

# Watts News

## Monthly Newsletter of the Olympia Amateur Radio Society April 2019

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# Club Information Page

OARS Officers	2019		
President	Bruce Montgomery	WA7BAM	259-9300
Vice President	Lee Chambers	KI7SS	951-2538
Secretary	Frank Hamilton	KF7HXV	(360) 951-1174
Treasurer	Ed Fitzgerald	N7WW	360-628-0168
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	Steve Tomlin	W7SLT	
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: <a href="http://oars.radio">http://oars.radio</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	

## OARS Net Check-ins

The following stations checked in one or more times on the OARS General Information Net in March 2019:

AC7MG	KG7HBE	KJ7DTC	W7SKI
AF7IO	KI7CQ	KL7SK	W7SLT
AG7OO	KI7FKQ	KL7SK	WA7BAM
AG7PR	KI7SS *	N7DFF	WA7SH
K7ECQ	KI7TAA	N7GQP	WB4LWQ
K7TST	KJ7ALI	N7TLF	WB7JIM
KB6LE	KJ7ARJ	N7WW	WB7ROZ
KB7ED	KJ7AWM	NL7HK	WV7S
KD7SQU	KJ7BRV	W7BRR	
KD7TQW	KJ7DTB	W7PLC	

\* 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.

### 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.

## President's Message

### Securing Our Future

I must apologize to Howard Michel, WB2ITX, current CEO of the ARRL and past president of the IEEE for paraphrasing the title of his Second Century piece in the March 2019 issue of QST "Toward a More Secure Future". Howard's title permits progress without definite conclusion. My title provides no such wiggle room. His problems are perhaps larger and different than those of OARS but no less important. The number of ways of thinking about our future make this a daunting challenge.

Our technological futures we can help secure through educational programs that keep members not just informed but also provide resources to overcome challenges. OARS members have an amazing depth of both knowledge and experience. Working together we can assist each other to overcome the challenges of new technologies and help learn old ones too.

OARS also is a ARRL special services club which means we organize communications services for many local and area events. Additionally, Field Day is the main event to share knowledge and show real world hands on applications and experiences. This is a must for new hams and old alike to stay abreast of operations. Planning for this years' June 22-23 event has already started with coax ordered and shelters stored temporarily (I hope) in my garage. Research is currently underway to choose coax ends, head sets and switches to make operations more effective and fun. Additionally, meet and greet events at Capital Mall, Lacey Spring Fun Fair and Lacey STEM fair are letting the greater Olympia area people know amateur radio is alive and well.

All these events are good and necessary but they are current tasks and do not directly plan our long term future. Planning OARS future will take changes to the structure and operations of the club to make the benefits of belonging more attractive to the local radio community. But what changes are most likely to work for us? We need to educate ourselves on what works and then discuss and decide on changes to secure the future of the club. Going forward we will need periodic evaluations to make improvements or substitute what might work for whatever isn't working.

Several coming programs will give us ideas and help us decide. At the April 17th meeting our guest speaker is Delvin Bunton, NS7U, current president of the Clark County Amateur Radio

Club. If you have recently attended SeaPac you have seen Delvin assisting presenters since he is in charge of SeaPac programs. This club was deservingly awarded the Hamvention 2017 club of the year award for support of public service activities, operation of 8 repeaters in the Clark County area, and building their trademarked EyeWarn program. Out of about 1700 licensed hams in Clark County about 350 belong to CCARC with 100 involved with ARES. We probably cannot duplicate everything they do but Delvin will give us a history of what has and has not worked over the years for CCARC. I will take copious notes and save them for serious discussion in early fall.

(I just updated WinLink which under Washington forms includes a form for reporting EyeWarn observations. Cool!)

Similarly, August 21 our speaker is Mike Ritz, W7VO, newly elected ARRL director from the northwestern division. I heard Mike interviewed on the No Nonsense Amateur Radio Podcast and much of what he had to say concerned moving the ARRL into its future. Mike has a board meeting in July so we will be up to date with happenings in Newington. The changes happening at the ARRL will affect OARS. To help us stay current there is a new Northwest Division website at <https://arrlnwdiv.org/>

Check out the HF propagation graphic at the bottom lower right hand corner of the home page.

Our whole world is changing at a fast rate and the rate of change is increasing. How we as a club need to change is not for any one person to decide but rather the entire membership needs to provide insights to these changes. Please plan to participate if you can.

