The W7PXL Repeater Story

By Glenn Taylor (N7FPA) December 11, 2022

I first heard the Prairie Mountain, KS7Y, 146.72– Repeater in June and July of 1983. The system was first installed without the MCW [modulated continuous wave] Identifier Card. What caught my ear was that users were reminded to identify their own stations AND the repeater! (i.e. "KA7FDH via KS7Y Repeater").

I believe that it may have been a pair of E.F. Johnson mobile transceivers were used to make the first iteration of the repeater — with external power amplification for the transceiver used as the transmitter.

The initial repeater site was: Silke Communications, Prairie Mountain West.

The 146.120 / 146.720 MHz Repeater System used to have a Telephone Automatic Patch. The landline party's voice was "up-linked" at 449.450 MHz. The landline party would hear the mobile Amateur via a 146.72 MHz receiver connected to the auto-patch. This auto-patch equipment was located at Bob's (W7NQE) house (2310 W 14th Ave, back in the day) where he served as a day watch control operator.

"*72 "= UP, " # " = DOWN.

145.720 MHz was a popular simplex frequency for repeater users, many of whom used the Icom IC-2A / IC-2AT handheld radios.

On those radios, one would simply rotate the "MHz" thumb-wheel on the top of the radio down to 145, then on the back, slide from DUP to SIMP.

At some point (in the late 1980's, early 1990's ?????) the 6.72 repeater was transferred from Larry (KS7Y) to Bob (W7NQE).

K7GDN — Richard L. Smith (now Vanity KT7G) of Motorola was involved in getting Bob Watt to employ a Motorola Micor "Compa-Station" repeater at the Clackamas Communications site on Prairie Mountain (Day Management, later DBA Day Wireless) west of the repeater's current location.

The Motorola Micor repeater was subsequently replaced with a Maggiore Electronic Laboratory (Melco) unit.

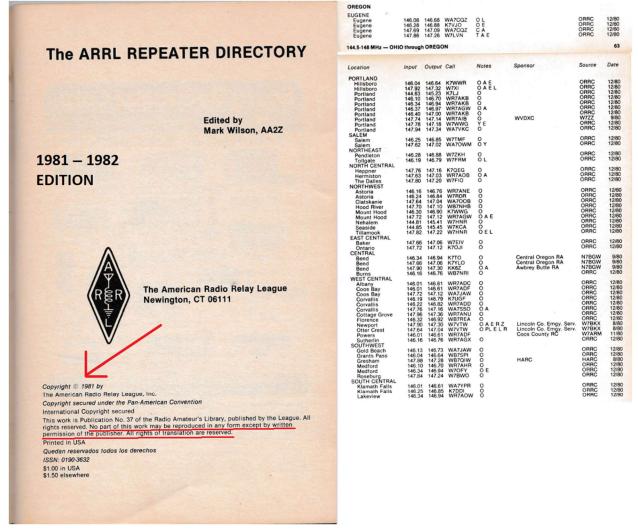
When Bob Watt (W7NQE) Died in February of 2003, the repeater was passed down to Gene (KB7IEE) who died 12 days later.

How the repeater wound up with Valley Radio Club of Oregon (W7PXL), I don't know...

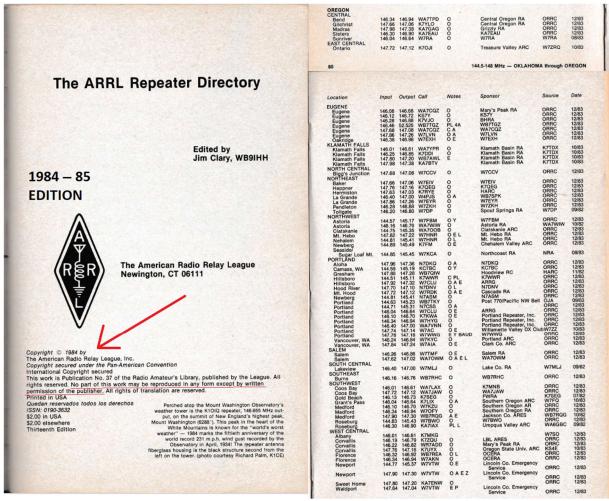
Currently a Kenwood TKR–750 repeater is used for 146.12 / 146.72, back at the original site, Silke Communications, Prairie Mountain West. <u>Google Maps</u>

The 146.72– Repeater is approaching 40 years of service; the first 20 years with Larry and Bob, et. al., and the last 20 years with VRC (W7PXL).

