Anchorage Amateur Radio Club

Next Meeting on February 5 ! ←

There will be no January General Meeting – HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Officers

President	Richard Tweet, KL2AZ
Vice President	TJ Sheffield, KL7TS
Secretary	Dave Webb, N9AIG
Treasurer	Kent Petty, KL5T

Three Year Board Members

John Lime III, KL4OF
Dave Webb, N9AIG
Keith Clark, KL7MM
Matthieu Ostrander, KL4OH
Kent Petty, KL5T
Wigi Tozzi, KL0R
David Nicolai, K1TAQ
Rebecca Weicht, Associate

Board Appointees

Station Manager	TJ Sheffield, KL7TS
Activities Chairman	Vacant
Newsletter Editor	Keith Clark, KL7MM/Temp.
Membership Chairman	Vacant
Trustee	Keith Clark, KL7MM

~~~ HOT LINKS ~~

AARC web page & Email contact addresses:

Homepage:	https://kl7aa.org/
Email Reflector:	KL7AA@QTH.NET
Webmaster:	webmaster@kl7aa.org
President:	president@kl7aa.org
Membership:	membership@kl7aa.org
Newsletter:	trustee@kl7aa.org

Newsletter Submissions, Information or corrections:
Submissions must be received 2 weeks before meeting.
Email: trustee@kl7aa.org
Mail: P.O. Box 91758, Anchorage, AK 99509

W1AW CODE PRACTICE SCHEDULE

Schedule can be found at:
https://www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule

Nets in Alaska:

The following nets are active in South-central Alaska:
Alaska Sniper's Net 3.920 MHz 6:00 PM daily
Alaska Bush Net 7.093 MHz 8:00 PM daily moving to 3920 at 8:15 PM
Alaska Motley Net 3.933 MHz 9:00 PM daily
Alaska Pacific Net 14.292 MHz 8:00 AM M-F
No Name Net 146.85/.25 repeater Sundays 8:00 PM
South Central Simplex Net Wednesday at 1900 local, starting on 146.520
Moosehorn Net 147.84/.24 repeater Sunday 6:30 PM.
Eagle Node Packet 145.01 Wednesdays 7:00 PM local
ARES net 147.30/.90 repeater Thursdays at 8:00 PM local
Alaska Emergency Frequency Test the last Saturday of the month on 5167.5 MHz/USB

Anchorage & Mat Valley Area Coordinated Repeaters

KL7AA systems at Flattop Mt., 2,200 ft
146.94/34 MHz, 80 watts, no patch, 141.3 Hz PL

224.94/223.34, 25 watts, no patch, no PL

444.70/449.70, 25 watts, no patch, 141.3 PL

KL7AA at Mt. Gordon Lyon, 3,940 ft
147.30/90, MHz - 80 watts, no patch, 141.3 Hz PL

KL7AIR Elmendorf AFB, EARS
146.67/.07, 103.5 Hz PL

KL7JFU, KGB road, MARA Club
146.85/.25, autopatch, 103.5 Hz PL

For a list of all Alaska State coordinated repeaters go to:
https://www.alaskarepeaters.kl7.net/

South Central Area Simplex Frequencies

146.52 MHz Calling and Emergency frequency
146.49 MHz Anchorage area simplex chat
146.43 MHz Mat Valley simplex chat
146.42MHz Peninsula simplex chat

I might be missing an update on one of the chat frequencies. Please let me know any changes.

Internet Links, the favorites from our readers:

AARC https://kl7aa.org/
EARS https://www.kl7air.us/
MARA https://kl7jfu.com/
Moose Horn ARC https://al7le.org/
ARES https://kl7aa.org/anchorage-ares
Fairbanks AARC http://www.kl7kc.com/
Yukon Amateur Radio Association https://www.yara.ca/
Delta Amateur Radio Club http://www.kl7drc.org/
HAARP Project https://haarp.gi.alaska.edu/
Amateur Radio Reference Library
VOCAP https://www.voacap.com/hf/
ARRL https://www.arrl.org/

Please let us know if there are other clubs pages or good starting points that should appear here. Report dead links or bad info to trustee@kl7aa.org.

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NEWSLETTER ARTICLES; All articles from members and interested persons are very welcome. If you wish to submit any articles, jokes, cartoons, please have it typed or neatly handwritten. It can be submitted by mail or E-mail to the newsletter editor at the address listed above. Submissions must be in the hands of the editor **no later than the 14 days prior** to the meeting or it may not be included.

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Regular HAM Gatherings:

Thursdays Coffee, 2:00 PM: Join the gang for coffee and an eyeball QSO at Pizza Man in Eagle River. Attendance varies from 6 to 12 each week.

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DECEMBER EVENTS

VE License Exams: These happen 6 days a week on line and occasional in person exams. See the link on the AARC website at https://kl7aa.org/vec.

January 20: AARC Board meeting at 7:00 PM 3nd Tuesday of the month by video conference. Link on the AARC website calendar. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

January 30: MARA meeting at 7PM the last Friday of the month at locations announced on the website. These meetings are open to all who wish to attend. https://kl7jfu.com

Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC)

The Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) started in early 2020 with a small group of fellow hams in the Delta Junction area and has grown steadily since. Affiliated with the ARRL, The club has been active in our community by presenting a booth at the local Deltana Fair each year, accepting and refurbishing a donated tow-behind, tilt-up tower for emergency communications, providing Tech/General classes and conducting regular testing, resulting in over 25 new hams in the area over the past several years. In addition to ongoing club repeater expansion efforts, the club is also active with the City of Delta Junction and with the local Civil Air Patrol (CAP - Delta Composite Squadron). The DARC has about 25 members so far, and growing. Also, we run open WINLINK and APRS nodes, and manage an ARES net on the club repeater (147.035+ 103.5), Thursday evenings at 7pm.

