

Watts News

Monthly Newsletter of the Olympia Amateur Radio Society August 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			
OARS Website: www.olyham.org			

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 July on the OARS General Information Net:			
AC7MG	KB7HPP	KI7CQ	W6EGV
AD7KC	KC9NWS	KI7FKQ	W77BRR
AF7IO	KD7OQS	KI7SS *	W7RUE
AG7BA	KD7PLJ	KL7SK	W7SLT
K3AL	KD7SQU	N6TPT	WA4RAY
K7HTZ	KD7TQW	N7GQP	WA7BAM
K7TAG	KF7KJI	N7TLF	WA7SH
K7TCM	KF7VWA	N7TLF	WB7ROZ
KA7FRZ	KG7CCE	N7WW	WV7S
KB7ED	KG7HBE	NW7J	
* 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

This message is being typed from the Blue Lake Trail Head about 15 miles north of Cougar Wa. Part of the Big Foot ultra marathon series, today's foot races are 100 kilometers and 40 miles in length. Keeping track of these runners in wilderness settings is critical. Today's weather should not be a big factor, but the previous 3 races it has been. This service aspect to our hobby provides important peace of mind to runners and their families as well as race organizers. Jim, KG7CCE is here with me along with 2 other hams as other stations are working to confirm runners last location for supporting family members. We are providing a needed service and enjoying a great day outside along with many nice people. Someone has a drone flying overhead, perhaps looking for lead runners into Blue Lake. And a couple just stopped by to ask directions because they had no cell signal. My paper map helped them to find the Ape Caves which are close.

Later, we received a report of a runner down and not moving 4 miles beyond Blue Lake. Our medic confirmed she was available and able to make the trip as hams at finish and Blue Lake confirmed known details. A teen volunteered to accompany her. At 10 pm we had heard nothing and the teens mother was concerned because the pair lacked warm clothes and light for night travel. Later the medic and teen arrived with good news that after treatment that included IV fluids the distressed runner was even able to finish the event. Hams and the communication capability we provide were critical in this happy ending.

On another subject, there are 5 keys to successful radio clubs. The first is have FUN! As much 'work' as field day was, most agreed that was great fun despite the heat. (Our first runner #6 just arrived!) The July meetings presentation was from our very own Jeff, NW7J, on operating JT65, a digital mode designed to be readable well below the noise floor. Jeff also shared photos of his new shack under construction. Thank you Jeff!

The second key to successful clubs is to have programs on popular and needed topics. JT65 will greatly increase your ability to DX even during these days of solar doldrums. What other topics would you like to see presented? Den, WV7S and vice president generated a questionnaire that gave us some insights, but we are always open to new ideas. If you find an interesting topic, please mention it to us.

The third key is to publish a quality newsletter. We are very fortunate to have George that assembles

our monthly newsletter including a collection of great humor. Feel free to exercise your writing skills and submit an article. Phil, KA7FRZ, just had his field day article publish at ThurstonTalk.com, a local good news site. Congratulations Phil!

Fourth is to tap our local talent. While we have Skyped in speakers in the past and will in the future, our talent is both deep and diverse and we will continue to work with local hams to keep our educational programs interesting, varied and relevant.

Last is to stay active. Look at the enclosed calendar to see plenty of opportunities for involvement. Pick your interest and volunteer! For the first time in many years we will have a booth for 2 days at the Thurston County Fair.

We tested 6 candidates before the July meeting, mid summer with so many other things to do. This is wonderful. We hope to see numbers of involved radio amateurs grow over time.

The solar eclipse is coming! And Olympia will have 94.1% coverage. This is good time to participate in a citizen science study which is much larger than just a bunch of hams having fun on a radio. Our radio logs will be just one part of a multi-faceted study that involves 6 universities. Not just a great opportunity but likely the last local eclipse for most of us. Go to hamsci.org for how to participate.

Get on the radio, make some contacts and have fun! 73,

—Bruce WA7BAM

— ... —

Not all chemicals are bad; without chemicals such as hydrogen and oxygen, for example, there would be no way to make water, a vital ingredient in beer.

—Dave Barry\

— ... —

August Events

2-6 Thurston County Fair (August 2,3 only)

11-15, Bigfoot Ultra Marathon

<http://www.bigfoot200.com/>

19,20—but I'm thinking 17,18--ILLW at Cape Disappointment Light House or North Head light house)

21—Total solar eclipse day

26—All City Hamfest

29—Family Field Day for 1-2 Stryker Brigade

Combat Team 10-4pm Lacey RAC Military

Appreciation Day

—Bruce WA7BAM

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Distracted Driving

This was recently received in a mailing from the AAA:

AAA Washington has long been a champion of traffic safety. That's why I am pleased to share with you the stricter Distracted Driving law, appropriately called Driving Under the Influence of Electronics, which takes effect on July 23. Quite simply, this law will save lives and reduce injuries. Here is what you need to know:

Washington's new Distracted Driving law bans the use of any hand-held personal electronic device while driving – even if you are stopped at a signal or stuck in traffic.

