

# Watts News

*Monthly Newsletter of the Olympia Amateur Radio Society*

*May 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	867-0756
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			
<b>OARS Website: <a href="http://www.olyham.org">www.olyham.org</a></b>			
OARS Facebook Page: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/ARRLOARS/">https://www.facebook.com/ARRLOARS/</a>			

**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](mailto: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 April on the OARS General Information Net:			
KI7SS *	AC7MG	AF7IO	AG7BA
K3AL	K7AU	K7HTZ	K7TAG
KA7FRZ	KB6LE	KB7HPP	KC2FSZ
KD7SQU	KD7TQW	KE7IHC	KE7KQI
KG7CCE	KG7HBE	KG7NQT	KG7OOO
KG7OQS	KG7VQP	KI7CQ	KI7FKQ
KI7KVF	KI7LXM	KL7SK	N3MO
N7DFF	N7DIT	N7GQP	N7TLF
NU7D	NW7J	W6EGV	W7BRR
W7KDD	W7RUE	WA7BAM	WA7SH
WB7ROZ	WC7I	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

### Opportunities

The 2017 solar eclipse will happen August 21, 2017 1400 to 2200 UTC with opportunity to view totality (a very special event in nature) and contribute to the knowledge base of science and amateur radio. As a retired science teacher and with a lot of science types in my family including a soon to be minted PhD in astronomy, this chance to add to knowledge and experience of all humans is a very big thing.

Ward Silver, N0AX, author of many ARRL books and articles is organizing the SEQP or solar eclipse QSO party (<http://hamsci.org/seqp>). The 'sci' in the url stands for Science Citizen Investigation. The event's objective is to generate observations of propagation by the Reverse Beacon Network (RBN <http://www.reversebeacon.net/>), PSKReporter (<https://pskreporter.info/>), WSPRNet (<http://www.wsprnet.org>), and event logs before, during, and after the eclipse on the amateur bands for the purpose of ionospheric sounding. There are rules and sample logs so be sure to read carefully.

Scientists from six universities are involved including MIT. While the ionosphere and its response to many stresses placed on it have been studied for 50 years or more, many questions remain. A good map to plan your activation is at <http://www.eclipse2017.org/2017/states/OR.htm> with plenty of access along the I-5 corridor and beautiful Oregon Coast. I plan to be someplace among the sage and junipers of central Oregon on August 21!

### Other opportunities

The calendar of local events is very full and the sign-ups for the Olympia Arts Walk and Lacey Spring Fun Fair are all I had hoped for. Participants for these 'meet and greet' events will be sharing their enthusiasm for the amateur radio hobby with many in the community. Even the people walking past our table will become aware that amateur radio does exist in Thurston County. Other 'on the radio' near term events are the Olympus Road Rally May 13 & 14 organized by Lee, K17SS and Capital City Marathon on May 21 organized by Tom, W7BHN. Both need more hams so if you have the time and inclination please contact Lee and Tom. These events are great fun on the radio.

Field Day is June 24 & 25 at a new location at WB7ROZ's new home near East Olympia. No hills to block our signals, noise is S1-2 and 5 acres for antennas will make this a top event. This is the open house of amateur radio so invite friends. A lot of planning on antennas including experimentation is happening as I type.

These events are the best way to practice emergency communications without the emergency that I know of, and have a lot of fun to boot. View the complete calendar at <http://www.olyham.org/olympia-ama/home/oars-google-calendar> and [https://www.facebook.com/pg/ARRLOARS/events/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/ARRLOARS/events/?ref=page_internal)

Promoting the radio hobby is a responsibility of all participants. One simple idea is to take QST to libraries when you are done. Cut off the personal information on the front cover and deposit the magazine in the public magazine recycle area at the local library branch. Someone interested in radio may read it and become motivated to become licensed. You don't have to save old copies. The information is available via the QST website and is search-able. Other locations to leave QST are doctors' waiting rooms and at tire stores.

Help is available: If you need help on anything related to amateur radio from studying for the test to operating in a contest, please contact Bruce, WA7BAM@ARRL, and we will get you the help you need to be successful.

Invitation to present the education program at an OARS meeting. If you have a topic others might be interested in, consider presenting it to the group. Power point presentations can work as can physical demonstrations that can be projected on the wall. Or bring in radios, antenna's, experiments that have worked or failed, how to demonstrations such as soldering would be invaluable.

Show us your station presentation at OARS meeting. From boat anchors to the most modern equipment would show the variety of ways to enjoy our hobby. Topics could range from general station layout, invisible antennas, managing the wire mess or anything you think could show a unique approach to problem solving.

Get on the air, make some noise and have fun!

— Bruce, WA7BAM



# Treasurer's Report

As of April 1, 2017

## GENERAL FUND (checking account)

Previous balance .....	\$ 1,988.47
Income .....	200,00
Expenses .....	0,00
Ending balance .....	2,188.47

## 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



## FCC Proposes Levying Huge Fine on New York Police Radio Jammer

04/17/2017

The FCC has proposed a fine of more than \$400,000 on a Queens, New York, man who has admitted making unauthorized transmissions on New York City Police Department (NYPD) radio frequencies, maliciously interfering with NYPD officers' communications. Jay Peralta, 20, is alleged to have transmitted false bomb threats, false claims of criminal activities involving firearms, false distress calls from purported NYPD officers, and threats against individual NYPD officers. The unauthorized transmissions began a year ago, according to the FCC.