Why Do We Do Public Service Looking Forward to Next Year!

We support public service events for several reasons.
It gives us a chance to practice our communication skills from time to time.
We get to exercise our equipment, and practice with, and learn about our equipment in different situations i.e. weather, noise, etc.
We are there in the event that newer technology breaks down in any manner.
If we are using local repeaters or simplex paths, we can find out where the holes are.
And sometimes we get a t-shirt or a ball cap!.

We also can bank our participation to justify our use of the spectrum that we get for free.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to all,
I hope your Christmas was great and that 2026 is a very good year for you! A reminder, there WILL NOT be a membership meeting on January 1st and the monthly meetings will resume on February 5th.
I want to start out by thanking those who responded with donations in the past month. These donations to your club go a long way to keep the doors open, lights on, etc., and with specific donations (e.g. a donation specified for keeping the Grubstake repeater site funded and operational), a club with equipment and resources available for the South Central amateur community. I neglected to get approval from those who donated to recognize them and will reach out to them and recognize those who approve in the next newsletter. Thank you again!

Please watch the K7AA.org website for information regarding Public Service opportunities for the 2026 season. The site will be updated as dates for the events become available. We appreciate the 'regulars' and also look forward to some new faces at the checkpoints this year. If you are inexperienced, no worries, you can be paired with someone with experience in these events and gain some valuable experience.
I'd like to thank the following for their availability and on site support of the Radio, Science and Operations Center this past year. These folks showed up time after time to support Nets run from the RSOC and also for tasks as mundane as shoveling snow, mowing the grass, scrubbing toilets, vacuuming, and mopping floors. TJ Sheffield KL7TS, Keith Clark KL7MM, Dave Webb N9AIG, Karl Kisser KL5TQ, Richard Pellessier AL6P, Eric Cannon KL4VA, David Nicolai K1TAQ, and Dave Filley WL7CDJ. It may not take a village to maintain your club, but it definitely takes volunteers!
I hear the printing press warming up, so will cut this short.
Happy New year!
Richard Tweet KL2AZ
President, AARC

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Alaska Section News October 2025

No information received this month.

David W Stevens KL7EB AK SM
KL7EB@arrl.org

Grubstake Repeater!!

The Grubstake repeater system is on the air on 147.33 with plus offset and a tone of 103.5 Hz, with full power output. It's really way up there so give it a try. This is a KL7AA repeater that is being operated for the benefit of South Central Alaska hams. It is currently awaiting a site visit for more upgrades. Please see kl7aa.org for a link for financial support this site.

ANCHORAGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEMBERSHIP MEETING

December 4, 2025
Radio Science and Operations Center (RSOC)
6721 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK
APPROVED

Call to Order
The meeting (hybrid w/ Zoom and in-person attendance) was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Richard Tweet KL2AZ. A quorum was established.

Business
We do have a little bit of business to discuss tonight. First, and I'm not 100% sure this requires membership approval, but I'm going to ask for membership approval. By means of motion and vote. Our next meeting is scheduled for January 1st, 2026. I propose cancellation of that meeting and cancellation of the July 2, 2026, meeting, obviously, because that's 4th of July weekend. Keith Clark KL7MM made the motion, and it was seconded by Dave Filley WL7CDJ. The motion was passed by a show of hands unanimously.

Budget Presentation

Richard Tweet KL2AZ presented (per the bylaws prior to December 31st) the budget for the club for the coming year:

- Available funds are $87,057.21; these funds are strictly used to keep this building and your club in operation.
- The heating boiler needs replacement and will have to be funded by the AARC.
- The air-handler on the roof is intermittent and needs to be repaired.
- Fuel for snow blowing and lawn mowing and helicopter trips to service remote repeaters are paid for by the board members.
- This past year we had a very generous remembrance by Karen Walker, KL7KW, she named the AARC in her will.
- The club does have some generous members that have included us in their qualified charitable distributions once a year. This helps us considerably.
- The budget cannot anticipate these donations.
- Annual membership dues cover about one month of rent and electricity and natural gas. So those funds are depleted very quickly.
- The VEC program is another source of income, but it too is variable.
- Insurance is a significant expense to the budget for $11,105. This covers vehicles, property and liability insurance.
- One of our bigger expenses is the lease for this property of $16,250 a year.
- Total utilities for the year were $12,035.
- Our net operating income of $32,245 with a negative balance of $11,047; Our budget forecast for 2026. This does not include contributions to the club or endowments. This revenue is not predictable.

Richard Tweet KL2AZ requested approval from membership for the budget. A motion was made by Keith Clark KL7MM, it was seconded by Dave Nacolai K1TAQ and was unanimously passed as presented.

Conversion Presentation

Two recorded presentations were shown where amateur radio operators purchased ambulances and converted them for roving operation.

Membership Recruitment

- Kent Petty KL5T made an appeal for members to recruit additional members.
- Talk to all your ham friends and ask them if they're a member of the club and if they aren't ask them to please join the club. We've got a nice facility at the RSOC.