I have attached some documentation to support my anecdotal account:



1980_Repeater_Info.png 1,728,055 bytes (<u>No</u> 146.720 MHz repeater yet)



1983_Repeater_Info.png 2,763,960 bytes (First listing I have for 146.72 - KS7Y)

Northwest Repeater Directory	145.47 S D OP. W7DCR W7DCR Finlay Butte LoPine OR 4600 COR 5145.47 S D OP. W7UTW W7BFX Butler Peak Wolfport OR 1600 COR 145.49 S OP. WDDXX W0DXX Spakane Volley Spakane WA 6200 COR 145.49 S W OP. WA7DEE WA7DEE Crystol http://www.com/acthewe/WA 5500 COR 145.49 S W OP. WA7DE WA7DEE Crystol http://www.com/acthewe/WA 5500 COR
JULY 1985	145.43 5 0 0P. X7PH K7PH Cheholemitte. Newberg OR 1150 CDR 145.43 5 0 0P. VETSR VETAMIN 50.Voncouver Vancouver BC 1400 CDR 145.51 B 8 0P. VETSR VETAMI Bolvancek Whonnock BC 200 CDR 146.60 5 0P. VETAKI VETAKI Cogulitian Http://web. 146.61 5 0P. W7A0 K7VAS Valued Yakima VAkima
Published By:	146.51 S 0 UP. WAYYPR X7DDI Hogback Htn. Klamath Folis CR 6198 CR 146.62 S 0 UP. WAYYPR X7RDI Hogback Htn. Bremerton WA 1760 COR 146.62 S 0P. K178 K178 Snowback Htn. HcCall II B300 COR
ORRC	145.51 3 0F. 0710 Rodic Page Twr Tacomo WA 700 COR 145.54 5 0 0F. W7215 K7100 Rodic Page Twr Tacomo WA 700 COR 145.54 5 0 0F. K711X W770 Albert's Mtn. Grants Pass 0R 2000 COR 145.54 5 0 0F. W77A w77A Spring Butte Swriver OR 5000 COR 145.54 5 0F. UB7VAU WA72AG Iona Butte I daho Falls ID COR 145.54 5 0F. UB7VAU WA72AG Iona Butte I daho Falls 1D COR
Oregon Region Relay Council, Inc.	146.54 S B DP, UETRCT UETABL Slocan Ridge Nelson BC B00 CDR 146.54 S B PROP UET UETENLE, of Sorrento BC 1500 CDR 146.56 S D DP, W7FBH W7FBH Ht, Wickiup Astoria D R 2400 CDR
P.O. Box 29101	146.66 S B PROP VETTOK VETHEG No. Vancouver BC 600 COR 146.67 M OP. KTOGW WTCCY Mission Ridge Wenatches WA 6800 COR
Portland, OR 97229-9101	146.68 S O OP. WA7COZ WB7OVH Prairie Htn. Eugene OR 3200 COR
This list is a courtesy list and coordination data is not official. There are many private/closed, SNP and uncoordinated repeaters which may not be listed. Do not assume inactivity of a frequency by this list. Contact your local repeater council concerning use of repeater frequencies.	146.68 S 80 P. OF ARC. WarMTJ Timer ittm. No.9 Issocuth WA 3000 RTTY 146.70 S 00 P. ATUMA WARMTJ Timer ittm. Issocuth OR TOO COR 146.70 S 00 P. ATUMA SCALE WARMTJ HER Scott Portland DR 1000 CDR 146.70 S 00 P. ATUMA WARMT HER Resburg HIL Resburg ID COR 146.70 S 0P. WERTEN WICH Resburg HIL Resburg ID COR 146.70 S 0P. WERTEN WICH No. Vancouver Uancouver BC B000 RTTY
Operation on frequencies 145.8 to 146.0 will interfere with satellite translators. 144.000 to 144.100 voice is not permitted!	145.70 S 8 DP. VE7RID VE7ASY Apex Mtn. Ponciscon & VALC DA 145.72 S DP. N78HS N78HS 511. No. of Dovenport WA 2800 COR 145.72 S W DP. N78K N878K 145.72 S D DP. N877K N877K 145.72 S D DP. N877K N877K N877K 145.72 S D DP. N877K