Reporting an emergency and "minimal use," such as pushing a button to activate a mapping application, are still allowed.

Violators will be fined \$136 for a first offense and the fine doubles for subsequent offenses.

Distracted driving violations are now reportable to insurance companies.

The new law classifies other dangerous distractions, such as engaging with passengers or grooming, as secondary offenses.

Hands-Free is not Risk-Free

Although the new law does not apply to voice-activated in-vehicle systems or hands-free phones, research by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety shows that using voice-activated devices while driving creates significant mental distraction.

Distracted driving, often caused by phone use, has become the third leading factor in fatal crashes. That's why I urge you to refrain from using any device that takes your attention away from driving. Please help keep the roads safer for all of us by following these tips to prevent distracted driving:

Turn off or put all hand-held personal electronic devices where you can't reach them.

Adjust GPS, stereo and other in-vehicle systems before you hit the road.

Finish eating and grooming at home.

Don't call or text someone you know is driving.

We all need to stay focused with our hands on the wheel, eyes on the road and our minds on driving.

Our safety and that of our friends, family and other motorists and pedestrians depends on it. You can learn more about the new law and ways to drive distraction-free at aaa.com/distracteddrivingwa.

Although not mentioned here, Amateur Radio and certain other devices are exempted according to other sources.

We need to be very careful not to operate mobile ham radio in an unsafe manner, and to limit most such operation to emergency situations.

— ... —

Are Driverless Cars in Our Future?

While on the subject of how we drive, consider this prediction from the CEO of Tesla Motors:

Elon Musk has predicted that, within the next ten years, all new cars will be autonomous, self-driving vehicles.

If this bold prediction is true, we could be facing a serious shift towards safer roadways much sooner than most people expected.

Elon Musk has made another bold prediction about the future of self-driving cars. In a conversation held at the [World Government Summit in Dubai](#), the Tesla CEO stated that nearly all new cars would be self-driving within the next ten years.

Musk predicts that the first level four autonomous cars from Tesla will arrive by the end of this year. He views this arrival as a paradigm shift for the automobile industry:

“There are about 2 billion cars in the world and the total annual production capacity is about 100 million cars, which makes sense since the average life of a car before being totally scrapped is about 20-25 years.” This means that the shift to driverless cars won't be immediate, but “the point for which we see autonomy appear will not be the point when we see a massive impact on people because it will take a lot of time to make enough autonomous vehicles to disrupt. That disruption will take place for about 20 years.”

Musk also mentioned how the supercomputer used to control Tesla's vehicles, the NVIDIA Drive PX 2, can reach level five autonomy. NVIDIA thinks that level 4-5 autonomy would only be possible with two supercomputers, but even so, Musk stated that the computers could easily be upgraded to rise the occasion.

We won't have to wait long to see how his predictions will play out.

— ... —

Question of the Day

Will AI (Artificial Intelligence) ever overcome GS (Genuine Stupidity)?

—GL

— ... —

The Haircut

(Blessed are those who can give without remembering.....and take without forgetting.)

One day a florist went to a barber for a haircut. After the cut, he asked about his bill, and the barber replied, 'I cannot accept money from you; I'm doing community service this week.'

The florist was pleased and left the shop. When the barber went to open his shop the next morning, there was a 'thank you' card and a dozen roses waiting for him at his door.

Later, a cop came in for a haircut, and when he tried to pay his bill, the barber again replied, 'I cannot accept money from you; I'm doing community service this week.' The cop was happy and left the shop.

The next morning when the barber went to open up, there was a 'thank you' card and a dozen donuts waiting for him at his door.

Then a Congressman came in for a haircut, and when he went to pay his bill, the barber again replied, 'I can not accept money from you; I'm doing community service this week.' The Congressman was very happy and left the shop.

The next morning, when the barber went to open up, there were a dozen Congressmen lined up waiting for a free haircut.

And that, my friends, illustrates the fundamental difference between the citizens of our country and the politicians who run it.

As Ronald Reagan said: BOTH POLITICIANS AND DIAPERS NEED TO BE CHANGED OFTEN.....AND FOR THE SAME REASON!