- It is always helpful to have a little bit more help and involvement from existing and new members.

RSOC Miscellaneous Topics

- The club's new John Deere snowblower is working well. The cab heater is robust and the machine really moves the snow. Details are still being worked for an optimum pattern to move snow in the most expeditious manner.
- We have two internet feeds at RSOC. One is through ACS and the other is Starlink. One is backup for the other.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted as recorded by Dave Webb N9AIG (AARC Secretary) on December 4, 2025.

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ANCHORAGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB ZOOM BOARD MEETING

November 18, 2025
Radio Science and Operations Center (RSOC)
6721 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK
APPROVED

The online meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Richard Tweet KL2AZ. A quorum was established.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT (VIA ZOOM):
Richard Tweet KL2AZ, Dave Webb N9AIG, Wigi Tozzi KL0R, John Lime III KL4OF, Dave Nicolai K1TAQ, Rebecca Weicht, Keith Clark KL7MM, Kent Petty KL5T, and TJ Sheffield KL7TS

EXCUSED BOARD MEMBERS:
Mathieu Ostrander KL4QH

UNEXCUSED BOARD MEMBERS:
None

REQUEST FOR AGENDA ITEMS
None

VISITORS:
None

TIME CRITICAL ITEM(S):
None

REPORTS:

SECRETARY REPORT
Dave Webb N9AIG provided the October 21, 2025, AARC Board meeting minutes and the November 6, 2025, membership meeting minutes for approval. A motion was made by Keith Clark KL7MM, to approve the minutes and was seconded by Dave Nicolai K1TAQ with several corrections. With no objections, the motion passed.

TREASURER REPORT
Kent Petty KL5T indicated that the books are current. It's taken considerable effort. Kent also indicated that he is still working on Braintree credit card fees, but that's going to be an ongoing process. It's going to take a couple weeks to get that completed. There are a couple of minor transactions that still need to be determined.
There was also some discussion regarding obligated funds vs. a loan.

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Keith Clark KL7MM indicated that he did send out a finance report to the board of directors. There were no questions or comments on the report.

GAMING COMMITTEE
TJ Sheffield KL7TS indicated that nothing was new. But Kent Petty KL5T indicated that we did renew our gaming permit for 2026 along with our business licenses for our three business entities. Copies of the business licenses will be printed and posted at the RSOC.

TRUSTEE REPORT
Keith Clark KL7MM noted the KL7AA callsign was not used and Dave Webb N9AIG reported that KL7G was used for the CQ Worldwide Phone contest with over 3,200-3,300 contacts posted to LoTW. Kudos to Kent Petty KL5T and Wigi Tozzi KL0R for enhancing our presence worldwide. Dave Webb N9AIG will pursue the printing of KL7G QSL cards for those contacts (about 17) made that do not use LoTW. Kent Petty KL5T will ask Riley Petty KL4RP if she has time to design a new QSL card.
Keith Clark KL7MM indicated that he gets a discount at Great Originals to print the new QSL cards.
TJ Sheffield indicated that CQ Western Electric contest used the KL7G call sign. There were maybe 15 or 20 contacts from the Western Electric contest.

PROJECTS COMMITTEE
TJ Sheffield KL7TS indicated that we installed a new Starlink antenna on the roof after the existing unit failed.
We continue to have this challenge with Windows 10 computers and their support from Microsoft ending. We've enrolled our Windows 10 computers in the Extended Security Update enrollment program under individual Microsoft accounts. So, by utilizing my vice president account and Richard's own president account, we're actively protecting Windows 10 computers for another year. But that's not the final fix. The final fix is that we bought Windows 11 computers from surplus sales. So far, we've acquired eight (8) Windows 11 machines. Considerable effort will be required to move data from the old Windows 10 machines to the new Windows 11 machines.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (includes ROP)
TJ Sheffield KL7TS indicated that Dave Webb N9AIG operated the new JD 1445 snowblower and everything worked fine. We now have some pictures and video that can be used to write up the final report to the Rasmuson foundation. The final report is due in March 2026.
TJ Sheffield KL7TS indicated that one of our contacts with Elmendorf is the 301st Intelligence Squadron. They plan to visit the RSOC on Wednesday morning November 19th. There may be eight to 10 individuals that are going to stop by. And its different individuals than we've worked with previously. Previously it was the 673rd. This is a different group. So, they have different interests and we're going to try to see if there's some synergy between what we do, what they do, and how we can potentially interact or even help. Hopefully it results in a longer-term relationship that we can foster and it's beneficial to both of us.
We did give a tour and interview for the community patrol coordinator (title unknown). There could be some collaboration between what we do and what the community patrol does in the sense that they're called on by the municipality, the police department, or the fire department (wildfires), and the public must take up temporary parking somewhere at a large parking lot at a business. The community patrol staff will be out there in their vests and their vehicles directing traffic and we could respond too for communications. We have a seat at the State EOC. Some of those activities have some overlap. So, we have a relationship with them, although their primary interest was the radios that they purchased from a grant. How do they work? What are they? Can you help us understand these radios? So that hasn't hit us directly. They are also interested in a little bit of training regarding radio protocol and on the air techniques. So that's a development aspect of our corporation.
Delta Junction reached out to us. They participate in the annual monthly frequency test, and they asked us, what can we do better for emergency communication? So, we had a Zoom meeting with them, and they have good contacts with their administrators, the city administrator, possibly the mayor, and they have more questions. So, we owe them a response to an email with a variety of questions. But that's a contact that will possibly enhance our SHARES presence in the state of Alaska.