*Thanks, Bruce, WA7BAM*

Calendar: Asterisks mark firm events

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| April | *11-ARES meeting                                       |
|       | *13-Meet and greet, Capital Mall                       |
|       | *13 & 14-Comms Academy, ARRL emcomm northwest workshop |
|       | *14-ARRL Rookie Roundup                                |
|       | *17-OARS meeting Delvin, Clark County ARC              |
|       | *26-28-Olympus Road Rally                              |
|       | *27-MSWalk   |
| May   | *4-5 7QP 7 area qso party                              |
|       | *4-Lacey STEM fair                                     |
|       | *9-ARES meeting  |

- \*15-OARS meeting
- \*18 & 196 Lacey Spring Fun Fair
- \*PNW DMR, North Bend, WA
- \*19-Capital City Marathon
- \*May 31-SeaPac ARRL Northwest Division Convention



## Treasurer's Report

As of March 2019

### GENERAL FUND (checking account)

Previous balance .....	\$ 3,196.42
Income .....	375.00
Expenses .....	0.00
Ending balance .....	3,571.42

### REPEATER / PACKET FUND (savings account)

Previous balance .....	\$ 5,869.05
Income .....	0.00
Expenses .....	0.00
Ending balance .....	5,869.05

— Ed Fitzgerald, N7WW, Treasurer



## Where's the Beef?

The newly-married husband came home from the office to find his young wife in floods of tears. "Darling, whatever is the matter?" he asked.

"Sweetheart," she sobbed, "the most terrible thing has happened! I cooked my very first Beef Bourguignon for you, and I got it out of the oven to season it, and the phone rang. When I came back from answering the phone, I found that the cat had eaten it!"

"Don't worry, darling," said her husband. "Don't cry. We can get a new cat tomorrow."



## Microsoft Compatibility Official Steers Enterprise Users Away from Internet Explorer

02/08/2019

Microsoft, which transitioned to its new browser *Edge* several years ago, is now advising enterprise users to avoid its legacy browser, Internet Explorer (IE). Microsoft Worldwide Lead for Application Compatibility Chris Jackson said this week that IE isn't really a browser but a "compatibility solution" to deal with legacy sites. Microsoft no longer supports IE with new web standards, which is at the core of the problem.

In a [new blog post](#), Jackson said that, for some organizations, using Internet Explorer as the

default for all situations "is the 'easy button,' because, well, most of your sites were designed for Internet Explorer, so...just...always use it, ok?" Jackson said this sort of thinking "seems like a liberate decision to take on some 'technical debt,'" as he put it.

He said that as the IE standards mode supported more and more standards, "we decided not to just update the mode we called standards mode, because, when we did, we risked breaking applications written for an older interpretation of the standards. So, with Internet Explorer 8, we added IE8 standards, but also kept IE7 standards."

"That meant, for sites in the internet zone, it would default to IE8 standards, but, for sites in the local *intranet* [emphasis added] zone, it would default to IE7 standards."

Jackson said companies' "habit" of paying for extended support for legacy software "needs to stop in the case of IE." He suggests using IE only selectively for internal sites that require it, pointing to tools that help customers make the transition and limit the use of IE to only where it's needed.

"Internet Explorer is a compatibility solution," Jackson concluded. "We're not supporting new web standards for it and, while many sites work fine, developers by and large just aren't testing for Internet Explorer these days."

—from the ARRL Website



## Scare Tactics

As I stepped out of the shower, I heard someone in my kitchen downstairs. Knowing that my wife was out, I grabbed my 1903 heirloom rifle—which no longer works—and crept downstairs, forgetting the fact that I was in my birthday suit.

I came around the corner with the gun raised, only to find my wife loading the dishwasher. "What are you doing?" she asked.

"I thought I heard an intruder. I came down to scare him."

Scanning the contours of my doughy, naked body, she mumbled, "You didn't need the gun."



## FCC Invites Comments on ARRL Technician Enhancement Proposal

03/15/2019

The FCC has invited public comments on ARRL's 2018 [Petition for Rule Making](#), now designated as RM-11828, which asks the FCC to expand HF

privileges for Technician licensees to include limited phone privileges on 75, 40, and 15 meters, plus RTTY and digital mode privileges on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters. Interested parties have 30 days to comment. The Technician enhancement proposals stemmed from the recommendations of the ARRL Board of Directors' Entry-Level License Committee, which explored various initiatives and gauged member opinions in 2016 and 2017.

"This action will enhance the available license operating privileges in what has become the principal entry-level license class in the Amateur Service," ARRL said in its *Petition*. "It will attract more newcomers to Amateur Radio, it will result in increased retention of licensees who hold Technician Class licenses, and it will provide an improved incentive for entry-level licensees to increase technical self-training and pursue higher license class achievement and development of communications skills."

### **Filing Comments**

*Those interested posting brief comments on the ARRL Technician Enhancement proposal (RM-11828) using the Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) should access [FCC Electronic Comment Filing System Express](#). In the "Proceeding(s)" field, enter the number of the PRM, i.e., RM-11828 (using this format), complete all required fields, and enter comments in the box provided. You may review your post before filing. All information you provide, including name and address, will be publicly available once you post your comment(s). For more information, visit ["How to Comment on FCC Proceedings"](#).*

Specifically, ARRL proposes to provide present and future Technicians with:

- phone privileges at 3.900 to 4.000 MHz, 7.225 to 7.300 MHz, and 21.350 to 21.450 MHz.
- RTTY and digital privileges in current Technician allocations on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters.

The ARRL petition points out the explosion in popularity of various digital modes over the past 2 decades. Under the ARRL plan, the maximum HF power level for Technician operators would remain at 200 W PEP. The few remaining Novice licensees would gain no new privileges under ARRL's proposal.

