QUA

High Desert Amateur Radio Group

Monthly Newsletter



VOLUME 2 NUMBER 1 JANUARY 2016

2016 Leadership

Elected Positions

President

Ray Spreier, KG7AV hidarg-pres@hidarg.org

Vice President

Darrell Fevergeon, KD6WWK 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 Max Vaughan, KF7MAX

Webmaster Bryan Ivie, N7VME

Meetings

Weekly Lunch Gathering Wednesdays at 11:30am Jake's Diner in Bend

Monthly Business Meeting 1st Thursday of every Month

At 7:00pm Mid Oregon Credit Union

> HIDARG - W7JVO PO Box 723 Bend, Oregon 97709

> > USA www.hidarg.org

On the Air with W2NSD Wayne Greene (sk)

Love him or hate him, if you have been into ham radio for at least a decade or two, you surely have heard of W2NSD. Wayne passed away on Sept 13th, 2013 at 91. For those of you who may have missed it. QST had a short article about his passing. CQ also did a small notice in their magazine as well. Neither magazine did much justice to his life or any of his actual accomplishments. To quote from an article shortly after his death by K7JPD "Depending on whom you listen to, he was a visionary, a crank, delusional, eccentric, generous, lecherous, honest, optimistic, boundlessly energetic, or all of the above and maybe a few more." Link below. Wayne was "El-Supremo" of 73 magazine. His editorials are legendary.

Back in the mid 60's when I was a young lad blowing breakers in my basement lab, teaching myself about all things electrical. The local library had 73 on it's shelf. I would go there and spend half the day reading it. Taking notes on interesting articles that helped me to pursue my interest in electronics. Over the next decade or two, when I had spare funds I would buy a number of issues through out the year at the local grocery store, and absorb their content. I always read his Never Say Die column first thing, my impressions back then were that he was very adamant in pushing anything new that could be tied to ham radio, and even stuff that was not ham related. A few years ago, I stumbled over a site that had every copy of 73 magazine ever published in PDF format. After a few weeks of taking spare moments, I had them all downloaded and saved out to my hard drive, taking around 16.7 GB of space. Sept 2003 was the last issue of 73. Unfortunately it closed its doors with virtually no notice to subscribers.

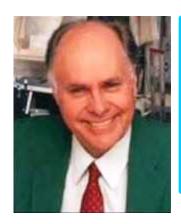
When ever I had time, I would pull up the next issue, and basically read it from cover to cover. Not every article, but those that caught my eye, or taught me something I didn't know. Those were of primary interests. I even started a file to index articles that are still relevant today for me today. I was also looking for tidbits of info on anything I could use in either my ham or electronics hobbies.

As always I would start reading with the NSD editorial section. Over the course of several months of wading through the issues, I began to get a sense of the man. His devotion to ham radio was what struck me the most, also I began to notice his comments relating to what the future might bring in the way of technology. Now for what it is worth, you really can't know a person just by what he continually raves, rants, or pushes out to the readership. However I did get a sense of what was import to Wayne as the decades rolled by.

Hopefully some ham or former colleague has taken up getting a definitive biography out about W2NSD. Ham radio owes this man a lot. It would be sad to see him fade into ham radio history as just a footnote. I truly believe he was just as important to ham radio as Hiram P. Maxim was. In truth Wayne was always critical of the ARRL and always said they could be so much better. He was right on many occasions, but his straight, shoot from the hip talk did not win him many friends in that organization. Wayne was a lifetime member, and supporter of their primary goals, to keep ham radio alive and out of the hands of government. He just knew that they could do so much better. His criticisms ranged from general nit-picking to honest ideas about how his suggestions could change the face of ham radio.

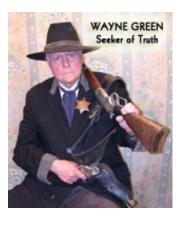
Who know where we might be today, if some of his better ideas had been taken more seriously. As I read through some of those suggestions from decades ago, it is surprising to see a number of them have actually come to light, though no credit seems to come back to Wayne for first shining a light on those ideas.

