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# OLD YELLER

## President's Message

*By Tom Hall*

I hope everyone is having a good summer! Hopefully you managed to get in a day or two of fishing at your favorite spot and spent some quality time with your family.

As camps, county fairs and the Oregon State fair come to a close we need to start mentally preparing for the up coming year. Every year presents itself as a fresh start... new faces, new clothes and if we do it right, a time for new attitudes. Now is the time and set the pace for the new school year. Assign those officers some of your odds and ends chores.

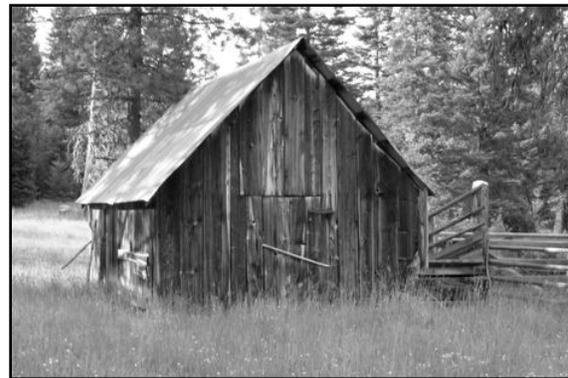
As we advise from time to time, let the kids take on more responsibility in day to day chapter operations and lead the way for the rest of your members. Our administrators know that our students are role models for the rest of the youth programs in our schools. Keep the kids up front!

We are the closest knit group of educators in this state. We, as a group, can make waves or straighten things out across the state in a matter of days. The OVATA is an excellent vehicle to use for our group to communicate, support each other, and provide professional development opportunities. I look forward to seeing all of you at this years fall conference. The Central Oregon district is working hard to make



it a good one. Plan on attending and I'll see you there!

Tom



### News Letter Editor Contact

[the99nyy@yhao.com](mailto:the99nyy@yhao.com)

School 541-535-7518

Address: P.O. Box 632

Eagle Point OR, 97524

### Editors Note

If you have contributions please send then via email to my address above.

**Next issue out at Fall Conference. Please send in your contributions by the 30th of September**

OLD DOG



Old dogs we want to here from you. If you would like to share some information Please send it to me by the 30th of September.

NEW DOG

Boy this summer was another addition of the Ag Teacher Shuffle. If you are an old dog in a new house or a young pup in a brand new situation we want to here from you. Please send me your new school information, so we can catch up on the transactions.



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FALL CONFERENCE

Date: October 10th  
Location: Jefferson County  
Hotel Information:  
Lodging Inn at Cross Keys Station  
541-475-5800  
\$85 + tax  
Tell the front desk person that it's for OVATA.



TECHIE TIP OF THE MONTH: TIP 1

Ipods are not just for music anymore. They can be a handy way to store addresses, calendars, and notes. The unfortunate thing is you must have a computer to input the information, until now. The iPod touch allows you the option of inputting dates, contact information, and notes directly on the device. You can also browse the web and check email all in the palm of your hand.

Make Sure to sign up for an account at the website:

[www.ovata.org](http://www.ovata.org)

MEET THE NEW OFFICERS

**President** Tom Hall

**Age:** 48

**School:** Bonanza

**Years Teaching:** 1-Willamina 18-Bonanza

**Family:** Wife Nancy of 27 years  
Sons: Wes 26, Clint 18

**Favorite Sports Team:** OSU Beavers & Seattle Mariners

**Favorite CDE:** Soils & Meats

**Why did you want to be an officer:** I felt it was time in my career to step up and take a turn at the leadership end of our organization. All of us need to participate in the OVATA as an officer at some time to help out the new teachers joining our ranks as well as help keep the old dogs motivated!!

**One Goal you have for**

**OVATA:** Have the OVATA do everything possible to support the placement of good help into the top end of Team Ag Ed.

To help newer teachers into our ranks realize that the old dogs are here to help them, and that we all need to work for the "good of the order" among ourselves- not just individual success.

