

Watts News

Monthly Newsletter of the Olympia Amateur Radio Society February 2019

Contents

Club Information Page	1
President's Message	2
Treasurer's Report	2
Naming Babies	3
New General Class Question Pool Released, Effective July 1	3
Who Gets What	3
December YOTA Month Activity Records More Than 80,000 Contacts	3
Court Rules Excessive Antenna Application Fees Violated Reasonable Accommodation	4
ARRL to build wall around Newington HQ?	4
New (Used) shack computer is much faster	5



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	Kendall Brown	KG6FYU	360-990-1690
Newsletter	George Lanning	KB6LE	438-5797
Classes	Lee Chambers	KI7SS	951-2538
License Exams	Klaus Neubert	AC7MG	280-2428
Equipment Custodian			
OARS Website: http://oars.radio			

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.
 —Thank you.

OARS Net Check-ins			
The following stations checked in one or more times on the OARS General Information Net in November 2018:			
AC7MG	KD7TQW	KL7SK	W7SKI
AF7IO	KG7HBE	N7GQP	W7SLT
AG7OO	KG7HPP	N7TLF	WA7BAM
K7ECQ	KI7CQ	NL7HK	WA7SH
K7TAG	KI7FKQ	W6EGV	WB4LWQ
KB6LE	KJ7AWM	W7BRR	WB7JIM
KB7ED	KJ7BRV	W7NN	WB7ROZ
KD7OQS	KL7PLJ	W7PLC	KI7SS *
KD7SQU	KL7SK	W7RUE	
* 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

It's still winter but OARS is unbelievably busy!

By the time you are reading this Watts News 2 OARS volunteer examiners will have traveled to the Pierce County EOC to help test an anticipated 50 candidates on January 25. I want to know how they got 50 people together for a single test session. However Pierce County managed it, congratulations! Just processing the paper work and returning ID's for that many people is a monumental task, let alone grading the tests. Thanks to Klaus, AC7MG and Art, KL7SK for volunteering to help.

On January 26 the first of 4 'meet and greets' organized by Lee, K17SS, at Capital Mall will have happened. The uncertainty of this type of event is part of the joy of being involved. May 2018 was the first at this venue that introduced us to June, now KJ7AWM, and produced the chance to teach her middle school class about radio and prepare for their technicians exam. Many pledged money to purchase Yaesu FT-4VR 2 meter HT's that will be gifted to students that pass their exam. Who will we meet on January 26? Monitor Tuesday nights nets to find out. Capital Mall meet and greets are also planned for February 9, March 9 and April 13. Contact Lee if you would like to share your enthusiasm for amateur radio with the public.

Also on January 26-27 is Winter Field Day hosted by Duane, WB7ROZ. The stated purpose is "emergency communications in a winter environment is just as important as the preparations and practice that is done each summer". Participants are honing skills in digital modes as well as clothing technology to stay warm and dry. Our operating category is 2H (2 station home) so we can use some of Duane's permanent antennas and both stations will be inside and dry. The operators in the shed will need to work at staying warm. Visitors are expected from Aspire Middle School as well as area hams.

January 29 the volunteer examiner crew will be back at Aspire Middle School giving students another chance at passing their technicians exam. Students are very motivated to get their 'ticket'. Many want to stay in the same class next semester to build AM radio kits.

Every radio club in the country is trying to get young people involved in STEM; science, technology, engineering and math. Radio is the complete package encompassing all 4 of these

topics. Many of us remember the last great push for this type of education after Russia launched Sputnik before the US. Or perhaps you are the product of that historical STEM education push. I was, or am. I have enjoyed the problem solving and understanding of how the universe works. This has lead to a new 'career' as amateur radio operator and president of OARS. All this has been very fulfilling. It is time we lead the charge to help local kids get started.

Bottom line is it takes a lot of people, time and effort to accomplish this and I appreciate all that have stepped forward in this endeavor.

