

# Watts News

*Monthly Newsletter of the Olympia Amateur Radio Society*

*April 2018*

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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	360-628-0168
Member at Large	Phil Cornell	W7PLC	360-515-1263
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	WA4RAY	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: <a href="http://olyham.orgolyham.blogspot.com">olyham.orgolyham.blogspot.com</a>			

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](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.

OARS Net Check-ins			
The following stations checked in one or more times on the OARS General Information Net in March 2018:			
AC7MG	KE7EJJ	KI7SS *	W7BRR
AF7IO	KF7HXV	KI7TEA	W7JIM
AG7BA	KG7NQW	KI7TEB	W7NN
K3AL	KG7PLJ	KL7SK	W7PLC
K7HTZ	KI7CQ	N7DFD	W7RUE
KB6LE	KI7EIX	N7DGN	W7SLT
KB7ED	KI7FKQ	N7TLF	WA7BAM
KB7GQP	KI7QCL	N7TPT	WB4LWQ
KD7OQS	KI7QVN	N7WW	WB7ROZ
KD7SQU	KI7SCS	W6EGV	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

Time to quit talking and get some work done in preparation for 2018 Field Day. The first of a series of work parties at WB7ROZ's field day site is March 31 at 10 am. I will be sending information to the group of interested hams periodically. If you want to receive these emails and are not on the group list, send me an email at WA7BAM@ARRL.net. Participation, while never required, is greatly appreciated as we strive to make 2018 the best OARS field day ever!

Our serviced season kicks off with the MS Walk on April 7 starting at Horizons Elementary School at the round-a-bout on Rainier Road just south of Yelm Highway. Report time is 8:30 with the official start time at 9. In particular I want to invite all that have never participated in this type of event. We are the people monitoring for any problems and calling net control for any help needed. What makes this event ideal for new people is it is small, short (3 miles round trip), well organized by great people, and very fun to do. Team up with net control at the school or at turn-a-round on 45th Ave. SE and learn the ropes. Let me know if you want to help.

While there are activities many weekends into November, our biggest weekend is May 19 and 20 with 2 large and 1 small event. Lee, KI7SS, is organizing the ham volunteers for the Olympus Road Rally for both the 19th and 20th. Steve, W7SLT, is organizing volunteers for the Capital City Marathon on the 20th. I am looking for 1 or 2 helpers for the Lacey Spring Fun Fair held at St. Martins. If you can help out with any of these events, please contact the organizer.

Our participation in these events provides great peace of mind to the participants and event organizers. If there is a problem the organizers will be quickly informed and appropriate help can be provided. Watch the weather report and dress accordingly. Interact with other volunteers and have fun.

Congratulations to team Winter Field Day NT7H for placing 20 out of 320 in the home stations category, and number 2 in the 2H two stations from home subcategory. Some of the stations that bested us are definitely 'big guns' contest stations making our 100 watt and a wire station placement that much more significant. Team members were Duane, WB7ROZ, Brian, K7TST our host, Lee, KI7SS, Martin, N7DFF, and Bruce, WA7BAM. This high placing was not blind luck, but luck made by Duane who did an analysis of

last years scores to find the category that would be the easiest for us to compete in. Lesson learned.

Finally, CQ World Wide WPX, a sideband or phone contest, is in its final day as I type this. I just checked the 20 meter band and there must be 50 stations calling iCQ contest. Despite the HF prediction of 'poor' there are still new people to work and new countries to log during this solar minimum challenge. Get on the air and answer a CQ or call CQ yourself.

—73, Bruce, WA7BAM



## Treasurer's Report

As of 2018

GENERAL FUND (checking account)

Previous balance .....	\$2,747.15
Income .....	65.00
Expenses .....	0.00
Ending balance .....	2,812.15

REPEATER / PACKET FUND (savings account)

Previous balance .....	\$ 1,054.32
Income .....	4,307.40
Expenses .....	0.00
Ending balance .....	5,361.72

— Ed Fitzgerald, N7WW,



## Book Learning

I went to the library the other day and found a book titled "How to Hug".

Wanting to learn the secrets of intimacy I quickly grabbed the book and headed to the checkout counter.

The librarian was polite but said I couldn't check out the book because it was the seventh volume of Encyclopedia Britannica.

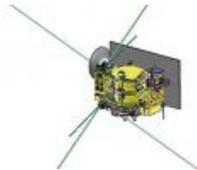


## Chinese Lunar-Orbit Amateur Radio Payload Could Launch this Spring

China's twin-launch Chang'e 4 mission to the far side of the moon will place a pair of microsattellites in lunar orbit this spring "to test low-frequency radio astronomy and space-based interferometry." The two satellites, unofficially called *DSLWP-A1* and *DSLWP-A2* (DSLWP = Discovering the Sky at Longest Wavelengths Pathfinder), could launch this spring. The pair represent the first phase of the Chang'e 4 mission, which involves placing a relay satellite in a halo orbit to facilitate communication with the Chang'e 4 lander and rover, which will be sent to the far side of the moon in December. Because the moon's far side never faces Earth, the satellite is needed to serve as an Earth-moon relay. The Chang'e 4 mission will be the first-ever attempt at a soft-landing on the far side of the moon.

