

Watts News

Monthly Newsletter of the Olympia Amateur Radio Society

March 2017

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Club Information Page

| OARS Officers | | | |
|--|------------------|--------|-------------------|
| President | Bruce Montgomery | WA7BAM | 259-9300 |
| Vice President | Dennis Niles | WV7S | (808) 283-3208 |
| Secretary | Rue Palmer | W7RUE | 790-5633 |
| Treasurer | Ed Fitzgerald | N7WW | 491-2289 |
| Member at Large | Art Taylor | KL7SK | 578-0162 |
| Key Contacts | | | |
| RFI Committee | Ghery Pettit | N6TPT | 412-1340 |
| Repeater Committee | Fred Baker | W7SIX | 791-2444 |
| Repeater Committee | Ken Dahl | K7TAG | 534-9357 |
| Club License Trustee | Duane Braford | WB7ROZ | 412-1902 |
| Information Net | Lee Chambers | KI7SS | 951-2538 |
| ARES Net | Tom Bohon | KE7EJJ | 456-6260 |
| Web Site | George Lanning | KB6LE | 438-5797 |
| Newsletter | George Lanning | KB6LE | 438-5797 |
| Classes | Lee Chambers | KI7SS | 951-2538 |
| License Exams | Klaus Neubert | AC7MG | 280-2428 |
| Equipment Custodian | | | |
| OARS Website: www.olyham.org | | | |
| OARS Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/ARRLOARS/ | | | |

License Exam Sessions

6:00 pm before each monthly OARS meeting
Walk-ins allowed
To apply contact Klaus Neubert 280-2428
oars-ve@comcast.net

In an effort to provide the best testing environment possible, the examiners request non-candidates remain outside for the duration of the exam session.

—Thank you.

| Membership Application | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal | |
| Date | |
| Call | |
| Name | |
| Address | |
| City, State | |
| Home Phone | |
| Cell Phone | |
| email | |
| Annual Dues: \$ 50 single or family Pay to Treasurer at any meeting, or mail to: | |
| OARS PO Box 2861 Olympia WA 98507 | |

| OARS Net Check-ins | | | |
|---|--------|--------|---------|
| The following stations checked in one or more times in February on the OARS General Information Net: | | | |
| KI7SS * | AC7MG | AF7IO | AG7BA |
| K3AL | K7HTZ | K7TAG | KA7FRZ |
| KB6LE | KB7GP | KB7HPP | KD7PLJ |
| KD7SQU | KD7TQW | KE7IHC | KF7KJI |
| KF7MJI | KF7TNP | KG7CCE | KG7ED |
| KG7HYX | KG7OQS | KG7CES | KI7FABV |
| KI7CQ | KI7EIX | KI7FKQ | KL7SK |
| N6TPT | N7DFF | KNGQP | N7LLK |
| N7TLF | N7WW | N3MO | NW7J |
| NX6W | W6EGV | W7BRR | W7KDD |
| W7RUE | WA7BAM | WA7SH | WV7S |
| * Net Control Station | | | |
| The net meets at 7:30 every Tuesday evening on the 3 linked OARS repeaters: 147.36, 224.46, and 441.40 MHz. All Hams are invited to check in. | | | |

President's Message

Many of us came to amateur radio with a recognition of the need for emergency communications. I became a ham 4 years ago because the snow of 5 years ago silenced our cell phones for 4 days. It was time to get my ticket!

And as a reminder, I felt the 4.2 earthquake under the Kitsap peninsula Wednesday, February 22 at 8:59 pm. There is an ever present need for emergency communications.

Fortunately, big events of nature are rare in our region; but unfortunately, a complacency can develop while waiting for 'the big one'. So how does a ham with interest in emergency communications stay practiced and sharp? Community service events are an excellent way to keep the mobile or portable radio system working, mind sharp and the tongue limber. They are also a great deal of fun, and rewarding when communications help keep a problem from becoming a tragedy.

With that in mind, Steve Schwarm, W3EVE, (thanks go to Bob, N7GQP, for the recommendation) has agreed to be 'Skyped' in and give a presentation at our March 15 meeting. Steve, with others, organizes the ham community for the Boston Marathon, one of the largest public service events in the world. As you might guess, Steve has a unique perspective and set of experiences to share. His talk title is 'Ham Emergency Communications', during which he emphasizes the importance of participating in public service events.