“Through his actions, as he described them to the NYPD, Mr. Peralta has demonstrated not only a deliberate disregard of the Commission's authority and rules, but of the safety of NYPD officers and the public that they are called to serve and protect,” the FCC said in a *Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL)*, issued on April 14. “Commission action in this context is therefore essential to safeguard authorized operations on spectrum licensed for public safety uses, and, accordingly, a substantial penalty appears warranted.”

The FCC said the *NAL* addresses nine unauthorized and interfering transmissions that Peralta has admitted to the NYPD that he made on its radio system. The FCC said Peralta's unauthorized transmissions included false bomb threats, false claims of criminal activities involving firearms, false distress calls from purported NYPD officers, and threats against individual NYPD officers.

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai, said that with the *NAL*, the FCC is making it “abundantly clear that it will not tolerate unauthorized and illegal use of the radio spectrum.” The entire Commission now must sign off on such proposed fines, and Pai said he was grateful to his fellow FCC members for “agreeing to act swiftly and strongly” in the matter. “This may not be a typical pirate radio case in which an unauthorized operator inflicts damage on a radio broadcaster that is operating with a valid FCC license,” Pai said, “but it does involve unauthorized interference to critical public safety communications systems.”

Peralta was arrested last fall along with two other men suspected of committing several robberies. According to news accounts, police found a cache of scanners and radios in one of the suspects' homes.

The FCC said it was alerted by a Twitter post about an unlawful intrusion on the NYPD radio system and dispatched an Enforcement Bureau agent to check it out. On September 30, the NYPD contacted the FCC's New York Office and advised that it had arrested Peralta and another individual in connection with unauthorized transmissions on NYPD's radio system. According to police reports, the other individual arrested — Ricardo Torres, 29, described as “a ham radio enthusiast” in some news accounts — allegedly provided the radios used.

Torres, is said to hold an FCC General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) license but his name does not appear in the Amateur Radio licensee database.

Police said they found 15 portable radios, 9 scanners, roof-top antennas, an amplifier, and assorted other electronics in Torres's apartment.

Peralta has 30 days to pay or contest the proposed \$404,166 FCC forfeiture.



## Same-Band "Duelling CQs" Now Prohibited in All ARRL Contests

04/05/2017

ARRL has clarified its contest rules to clearly prohibit the practice of interleaved CQs — also known as "duelling CQs" — on two or more frequencies in the same band. The clarification is an extension of existing rules that permit only "one transmitted signal," and it formalizes what had been a "gentleman's agreement."

"ARRL reviewed it, concurred that this is technically occupying two channels, and in consultation with several members of the Board of Directors — who had been contacted by concerned parties — and the Programs and Services Committee, it was concluded we needed to 'clarify' our existing rules," ARRL Contest Branch Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, said.

An explanatory paragraph points out, "The intent of the rules has always been that a participant would use/occupy only a single channel in a given band, changing frequency in band from time to time leaving a CQ frequency to work a multiplier or to change the CQing frequency as band occupancy or changing propagation dictated, and this rules clarification will now give the needed added clarity to that intent."

The issue arose when a multioperator station successfully employed in-band interleaved CQs in the last ARRL International DX SSB event, substantially boosting their score.

The topic subsequently occupied a lot of bandwidth on the CQ-Contest reflector, where elite contester Frank Donovan, W3LPL, observed, "That doesn't make it right for [a contest station] to follow this practice that is generally understood to

be unacceptable behavior by all of the rest of us." At the time of the event, however, ARRL rules did not explicitly prohibit the practice, and as another top contester, Steve London, N2IC, asked, "Falls under the 'what is not specifically prohibited is allowed' rule?"

Responding to a poster who said duelling CQs on the same band was simply "innovation," Hans Brakob, K0HB, opined, "By any reasonable measure, running interleaved CQs on two [frequencies] in the same band consumes two operating channels on that band. In the existing period of limited propagation, many would consider such double-occupancy of a finite resource to be selfish, not innovative."

The update brings ARRL's contest rules in line with those of CQ-sponsored contests, which already prohibit the practice of in-band, interleaved CQs. The IARU HF Championship Contest bans the practice for multioperator entries.

The rule clarification does not prohibit the practice of alternating CQs on different bands, also called 2BSIQ — two-band synchronized interleaved QSOs.



## New Bands! FCC Issues Amateur Radio Service Rules for 630 Meters and 2,200 Meters

03/31/2017

It's been a long time coming, but the Amateur Service will get two new bands in the near future. The FCC on March 28 adopted rules that will allow secondary Amateur Radio access to 472-479 kHz (630 meters) and to 135.7-137.8 kHz (2,200 meters), with minor conditions. The FCC *Report and Order (R&O)* spells out the details. It allocates 472-479 kHz to the Amateur Service on a secondary basis and amends Part 97 to provide for Amateur Service use of that band as well as of the previously allocated 135.7-137.8 kHz band. The *R&O* also amends Part 80 rules to authorize radio buoy operations in the 1900-2000 kHz band under a ship station license. Just when the new Part 97

rules will go into effect is difficult to determine just yet; more on that below.