The two spacecraft also will carry Amateur Radio and educational payloads, but not a transponder. Developed by students at the Harbin Institute of Technology, the Amateur Radio payload on *DSLWP-A1* will provide a tele-command uplink and a telemetry and digital image downlink. Radio amateurs will be able to transmit commands that allow them to send commands to take and download an image.

The satellites will piggyback on the Chang'e 4 relay package and will deploy themselves into a  $200 \times 9,000$  kilometer lunar orbits. The  $50 \times 50 \times 40$  centimeter spacecrafts each weigh about 45 kilograms and are three-axis stabilized. Two linear polarization antennas are mounted along and normal to the flight direction. The satellites will use the moon to shield them from radio emissions from Earth.



The Harbin Institute of Technology team has proposed downlinks for A1 on 435.425 MHz and 436.425 MHz. Downlinks for A2 would be 435.400 MHz and 436.400 MHz using 10K0F1DCN or 10K0F1DEN (10-kHz wide FM single-channel data) 250 bps GMSK with concatenated codes or JT65B.

Equipped with low-frequency antennas and receivers, the astronomy objectives of *DSLWP-A1* and *-A2* will be to observe the sky at the lower end of the electromagnetic spectrum — 1 MHz to

30 MHz — with the aim of learning about energetic phenomena from celestial sources.

The launch is anticipated for May or June on a CZ-4C vehicle, putting the satellites' deployment about 6 months ahead of the launch of the Chang'e 4 lander and rover.

— from the ARRL Website



## Why ARRL is Recommending Enhanced HF Privileges for Technicians

ARRL has asked the FCC to expand HF privileges for the entry-level Technician license to include limited phone privileges on 75, 40, and 15 meters, plus RTTY and digital mode privileges on 80, 40, and 15 meters, where Technicians already have CW privileges. ARRL believes the additional digital privileges will attract younger people to Amateur Radio.

The proposed additional HF phone privileges are 3.900 to 4.000 MHz, 7.225 to 7.300 MHz, and 21.350 to 21.450 MHz. Technicians already have HF privileges on parts of 10 meters. Some in the Amateur Radio community have questioned the need for expanded Technician privileges or to express other perspectives. ARRL has responded to point out some of the key advantages of its [petition](#), which recognizes the tremendous technological advances and changes in Amateur Radio. Some key points:

A thorough review of operating privileges available to the entry-level license has not taken place since the late 1970s, when the Novice-class license -- the entry-level license at that time, and no longer issued -- was modified to allow Novices access to a limited portion of 10 meters. This included the first HF phone privileges for Novices.

The 2-year process that led to the development of ARRL's petition includes significant input from the Amateur Radio community. The two surveys that the ARRL board's Entry-Level License (ELL) Committee conducted on this issue drew more than 8,000 responses from ARRL members.

The 378,000 Technician licensees comprise more than half of the US Amateur Radio population, yet the Technician-class license no longer serves its original purpose from 18 years ago. Many Technicians do not participate actively, pursue on-air and public service opportunities, renew their licenses, or upgrade. An

uncomfortably large attrition rate exists among Technician licensees. Technician licenses are not upgrading, because they don't find their operating privileges interesting enough to keep them in the hobby.

The proposed addition of 275 kilohertz of HF phone privileges, spread across 80, 40, and 15 meters, would allow Technicians the opportunity to develop and expand their understanding of HF propagation. In addition, this proposed change would allow Technician licensees to participate in public service-oriented, emergency, and Section traffic nets on 75 meters, from 3900 to 4000 kHz, where primary state/Section-wide public service activities often take place.

Additional operating privileges for Technicians will not limit their incentive to upgrade. ARRL points out that Technicians now have access to 850 kilohertz of spectrum in four HF bands. ARRL proposes an additional 275 kilohertz on three of those bands, so the total under this proposal is 1,125 kilohertz on four bands -- 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters.

Compare that to current General-class HF privileges: 3150 kilohertz across nine HF bands -- 160, 80, 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12, and 10 meters. In addition, Generals have access to the five 60-meter channels and to the two newest bands, 2200 and 630 meters. The incentive to upgrade from Technician to General is a tripling of the available HF spectrum; upgrading to General allows access to eight additional bands, including the prime daytime bands of 20 and 17 meters. Also, Technicians upgrading to General or higher are permitted the maximum amateur power level of 1500 W PEP. Read [more](#).

—from the ARRL Letter

## ARRL: How can we help?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Recently, I received this email from a reader:

“Hi Dan,

“Hope you’re doing well. I have a couple of questions about the ARRL. I’ve been reading your blog and other sources, and it’s clear that the ARRL is in a little trouble. I have to say, though, that as soon as the current administration in D.C. notices that some of their friends can make money off of amateur radio bandwidth, the whole amateur radio service is in very serious jeopardy. The only way I can think of to counter that would be an organization like the ARRL, and

I think there’s really only one organization like the ARRL. Is that not true? If it is, how can we help?”

