

'The Rag'

COARECT'S Online Monthly Newsletter – October 2025

PRE-OCTOBER

HAM RADIO SWAP MEET – Saturday, September 27th, 10am to 2pm at The Door Church in La Pine. FREE admission and for those folks wishing to have a table at the swap meet, the first table is free. An additional table is \$15 with a maximum of two tables. Ham radio and electronic items only! Bigger items, like antennas, can be outside the building at no charge. The goal is to start a small Central Oregon Ham Radio Swap Meet that brings amateur radio operators together to sell or swap radio equipment. This swap meet is sponsored by COARECT.

Contact Cliff Hill NC7CH, kb7qiu@yahoo.com, for questions or reservations. The Door Church is located just behind Ray's Market, Hwy. 97 in La Pine at 16430 3rd Street. Doors open for setup at 8am and to the public at 10am.



Ham Swap Radio Frequencies on the Air: Walker Repeater, 145.470 (tone 123.0), Simplex 146.420 (no tone)

NOMINATIONS FOR THE COARECT BOARD officers will be accepted at the November General Meeting with elections taking place in December. The following Board positions and terms of office are as follows, according to the COARECT Bylaws:



- President** – 2 year term
- 1st Vice President** (filling a vacancy) – 1 year term.
- 2nd Vice President** – 2 year term.
- Secretary** – 2 year term.

Please contact Jeff Scott, W7JST, Marc Mirrasoul, KK7KGN, or Mike McCarter, KK7NBQ, if you have questions or are interested in running for one of these positions. A strong leadership team is important to keep COARECT moving forward.

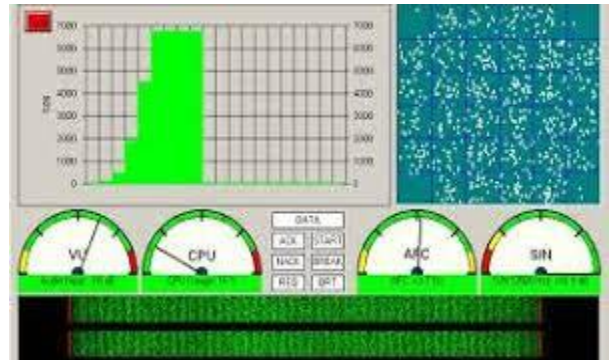
The Rag is a product of COARECT, Inc and is for information only and not for profit. Contact Mike, KK7NBQ for comments, questions, or concerns about this publication.



73 is a universal signal for "best regards" or "goodbye"

COARECT has a Zoom account for most of its meetings. The Zoom meeting number and password is the same for all Zoom sessions. Zoom is available at no charge to COARECT Team members and available on laptop, desktop computers, and cell phones. Here is the permanent COARECT meeting number and password. It is also available in the 'Members Area' on the COARECT Website. **Meeting number: 747 766 5250 Password: 060779**

VARA FM – More and more COARECT team members are using Winlink to send messages via 'Telnet Winlink' (internet). Now, we are moving towards using Winlink via FM radio (VHF, UHF). **This is the ultimate goal, sending Winlink type messages via our radios.** Question: Why do we need VARA FM to send and receive messages. There are a few different ways to send written messages and forms via radio. One of the latest and fastest ways is via VARA FM.



Here is a quick explanation of VARA FM.

VARA FM is a software program that uses the sound card of a computer to handle the modulation and demodulation of radio signals. The software encodes computer files and commands into audio tones that are transmitted over the radio. On the receiving side, the modem decodes these audio tones back into computer files and commands, allowing for data transfer. VARA FM allows for significantly faster data transfers compared to older packet radio modes. VARA FM is shareware, with a basic free version and a paid registration key that unlocks higher data speeds and digipeater features. VARA offers a group discount for the purchase of 10 or more licenses. A one-time full speed license sells for \$69 (10 or more licenses sell for \$55 each). Paul, K7PIL, has been collecting a list of Team members who want to purchase a VARA FM license. If you are one of these people, please bring your \$55 VARA FM license fee to the October General Meeting.

Anderson Powerpole - Used by many emergency radio operators to connect 12 volts direct current (DC) to their radios.



GENERAL MEETING – The next COARECT General Meeting is Saturday, October 4th, at 9:30am. Doors open before 9am for coffee and in-person 'rag chewing'. Zoom will be available for those who can't make the meeting in person. There will also be a couple of great 'Show and Tells', plus a special auction. We had some great BBQ meat from the Ham Banquet available at the September General Meeting. Tamara froze it and it is time to auction off **more** of this delicious meat. Don't miss the meeting.