“It’s a big win for the Amateur community and the ARRL,” ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, said. “We are excited by the FCC’s action to authorize Amateur Radio access for the first time on the MF and LF spectrum. As amateurs begin using these new allocations in the next few weeks, we encourage the entire Amateur Radio community, as secondary users, to be especially attentive to the rules.”

It has not been an easy win, however. ARRL has been trying since the 1970s to convince the FCC to allow amateur access to parts of the spectrum below the Standard Broadcast Band. Through the Utilities Telecoms Council (UTC), electric power utilities have opposed Amateur Radio use of the MF and LF spectrum, raising unsubstantiated fears of interference to unlicensed Part 15 power line carrier (PLC) systems used to manage the power grid. The FCC said the Amateur Radio service rules it has adopted for 630 meters and 2,200 meters allow for co-existence with PLC systems that use the two bands.

Here are the highlights:

- Amateurs operating on 472-479 kHz will be permitted a maximum equivalent isotropically radiated power (EIRP) of 5 W, except in parts of Alaska within 800 kilometers (approximately 496 miles) of Russia, where the maximum would be 1 W EIRP. [EIRP is the product of the power supplied to the antenna and the antenna gain in a given direction, relative to an isotropic antenna (absolute or isotropic gain). EIRP is equal to ERP multiplied by 1.64.]
- Amateurs operating in the 135.7-137.8 kHz band will be permitted to run up to 1 W EIRP.

- The FCC is requiring a 1-kilometer separation distance between radio amateurs using the two new bands and electric power transmission lines with PLC systems on those bands. Amateur Radio operators will have to notify the UTC of station location prior to commencing operations. The FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau will provide details on the notification process later, but ARRL is urging radio amateurs interested in operating on either band to register at the earliest opportunity, to avoid having to protect any “post-notification” PLCs.
- The FCC placed a 60-meter (approximately 197 feet) above-ground-level (AGL) height limit on transmitting antennas used on 630 meters and 2,200 meters.
- The bands would be available to General class and higher licensees, and permissible modes would include CW, RTTY, data, phone, and image. Automatically controlled stations would be permitted to operate in the bands.

In an unrelated action, the FCC allocated 1,900-2,000 kHz to the maritime mobile service (MMS) on a primary basis for non-Federal use in ITU Regions 2 and 3, and limited the use of this allocation to radio buoys on the open sea and the Great Lakes.

“We are persuaded by ARRL’s comments to adopt final rules that are better tailored to the places where the commercial fishing fleet can make reasonable and productive use of radio buoys,” the FCC said.

Amateur Radio was upgraded from secondary to primary in the 1900-2000 kHz segment in 2015. The FCC said it believes Amateur Radio and radio buoys “can continue to share this frequency band as they have done for many years.” It declined to make additional spectrum available for radio buoy use.

*Effective Date*

The fact that the new rules contain a new information-collection requirement — notification of operation to the UTC — makes it difficult to guess at an effective date. The FCC R&O says the Office of Management and Budget (under the Paperwork Reduction Act) must first approve the information-collection requirements (in §97.303[g] [2]). Once that happens, the revised Part 97 sections will become effective after the FCC publishes a notice in *The Federal Register* “announcing such approval and the relevant effective date.”

— ... —

### Minutes of April Meeting

1800 hrs. We had nine candidates for testing with 6 Techs, one General, and two Amateur Extra Class licenses earned.

Introductions, Elmer needed & Question: What are your goals with amateur radio? There were 28 present.

A wonderful presentation was given by Bob Kalkwarf K7AU, on Magnetic Loop Antennas.

Break: 2020 hrs. for 10 minutes.

#### Business

1. Treasurers Report by Ed, N7WW
2. Secretary's Report by Rue, W7RUE

Vice President Den, WV7S; talked about a club skills Elmer questionnaire.

Field Day 2017; June 24, 25—Soft Decisions; looks like it may be at Dwayne's farm (WB7ROZ). Some discussion on antenna placement and pretesting.

Lee – K17SS talked about Com Academy coming up this weekend 22-23 April and encouraged the

club members to attend if possible. There was discussion about purchasing a WinLink Gateway Station (X108G) for the OARS Club.

Meeting adjourned at 2103 hrs.

#### Sign up to help: Arts Walk with OlyMEGA

**Friday, April 28 (5-10pm) & Saturday, April 29 (Noon-8pm)**

**312 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue East, downtown Olympia (just southeast of transit center)**

Name & Call    Email    Time    Monitor repeater y/n

#### Sign up to help with Lacey Spring Fun Fair

**Saturday, May 6 10am – 6pm Sunday, May 7 11am – 5pm**

**Saint Martins University Worthington Center**

Name & Call    Email    Time    Monitor repeater y/n

— *Rue Palmer, Secretary*

— ... —



# **O A R S Meeting**

**Wednesday, May 17, 7:00 pm**

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