Locally, the season for public service communications is about to start. Watch the calendar for events that might interest you, some public service and others just fun. A short list of coming events include walks, marathons, road rally's, light house and park activation's, and even a radio event for a total solar eclipse. I can't wait!

Please remember the Olympia Amateur Radio Society has a diverse number of elmers available. If you need help accomplishing a radio goal, please ask for

an elmer. Elmer topics include everything from license exam preparation to digital communications.

Coming Events:

March 4, ARRL DX contest-Phone
March 9, TCARES, 7pm
March 11, Mike & Key hamfest
March 15, OARS, 6 pm testing, 7 pm meeting
April 8, Olympia MS Walk
April 22 & 23, Communications Academy
April 28 & 29, Arts Walk with OlyMEGA
May 21, Capital City Marathon
May 20 & 21, Road Rally
June 24 & 25, Field Day
August 19, 20(approx) Cape Disappointment Lighthouse
August 21, Total Solar Eclipse
Year round, for ever!, Parks on the Air(POTA)

Bruce
WA7BAM

— ... —

Treasurer's Report

As of February 1, 2017

GENERAL FUND (checking account)

| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Previous balance | \$ 1,722.25 |
| Income | 91.12 |
| Expenses | 0.00 |
| Ending balance | 1,813.37 |

REPEATER / PACKET FUND (savings account)

| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Previous balance | \$ 1,052.74 |
| Income | 0.00 |
| Expenses | 0.00 |
| Ending balance | 1,052.74 |

— Ed Fitzgerald, N7WW, Treasurer

— ... —

Why are there so many Techs?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Recently, one of my readers asked, "Why do most people have a Technician license and not a

General or Extra? Is it simply not interesting enough to get more privileges?"

This is a very interesting question, one that I've written about before. I think there are several issues at play here. In no particular order:

- * It's pretty easy to get a Tech license, so a lot of people get them just for the challenge, but really never intend to use the license.

- * Some people get a Tech license, but then find out that amateur radio isn't what they thought it was going to be.

- * Some people get a Tech license, then can't find an Elmer to help them. They lose interest and give up on ham radio.

- * Some people get a Tech license, buy an HT, and think that's all there is to amateur radio. They quickly lose interest in amateur radio, because talking on the repeaters just isn't all that interesting.

- * Some people get licenses to participate in local emergency communications or CERT organizations. There's no need for them to get anything more than a Tech license.

- * Since it's so easy to get a Tech license, even those that aren't technically inclined get them. Getting a General Class license requires a fair amount of study, and because they don't see the benefits of putting in that kind of work, they just don't bother.

I posted this question to my blog and got several interesting replies. Perhaps the most cogent was by Kenneth, W6KWF. He wrote: "The only thing General/Extra gets you is HF, which is becoming an increasingly small fraction of the possibilities of the amateur hobby. Amateurs could easily spend their whole lives moving from FM repeaters to microwave to VHF packet to EME to CERT/event support, etc, etc, without having any interest to explore what few facets of the hobby need HF privileges."

I think this is a great point. When incentive licensing was put into place in the late 1960s, HF

was where the action was. Nowadays, more of the "cool stuff" is happening on VHF, UHF and microwaves. Getting additional HF privileges is not really a big deal anymore for many hams.

Yet another new license class?

Right on the heels of this discussion, the ARRL posted a news item, "ARRL Seeks Opinions Concerning Possible New Entry Level License" (<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-seeks-opinions-concerning-possible-new-entry-level-license>). According to this report, the ARRL Board of Directors set up an An Entry Level License Committee in September 2016.

The committee is gathering member input via an online member survey (<http://www.arrl.org/license-1>) and will make recommendations to the Board for possible rules changes to submit to the FCC. They note, "The result could mean changes to the Technician license, but it could also be an additional, but simpler, license with privileges that would give a newcomer a taste of most facets of ham radio from HF to VHF and UHF. The survey will be online until April 7, 2017.

According to the survey page, the committee is trying to address several issues, including:

- * The declining population of new hams under the age of 30.

- * A decline in the number of new licensees who actually get on the air.

- * Amateur Radio's lack of appeal for those under the age of 30, compared to other technical hobbies.

- * The increasing challenge of engaging and retaining Technician licensees.

