

K7AUO ..... K7AUO/R 443.650 MHz ..... February 2013

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# TERAC NEWSLETTER

(TEchnology Radio Amateur Club)

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## FEBRUARY MEETING CANCELLED



**TERAC MEETING**

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**Our formula  
second Thursday  
falls on Valentine's  
Day.  
Shot down by  
Cupid!**

**We will be back in March with a program by Dave Haupt, W8NF.  
Details in the March Newsletter.**

### **Ponderings from the President**

Firstly, TERAC won't have a February meeting because the second Thursday falls on Valentine's Day and several members have said they will be spending that evening with their sweethearts. Next meeting will be on March 14.

A small addendum to the January newsletter regarding the November business meeting: Phil Crosby volunteered to learn the operation of the TERAC web site and Bob Jenkins will take the newsletter editing responsibilities.

The very interesting presentation at the January TERAC meeting was by Dick Pugh of

the Cascade Meteorite Lab at PSU. We all know that meteorites get hot enough to leave an ionized trail as they go burning through the earth's atmosphere. Radio signals have been propagated off these trails for decades. What I found interesting is that meteorites almost immediately develop frost on them once they have landed. They have been at near absolute zero for a long time out in space, but even the iron - nickel meteorites have low enough heat conductivity that even though the outside is in a plasma state (for a very brief period of time), it is still freezing cold in the interior.

### **Ponderings Continued:**

I would like to devote a bit of space each month to some subject that has a ham radio connection, but isn't likely to be found in the pages of QST. I hope I can find one of these each month, but don't hold your breath. I am reading a book called "Train Wreck – The Forensics of Rail Disasters" by George Bibel. If you watch the news, you know that there have been several deadly train wrecks in this country in recent years. Most of them have been caused by some type of human error. One train operator, for example, missed the track side signal lights warning of a parked train ahead because he was sending a text message to rail fans with his cell phone. The Federal Railroad Administration and the Association of American Railroads have been trying for decades to come up with some type of automatic control to avoid these wrecks. Most of their attempts have had serious drawbacks, including not having enough available bandwidth in their communication channels. Their latest proposal to fix that problem will have 320 channels in the 220 MHz to 222 MHz band!

Those of you who were hams twenty years ago probably remember that we lost that part of the 1 ¼ m band to the land mobile service, specifically a tracking system proposed by United Parcel Service. UPS wasn't able to make that system work, but I hadn't heard anything about that piece of the spectrum since then. Now it's the FRA "Positive Train Control" system that is proposed for that band. Let us hope it

works this time and prevents more deaths due to human error.

**Ron Kinder, K7VMN, TERAC President**

**Margaret Byrd, W7FVF, SK**

### **From the Desk (key board?) of the VP**

Margaret Carol Byrd passed away Dec 23, 2012. She was 91 when she passed. She was a long time TERAC member until she moved to Molalla. She was always available when we needed someone for an Art Quake post, bike-a-thon or any other public service event. I have heard many remembrances from her of her early years as a child in Joseph Oregon where she grew up.

She will be missed but live on in our memories.

**Roger W7ADV**

### **Comments on the Newsletter**

Although this is the February issue of the TERAC Newsletter, it is the first issue written in 2013. A few changes to our format will be evaluated this year. We plan to start using the TERAC web site for more of the "standard" information. Examples would be the list of officers and board members, membership list, annual calendar of events, and membership sign up form.

There have been some concerns over what information is posted on the web site. For several years, our newsletters have been posted on the website, so there is no difference.

### Comments Continued:

If it is, or has been, in the newsletter, it is on the website. No difference! Chuck, K7BVT, our web master has been checking with people with respect to what they want posted: email, phone numbers, etc. Please be sure your preferences are known to him.

Some have said that maybe the newsletter is obsolete. We can put all the information on the website, with a reminder email now and then. Hopefully we will get feedback on these items.

### Elections for 2013

At the Annual Meeting election we played musical chairs with our offices/BoD. The new list is on the web.

[http://terac.org/?page\\_id=2](http://terac.org/?page_id=2)

### Some Upcoming Events

**Salem Hamfair** (a.k.a. Rickreall), February 16, 2013.

<http://www.w7sra.org/>

**Mike and Key ARC** Electronic Show and Flea Market, Puyallup, March 9, 2013

<http://www.mikeandkey.org/flea.htm>

**Seapac** May 31 to June 2

<http://www.seapac.org>

### Membership for 2013

Our membership for 2013 has not yet reached the 2012 level. If you haven't yet signed up, but intend to do so; we would encourage you to send in your form soon.

### 2013 Renewals received as of 2013-1-25

Richard Ballard W7AND	Chuck Barrows K7BVT	Dennis Berkheiser K9HSX	Robert Broughton kK7RB
John Buscek KE7WMB	Bill DeVey W7MMW	Randall Elliot NW1S	Chuck Forsberg WA7KGX
Bob Jenkins W7BKN	Ronald Kinder K7VMN	Deane E. Kidd W7TYR	Keith Lofstrom
Roger McCoy W7ADV	Bernie Miller WA7MCR	Don Miller KD7MLF	Gordon Moyle W7NZL
Glenn Pelikan K7GWP	Dick Pooley * W7HUY	Thomas Rousseau K7PJT	Bob Rullman W1SNR
Gene Single * K7IUN	Blaine Smith W7JHJ	Richard Stack K7TKK	Ralph Ulrich * K7UVK

\*is for life members

TERAC dues are based on the Calendar year due Jan 1. If your name is not on the above list I have no record of receiving your 2013 dues. Let me know if I am in error. **Richard Stack, TERAC Treasurer.**

### Membership forms available at:

<http://terac.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/MEMBERSHIP-APPLICATION-2.pdf>

## Club Calendar

Month	Board Mtg.	Club Mtg.	Club Meeting Notes
FEB		14-Feb-13	<b>Cancelled</b>
MAR		14-Mar-13	Dave Haupt, W8NF
APR		11-Apr-13	
MAY		9-May-13	
JUN		<b>SUMMER BREAK</b>	
JUL			
AUG			
SPT		12-Sep-13-	
OCT		10-Oct-13	
NOV		14-Nov-13	
DEC		TBD	Dinner Meeting
JAN		Jan-9-14	