

Watts News

Monthly Newsletter of the Olympia Amateur Radio Society

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Club Information Page

OARS Officers			
President	Bruce Montgomery	WA7BAM	259-9300
Vice President	Dennis Niles	WV7S	(808)283-3208
Secretary	Frank Hamilton	KF7HXV	(360) 951-1174
Treasurer	Ed Fitzgerald	N7WW	491-2289
Member at Large	Phil Cornell	W7PLC	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	W7BHN	456-6260
WebMaster	Ray Goble	W7BHN	253-344-3408
Newsletter	George Lanning	KB6LE	438-5797
Classes	Lee Chambers	KI7SS	951-2538
License Exams	Klaus Neubert	AC7MG	280-2428
Equipment Custodian			
OARS Website: olyham.org olyham.blogspot.com			

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	

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.

OARS Net Check-ins

The following stations checked in one or more times on the OARS General Information Net in January 2018:

KI7SS *			
AC7MG	KG7HPP	KI7QVN	W7BRR
AF7IO	KG7NQT	KI7SCS	W7KDD
AG7BA	KG7NQW	KI7TEA	W7NN
K7HTZ	KG7OQS	KL7SK	W7PLC
K7TAG	KI7CQ	N7DFE	W7RUE
KB6LE	KI7FKQ	N7DGN	WA7BAM
KB7ED	KI7MTA	N7GQP	WB4LWQ
KB7GP	KI7QCL	NW7J	WB7JIM
KD7SQU	KI7QIN	W6EGV	WB7ROZ

* 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 Column

Wow !

This one word does not completely encompass the opportunities that opened up at the January 17, 2018 meeting.

But first, the educational program by Bob Heil of Heil Sound, a ham of 62 years experience, and a member of the Ham Nation weekly podcast crew was outstanding. He gave a history of himself and business, the only equipment business inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. He really does know about sound. Bob then demonstrated how boosting the 2.5-3.0 khz range of the audio spectrum increases the clarity of speech. Clearer the speech, the easier to bust a pile up or more accurately communicate during a disaster. Heil Sound will soon sell a parametric equalizer that can make your radio sound like top end hifi. Finally, Bob showed his pine board radio project that was featured in a recent QST article.

Bobs' reply to my thank you email was an offer to come back and expand and share more experiences; an offer not to be passed up.

After a short break we accomplished the business portion of the meeting. The club first approved a process for the fair and equitable sale of the recently acquired equipment. Second, it was decided by voting members to sell the 2 towers and larger of the StepIR antennas. The smaller StepIR will be kept and hopefully put to good use during Field Day this next June.

The meeting was winding down (so I thought) when Dave, K7DOA, walked to the front of the room. Dave manages Funeral Alternatives which in turn manages South Sound Event Center where we meet. Ed, N7WW, had previously negotiated a new facility rent of zero. You read correctly. Perhaps the nicest meeting place OARS has ever had now will cost us nothing. Dave encouraged us to keep dues at the present level to grow our resources. He then asked us what else he could offer that we could use.

Dave as a funeral home manager has a good sense of humor as indicated by his 'Dead On Arrival' call sign suffix. When he said there is a possibility of space for a radio shack on premises he joked about his vision of wire antennas amongst the tombstones. I asked about space for a classroom and he responded that such a space does exist. Bottom line is

Dave and the business want to support us because we are a service group. A look at the calendar on the new OARS website shows we will be busy with community service in 2018.

With the offer of support from Funeral Alternatives the OARS membership needs to think 'outside the box' as Phil, W7PLC phrased it. We are being given wonderful and exciting chances to move the club in directions we have never before been able to consider. Need to throw a large radio celebration with food? No problems. A conveniently located venue for club contest participation? Nama problema. Classes, kids events, operating schedules with invitation open to the public, or whatever else our minds can dream up are now a possibility.

A remote control station that member hams with antenna restrictions can access from home? Possible too.

This all just dropped from the sky on us at the meeting last night. This generosity is amazing. Please begin to dream about the expanded future of amateur radio in our area. Attend nets and meeting and participate by sharing ideas. It will take a while to work out the details, but Dave is working to give us facilities that remove one of our largest barriers to growing the club.

Let's work together to make the most of these exciting opportunities.

—Bruce, WA7BAM



Advanced Technology

They had been up in the attic together doing some cleaning. The kids uncovered an old manual typewriter and asked, "Hey Mom, what's this?"