— ... —

Royal Mint to Welcome Amateur Radio

07/23/2017

The Royal Mint Experience in Wales will host "The Royal Mint Radio Experience," July 30 until August 5 at the Royal Mint's new visitor center in Llantrisant, Wales. School children and members of the public have been invited to enjoy a fun, informal, and interactive Amateur Radio workshop. According to an announcement from the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB), visitors will get the chance to use the FUNcube-1 CubeSat, launched in 2013 and used by schools and educational groups around the world.

"We're delighted to be supporting this event which will give visitors to the Royal Mint a chance to experience the wonder of Amateur Radio and satellite communication," said RSGB General Manager Steve Thomas, M1ACB. "Amateur Radio has many links with the science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM) curriculum and can lead to rewarding careers."

Visitors will also exchange greetings with radio amateurs around the globe via CW, SSB, and data modes, including RTTY and JT65. As each country is contacted, it will be logged on a large map. The target is to contact each of the 100 countries with which the Royal Mint has worked over the course of its 1,000-year history.

Visitors also will be able to learn how to send their name using Morse code and will receive a special certificate to confirm their achievement.

Members of RSGB, Barry Amateur Radio Society (BARS), and AMSAT-UK will operate special event station GB4RME (GB 4 Royal Mint Experience); Ofcom granted that call sign just for this event. RSGB Regional Manager and BARS Chairman Glyn Jones, GW0ANA, said he believes this may be the first time Amateur Radio has been allowed to operate from a Royal Mint anywhere in the world.

—Thanks to RSGB

— ... —

Meeting Minutes July 19, 2017

1800 hrs. We had six candidates for testing; all 6 passed Tech license.

1900 hrs. Bruce – WA7BAM, opened the meeting with introductions; there were 26 present.

Jeff – NW7J gave a detailed presentation on operating JT65; a sub-audible digital mode – super slow, can be used when conditions do not allow normal communications; similar to PSK31. Great for multi-taskers.

Rue – W7RUE read the secretary's report

Ed – N7WW gave the treasurer's report; we have \$2104 in the General Fund and \$1055 in the Repeater Fund

Field Day Wrap-up—Duane, WB7ROZ our wonderful host presented last month's Field Day event.

Bruce – WA7BAM presented the following:

1. Thurston County Fair discussion August 2-3 only; set-up with an antenna that can be rolled up out of reach of Joe Public when not in use.
2. All City Hamfest August 26
3. North Head Lighthouse activation, date, challenges
4. After the sale discussion--ideas

Submitted by;

*Rue Palmer – W7RUE
Club Secretary*

— ... —

If it weren't for electricity we'd all be watching television by candlelight.

— *George Gobel*

— ... —

Treasurer's Report

As of July 1

GENERAL FUND (checking account)

Previous balance	\$ 1,928.82
Income	175.20
Expenses	0.00
Ending balance	2,104.02

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
Health Care*

We Americans live in a nation where the medical-care system is second to none in the world, unless you count maybe 25 or 30 little scuzzball countries like Scotland that we could vaporize in seconds if we felt like it.

— *Dave Barry*

— ... —

Older But Smarter

An older gentleman had an appointment to see the urologist who shared an office with several other doctors. The waiting room was filled with patients. As he approached the receptionist desk he noticed that the receptionist was a large unfriendly woman who more resembled a Sumo wrestler. He gave her his name. In a very loud voice, the receptionist said, "YES, I HAVE YOUR NAME HERE; YOU WANT TO SEE THE DOCTOR ABOUT IMPOTENCE, RIGHT?"

All the patients in the waiting room snapped their heads around to look at the very embarrassed

man. He recovered quickly, and in an equally loud voice replied, "NO, I'VE COME TO INQUIRE ABOUT A SEX CHANGE OPERATION, BUT I DON'T WANT THE SAME DOCTOR THAT DID YOURS."

Moral of the story... DON'T MESS WITH OLD FOLKS!

— ... —



Back to the future? Navy Tests Computerized Morse Code System

While Morse Code is no longer part of military radio communications, apparently the Navy is still using it for ship-to-ship communications using signal lamps. According to a [fascinating article on Wikipedia](#), navies have used signal lights for ship-to-ship communications since the late 1800s, and the Commonwealth Navies and NATO forces still use them to prevent foes from intercepting their messages or otherwise interfering with radio communications.

