

TERAC NEWSLETTER

(TEchnology Radio Amateur Club)

**Greg Kiemel of Northwest EMC will be giving a presentation titled "The EMC Authorization of Wireless Devices".
(non-members welcome)**

TERAC Meeting:

- **Time:** **March 12th, 2008, 7:30PM**
- **Place:** TVF&R Training Building
20665 SW Blanton St.
Aloha, OR
- **Talk-In:** 443.65 MHz Simplex

The EMC Authorization of Wireless Devices

Greg's presentation will explain how the demand for wireless products has grown beyond just the cell phone sector. Many products that traditionally contained no radios are now market-driven to include wireless cable-replacement features such as Bluetooth, UWB, 802.11, and WWAN interfaces.

This presentation will provide an overview of the more common wireless technologies and describe some of the challenges manufacturers have in obtaining FCC approvals for their devices.

Greg Kiemel is Director of Engineering for Northwest EMC. He is a prolific writer and lecturer on the EMC issues. Chuck, K7BVT

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S LAZY BOY CHAIR

Roger's recovery continues. He has made several get togethers recently and is trying to convince his doctor that he can drive with the aide of a crutch and a pair of vice grip pliers. He can be reached on 443.65 MHz, cell phone, or the temporary email listed in the Officers box.

Chuck, K7BVT for Roger, W7ADV

THE OTA DTV TRANSITION

The nation's impending switch to Over the Air (OTA) Digital TV (DTV) has spawned misconceptions and a lot of confusion about the still-in-process changeover. The most common issues involve antennas, channel assignments, and reception problems.

A few months ago I purchased two OTA DTV converters (aka CECB's or Coupon Eligible Converter Boxes) using the \$40 coupons to offset their \$50-70 price. And due to repeated failures of one of them (and an accommodating tech support person), I now have three. My location is in Beaverton with line-of-sight access to the principle towers in Portland and yet I still must fiddle with my indoor UHF/VHF combo antennas each time I change channels. Sort of like going back to 1955 in "Back to the Future".

Many of the antennas sold for DTV are UHF only types. While most (but not all) stations are currently using UHF for the digital signal (hence the puzzling term "digital antenna"), many will switch back to their original VHF channels after the transition. Examples are 8, 10, and 12 in the Portland area. Some viewers who now have an acceptable DTV signal will need another antenna after the transition.

Reception of the OTA DTV signals appears to be spotty. One early test revealed an area where customers who had been receiving a satisfactory analog signal from a major regional station suddenly had marginal or no reception of the new DTV signal. It was in an area outside the primary market area of that station but where the viewers preferred that station over a more local affiliate.

Related to this is the so called "cliff effect" where the DTV signal is either good or gone altogether. The cliff is more like a steep slope since there is a transitional area of DTV signal quality with pixilation, dropouts, and picture tearing. Not much fun to watch. A marginal analog signal is generally more watchable even with significant noise (snow), and the audio remains.

A really annoying aspect of this change is the instant obsolescence of existing hand held portable TV's. Adding a converter which is much larger than the TV itself, along with a hefty battery to operate the converter, would be a kludge. The only other choice is one of the new DTV compatible hand held TV's.

I have cable TV, so except for the hand held situation, OTA DTV reception is only for when the cable goes out. I have had enough "fun" with TV antennas in the last century. But I am not exempt from the digital transition. The cable company is doing it too. So now I have a total of six digital converter boxes, the last three of which are courtesy of Comcast. And of course there are the extra remotes that go with all of those contraptions! Oh well, this is progress I guess.

Dick Ballard W7AND

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The TERAC Newsletter is emailed monthly to members and friends of TERAC. Meetings are normally held on

the second Thursday of the month at
7:30 PM.

Membership

The following are members as of Jan 10, 2009: Richard Ballard W7AND, Chuck Barrows K7BVT, Dick Bass W7SMR, Margeret Byrd W7FVF, Ronald Forman-Kinder K7VMN, Stan Griffiths W7NI, John Horn AC7WS, Bob Jenkins W7BKN, Deane Kidd W7TYR, Roger McCoy W7ADV, Stu McNaughton K7VGQ, Bernie Miller WA7MCR, Gordon Moyle, Glenn Pelikan K7GWP, Dick Pooley W7HUY*, Ken Rosenzweig WA7BGF, Thomas Rousseau K7PJT, Gene Single K7IUN*, Blaine Smith W7JHJ, Richard Stack K7TKK, Ralph Ulrich K7UVK*. *=Life Member.

Dues pay corporation fees and Insurance required for the use of the meeting place making it possible to hold the technical presentations that are available for club and non-club members to enjoy. The club has also made donations to the ARRL Defense of Spectrum Fund the last two years. Richard Stack K7TKK

Where to get it Fixed

Bud Garside W7ARS in Sherwood is repairing amateur equipment. He can be reached at (503) 554 8831 or email budgarside@juno.com

Hamfairs

7 March 2009

Mike & Key Electronics Show

Mike and Key ARC
Western Washington Fairgrounds
Pavilion Exhibition Hall
Puyallup, Washington
Michael Dinkelman N7WA
22222 148th Avenue SE
Kent, WA 98042
253-631-3756
mwdink@eskimo.com
www.mikeandkey.org/flea.htm

April 11, 2009

Yakima Hamfest

Yakima, WA
<http://bearcreekguns.us/w7aq/hamfest.htm>

April 17 – 19, 2009

2009 International DX Convention

Visalia, CA
<http://dxconvention.org/>

May 1-3, 2009

EMCOMMWEST[®] /Pacificon'09

Reno, NV
<http://emcommwest.org/>

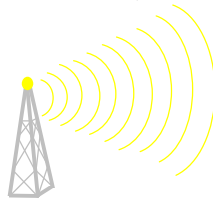
5 - 7 June 2009

SEA-PAC Hamfair

NW DIV. ARRL CONVENTION
Seaside Convention Center
Seaside Oregon www.seapac.org

APPLICATION

TERAC, Inc.



Please complete and return with payment to:
TERAC, Inc., PO Box 5761, Aloha, Or 97006-0761

Name:		Call:	
Address:			
City:		State:	Zip:
Home Phone:		Work Phone:	
Unlisted: <input type="radio"/>	E-mail Address:		
License Class:	ARRL Member:	Emergency Service:	
	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	Yes <input type="radio"/>	No <input type="radio"/>
Membership Class:			
<input type="radio"/> Full	(currently licensed)	\$14	
<input type="radio"/> Associate	(not licensed)	\$14	