Dave Nicolai K1TAQ indicated that both of his daughters are in Girl Scout troops and they are going to seek their radio badges. We're going to have a meeting on Monday, December 8th at 6:00pm to go through the logistics of a mix between text and classroom instruction. The other half of the badge requires participating in an ARRL event like Kids Day. Hopefully, the club has some fox hunt equipment. That is one of the choices or one of the options to do for the badge. In addition to getting on the air as part of something like Kids Day. The children are 10-, 11-, and 12-year-olds.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT
Kent Petty KL5T indicated that the membership is about 330 members. We're in the middle of renewals right now.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Kent Petty KL5T indicated that he needs to post that Scott Rosenfeld N7JI is putting on an online technician license class. He's one of our VEs down in Eugene, Oregon and we'll be providing a testing session for that group.
The 301st may be looking for an exam preparation class too.

EQUIPMENT REPORT
TJ Sheffield KL7TS indicated that the Henry 3K Classic amp was used for the worldwide CQ Worldwide Contest and it worked well. So, it's a good addition to our ACOM amplifiers.
We are inundated with donations from various people, but one of the more recent is Richard Geiger KL5MM dad's estate, we received various hardware. One of the most notable was a commercial drill press which is now running.
A couple of toolboxes need to be gone through and some equipment on the trailer in bay 4.
The UPS at Hillside South needs to be changed out. The existing unit is on loan from the homeowner.
We do have a lead on a location farther up the hillside (Dennis Jones AL5K) to host a mesh node. Since this is at a higher elevation, it would be a better location than Hillside South.

EMCOMM
TJ Sheffield KL7TS indicated that Dave Webb N9AIG enhanced the equipment rack power supply in the basement. This rack went dark after the local utility had to perform a load shedding event. The existing UPS could not sustain the load for the 45 minutes that it took the utility to restore power. The source is now the 12-volt battery pack in the NW side of the basement. We lost the Starlink antenna system during this same event (now replaced).

VEC PROGRAM
Kent Petty KL5T indicated that we have held 387 testing sessions so far this year and we have 185 volunteer examiners. We just added Chicago, Illinois as a new in person location.

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS
Keith Clark KL7MM has also received notice about a coordination meeting for the RunFest. It will be in March or April 2026.
Richard Tweet KL2AZ attended the first Gold Nugget Triathlon Zoom meeting that happened on the 10th of November.
Richard also indicated that the first Alaska run for women meeting is the first Monday of each month starting in January.

Dave Nicolai K1TAQ volunteered to be the club's point of contact for some of these public service events. He indicated that he could make the GNT and the Alaska Run for women in 2026.
No updates regarding Dog Jog (usually in June or July).

OLD BUSINESS
01. Vacancies –Newsletter Editor (we may have someone interested), and Membership Coordinator remain vacant. The search for a new Treasurer continues.
02. KL7AA Repeater Site status. Both Glenn Alps and Site Summit need immediate attention to resolve access issues and lease verbiage.
03. AARC Weatherport sale – We are still looking for a buyer.
04. Postcard mailing to prospective hams. Richard Tweet KL2AZ to review Wigi Tozzi's KL0R information.

NEW BUSINESS
01. Richard Tweet KL2AZ asked that he be contacted for membership meeting speakers.
ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted as recorded on 11/18/2025 by Dave Webb N9AIG, AARC Secretary.

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ARES Thoughts – Thinking about emergencies

To assist you when participating in emergency communications drills or actual emergencies. See the following Internet address for a complete checklist: https://www.qsl.net/aresalaska/training/ARES_Emergency_communications_guide.htm

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WINLINK

For those of you who regularly check in to the South Central Simplex Net, you have probably heard net control say that we are also taking check-ins on Winlink.

Winlink is another tool in the toolbox that will be very important in an emergency and we encourage you to install the program on your computer.

We are currently running the Winlink sessions in Telnet mode so that everyone, especially those not connected to a radio, have the opportunity to practice before we go RF live peer to peer.

Winlink can be downloaded at:
Winlink.org
Click on the download tab
Then select user programs
Then select winlink_express_install_1-7-28-0.zip
Once downloaded follow the install instructions.

We look forward to seeing you on the next South Central Simplex Net.

From the Past - -
(2005)

A Beginner's Guide to Making CW Contacts

Part 1
by Jack Wagoner WB8FSV
Used with Jack's permission

There are dozens of specialities or activities under the broad banner of Amateur Radio. Amateur radio is also known as ham radio, why, nobody knows for certain. From working DX, to building radios from scratch, to satellite communications, to slow-scan TV, to just plain rag chewing(or talking) with new and old friends all over the world; there is something for everybody.

As a true ham radio fanatic, my personal favorite ham activity is yakking with other hams in Morse Code, also called CW(for continuous waves). Morse Code has a mystique to it, it is an extremely cool method with which to communicate. In this **Beginner's Guide to Making CW Contacts** I am going to try and give those hams new to CW a better idea of how to start. How to find someone to talk with, what to talk about, how to deal with QRM, how to end a CW contact, how to get lots and lots of QSL cards, and much more useful and practical information.

I wrote this Guide from the perspective of hams in the United States. Many of my references, for example to frequencies and to radio propagation, pertain to amateur radio in North America, although most of the CW operating techniques I discuss apply to worldwide CW operation.