I replied that it is true that there’s only one organization like the ARRL. In the past, there have been groups that have tried to compete with the ARRL, but they’ve never really taken off. It’s an incredible amount of work to set up an organization like the ARRL and none of the alternates have been able to get to critical mass.

The second question—How can we help?—is the big question. Here are a few thoughts:

- Join the ARRL. If you’re not currently a member, join. You’ll have little or no influence, if you are not a member.
- If you are a member, but your friends are not, encourage them to join. The more members the ARRL has, the more influence it will have. This is common sense, but the ARRL doesn’t really seem to care about this. In the past, I’ve encouraged the ARRL to set a membership goal of 25% of licensed radio amateurs (link 1, link 2). I honestly don’t think this is asking too much, and I’ve never heard a good argument for them not to do this. They continue to ignore me, and the percentage of licensed radio amateurs that are ARRL members continues to decline.

- Take an interest in ARRL matters and let your director and vice director know your views. Get your friends to do likewise. Get on the mailing lists for the board meeting agendas and minutes. To do this, log into the ARRL website, click on “Edit your profile,” then “Edit email subscriptions.”

- Invite your ARRL elected officials—your division director, vice director, and section manager—to talk at your club meetings. Be prepared to grill them on issues that you think are important.



- Run for office yourself. I ran for Great Lakes Division vice director twice. Unfortunately, I lost both times, but even running is a way to have an impact. I’d like to see the “loyal opposition” get organized and challenge the status quo, especially in divisions where I think the current director is making bad decisions.

Having said all that, there are ways to make an impact besides playing ARRL politics:

- Get on the air. It’s easier to lose bands if we’re not using them. Encourage others to be active.
- Be an Elmer to those that need it.
- Teach classes to help those who want a license get a license and to help those who are already licensed to upgrade their licenses.

- Be an ambassador for amateur radio, especially to related groups, such as the “maker” groups that have sprung up around the country. Make sure that they know about your amateur radio club and the classes and exam sessions that you offer.

I'd love to hear any other thoughts that you all may have on this. I really do think that at this point, we need to inundate the ARRL Board and staff with input from the membership. While they may have a long history of ignoring the membership and just going about their own merry way, now is really a time of change, and this might be the right time to set the ARRL on a better path.

—*When he's not getting all worked up over ARRL politics, Dan blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, teaches amateur radio classes, and works CW on the HF bands. He's the author of the No Nonsense amateur radio license study guides and The CW Geek's Guide to Having Fun with Morse Code.*

## Panorama Hams

Emergency Communications Center : THEN and NOW

Jack and Ruth Barber were the key Amateur Radio Operators when the group having the ham radio call sign K7IF was originally formed in 2006. This group was a combination of Citizen Band Operators and Amateur Radio Operators who would have a scheduled time to report in to a net control station on behalf of the Panorama residents.

The original system had a simple procedure consisting of three colored triage signs for each residence to display in the window following an emergency situation: RED indicated HELP was required; YELLOW indicated the residence had been CHECKED; and GREEN meant no assistance was needed. DART (Disaster Assistance Response Team) came along a few years later and eliminated the use of these cards. Map Your Neighborhood followed several years later and uses only HELP/OK cards.

After Jack and Ruth Barber had left Panorama, the K7IF group diminished from 35 ham operators to seven. Toward the end of 2016, the license to operate K7IF was nearing expiration. Bob Kalkwarf (K7AU) decided to renew the K7IF call sign before expiration and located the seven hams for a vote of support.

The group joined the Resident Council as Activity 18 in 2016 and began looking for space to build a radio station to be able to join the national Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) organization, which would provide an official connection to a professional communication network for disaster response support in Olympia. A physical location for the radio station space has been approved by Panorama and is adjacent to the Disaster Supply Center area in the vicinity of the Barn. Plans and budgets are being drafted for the 2018/2019 fiscal year.

The group expects to enlist arriving residents who have their ham license to help man the station during network schedules with the existing ARES / OARS group of the Olympia Amateur Radio Society.

—Bob Kalkwarf

## The AmazonSmile Triple Donation Promotion Now Under Way

Triple your impact! Until March 31, Amazon is tripling the donation rate on your first [AmazonSmile](#) purchase.

**Log** into AmazonSmile, and with every qualifying purchase you make through AmazonSmile, Amazon will make a contribution to ARRL. This helps the League to extend its reach in public service, advocacy, education, technology, and membership. Support the Amateur Radio Service and ARRL shopping AmazonSmile today.

For more information on AmazonSmile visit [AmazonSmile](#), and log in to your Amazon account.

—from the ARRL Website



Hellfire and Dalmatians.

# OARS Meeting

Wednesday, April 18, 7:00 pm

## “Sharing Operating Tips”

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