As I have been working to prepare a station for winter field day I have been impressed by the band conditions. With the panadapter on the computer I can watch for side band communications to open and have had some success working parks back east and even Curacao as the sole DX. Often I will have the Icom IC-7100 running PSK31 and the digital activity is heavy. Tuning to the FT8 frequencies and the signals shown on the panadapter are solid. There are a lot of hams successfully pursuing goals and awards. I just turned on the IC-7100 and there are 4 PSK31 strong enough to work on 20 meters at 6:50 am local.

I am hoping for good propagation to show off at Capital Mall and winter field day.

Get on the air and work other hams around the world.

— Bruce, WA7BAM



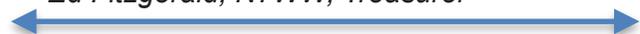
Treasurer's Report

As of January 2019

GENERAL FUND (checking account)	
Previous balance	\$ 3,305.51
Income	190.27
Expenses	839.85
Ending balance	2,655.93

REPEATER / PACKET FUND (savings account)	
Previous balance	\$ 5,866.81
Income	2.26
Expenses	0.00
Ending balance	5,869.05

— Ed Fitzgerald, N7WW, Treasurer



Naming Babies

Editor's note: Since I've been doing Watts News for more than 29 years it is difficult to remember what humor items I may have already published. But hopefully this will be new to most of you:

A woman was rushed into the hospital in an ambulance as she was just about to give birth to twins. She wasn't able to reach her husband, so she left message with her brother, who was going to meet her at the hospital. At the hospital the lady was in such pain that she had to be sedated. A couple of hours after the babies had been delivered, she woke up and asked to see her children.

"Doctor, could you bring my babies to me so I can name them?"

The doctor replied, "You don't need to worry about names, your brother has already named them.

"Why did you let him name them, he has no sense! What did he name the little girl then?"

"De-nise!" replied the doctor.

"Oh that's not too bad, I thought you were going to tell me he'd named her something awful. So what did he name the boy?"

"De-nephew, of course."

And along the same lines:

The wife of the drummer in our combo just gave birth to triplets, all girls. So what did he name them? "Anna One, Anna Two, Anna Three".

You are excused if you groaned.

New General Class Question Pool Released, Effective July 1

01/07/2019

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee has released the 2019 – 2023 FCC Element 3 General Class Question Pool into the public domain. The 2019 – 2023 General Class (Element 3) Question Pool is available in [Word](#), [ASCII text](#), and [PDF](#) versions. The new Question Pool is effective for Element 3 exams administered on or after July 1, 2019.

The Question Pool Committee also released on January 6 a revised diagram Figure G7-1 ([PDF](#)) ([JPG](#)), as part of the new Element 3 Question

Pool. — Thanks to NCVEC Question Pool Committee

— from the ARRL Website

Who Gets What

Mrs. Applebee, the 6th grade teacher, posed the following problem to one of her math classes:

"A wealthy man dies and leaves ten million dollars. One-fifth is to go to his wife, one-fifth is to go to his son, one-sixth to his butler, and the rest to charity. Now, what does each get?"

After a very long silence in the classroom, little Morris raised his hand. The teacher called on Morris for his answer. With complete sincerity in his voice, little Morris answered, "A good lawyer."

December YOTA Month Activity Records More Than 80,000 Contacts

01/16/2019

More than 80,000 contacts went into logs at YOTA suffix stations and others participating in December Youngsters on the Air (YOTA) Month, with most operations in International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 (IARU-R1). The final tally included 46,989 on SSB, another 28,064 on CW, some 3,814 on FT8, and the rest on various other modes.

"This year, as many as 44 participating stations made 82,938 QSOs in December, proving once again that neither the weather nor the holidays can keep a radio amateur away from the station," Gergana Ruseva, LZ1ZYL, [said](#) in the 2018 YOTA Month report.

Ruseva said YOTA was happy to bring young radio amateurs together by hosting this event, which "inspires them to be more active on the bands and shows them there are many people listening on the other side."

The most active station during YOTA Month 2018 was I15YOTA in Italy, which logged 8,387 contacts. The preferred bands turned out to be 40 and 20 meters, with more than 30,000 contacts logged from YOTA Month participants on each band. [Complete statistics](#) are on the YOTA website.