Learning the Code

Morse Code has a way of polarizing hams, they either love it, or can't stand it. CW(or Morse Code) has been decreasing in popularity over the last several decades as voice and other digital modes become more popular. But a listen across the CW portion of the ham radio bands will find thousands of hams still using this vintage communications technique. The FCC still requires a code proficiency test, just 5 wpm, as part of their license to use the HF amateur radio spectrum. Besides, CW is way cool, but I'm prejudiced. HI.(HI is the telegraphic equivalent of a laugh)

I believe that learning and using Morse Code is very similar to learning a foreign language. Don't try to learn Morse Code the way I first did when I was a Boy Scout: don't memorize a list that tells you "A" is "dot dash" or "B" is "dash dot dot dot". This method will stunt your progress and lead to frustration. Ideally, when you hear the "dot dash" sound in your ear, your mind will immediately recognize that as "A". Inserting a third step, where your mind first translates the "dot dash" sound into the written dot dash you learned from a list, and then into the letter "A", is one thing that makes learning Morse Code so difficult for so many people.

There are a number of techniques suggested to help learn Morse Code. Among these are:

• Learn the code in groups, beginning with letters comprised of all dits first, then on to letters with all dahs next, then finally learning letters with both dits and dahs.

• Learn the code in groups of letters that have related sounds. For example, U(dit dit dah), F(dit dit dah dit), and the question mark(dit dit dah dah dit dit).

• Learn the more frequently used letters and characters first, and the more difficult ones last.

• Listen to the Morse Code characters sent at a high speed, with long pauses between each. This is known as the Farnsworth method.

Thanks to L. Peter Carron, Jr., W3DKV and his book, Morse Code: The Essential Language, The American Radio Relay League, 1991, for this partial list of techniques. Learning CW from a practice tape is, I believe, one of the best ways. Many companies offer these audio tapes or CD-ROMS, although they can be a bit dry and boring, and I recommend a bit of live CW listening with a shortwave receiver. Try the US novice bands 40 meters 7100-7150 kHz and 80 meters 3675- 3725 kHz for practice. Conditions on the 15 and 10 meter novice band are slowly improving these days, although the current sunspot cycle 23 is now slowly diminishing. Lots of beginning novices and technician-plus hams here using much slower CW(like 5 to 10 wpm) than you'll find on the US general CW bands. Learning CW with the personal help of another ham is also a great idea, as is taking a class in CW operation. Many amateur radio clubs offer classes for beginning hams in licensing, including Morse Code.
The Morse Code used today by amateur radio operators is also known as the International Code. By definition, the duration of the dah is three times as long as that of a dit, and the space between dits and dahs inside an individual character(such as dit dit dah or U) is equal to the duration of one dit. The space between characters is equal to three dits, and the space between words is equal to seven dits. During a CW QSO nobody is checking to see if you are using the correct spacing, just do your best. It takes practice. Code sent with the correct spacing sounds better and is easier to copy. Forcing yourself to listen to Morse Code that is slightly faster than you are able to copy comfortably is a good way to increase your code speed. You don't need to copy every letter, just concentrate on better learning the CW letters and symbols you already know, and the others will follow. When I was first learning CW I enjoyed listening to the CW speed demons(20 wpm plus) at the bottom of each ham band, just to see if I could get their callsign. Hams often send their callsigns several times at the beginning and end of a transmission, making it easier to copy. Everything else they sent was usually a blurr. I then kept a running list of the different countries I had heard, just to see how many countries I could get. I'm sure this helped me increase my code speed. Actual on-the-air CW contacts are probably the best way to increase your code speed and CW proficiency. And to have fun while practicing.

Finding Someone To Talk With

Answer a CQ

How the heck do you begin a CW conversation? How do you find another ham to talk with? My favorite method is to **answer a CQ**. Sending several CQs followed by your callsign indicates you want to start a contact with someone. Simply tune up and down the band searching for that familiar "CQ", zero beat your transmit frequency with that of the CQer(or as close as you can get), and call them when they finish their CQ. Normally a one by two call on your part is all that is needed, "N1XYZ de WB8FSV WB8FSV K". If band conditions are poor, or there is a lot of QRM(interference), perhaps a two by three or a one by four call is in order. One by two initial calls in response to a CQ are common these days, sending your call letters too many times marks you as a beginner.

Please do not reply to a CQ if the CQer is transmitting too close(within one kHz or so) to an ongoing QSO. Doing so will likely cause unnecessary QRM to the ongoing QSO, you may even drive them off the air. Not cool. Common ham courtesy says do your best not to cause unnecessary QRM.
Occasionally I will hear a CQing station that I would really like to answer, but the CQer is too close to an ongoing QSO, as I mentioned above. The best thing would be to not answer the CQer, but I have been know to answer the CQer at least one or two kHz away from the CQers frequency. My hope is that they will hear me and move their transmitting frequency to mine. Then I can have my contact and not cause QRM to the ongoing QSO. Sometimes this works, but likely the CQer will not even hear you, or will not change their transmit frequency when they answer you.

Sometimes when you answer another ham's CQ, they may not hear you well enough to get all of your callsign. Or they may not hear you at all if the band conditions are bad. There is such a thing as one way skip: you may hear West Coast stations fine, but none of them hear you. Not uncommonly more than one station besides you will reply to the same CQ that you did. You may even hear the other station(s) answering the same CQer that you are, at the same time. The CQing station may hear a mixed jumble of several stations answering him or her at the same time. The CQing station may then send "QRZ?" or "QRZ de N1XYZ?" Meaning, who the heck is calling me, please call again. Or the CQer may send nothing at all, perhaps they are just overwhelmed by more than one answer at a time, or by all the QRM. Many times I have found that if a CQer does not respond to my first reply and I hear only silence, if I call him(or her) again, they may well return to me.