"Oh, that's an old typewriter," she answered, thinking that would satisfy their curiosity.

"Well what does it do?" they asked.

"I'll show you," she said and returned with a blank piece of paper. She rolled the paper into the typewriter and began striking the keys, leaving black letters of print on the page.

"WOW!" they exclaimed, "That's really cool!! But how does it work like that? Where do you plug it in?"

"There is no plug," she answered. "It doesn't need a plug."

"Then where do you put the batteries?" they persisted.

"It doesn't need batteries either." she continued.

"Wow! This is so cool!" they exclaimed. "Someone should have invented this a long time ago!"



Washington Weather

A lady moved from Phoenix to Seattle and when she arrived it was raining. While she moved in, it rained. The next day it rained, and the next, and then the next.

After several rainy days, while standing on her porch, she noticed a young boy on the porch of her neighbor's house. Trying not to sound too depressed, in a cheerful voice she called over to the lad, "Hi son, I'm your new neighbor."

Hi," the boy called back and waved. "Say, son, does it ever stop raining here?" she asked.

With a look of consternation, the youngster replied, "Lady, how would I know? I'm only six years old

is a shorter transmit-receive cycle, with contacts four times faster than with JT65 or JT9; an entire FT8 contact can take place in about a minute. Many DXpeditions now routinely include FT8 operation.

The new mode is named after its developers, Steven Franke, K9AN, and Joe Taylor, K1JT. The numeral designates the mode's 8-frequency shift-keying format. Tones are spaced at 6.25 Hz, and an FT8 signal occupies just 50 Hz.

Wells reported that 8,000 Club Log users uploaded FT8 contacts last year, logging 46,000 discrete call signs in that mode. "For reference, in 2017 the total number of QSOs uploaded to Club Log (all modes) was 32 million," Wells said. "Of that total, the number of QSOs made with FT8 was 4.8 million." That works out to 15% of all contacts posted to Club Log, which may or may not be representative of Amateur Radio activity at large.

Wells' graph for 2017 shows a dramatic increase in mid-2017 in the percentage of FT8 contact relative to other modes, by year's end overtaking CW and SSB usage, already trending downward except for a significant bump in CW usage toward the end of the year. RTTY and PSK31 usage remained comparatively stable over the course of 2017. The usage of "other" undefined modes declined dramatically after the introduction of FT8.

Wells explained it this way. "On any given day [the graph shows] the percentage of QSOs logged with a particular mode, plotted for a year," he told ARRL. "Say 100 QSOs were made on Wednesday, then, 55 of them were on FT8. It is not showing absolute levels of activity, just relative levels of activity."

Wells pointed out that the data is smoothed, and the values are for a 28-day moving average. "Therefore, a weekend of only CW and no FT8 has little effect — the trend is gradually adjusted by ongoing activity, and not by shocks."

Last fall, Taylor expressed some surprise about the "rapid uptake" in the use of FT8 on HF. Rather than viewing FT8 as a game-changer, however, Taylor told ARRL that he sees a dividing line between such digital modes and more traditional modes. As he sees it, SSB and CW are "general-purpose modes," suitable for ragchewing, DXing, contesting, emergency communications, or whatever.

"FT8 and the other modes in *WSJT-X* are special-purpose modes," Taylor said. "They are designed for making reliable, error-free contacts using very weak signals — in particular, signals



Mode Usage Evaluation: 2017 was "the Year When Digital Modes Changed Forever"

01/22/2018

Club Log author and UK radio amateur **Michael Wells**, G7VJR, has [reported](#) that data compiled from 8,000 Club Log users indicates the proportion of FT-8 usage relative to other modes has risen dramatically since FT8's introduction last year. Every few years, Wells has posted charts depicting mode usage on the amateur bands, based on log data uploaded to Club Log. Graphs he posted last week show the proportion of contacts on each mode for the last 20 years and then for the last 12 months.

"2017 was, of course, the year when digital modes changed forever with the advent of FT8," said Wells. "It is a remarkable technical achievement, which has breathed life and enthusiasm into DXing for a whole new audience."

Now out of beta testing, FT8 continues to capture the imagination of the Amateur Radio community, luring away many of those who had been using the popular JT65 "weak-signal" mode. FT8 is included *WSJT-X*, version 1.8.0-rc3, with several refinements from the original beta release. Among FT8's biggest advantages

that may be too weak for the more traditional modes to be usable, or even too weak to hear.”