Least I try and turn this newsletter into my own rant, I have permission to add an article by Dan Romanchik KB6NU that was recently posted on his blog. After that some final thoughts and some links to find out more about W2NSD. One thing I can promise, Wane's life was far from boring. He was directly and indirectly responsible for a lot of things we take for granted in ham radio today and in technology in general. For example SSB, repeaters, computers, cell phones all owe their roots in how he was instrumental in getting these technologies pushed out and moving forward. (Page 2)---- KF7MAX



Wayne was a man of action; ANY idea was worth investigating, worth pursuing. If I heard it once, I heard Wayne say it a hundred times: "Raise Hell, and put a brick under it." It was his way of saying: "Don't just sit there, stir the pot. DO something!" I think Wayne lived his life by those words, raising Hell at every opportunity.

73 Wayne From Jeff DeTray NK1F (former employee)



Link to Orginal Blog posting. Type in your browser. http://www.kb6nu.com/what-would-wayne-do/

"What technologies do you think that Wayne Green would be telling us to get involved with today?" - Dan KB6NU

Wayne Green was a crackpot...but he was a great one.

For those of you who aren't as old as I am, Wayne Green, W2NSD, was not only the publisher of 73 Magazine, but also the founder of Byte and other PC magazines in the early days of personal computing. In 73, he would write these long, rambling editorials. Often, he would take the ARRL to task, criticizing what he thought to be some lunk-headed policy or another. Just as often, he'd be encouraging hams to take up some new technology. He was, for example, one of the guys driving hams to set up repeater systems.

He would often exhort hams to get started in their own technology-related business. I remember one column where he urged hams to get involved in the home-security business. And, of course, when personal computers became popular, he wrote that hams should think about getting into that business. His reasoning was that our knowledge of electronics would stand us in good stead in those businesses.

Today, I think that he would be telling us to get more involved in with technologies like the Internet of Things, WiFi, or whatever other wireless technology is coming down the pike. "Wireless" is the key word here. These networking technologies are based on good, old radio, and who better to push these technologies forward than guys like us who understand radio.

This point was brought home to me last week as I was interviewing an executive of a wireless company for an article that I'm writing. He said to me that many of the companies he works with are taking a software-centric view to their wireless products. They simply use the reference designs provided by the wireless chip makers and expect those designs to work flawlessly in their products.

While they often do, he gave me an example where simply using the reference design was a colossal failure. In one case, he said, the company mounted the board inside a metal enclosure. Since the antenna was part of the printed-circuit board, the enclosure acted like a shield and the device had little or no range.

He went on to say that he thought that there was a real shortage of experienced RF guys in the wireless industry. Does that sound like an opportunity to you? It does to me. I'm going to make like Wayne Green here and exhort all you guys to get out there and take advantage of it.

This is not only a business opportunity, but a way for amateur radio operators to fulfill a couple of the "purposes" of amateur radio, as set forth in Part 97.1 of the amateur radio regulations. Part 97.1(b) says that one of the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service is "Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art." According to Part 97.1(d), another purpose of the Amateur Radio Service is "Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts."

Let's do it! - KB6NU

Additional Commentary on W2NSD ... KF7MAX

As I mentioned earlier all the back issues of 73 magazine are in the Internet Archive, free to download and peruse at your leisure. In 2012 Wayne donated them to the Internet Archive Project. They can be freely distributed as long as no one charges any type of access for them, or makes them available for download. The collection takes up around 17gigs. They are in PDF format, and are search-able to some extent.

During the year and a half I spent pouring over every issue, I started a small index of articles that though dated, were still timeless in their content. I also made some notes on some very interesting predictions that he had done as well as some notes on his life experiences that he would on a number of occasions never fail to remind his readers about.

At the risk of making this newsletter all about W2NSD, I will include some text extracted from the 73 Jan 84 NSD column and close with that. I still have a paper copy of this issue, and it was one of the things that motivated me to become "more" interested in computers as a career option rather than just a new electronic toy in my workshop.

"73 Mag Jan 84 Never Say Die Extract."

"The next step, as I have written before, is a communications system which will allow all the desktop and laptop computers to almost instantly communicate with each other. Something along the line of our repeater systems, which would receive messages, check them for errors and roger them, then pass them along to the addressee, complete with a return roger of the message receipt, is so obvious that it will have to happen.