**President Elect** Tim Ray

**Age:** 36

**School:** Dallas

**Years Teaching** 5- Eagle Point 4-Dallas

**Family:** Wife Krista, Tyler, Kendall

**Favorite Sports Team** OSU Beavers Oakland A's & KC Chiefs/ Indianapolis Colts

**Favorite CDE:** Livestock Evaluation

**Why did you want to be an officer:** Time to give back to the organization that has helped me over the first years of my career

**One Goal you have for**

**OVATA:** Increase participation in professional development opportunities within OVATA, regionally, and Nationally

**Dues Remitter/Secretary** Chad Waldron

**Age:** 38

**School:** North Lake

**Years Teaching** 13

**Family Spouse-**Janet, Raven 13, Wyatt 11, Levi 8

**Favorite Sports Team** Seattle Mariners & Oakland Raiders

**Favorite CDE** Soil Evaluation

**Why did you want to be an officer:**

A lot of positive peer pressure from the district to do so, and I felt like it was time to step up and serve the organization.

**One Goal you have for**

**OVATA** I would like to see more participation and attendance at Fall and Summer Conference. Agricultural teachers need to stick together and build each other up. Ideally we would should have 100% OVATA and NAAE membership across the state.

**Newsletter Editor** Jeremy Kennedy

**Age:** 28

**School:** Phoenix

**Years Teaching:** 5

**Family Spouse** Jenny

**Favorite Sports Team:** OSU Beavers & New York Yankees

**Favorite CDE:** Livestock Evaluation

**Why did you want to be an officer:** To take on a new leadership role

**One Goal you have for**

**OVATA:** To get more people involved in the fate of our organization

**Past President** Don Schmidt

**Age:** 45

**School:** Hood River Valley

**Years Teaching:** 21

**Family:** Wife Staci, Krysta 17, Torey 14

**Favorite Sports Team:** OSU Beavers, Duke Basketball

**Favorite CDE:** Ag Mech, Ag Issues, Ag Sales

**Why did you want to be an officer:** I felt like we were in charge of our own fate, and rather than complain

about things I decided to be part of the possible solution with the state of Ag Ed in Oregon

**One Goal you have for**

**OVATA:** To figure out how to get a staff to run Team Ag Ed.

Lets get to know the new teachers. If you are a new teacher please answer the following questions and email them to me.

School?, Why you wanted to be an Agriculture Teacher?, What is one of your goals as a teacher?

## LEAVE YOUR PAW PRINT

By Jeremy Kennedy

Leave your paw print will include some tips for all teachers, but especially new teachers, to enhance the outcome of a year of teaching.

As we think about getting back to school remember these three Ideas:

1st. Get to know the support staff at the school, by first name. Knowing the Custodial staff, cafeteria staff and computer person at your school is extremely important. Take the time to chat with them and really get to know them, learn about their activities, hobbies, etc, and you will get a lot farther in life. People appreciate being called by name, they enjoy knowing that you care, and once you have demonstrated both, getting things done to benefit your FFA chapter i extremely easy.

2nd. Keep your Principal in the loop. Get in a habit of talking to him/her every week to give them a heads up of what is happening. Fill them in on activities, meetings, etc. Ask them to judge or work with your speakers, invite them to come and sit in on an FFA meeting. If and when you cook something in class send some of it down to the office, administrators like to know what is going on.

3rd. Get a hold of another wiser Ag Teacher in your district. Talk to them about the ins and outs of teaching. They have been there before and done that. They can be a valuable resource on all aspects of our profession.



## BEAT THE HIGH PRICE OF GAS

Ideas to help save some money.

1. We would all like to load up our students and take them on a tour of Oregon Agriculture, but it doesn't always seem possible in these expensive times. There is how ever a solution that is extremely easy, economical, and did I mention staying in your own bed that night instead of at a campground or motel with your students. It is a virtual tour on Google Maps. <http://maps.google.com>

Once it is on your computer you can search for town in oregon and see satellite imaging from those areas. Check out Christmas Valley, and you'll see along with your students if you have an lcd projector the wonderful circles. (Alfalfa in a pivot.) That can lead into a great discussion about irrigation and crops based on geography. Don't for get to search close to home as well. With a few minutes of planing all of your first year ag students can see all of oregon agriculture. Make sure to include all the different types of irrigation and talk about the differences in them.

**Check out These Websites**

1. <http://www.millerwelds.com/>
2. <http://www.lincolnelectric.com/>
3. <http://www.hobartwelders.com/>