Taylor pointed out that the level of information exchanged in most FT8 — and other similar digital modes — isn’t much more than the bare minimum for a valid contact. In addition to call signs and signal reports, stations may exchange grid squares and acknowledgments.

—ARRL Website News



Things About Getting Old

#1 I very quietly confided to my best friend that I was having an affair. She turned to me and asked, "Are you having it catered? And that, my friend, is the sad definition of "OLD".

#2 Just before the funeral services, the undertaker came up to the very elderly widow and asked, "How old was your husband?" "98," she replied: "Two years older than me""So you're 96," the undertaker commented. She responded, "Hardly worth going home, is it?"

#3 Reporters interviewing a 104-year-old woman: "And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?" the reporter asked. She simply replied, "No peer pressure."

#4 I've sure gotten old! I have outlived my feet and my teeth, I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement, new knees, fought prostate cancer and diabetes.

I'm half blind, can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine, take 40 different medications that make me dizzy, winded, and subject to blackouts. have bouts with dementia.

I have poor circulation; hardly feel my hands and feet anymore, can't remember if I'm 85 or 92, and have lost all my friends.

But, thank God, I still have my driver's license.

#5 I feel like my body has gotten totally out of shape, So I got my doctor's permission to Join a fitness club and start exercising. I decided to take an aerobics class for seniors. I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for an hour. But, By the time I got my leotards on, The class was over.

#6 An elderly woman decided to prepare her will and told her preacher she had two final requests. First, she wanted to be cremated, and second, She wanted her ashes scattered over Wal-Mart. "Wal-Mart?" the preacher exclaimed. "Why Wal-Mart?" Then I'll be sure my daughters visit me twice a week"

#7 My memory's not as sharp as it used to be. Also, my memory's not as sharp as it used to be.

#8 Know how to prevent sagging? Just eat till the wrinkles fill out.

#9 It's scary when you start making the same noises as your coffee maker.

#10 These days about half the stuff In my shopping cart says, 'For fast relief.'

#11 THE SENILITY PRAYER: Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.\



Permanent WSPR Beacon in Antarctica Now on the Air

01/18/2018

The DP0GVN *WSPR* beacon now is in operation from the German Neumayer III Research Station of the Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research in Antarctica. The installation is part of a scientific project of the Technical University of Munich in cooperation with the University of Bremen and the German Amateur Radio Club (DARC).

“The beacon is still under test and will be shut down occasionally for more configuration and optimization of antennas and software, before it can be mounted at the final installation site in a few weeks,” said Rainer Englert, DF2NU.

The technology consists of a multiband *WSPR* receiver that can simultaneously monitor up to eight bands from 160 to 6 meters and feed several hundred receive reports per hour to [WSPRnet](#). The 5-W multiband transmitter also had been commissioned and is working into a vertical antenna.

“After a few days in service, DP0GVN has received several thousand beacons spots already,” Englert reports.

In related news, DP0GVN will be the call sign for Matthias Maasch, DH5CW, starting in February, at Neumayer III Research Station for 1 year, and he plans to be active on HF. For the past year, he has been using DH5CW from the German Antarctic Base. QSL DP0GVN via DL5EBE.

— Thanks to Tom Kamp, DF5JL, IARU Region 1 HF Committee Chairman via Rainer Englert, DF2NU, and [The Daily DX](#)

—ARRL Website News

“Amateur Radio...Serving the Community” is Hamvention 2018 Theme

01/10/2018

The theme for [Hamvention](#)® 2018 is “Amateur Radio...Serving the Community.” Ron Cramer, KD8ENJ, Hamvention General Chairman, said the theme acknowledges the role that ham radio operators play in their communities, especially in times of emergencies.

“During recent disasters, hurricanes in Florida, Texas and Puerto Rico and wildfires in the West, Amateur Radio operators were once again called upon to provide emergency communication assistance when regular services failed or were overtaxed,” Cramer said.

He said that in keeping with the theme, Hamvention is planning to have forums on emergency communication and displays of Amateur Radio emergency communication vehicles. Disasters are not the only times that Amateur Radio operators contribute to their communities. Hams devote many hours to help keeping participants safe during parades, festivals, walks, runs, marathons and numerous other community activities by providing auxiliary communication.

Cramer thanked the many hams who actively volunteer with community groups and thanked the public and organizations for their support of Amateur Radio. Hamvention 2018 will take place May 18-20 for the 2nd year at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio.