In a few years, any of us who want to will be able to communicate with anyone anywhere from anywhere. It won't make any difference if I am walking along the street, shopping in Singapore, or in New Hampshire on a ski slope-I'll be able to type or talk a message and have it delivered in a second or two anywhere to anyone.

This is going to change business beyond recognition. It is going to have a profound effect on education. We can't even lineage what it will do for personal relationships. Oh, busy people will have to have filters built into the system.

When my business was small I was available by phone at any time of the day or night. Today I'd be driven crazy with stockbrokers wanting to help me with my "portfolio" and investment counselors wanting to help me with my estate, not to mention people with investment ideas for my money and so on.

This communications demand is going to call for hundreds or thousands or even millions of technicians, engineers, and scientists to develop, manufacture, sell, install, operate, and service the systems it will take to do all this. It is mind-boggling in concept.

We'll be using fiber optics, lasers, microwaves, satellites, and anything else we can invent to speed things up and make them less expensive. Amateurs are in a beautiful spot to get in on this bonanza." – W2NSD

Ham radio lost a great legend on Sept 13, 2013. May his contributions and visions for our great hobby "Never Die". Hopefully someone will put together a decent biography of his life and those accomplishments. ... KF7MAX

Special Guests for HiDARG's March 3rd Monthly Meeting.

High Desert Amateur Radio Group will be hosting two special guests at our March meeting. All hams are invited to attend.

Everette Curry W6ABM, ARRL Oregon Section Manager. He is also editor of "The Oscillator," the quarterly journal and Secretary of the of Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club. He serves as Membership Chair and coordinates the General Class Upgrade series offered by the club annually. He is a charter member of the Tualatin Valley Contesters and serves as trustee for that club's license, W7TVC. He is also a

member of Willamette Valley DX Club.



Bruce Bjerke K7BHB, Oregon Section Emergency

Coordinator. First licensed in 1962 as WB2GMA, Bruce has since been involved in communications-electronics all his life. During a twenty-year career in the United States Air Force and Air National Guard, he served in Communications Operations, Communications Maintenance, Radar Maintenance, Computer Maintenance, as Squadron Chief of Communications-Electronics Maintenance, as Commander of Detachment 4, 1931st Communications Group, Air Force Communications Command, at HQ Air Force Communications Command, and in Tactical Air Control and Combat Communications units. He retired in 1991 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

In anticipation of their visit to us, we will be moving the venue to St. Charles Medical Center, as our normal location at Mid-Oregon Federal Credit Union is to small. Meeting room number to come later, but normally we have a sign posted in the main entrance as to the room number on the night of the meeting. Be sure to watch your HiDARG emails for more information and details. (ed)

Pine Mountain Repeater Issues.

During a few weeks in December we experienced some issues with the 147.700 repeater on Pine Mountain. I would activate and broadcast. Some of you may have heard the noise. After a period of time, the controller would time out, then it would drop. If someone keyed up the repeater the situation would start all over again. And there were times it would do it on it's own. This was after a period of heavy weather, so that may have played a part. We are not sure of the cause at this time, as getting on site is difficult during the winter without proper equipment. As of this writing it has cleared up. So feel free to use the system. If you notice the issue again, please inform one of the board members. During this issue we had the link to the Mt Stephenson Repeater and the Burns Sharps Ridge repeater disabled so as not to drain down those systems. (ed.)

Christmas Party Drawing Winners.

We had approximately 31 folks show up for the Christmas Party on Sat Dec 5th. Here is an incomplete rundown of folks that won some of the door prizes. Darrell KD6WWK also took some nice pictures, and provided this link if you wish to view them. Copy / Paste into your browser.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HEVIQn0kSWM

Dave (KF7CSV) & Sandee Schumacher (KA9UNA) Won the Baofung UV-5R Radio with mic and antenna, some filters and an LED Flashlight.

Ron W7TLQ won the Arrow Satellite antenna but the weather hasn't been conducive to looking for satellites with a hand held antenna lately! He's looking forward to looking for satellites with radios when the weather improves.