Membership in ORRC is \$5.00. Full member's operate relay, repeater and remote base systems. Associate members receive all mailings from the council, including repeater list updates as they are published.	146.72 5 B DF. UE78EU VE7EC AFC. Bigmeur Generation DR. Cocc com 146.73 G DF. K72EU K72EU Cocc at 1.6.37 146.74 5 W DF. K72EU K72EU Cocc at 1.6.37 146.74 5 W DF. K72EW K7VAI ht.Constitution Bellingham WA 2530 CDR 146.74 5 W DF. K77H WF7UTU Kaniak Butte Palouse WA 3750 CDR
Updates to this list are appreciated. Please send them to: ORRC, attn: Dale Justice, K7WWR, P.O. Box 29101, Portland, OR 97229-9101.	145.74 5 0 DF. A/KG WUYAG Tillemook Head Sensite OR 650 COR 145.74 5 0 DF.07 A/TOL YUYAG Tillemook Head Sensite OR 650 COR 145.74 5 0 DROP X/TOL XYDAL XYDAL 145.74 5 PROP X/TOL XYDAL DE COR 145.75 5 OF. W#7DU WUYAGO Rattlemoke Rdg.Richland WA 2200 COR 145.75 5 OF. W#7DU WUYAGO Rattlemoke Rdg.Richland WA 2300 COR 145.76 5 0F. W#7DU WUYAGO Rattlemoke Rdg.Richland WA 2300 COR
• 1985 by ORRC, Inc. Permission to reproduce all or any part must be obtained in writing from ORRC.	146,76 S INC. BARZEN CHARAGE DULTAR BUTTE DULTAR OR 1307 COR 146,76 S UN CONTRACT DULTAR BUTTE DULTAR DULTAR OR 1307 COR 146,76 S UD C, WAYDEN WAYDEN EN NICOLI ABSTORIA DU COR 146,76 S UD KAYDEN NYGA HARABE BUTTE TULT F011s ID COR 146,76 S B UP, VE7NAN YETH ANDRE DULT F1000 COR 146,76 S B UP, VE7NAN VE7U ALTORAT CONTRACT SUBJECT BUTTE 146,76 S W UP, K7CHN WE7UW ALTORAT CONTRACT SUBJECT SUB
LECEND: TYPE OF FREQUENCY: S * Shared. W = Western Wash. O = Oregon B = B.C. SNP = Shared; Not Protected. L = Local; Not Protected.	146.73 OF K7201 KC7CP Mary's Peak Corvallis OR 4100 COR 146.80 S U OF K7XNZ K7XNZ Iumwater Mill Olympia UA 500 COR 146.80 S O OF W7D W7D Foot Sport Springw Tollate OR 5700 COR 146.80 S B OF UZ7RR VE7X1 hople Ridge Money BC 4500 COR 146.80 S B OF UZ7RR VE7XP Mt. Thompson Creston BC 7100 COR
R = Digital or Radioteleprinter modes. > = Changed this printing.	146.82 5 W UP. K/S2D Squar Nary S Peak Corvallis OR 3900 CDR 146.82 5 OP. WATTUW WETOW HAry's Peak Corvallis OR 3900 CDR 146.82 5 OP. WATTUW WETOW Hary's Peak Corvallis OR 3900 CDR
STATUS: OP = Operating. PROP = Proposed. INT = Intermittent.	145.85 S B DP. VE7ROK VE7DMG Kelowna Kelowna BC 1200 COR 145.84 OB D DP. W7XYC X7BT Larch Mtn. WA Portland DR 3400 COR
ACCESS: COR = Carrier. TT = TOUCH TONE(R). CTCSS = Sub-audible tone. RTTY-ASCII = 2125/2295 or 2975. TIMED = Timed carrier access. CL = Closed. PRIV = Private Gask owner about use).	146.89.00 B INT. VEZCAQ VEZBUD Red Mtn. Troll BC 5500 CDW 146.84.00 B DV. VEZVIC VEZBUT R. McAonald Victoria C.1500 CDW 145.85 DP. WZZZN VZZN K.Ahtanwm Ridge Yakimo WA 2000 CDW 145.85 D DP. KZDDI YATONI Manakame Mtn. Klamath Folls OR RESS COM