ARRL's petition points to the need for compelling incentives not only to become a radio amateur in the first place, but then to upgrade and further develop skills. Demographic and technological changes call for a "periodic rebalancing"

between those two objectives, ARRL maintained in his proposal. The FCC has not assessed entry-level operating privileges since 2005.

The Entry-Level License Committee offered very specific data- and survey-supported findings about growth in Amateur Radio and its place in the advanced technological demographic, which includes individuals younger than 30. It received significant input from ARRL members via more than 8,000 survey responses. "The Committee's analysis noted that today, Amateur Radio exists among many more modes of communication than it did half a century ago, or even 20 years ago," ARRL said in its petition.

Now numbering some 384,500, Technician licensees comprise more than half of the US Amateur Radio population. ARRL stressed in its petition the urgency of making the license more attractive to newcomers, in part to improve upon science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, "that inescapably accompanies a healthy, growing Amateur Radio Service."

ARRL said its proposal is critical to develop improved operating skills, increasing emergency preparedness participation, improving technical self-training, and boosting overall growth in the Amateur Service, which has remained nearly inert at about 1% per year.

The Entry-Level License Committee determined that the current Technician class question pool already covers far more material than necessary for an entry-level exam to validate expanded privileges. ARRL told the FCC that it would continue to refine examination preparation and training materials aimed at STEM topics, increase outreach and recruitment, work with Amateur Radio clubs, and encourage educational institutions to utilize Amateur Radio in STEM and other experiential learning programs.

—from the ARRL Website



## **So Now What?**

*03/21/2019*

"The New Ham Radio Starter Pack" is the focus of the inaugural (March 21) episode of the "**So Now What?**" podcast for Amateur Radio newcomers. If you're a newly licensed Amateur Radio operator, chances are you have lots of questions. This biweekly podcast has answers! "So Now What?" offers insights from those who've been just where you are now. New episodes will be posted every other Thursday, alternating new-episode weeks with the "**ARRL The Doctor is In**" podcast.

“So Now What?” is sponsored by **LDG Electronics**, a family owned and operated business with laboratories in southern Maryland that offers a wide array of antenna tuners and other Amateur Radio products.

ARRL Communications Content Producer Michelle Patnode, W3MVP, and ARRL Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, co-host the podcast. Presented as a lively conversation, with Patnode representing newer hams and Carcia the veteran operators, the podcast will explore questions that newer hams may have and the issues that keep participants from staying active in the hobby. Some episodes will feature guests to answer questions on specific topic areas.

Listeners can find “So Now What?” on **Apple iTunes**, **Blubrry**, **Stitcher** (free registration required, or browse the site as a guest) and through the free Stitcher app for iOS, Kindle, or Android devices. Episodes will be archived on the ARRL website.

—from the ARRL Website

## ARRL Seeks Hosts for Ham Radio Contacts with Space Station Crew Members

03/27/2019

Starting on April 1, Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (**ARRL**) will accept applications from US schools, museums, science centers, and community youth organizations (working individually or together) interested in hosting contacts with orbiting crew members on the International Space Station (ISS). Contacts will be scheduled between January 1 and June 30, 2020.

Each year, ARRL provides tens of thousands of students with opportunities to learn about space technologies and communications through Amateur Radio. The program provides learning opportunities by connecting students to astronauts aboard the ISS through a partnership between ARRL, AMSAT, and NASA, as well as other Amateur Radio organizations and worldwide space agencies. The program’s goal is to inspire students to pursue interests and careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and Amateur Radio.

“Educators overwhelmingly report that student participation in the ARRL program stimulates interest in STEM subjects and in STEM careers,” ARRL said in announcing the contact opportunities. “One educator wrote, ‘Many of the middle school students who took part in and

attended the ARRL contact have selected science courses in high school as a result of that contact.’” ARRL says enthusiasm sparked by a school contact has led to an interest in ham radio among students and to the creation of ham radio clubs in schools. Some educators have even become radio amateurs after experiencing a contact with an ISS crew member.

ARRL is looking for organizations capable of attracting large numbers of participants and integrating the contact into a well-developed, exciting education plan. Students can learn about satellite communications, wireless technology, science research conducted on the ISS, radio science, and any related STEM subject. Students learn to use Amateur Radio to talk directly to an astronaut and ask their STEM-related questions. ARRL will help educational organizations locate Amateur Radio groups who can assist with equipment for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for students.

The deadline to submit proposals is May 15. Proposal webinars for guidance and questions will be offered on April 11 at 7 PM EDT (2300 UTC) and on April 16 at 9 PM EDT (0100 UTC on Wednesday, April 17). **Advance registration** is required. **More details**, such as expectations, proposal guidelines, and the proposal form, are on the ARRL website.

—from the ARRL Website



**“Don’t think of it as getting a flu shot.  
Think of it as installing virus protection software.”**

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# **O A R S Meeting**

**Wednesday, April 17, 7:00 pm**  
**“Delvin, Clark County ARC”**

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