Bob, W7SCY won a "Slim Jim" J-pole antenna and put it to work immediately after the party. His signal has improved dramatically around the area!

Brady, W7YPZ won the radio & accessory chest pack

Max, KF7MAX won 2016 ARRL handbook for Radio Amateurs

Kent AF7QO Won a HiDARG shirt with the club logo.

Want to take this time thank all the attendee's that either donated prizes, and bought raffle tickets to help our general fund. We got a total of \$165 from the drawing.

Thursday Nights Jan 7th Meeting Notes.

Great attendance at the first business meeting for HIDARG in 2016. We had 29 in attendance, biggest I had seen in a long time. Great to see. We went through the standing committee reports, not much new. However we do have an opportunity to compete for having a tower trailer combo donated to the club. We are one of 3 clubs that need to propose how we will best use this equipment and how it will serve the public good. We need to document and submit a letter to the owners as to why we deserve to receive this donation. That is in the works and must be submitted by Jan 20^{th} at the latest. Details to follow. Some of you may remember this opertunity was presented to us back in Oct.

Joe Barry K7SQ was presented the HOO-TEE award. See article on the right.

The maker mill committee Austin WA5CAW, Max KF7MAX, Jeff KE7ACY, Brian KF7PKW meet with "Gator" one of the Maker Mill folks last Sat. To finalize their proposal to HIDARG for hosting a club station. The proposal from MM for HIDARG was presented to the board and the club. Much discussion ensued and the committee will now take that information and counter back to the MM folks to get a final draft document setup, that the club, and board can vote on in order to move forward on the opportunity

The rest of the meeting was spent going over items for the 2016 calendar year. All the events we are goint to be committed to, as well as field day, the fair booth, JOTA. When the calendar is finalized it will be on the website and distributed via email.

HIDARG's Ham Operator of the Year (2015) Joe Barry K7SQ honored with the 1st annual HIDARG HOO-TEE award.

Congratulations go out to K7SQ for being chosen as HIDARG's Ham Operator of the Year for 2015. For those of you who were not there at the Thursday night meeting on Jan 7th, this will be an ongoing award to honor past and present members who have made a difference in ham radio and their service to HIDARG. Joe was also given a service award from the club honoring his commitment as a VE in Central Oregon.

Joe was presented with a plaque and a certificate along with a handmade ceremonial telegraph key made by Max KF7MAX. This key will be a traveling award moving from member to member as they are chosen for the HOOTY award... better known as the HOO-TEE

HIDARG President, Ray KG7AV, made the presentation to Joe to the 29 hams and ham hopefuls in attendance. A show of hands from those present, indicated that close to half in attendance had qualified for their license from a test that Joe had administered with his team. Joe also thanked all the other VE's that helped make it possible.

Joe got interested in radio as a teenager listening to shortwave radios. He studied electronics on his own that allowed him to get high scores on Air Force entrance exams. The USAF then sent him to school for aircraft electronics.

He was stationed at Edwards Air Force Base working on the electronics for jet fighters. After the military, he became a civilian employee with the Defense Department working on flight simulators.

K7SQ has been a member of CORA then HIDARG since 1993, and has been instrumental in the creation of our ham radio repeaters throughout Central Oregon. (info courtesy of WB0DVS)



Joe K7SQ and Ray KG7AV

John Sand AF7AQ (SK)

John passed away on Dec 7 with his wife Cathy at his side. John was a member of HIDARG as well as ARES. John was instrumental in ensuring that the Redmond hospital station was always at the ready. He will be sorely missed by all of us. Our condolences to his wife and family.



Mark Your Calendar

January

7 HIDARG Meeting 19:00 MOFCU

13 ARES Meeting 18:30

February

4 HIDARG Meeting 19:00 MOFCU

10 ARES Meeting 18:30

March

3 HIDARG Meeting 19:00 TBD

9 ARES Meeting 18:30

5,6 Sat/Sun Bachelor Butte Dog Derby

April

7 HIDARG Meeting 19:00 MOFCU

13 ARES Meeting 18:30

Please note that times may change after publication, keep an eye on the Hidarg emails for latest information for club meets and ARES dates and times. MOFCU is of course the Mid-Oregon Federal Credit Union. TBD (To be determined based on RSVP for that special meeting.) See previous article about ARRL visit.