1985_Repeater_Info.png 2,606,467 bytes (Last listing I have for 146.72 — KS7Y)

Freqency	Location	Offset	Call	Status	Features	Tone	Sponsor
145.170	Buck Mtn.	-0.60	W7EXH	Open			DiPaolo, Carl
145.450	K6Vdv's Qth	-0.60	K6VDV	Open	ctcss	136.5	Downing, Howard
146.680	Prairie Mtn.	-0.60	WA7CQZ	Open			Mary's Peak Repeater
146.720	Prairie Mtn.	-0.60	W7NQE	Open	ctoss	151.4	Watt, Robert
146.880	Coburg Ridge	-0.60	K7VJO	Open			Blanton Heights Repe
147.080	Coburg Ridge	0.60	WA7CQZ	Open			Hunt, Dennis
147.260	Blanton Heights	0.60	W7LVN	Open			Jim Walsh
224.400	Prairie Mtn.	-1.60	WB7RKR	Open	ctess		Mount Nebo UHF Grou
424.400	Buck Mt.		W7EXH	Unknown			DiPaolo, Carl
434.400	Prairie Mtn.	5.00	W7EXH	Unknown	ctcss	110.9	DiPaolo, Carl
442.900	Buck Mt.	5.00	W7EXH	Open	ctcss	110.9	DiPaolo, Carl
443.500	Prairie Mtn.	5.00	W7EXH	Open	ctcss	100	DiPaolo, Carl
444.025	Blanton Heights	5.00	ks7y	Proposed	ctoss	100	Larry Steele
444.350	Prairie Mtn.	5.00	WB7TGZ	Open	ctcss		Patio Radio Network
444.725	Prairie Mtn.	5.00	WB7RKR	Open	ctoss	179.9	Mount Nebo UHF Grou
444.850	Res.	5.00	w7exh	Proposed	ctcss	110.9	Carl DiPaolo
lorenc	e. OR						
Freqency	Location	Offset	Call	Status	Features	Tone	Sponsor
146.800	Herman Peak	-0.60	WB7REA	Open			Oregon Coast Emerger
224.180	Herman Peak	-1.60	k7bl	Open			Oregon Coast Emerger
224.480	Herman Peak	-1.90	N7GUQ	Open			Oregon Coast Emerger
224.400		5.00	N7NNA	Proposed	ctcss	100	Oregon Coast Emerger

1994 Repeater Info.png 234,230 bytes (First listing I have for 146.72 — W7NQE)

KS7Y — Larry E. Steele (December, 2013, SK) Nevada Highway Patrol Williams Bakery, Bread Truck Route Driver Early involvement with Amateur X.25 Packet Radio Nickname "The Wizard" (formerly N7CUG, KA7AFT)

KA7CJB — Jeanette I. Steele (Widow)

KC7DMD — Brian L. Steele (Son)

N7WJI — James M. Steele

N7XAN — Timothy Steele

W7NQE — Robert J. Watt (February 9, 2003, SK) Call Sign suffix phonetics "Nice Quiet

Evening"

KB7IEE — Harold Gene Wolfe Sr. (February 21, 2003, SK)