YOTA also has announced that the YOTA Youth Sked will start up again in 2019. The on-the-air event will take place every fourth Thursday from

1900 to 2200 UTC, with a different group of youngsters acting as net control. The YOTA Youth Sked will convene on or about 7.175 MHz, shifting later to 3.675 MHz.

— from the ARRL Website



Court Rules Excessive Antenna Application Fees Violated Reasonable Accommodation

01/15/2019

Long-pending Amateur Radio antenna litigation that ARRL helped to fund has finally borne fruit. The Supreme Court of the State of New York, Appellate Division: Second Judicial Department has ruled in the case of Myles Landstein, N2EHG, that the Town of LaGrange, New York, not only overstepped its state-granted authority by assessing excessive fees, but violated the limited federal preemption **PRB-1** in the process. PRB-1 requires municipalities and states to “reasonably” accommodate Amateur Radio antennas and to apply the “minimum practicable regulation” in handling Amateur Radio antenna applications. The ruling is slated to be published as a case decision. Landstein had wanted to erect a 70-foot antenna support structure; the Town of LaGrange has a 35-foot height limit.

“This case, which goes back to 2013, was about applying PRB-1 to a situation in which a municipality attempted to thwart the installation and maintenance of ham radio antennas by imposing excessive permit application costs on the ham applicant,” said communications attorney Chris Imlay, W3KD, who is familiar with the case. Imlay said the FCC has refused to clarify the cost-prohibition issue as it relates to PRB-1’s “minimum practicable regulation” and reasonable accommodation provisions of PRB-1.

“The Town incurred more than \$17,000 in legal consulting fees in connection with [Landstein’s] applications, and informed the petitioner that he was required to reimburse the Town for these fees before any determination would be made with respect to the applications,” the court decision recounted. “The Town subsequently, as ‘an accommodation to the petitioner,’ reduced the amount...to...\$5,874, but also required the petitioner to maintain a minimum advance continuing escrow balance of at least \$1,000 to cover the Town’s future consulting costs...”

“We hold that, because the Town did not limit the consulting fees charged to the petitioner to those necessary to the decision-making function of the town’s Planning Board and Zoning Board of

Appeals, the town exceeded its state-granted authority by requiring payment of the consulting fees and, moreover, violated a rule promulgated by the [FCC],” the court concluded.

Given the significant delay, Imlay said both he and Landstein had lost hope that the case would ever be resolved in Landstein’s favor — and in the favor of radio amateurs in New York, generally — much less be a case that would “create favorable precedent for Amateur Radio.”

“ARRL originally was drawn to this case, because New York is the only state that, due to a very old case decision, has held that Amateur Radio antennas are not necessarily a “normal accessory use” to residential real property,” Imlay explained. “Because the issue in the case dealt with both that issue and the issue of cost prohibitions in the permitting process relative to the cost of the antenna installation, we decided to fund the case.” Landstein lost at trial, and an appeal was filed in about 2015, for which ARRL provided memoranda of law about the cost-prohibition issue. “The antenna at issue and the support structure was to cost no more than \$1,000,” Imlay said.

The court concluded that the town “may not use its land-use regulatory authority to construct ‘hoop after hoop’ for the petitioner to jump through in order to erect his radio antenna tower [and] cannot impose unreasonable expenses so as to create an insurmountable financial barrier to the pursuit of the project. In this context, not only must the consultant fees be reasonable..., but the underlying services must be necessarily related to those municipal regulatory functions which are not preempted by federal law.”

—from the ARRL website



ARRL to build wall around Newington HQ?

January 10, 2019

I’m sorry, but I couldn’t wait until April 1 to report this story....Dan

It has come to my attention that ARRL CEO Michael Howard is planning to construct a wall on the southern border of the ARRL’s Newington headquarters to prevent miscreant hams from entering the compound. Details are kind kind of sketchy at this point, but here’s what I know so far:

- It’s going to be a great, big beautiful wall.
- Original plans called for it to be made out of concrete, but now the thinking is that it will

be made from steel slats. Think aperture antenna or maybe a phased vertical array.