Statement of Financial Condition as of 10th Jan 2016

Bank of America Opening Balance 1 Jan 2016	<u>3,909.24</u>
(a) Paypal Balance (HIDARG)	182.70
(b) HIDARG general fund	
(c) Drew Holmes Fund (Outreach and Education)	1,319.17
(d) Trailer Fund (included in (b))	300.00
(e) Total Fund Balances (a+h+d)	

Special Note: Deschutes County ARES has completed registration of its own 501c3 organization. The ARES designated funds that were currently held by HIDARG have been transferred out of HIDARG accounts and over to the new ARES organizations account. This will provide greater transparency and simplified accounting for both organizations in the future.

Upcoming Meetings and Topics

Feb 4th. Presentation on antenna analyzers, committee review, status of MM Proposal. Finalize calendar for the year.

Nets

- + JeffCro Net Mondays 1900H, 147.38+ PL 162.2
- + HIDARG Weekly 2m Tuesdays 1900H See the HIDARG website for a list of repeaters.
- + HIDARG 2m Simplex Mondays, and Tuesdays following JeffCro and HiDARG nets, 146.58 MHz

2016 FCC Licensing Test Sessions

Jan-27 March-16 April-27 June-1 July-13 Aug-31 Sept-28 Nov-2 Dec-14 All days are on Wednesday 1Pm at Deschutes Public Library, downtown Bend branch, upstairs. For more information, contact Joe Barry, K7SQ joek7sq@gmail.com

HIDARG WEBSITE

Please note that the OLD SITE is no longer being maintained, however some info is still relevant. NEW Beta Site has all the latest news, repeater info, meeting times, and exam times as of 1/10/16. The old site has a LINK to the NEW site on the main page. OR you can type the below into your web browser. NOT case sensitive.

Beta.hidarg.org

Should also mention that if you are NOT on the HIDARG email reflector please let us know. Having your email on the rooster does not make you a member of the list server.

Membership Reminder.

Please be sure to pay your 2016 dues ASAP, this helps fund and maintain our systems as well as our activities, and events. There is link on the the Beta site, and old site to pay via PayPal if that is your choice. Or print the form, mail it to our PO Box with your check, or mo. Please be sure to email maxv@horizonps.com when you have done so.

Membership Status.

We currently have around <u>56</u> paid members for 2016, with another <u>92</u> on the rooster. If you wish to remain on the rooster for 2016, please update your membership. Folks who did not update in 2014 AND 2015 will be removed. Any HIDARG member current with their dues can obtain a copy of the roster by requesting an email KF7MAX.

Please be sure to email maxv@horizonps.com if you wish to remain on the rooster but are unable to pay at this time.

Repeater Upgrades (Update)

Max KF7MAX has been spearheading two repeater discussions. The first is the upgrade of the John Day repeater system to provide a 2m switched link into Stephenson Mountain. SCMC is underwriting the costs with R7HPP funds. This will also include rotating maintenance and replacement of batteries for all of our repeaters serving the R7HPP program. As of this writing, Max has tested the "breadboard" configuration for the new repeater at his own QTH, and is awaiting the purchase / arrival of the repeater unit per se, at which time he will coordinate installation and configuration in John Day.

As of this writing, St. Charles has procured the system for us to use in John Day. Now it is a matter of getting things organized and scheduled so we can move forward. Early or Mid Spring is currently the target date for John Day. Gary Rigel N7HTN is our member in the JD area that his helping to get this project off the ground

We are blessed to have the support of the R7HPP and ample funds, due our community event comms support, to be able to consider such projects. January is where we need to set and discuss our future goals in regards to other potential repeaters we can setup. Keep in mind that we need additional funding and support from members and the community at large to achive some of these upgrades and changes.

We need some discussion about the potential future for our repeater network footprint. With Condon, we could link into the Evergreen Intertie system. Do we push east through Juntura and connect up with Ontario and the Treasure Valley, Idaho network? Do we want re-establish a link to the Valley via PRA? Add digipeaters to our existing sites? Your voice matters as we plan for the future.