Not uncommonly, when you begin to reply to another ham's CQ, you will hear other stations besides yourself calling the CQer at the same time that you are. I usually continue transmitting and then see if the CQer answers me or one of the other stations. If the CQer chooses you over the other stations, you can assume your signal was likely stronger or more interesting. If you do not have a competitive nature, then stop transmitting as soon as you hear other hams answering the CQer. Let them have the contact. Should you really want to

make the contact yourself, continue calling and then drag out your call by sending your callsign once or twice after you hear the other answering station(s) finish their call. This trick, often used by DXers, sometimes works. Also, if while answering a CQer, you hear the CQer return to another different station, stop transmitting. You lost. Continue your search for another CQer. If you really want to contact this CQing station you could simply wait for them to finish their current contact and then tailend them.

Occasionally as I scan the band looking for a CQ to answer, I may come across a ham sending their callsign two or more times, before they sign, "N1XYZ N1XYZ K". I believe it is safe to assume this ham has just finished sending a CQ, and often, if I like their callsign, I will listen a second, then go ahead and call them. Since I heard only their callsign and not the actual CQ, it is possible that this is not a CQ(maybe they were calling another ham instead). Listen a few seconds to ensure you are not interrupting a QSO, then assume that it was a CQ. I have found that sometimes if I wait for this suspected CQer to send another separate CQ, by that time they will have attracted a few more replies to their CQ, and I may lose out on what could have been a good contact. In the same regard, you may be in contact with another ham and end one of your transmissions by sending your own callsign two or more times(perhaps you repeat your call a few times because the other ham has copied it wrong). Then as a result, in the middle of your contact, you may be called by a third ham, who incorrectly assumes you have called CQ. Simply ignore the interrupting third ham.

When answering a CQer you should zero beat the other ham's frequency, or set your transmit frequency as close to theirs as possible. Many hams today, in order to deal with the increasing QRM, make use of very narrow receive filters. The CQer may have their narrow filter turned on and not hear you answer if you are more than a few hundred cycles away from their transmit frequency. This is a quite common occurrence on the CW ham bands, and points to the importance of correctly zero beating with your ham rig. By the same token, should you be calling CQ, do so with your narrow CW filter turned off, or you may well not hear several answering hams. Many hams are uncertain how to correctly zero beat their rigs on CW.
If you are fortunate to have a newer transceiver that has dual VFOs, it can simplify your search for a CQ to answer. While scanning for a CQ, if you come across something interesting, such as someone tuning up(a potential CQer), a clear frequency(that you may wish to use later to call your own CQ), or an interesting QSO(that you might want to tailend when it finishes), then leave one of your VFOs on that spot. As you then continue scanning for a CQ, you can periodically, at the press of one button, switch to your second inactive VFO and see what's happening on your other interesting frequency. Having two VFOs built into your radio can greatly enhance the ease and convenience of your CW operation. Sometimes I wish my rig had three or four VFOs. HI. If your ham rig does not have dual VFOs, you can simply remember, or write down, any interesting frequencies you come across while scanning.

Call Your Own CQ

Tuning around searching for CQs can tend to be frustrating. At times there just don't seem to be many folks calling CQ, and the ones I do hear are jumped on by a much stronger or faster station than me. Never fear, there are other productive ways to find a CW contact. Obviously another method would be to find a nice quiet unused frequency and call CQ yourself. Before you fire up your transmitter and send a CQ, listen a few minutes to the frequency to ensure that you are not going to stomp on another conversation. It is very possible that another ham is transmitting on the same frequency but their signal is skipping over you. It is highly recommended that you send a "QRL?", or better yet send a "QRL de WB8FSV?" to see if the frequency is clear. Technically the FCC requires you identify each transmission, and an unidentified "QRL?" is frowned upon. Although everybody does it. Or, if you have the patience, an even better method is to simply listen to the frequency in question for at least 5 minutes. Even then I would still send a "QRL?" before I cut loose with my CQ.

An old fashioned and rarely heard equivalent of "QRL?" is "dit-dit dit", or the CW letters, "I E". It would be sent before a CQ to see if the frequency was clear. Just like "QRL?". The correct response is the same as that to "QRL?" If you happen to be listening and hear someone send an "I E", if the frequency is not busy the correct response is to say nothing or to perhaps send an "N" for "no". If the frequency is busy, like you are having a QSO on the frequency, the correct response would be to send a "C" or "yes". "C" is often used as a CW abbreviation for the word "yes". If your CQ is answered by more than one station, usually the best practice is to reply to the strongest station. The strongest station is more likely to copy you stronger also, and you will be better able to copy each other should you both be attacked by QRM, QRN, or QSB. If you are able to copy the callsigns of both hams who answer your CQ, and the weaker station has a more interesting callsign, certainly you could answer the weaker/more interesting ham. Since the weaker station is answering your CQ, obviously they can hear you as well. Should two stations respond to your CQ, you can answer them both and try a three-way contact. Three-way contacts on CW are difficult to do. Send your CQ at the speed you would like to be answered. A three or four by two call repeated twice should be sufficient, "CQ CQ CQ de WB8FSV WB8FSV CQ CQ CQ de WB8FSV WB8FSV K". There are many variations. You will hear some beginners sending 15 or 20 CQs before their callsign, not a good idea. If you scan the band and find it active and full of ham signals, a shorter CQ should work. At times when I know another ham is listening on the frequency(perhaps I just heard them tune up), I may get them to answer with a simple one by one, "CQ de WB8FSV K". After sending your CQ you may get an instant response, or you may get no response at all. It may also take some hams a moment to respond to your CQ. They may need to tune up their rigs, zero beat your frequency, or take a few seconds to run to their desk from across the shack. These folks may answer you five or ten seconds after your CQ. Be patient. After sending a CQ myself, I may tune around my transmit frequency a bit using my receiver's RIT(receiver incremental tuning). Because some hams may have trouble zero beating my transmit frequency correctly.