- * A reluctance in much of the amateur community to embrace newer technologies of interest to the younger segment of the population.

Personally, I don't think that coming up with a new entry-level license class with privileges that are even more limited than the Technician Class is a bad idea, but whether or not it's successful will

depend completely on the implementation. Unless the new class of license is accompanied by some kind of program that will help these new licensees really become engaged with amateur radio, then we're just creating another class of inactive licensees. I don't know exactly what this program would consist of, but without it, this effort is doomed to failure.

And, who's going to develop and run this program? The only organization that has the horsepower to make this work is the ARRL. They are going to have to step up big time. Most clubs don't have the people or resources to do it properly. If you have any thoughts on this, I urge you to contact your ARRL division director (<http://www.arrl.org/divisions>).

When he's not pondering questions about the amateur radio licensing structure, Dan blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, writes the "No Nonsense" amateur radio study guides, and teaches ham classes. You can contact him by e-mailing cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

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HAARP Goes Classical During New Experimental Campaign

02/23/2017

The just-concluded run of ionospheric investigations conducted from Alaska's High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP) observatory — quite likely the most powerful HF transmission facility in the world — revived the latent short-wave listener (SWL) lurking within most radio amateurs. Operating under Part 5 Experimental license WI2XFX, HAARP this month even aired some classical music as it conducted its first scientific research campaign since being taken over 18 months ago from the military by the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) Geophysical Institute.

UAF Space Physics Group Assistant Research Professor Chris Fallen, KL3WX, focused on two

experiments — one called "airglow" that literally aimed to light up the ionosphere, and another to demonstrate the so-called "Luxembourg Effect," first noticed on a 1930s Radio Luxembourg broadcast. Public engagement was part of his plan, and Fallen this week said the Twitter and e-mail feedback from his transmissions had been "fantastic," and that his science campaign had become "quite an event."

"Thank you for making a difference and advancing Amateur Radio as well," Doug Howard, VE6CID, tweeted. Another Twitter follower enthused, "You're running the coolest DX station in the world." Fallen said he also received "a lot of great waterfalls," as well as video and audio recordings from hams and SWLs.

Fallen started and stopped each experiment block with DTMF tones, transmitted in AM on or about 2.8 and 3.3 MHz, each channel fed with audio tones of different frequencies or, in the case of music, as a separate stereo channel. If the "Luxembourg Effect" is present, skywave-signal listeners would hear both channels combined on a single frequency; Fallen said the effect is easier to detect with tones. In addition to tones, he transmitted "a 'dance track,' a Pachelbel Canon arrangement, and a variation of 'Row, Row, Row Your Boat.'" Jeff Dumps, KL4IU, composed some of the music, and he arranged and performed all of it.

The CW "airglow" artificial aurora experiment followed the Luxembourg Effect transmissions. All week, Fallen despaired that the "ratty" ionosphere and cloud cover were diminishing his hopes for success with the artificial aurora experiments. But on the last night, he tweeted, "Seeing artificial airglow with the spectrometer. Film at 11."

Fallen is now evaluating the results of his HAARP efforts. He said one listener posted "a most excellent" YouTube clip. He was not specific; several have been posted that document this week's experiments, including this one from Stephen Oleson, VE6SLP. Laurence Howell, KL7L, in Wasilla, Alaska, posted an audio file.

"The miracle of crowd sourcing!" Fallen said. "If only the Luxembourg Effect was more pronounced, but it is in the 3,300 kHz recording."

Fallen has been working under a \$60,000 National Science Foundation grant. "During campaigns, significant expenditures for fuel and personnel are required," the grant abstract said. "Large start-up costs make HAARP experiments largely inaccessible to individual researchers unless multiple experiments and funding sources can be bundled together during a campaign of up to two-week duration." According to the abstract, public participation would maximize "the broader impacts of the investigations."

"HAARP again...perhaps sometime this summer!" Fallen tweeted on February 23. He has posted additional information on his "Gakona HAARPoon 2017" blog.

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When Grace is Needed

Little Mikey and his family were having Sunday dinner at his grandmother's house. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. When Little Mikey received his plate, he started eating right away.

"Mikey! Please wait until we say our prayer," said his mother.

"I don't need to," the boy replied.