The Navy no longer routinely teaches sailors Morse Code, though. So, how do signalmen

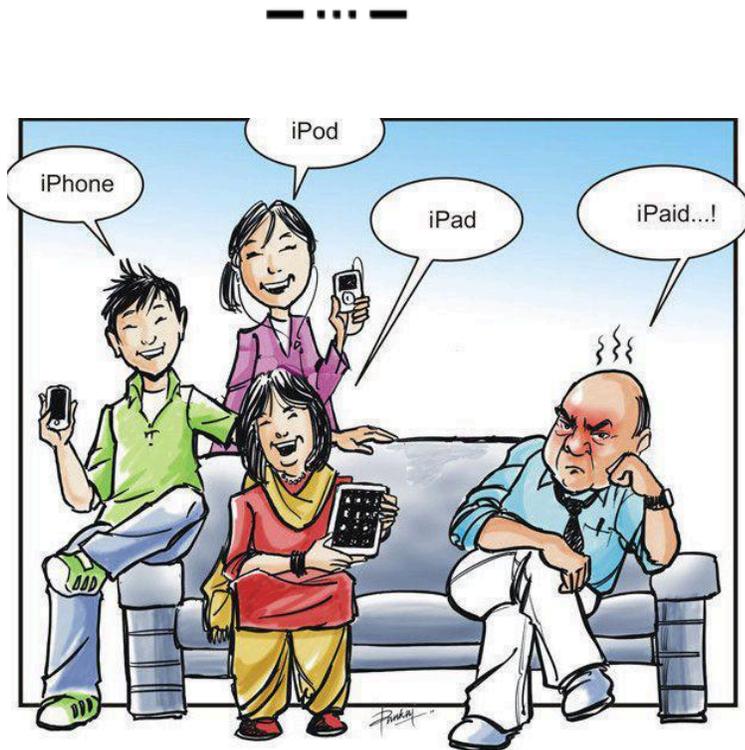
keep the light on? The answer, according to a YouTube video recently released by the [Office of Naval Research](#) (see below) is to computerize it.

Try watching this video on www.youtube.com,

The Navy recently tested the system aboard the USS Stout. Sailors on the Stout sent and received messages from the USS Monterey, moored at a dock in Norfolk, Virginia. According to the article the test went very well. According to Navy engineers, sending and receiving messages via the FLTC is very similar to sending and receiving text messages with a smartphone, a skill which most sailors already have.

Although the system is still just a prototype, ships could be outfitted with production systems as early as 2018. In addition to reducing the need to train sailors to send and receive messages, the Navy also thinks that the system will allow them to send messages faster than they can currently, with speeds of up to 100 words per minute or more being possible.

be equally welcome at the “old guard” ham radio clubs in the Pittsburgh area, but as we know, that’s sometimes not the case.

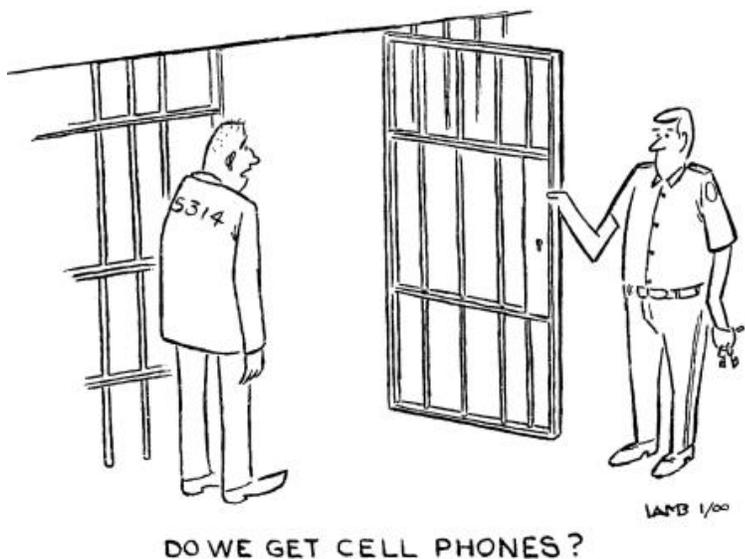


Makezine.com Promotes Ham Radio

July 17, 2017

Last week, Makezine.com [published a nice story](#) on one woman’s (very positive) experience getting into ham radio. Mandy Schultz, KB3UGX, writes, “I first got involved in amateur radio (also called ham radio) in 2010, mostly to prove a point that ‘girls can be amateur radio operators too’ — and discovered I was joining a fun community by doing so.”

Mandy explains how she was welcomed into the HackPittsburgh radio group. Her experience is a good reason why we should continue to promote ham radio among the maker community and work with these groups whenever we can. I’d hope that she’d



O A R S Meeting
Wednesday, August 16, 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