Perhaps they are still using crystal control - not uncommon with homebrew QRP radios. If I get no response after a couple 3 by 2 CQ calls, or I can tell there is very little activity on the band, I may then send a 6 by 2 CQ. The more CQs you transmit, the greater the chance that another ham scanning by will hear and answer you. I believe a pair of 6 by 2 calls is more than enough CQs. Should you still get no response to your own CQs, maybe the band conditions are just plain lousy, maybe you are transmitting too close to another QSO that you can't hear, maybe no one wants to talk to you. Try another frequency, try another band, listen for someone else calling CQ, or turn off the radio and go feed the cat. Tailend Another QSO A third major way to find someone to talk with on the ham bands is tailending. To tailend a conversation is to wait until another contact is completed, and then call the participant you want to talk with. This may work about half the time. Not uncommonly you will get no answer. The station you call is probably not expecting a call, they may have already turned off their radio, or may simply have something else to do. But sometimes tailending works. As you scan across the band looking for CQs or for a clear frequency on which to call your own CQ, you may hear an interesting conversation that you wish to contribute to, or you may hear a ham friend you want to say hello to. The polite way to tailend another QSO is wait until the other stations are completely finished. This is easy to determine if you are able to hear both of the stations talking. But sometimes due to radio conditions you will hear just one of the stations. For example, you hear the end of a QSO between KH6XYZ and WB8FSV. You would like to work KH6XYZ and are unable to hear WB8FSV. When you hear the first station send something like, "HOPE TO CUAGN 73 WB8FSV de KH6XYZ TU K", wait. Wait a minute or two until the first station KH6XYZ acknowledges WB8FSV's last transmission, perhaps by sending a final "73" or a "dit-dit". If instead you call KH6XYZ as soon as you heard them sign, "de KH6XYZ TU K", you may well be transmitting at the same time and on the same frequency as WB8FSV, who KH6XYZ is trying to listen to. This is a good way to make KH6XYZ dislike you and decide not to answer you. This polite advice does not generally apply to tailending a rare DX station. Calling and working rare DX stations is usually a mean and cut throat procedure. Another reason I much prefer friendly domestic CW QSOs over fighting for rare DX. At times you may be waiting to tailend a ham QSO, when the station you would like to talk to ends their last transmission with a "CL" for "closing" or "clear". This indicates that person is signing off and leaving the air, turning off their rig, and will accept no other calls. If you call the CLing station anyway, they may still reply out of politeness, but they are probably anxious to leave. If you just have to talk with them, don't keep them too long. Breaking In Breaking into an ongoing conversation is also possible, although rarely successful. Breaking into a QSO on CW is much more difficult than on phone. It is rarely done on CW. Some folks will think you impolite and ignore you, many newer hams will have no idea what's going on and consider you to be QRM. If you want to try, the standard method on CW is to wait between transmissions and then send "BK" for break, or better yet send, "BK de WB8FSV" if you have enough time. Allowing a third person to break into your contact can be confusing, especially for new hams. These "roundtable" QSOs are easier to manage on phone, or in the controlled environment of an organized net, like an NTS traffic net. But don't worry, breaking in is rarely encountered on CW. For those new hams who later move from CW to phone, be careful about using the word "break" on phone or SSB. On phone many hams use "break" to interrupt a net or a conversation when they have an emergency to report. "Break in" has another meaning in CW. It refers to the time it takes your receiver to recover after you stop transmitting. Most modern transceivers have what is called full break in, meaning that you can receive instantly after transmitting on CW. You can even receive in between the dits and dahs of individual letters. Full break in CW even has its own Q signal, QSK. Years ago radio receivers had a several second delay before you could receive after transmitting, in order that your sensitive receiver was not overloaded by your nearby transmitter. Full break in CW is taken for granted today, but it is one of many technological innovations that today make ham radio so much easier. Such as dual VFOs, digital readout, automatic tuning, or one of my favorites: direct frequency keypad entry. What Do You Talk About? The Art of Rag Chewing Now that you have established contact with another ham via CW, what the heck do you talk about? Every ham contact, CW or phone, consists of at least three basic items: your name, your location or QTH, and a signal report(RST) for the other station. What order you send these three items is unimportant, although commonly today you will hear signal report/location/name. When I started in ham radio 30 years ago, the order was almost always signal report/name/location. The Standard name/location/RST/73 QSO These three items are the essential minimum required for a QSO. While it is true that in working a DX station in a pileup you may only exchange callsigns and a signal report, in a "real" contact the name/location/RST are standard, and you continue from there. The next most commonly discussed subjects in CW QSOs are usually the weather(WX), the radio equipment people are using, the hams' ages and how long they have been hams. For many CW contacts that will be the extent of the contact. The other ham will sign off and end the contact. Most likely because the other ham is new to CW conversation making, and simply doesn't know what else to say. Or perhaps the short-winded ham isn't into making conversation. Personally I enjoy longer CW contacts, called "rag chews". QSO Template for Beginners When first starting out on