"Of course, you do," his mother insisted through gritted teeth. "We always say a prayer before eating at our house."

"That's at our house," Mikey explained. "But this is Grandma's house and she knows how to cook."

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UPDATE - Distracted Driving Bills - HB 1371 and SB 5289

Washington House Bill 1371 and Senate Bill 5289 both now have been amended to include an exclusion for members of the FCC licensed Amateur Radio Service. The house bill is now Substitute House Bill 1371 and the senate bill is now Substitute Senate Bill 5289.

March 8, 2017, is the last day for the bills to be considered (pass) bills in the house of origin (5 p.m.).

I am continuing to monitor how these two bills progress in the legislature. In the event the bills do not make it to the floor for a vote we'll need to be vigilant come next session to insure that the Amateur Radio Service is excluded from enforcement action of personal communications devices.

All of us should be proud of our lawmakers as it relates to their support for the Amateur Radio Service regarding this issue. They have shown us the utmost respect for our contributions to the people of the State of Washington.

Thank you again to each and every ham who took the time to call or write their lawmakers in Olympia. Please be sure to share this information with your ham friends. If they are not members of the ARRL kindly give them an invitation to join us so we can keep them informed of what is impacting our hobby.

— *ARRL Western Washington Section Manager: Monte L Simpson, AF7PQ*

Minutes of 15 February Meeting

1800 hrs. Six candidates showed for testing. All passed; 5 new Techs and 1 new Extra

1900 hrs. Bruce – WA7BAM opened the meeting. There were 26 present.

- Business: Treasurers Report by Ed – N7WW: General Fund; \$1722.25 and the Repeater Fund; \$1552.73.

- Secretary: Meeting minutes by Rue – W7RUE

Announcements: MS Walk (8 April) and Mike and Key Hamfest (11 March)

Program 1: OLYMEGA: What is ‘Makers Group’ and how are they involved with amateur radio —presented by Jeff, KF7ATW and Michael, AE7GK. Jeff gave a brief overview of the club (500 members on-line) with about 150 that show up each month. He gave a short presentation on Arduino, RaspberryPi, and other useful devices. He talked about past, current and future activities that Makers Group is involved in.

Break: 2006 hrs.

Lee – KI7SS: gave an update on the “Distracted Driver” Bill.

Jim – KG7CCE: Demonstrated the use of the Signalink USB with the pros/cons and alternatives and how to make Signalink and other devices more user-friendly.

The meeting was adjourned at 2100 hrs.

— Rue Palmer – **W7RUE**, OARS Secretary



God's Plan For Aging

Most seniors never get enough exercise. In His wisdom God decreed that seniors become forgetful so they would have to search for their glasses, keys and other things thus doing more walking. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God saw there was another need. In His wisdom He made seniors lose coordination so they would drop things requiring them to bend, reach and stretch. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God considered the function of bladders and decided seniors would have additional calls of nature requiring more trips to the bathroom, thus providing more exercise. God looked down and saw that it was good.

So if you find as you age, you are getting up and down more, remember it's God's will. It is all in

your best interest even though you mutter under your breath.

Important Facts To Remember As We Grow Older:

No. 9

Death is the number 1 killer in the world.

No. 8

Life is sexually transmitted.

No. 7

Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.

No. 6

Men have 2 motivations: hunger and hanky panky, and they can't tell them apart. If you see a gleam in his eyes, make him a sandwich.

No. 5

Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day. Teach a person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks, months, maybe years.

No. 4

Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in the hospital, dying of nothing.

No. 3

All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

No. 2

In the 60's, people took LSD to make the world weird. Now the world is weird, and people take Prozac to make it normal.

No. 1

Life is like a jar of jalapeno peppers. What you do today may be a burning issue tomorrow.

Please share this wisdom with others while I go to the bathroom again.....



OARS Meeting

Wednesday, March 15, 7:00 pm
“Ham Emergency Communications”

South Sound Manor Event Center
455 North Street SE
Tumwater

If you are a Ham who has received this newsletter, but are not yet a member of OARS, you are cordially invited to join us. Please complete the membership application found elsewhere in this newsletter and mail it to:

OARS
PO Box 2861
Olympia WA 98507

or bring it to an OARS meeting and see Treasurer Ed Fitzgerald.

OARS
PO BOX 2861
OLYMPIA WA 98507

