon for just over \$500. We now stand at about at about 40% recovery of the prior loss from several years ago.

## Simplex Nets

Jeff KE7ACY has been doing yeoman's duty in getting the new simplex nets off the ground. The simplex nets meet each Monday immediately following the JeffCro ARES/RACES net, and each Tuesday immediately following the HiDARG weekly net. Each simplex net convenes on 146.58 Mhz. Simplex nets present some unique opportunities :

- To 'map' operators directly reachable from your QTH.
- To experiment with different rigs and antennas on the fly during the net.
- Open forum for discussion. Some great ideas have been brought up for future potential club activities.

As a general rule, **we need net control operators**. Jeff has updated the script and the instruction for activating and deactivating the Dead Indian link. No one is judging you, no one is grading you. On the contrary, participants are grateful for your efforts and your contribution. We have a handful of folks who tend to take at least one net a month. If every club member would pitch in an take *just one net* during the remainder of the year – we'd likely have everything covered.



## Mark Your Calendar

### May

7 Monthly Business Meeting – 7pm  
13 DesCo ARES – 6:30 pm ODOT Bend  
16 Pole Pedal Paddle – Comms Support

### June

4 Monthly Business Meeting – 7 pm  
10 DesCo ARES – 6:30 pm ODOT Bend  
14 AVA McKenzie Walk – Comms Support  
27-28 ARRL Field Day