—from the *ARRL Website News*

of the Board. None of the proposed *Article* and *Bylaw* changes has yet been addressed by the Board of Directors. More recently, other equally erroneous and false statements have been made with respect to completely unrelated issues, in an effort to draw into question ARRL's decision-making processes. The principal suggestion is that ARRL operates under some "cloak of secrecy." The criticism is unfair and undeserved.

ARRL's representative system of governance, which has worked exceptionally well in the advocacy and promotion of Amateur Radio and the interests of ARRL members for more than 100 years, is unchanged. And the legislative and other advocacy positions currently being pursued are critical to the long-term survivability of the Amateur Radio Service.

The ARRL Board does seek thoughtful, informed input on policy issues concerning Amateur Radio from its roughly 150,000 members. ARRL's governance structure provides that regionally elected, volunteer Directors will represent the interests of the members in their respective Divisions, working collectively and collegially within our Board to make policy and to advocate their constituents' interests. ARRL's Board members hold cabinet meetings and forums at hamfests and conventions, and they staff ARRL booths at hamfests and conventions in order to find out what interests and concerns you have as ARRL members. They take this feedback from you, and they come to Board meetings twice a year to make policy for the organization. They work together collegially to develop the best policy decisions. This structure presumes that the Board's collective wisdom is far greater than that of any one Board member, and each Board member is obligated by our *Articles* and *Bylaws* to come to meetings with a good idea of what the members need and what is best for Amateur Radio as a whole.

As is the case with most large, national nonprofit associations, ARRL Board meetings are not open to the public. It has always been that way, as a matter of necessity. That is because, at all such meetings, confidential issues such as spectrum protection, employee compensation, financial information, and FCC submissions are candidly discussed, and the members' interests at those meetings are advocated by the Directors on a representative basis.

Unfortunately, it was necessary for the Board to take the highly unusual action of publicly censuring one of its members recently. The Board heard the allegations made by an ARRL member of what transpired at an Amateur Radio



A Message to Members from ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR

In the last few weeks, the ARRL's Board of Directors has been the subject of an organized misinformation campaign. It is being orchestrated by a group of hams, some of whom are well-intentioned but have been misled. This effort, which consists of a series of mis-characterizations, initially dealt with (1) the ARRL Board's censure of an ARRL Director, and (2) some proposed revisions to ARRL's [Articles of Association](#) and [Bylaws](#) that are likely to be considered at the upcoming ARRL Board meeting and which were circulated by a member

event; it heard reports from other amateurs who were there, and it heard all the information that the Director involved chose to present. Everyone had a chance to speak and to evaluate the presentations. The Board, in an 11 to 3 vote with one abstention, took action to protect the organization's integrity based on the information presented. This process and procedure are what nonprofit associations have to be prepared to employ, and do employ, to maintain order within their organizations and to ensure that the interests of the affected Director are protected as well. This is not a procedure that any nonprofit organization would conduct publicly.

—from the ARRL Letter

Treasurer's Report

As of January

GENERAL FUND (checking account)

Previous balance	\$1,846.78
Income	550.00
Expenses	0.00
Ending balance	2,396.78

REPEATER / PACKET FUND (savings account)

Previous balance	\$ 1,054.32
Income	0.40
Expenses	0.00
Ending balance	1,054.32

— Ed Fitzgerald, N7WW, Treasurer

MIKE AND KEY ELECTRONICS SHOW & FLEA MARKET

--- Saturday, March 10, 2018 ---

--- See [flyer](#) for Advance ticket sales and 2018 seller tables ---

--- Ticket Sales open at 8:00 AM; Door open at 9:00 AM ---

--- Dealers Close by 3:00 PM

Held at the
PAVILION EXHIBITION HALL
WASHINGTON STATE FAIRGROUNDS
9th Ave SE. & Meridian ST S.
PUYALLUP, WA 98372

English Can Be Confusing

As an editor and word game addict I find it interesting that many words can be either nouns, verbs, or other parts of speech with entirely different meanings. Consider this sentence: "Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana."

—George

Reminder

OARS dues for 2018 are now payable. Please mail your payment to:

OARS
PO Box 2861
Olympia WA 98507

or give it to OARS Treasurer Ed Fitzgerald at any meeting.



"Your father and I decided on your punishment: for the next two weeks, you have to play outside for an hour a day."



OARS Meeting

Wednesday, February 21, 7:00 pm
“Jim Brooks on Digital Mode MT63”

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