- The ARRL originally planned to get CBers to pay for the wall, but when they said that there is no way that they would pay for it, the talk turned to getting ARRL members to pay for it.
- A GoFundMe was started to help pay for the wall, but was quickly abandoned when only \$15 was pledged in the first week.
- Some people question whether or not there is a problem at the ARRL's southern border. There was a report of a caravan, but that turned out to be a couple of hams from Alabama in a pickup truck who wanted to take a tour of W1AW.
- The ARRL board had given preliminary approval for \$1.6 million for the project, but the administration is holding out for \$5.7 million. It doesn't look like the ARRL board is going to approve the \$5.7 million, however.
- As a result of this impasse, a 2019 budget has yet to be approved and the ARRL has been shut down. That includes Logbook of the World, so if you were waiting for confirmations from the latest Cook Island DXpedition, you're just going to have to wait a little longer. Same goes for your club's Special Service Club commendation. (Oh wait, nobody really cares about that, so just forget I mentioned it.)
- Apparently, the recently-elected division directors (you know who you are!) are the ones holding out. They were recently called in to discuss the shutdown and were asked, "Will you agree to build the wall?" They replied, "No," and CEO Howard walked out of the room, calling the meeting, "a total waste of time." There was some debate as to whether the table was slammed or not.

At this point, it remains unclear what's going to happen. All I can say is that it's a good thing that nothing like this happens in Washington DC.

—from the website of Dan KB6NU

New (Used) shack computer is much faster

When I last purchased a computer for my shack, I had three or four goals in mind:

- Powerful enough to run amateur radio apps like fldigi and N1MM logging software.
- Portable enough so that we could use it during Field Day and other portable operating events.

- Cheap inexpensive.

With those goals in mind, I chose an HP 2000 laptop. On sale at Best Buy, it cost about \$250.

Unfortunately, I went a little too cheap. While it mostly satisfied my requirements, I found its performance to be lacking. So much so that I found that programs such as [JS8CALL](#) (a derivative of WSJT-X, which supports the FT8 mode) didn't really run quite right unless they were the only program open.

A refurb HP Elite tower PC like this one is now running my amateur radio station.

After suffering through this kind of thing for a year or so, I decided it was time for a new shack computer. The first thing I did was [ask on reddit](#) what they all were using for a shack computer. I got a lot of great answers, but the one that caught my eye was the suggestion to purchase a refurbished HP elite 8000 with an Intel Core 2 Duo 3 GHz processor.

I found one on [Amazon](#) for \$130. It included 8GB of RAM, a 500GB hard drive, a DVD player, and Windows 10 Professional. It also came with a mouse and keyboard. About a week later, it appeared on my doorstep.

I've been very pleasantly surprised with this purchase. So much so, I wish I'd bought one a long time ago. First of all, it's much faster than the laptop. For example, Windows 7 updates on the laptop could take up to 15 minutes to complete. Windows 10 updates on this computer take a tenth of the time or less. I'm also able to run JS8CALL and the web browser with computer power to spare.

Another nice thing about this computer is that it has ten USB ports. To connect all the devices that I wanted to connect to the laptop—including a wireless mouse adapter, a Bluetooth adapter, my keyer, and the IC-7300—I had to hand a port extender on one of the laptop's USB ports. On this computer, I don't need such a kludgy solution. All of my devices plug right in to the computer.

I was also a bit worried about running Windows 10. I've read numerous accounts of ham radio apps not running well on Windows 10. I'm happy to say, though, that I haven't had a single glitch. I've installed N3FJP logging software, N1MM logging software, and JS8CALL, and they all seem to work great.

I thought I'd hit a snag when I couldn't get the computer to talk to the IC-7300, but then I remembered that I had to download the driver from ICOM. Ten minutes later, I had the driver installed and the rig talking to the logging program.

In the future, I plan to install antenna modelling software, SDR software and try remotely controlling the station. I can only imagine that this computer will work much better for those applications than the laptop.

All in all, this has worked out quite well for me. The computer was inexpensive, and it works much better than the laptop. As I said earlier, I should have done this a long time ago.

—from the website of Dan KB6N

O A R S Meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 20, 7:00 pm
Eric, K7ECQ and Brian, K7TST talk
about digital mobile radio

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