CW, many new hams will often use a template or model, to make sure they send all the essential information. For example: "_____ de WB8FSV TNX FER CALL BT MY NAME IS JACK JACK BT QTH IS HILLIARD, OH HILLIARD, OH BT UR RST IS ___ BT HW COPY?" And perhaps on your second transmission: "_____ de WB8FSV TNX _____(name) FOR NICE REPORT BT MY RIG IS A KNWD TS 450 ANT IS A DIPOLE BT WX IS _____ TEMP IS ___ BT HW COPY?" Just fill in the blanks to fit the QSO, inserting your own callsign, name, QTH, and rig. And go on from there as a starting point if you choose. By the way, that strange BT is used in CW as a spacer, a device to separate your thoughts. Some folks will use a period instead. BT is sent in CW as (dah dit dit dit dah). The CW letters B and T sent together. I feel that a more professional CW technique is to limit the amount of punctuation used during a QSO. Some new hams may send four or five BTs in a row while they think about what they will send next. One or two BTs in a row should be enough. Here is

what I mean by limiting punctuation, "TNX DAVE UR RST IS 579 579 MY NAME IS JACK JACK ES MY QTH IS HILLIARD, OH HILLIARD, OH BT HW? N1XYZ de WB8FSV K". There, I got away with using just one BT. Other Stuff to Talk About For some beginning hams, and for some experienced hams too, that is all the information they will willingly send to you. You may have to draw out more conversation from them. Kinda like pulling teeth. HI . When I work a new ham on CW I often end each of my transmissions with a question to give the other guy(or girl) something to talk about, to draw them into a conversation. For example, "How many states have you worked? Any DX?" or "Is it raining at your QTH also?" If the other ham mentions something such as their age and how long they have been a ham, you can take that as a hint they would like you to send them back the same information about yourself. If you live in a small town, describe where it is in relation to a much larger city. Does the area where you live have any unusual characteristics that other hams might find interesting? I often tell other hams that I live on the edge of town - two blocks from cornfields. Or that central Ohio is a flat as a pancake due to glaciers scraping it level 15,000 years ago. Or that Hilliard is Ohio's fastest growing city. What is your town's population? Any famous or semi-famous people born there(besides yourself)? How large is your yard? Where is your radio shack located in your house? Over the years I have developed a number of topics that I may bring into a CW contact in order to keep the conversation going. Even for me sometimes I just run into a wall, my mind goes blank, and I can't think of what to send next, so these commonly used topics of mine can come to the rescue at times. For example, I'll describe how my cat Rasta often naps on top of my TS 450 rig and I believe that after all these years I suspect my cat understands CW. Or I'll describe what I see at that moment out my basement window. Or talk about how I enjoy collecting stuff(stamps, baseball cards, radios, QSL cards). Or ask the other ham if they have access to the Internet to see if we share a common interest about computers. I try to send the name of the other ham I am in contact with at least once during each of my transmissions. This frequent use of the other person's name makes for a friendlier QSO and tells them you care who they are. Don't get carried away with this personalizing your comments. Using the other ham's name once per transmission is enough. When you first start out, any CW contact is fun. It's cool to see how far your equipment will reach, how many states you are able to work. After you have made a number of CW contacts you may discover that the best contacts are those that are different. Not the standard name/location/RST/rig/WX/age/73 type of contact. You may meet another ham who just loves to gab(like me) or who is involved in a different ham activity(such as satellite or packet) and would love to tell you about it, or another ham who may have a lot in common with you such as age, work, or other hobbies. One of the fascinating things for me about making ham radio contacts is you don't know what the other ham is like or how the conversation will develop until you begin. Standard Operating Techniques Correctly Reporting RST Here I am including a few useful topics that didn't fit in elsewhere. For example, what is this RST thing? It is a method of giving another ham a signal report and stands for readability, signal strength, and tone. R is on a scale of 1 to 5, and both S and T on a scale of 1 to 9. An RST of 599 would be the strongest cleanest report possible. For really incredibly strong signals some hams will refer to a 20 or 30 over S9, reflecting an S-meter reading. Readability is self-explanatory, R5 is normal, R4 to me means you copy more than half of what is sent, and R3 to me means you only hear a word or two. I have never given another ham an R of 2 or 1. Signal strength is pretty subjective, just use your ears to judge. Some new hams use their rig's S-meter to determine the S they report. I don't think this is a good idea. Tone is the most misunderstood and misused report. Only rarely will I give a report less than T9, and then never lower than T8. For example, if someone has a bad AC hum on their signal, key clicks, chirp, or is drifting badly in frequency, I may give them a T8. Giving a tone report of less than T9 may really get the other ham worried about the quality of their transmitted signal, so be prepared to explain what you mean. The RST report that one ham gives to another often influences the RST report that is received in return. If, at the beginning of a QSO, the other ham first gives me a good 599 report, I find myself more likely to send them back a good report also. I believe we do this subconsciously, it is human nature. As an optimist, my RST reports generally tend towards the positive. Even if it is a contact during which I send the first RST, I may well add an S point or two to the other ham's RST. An S point or so above what I might give if I were brutally honest. I want to begin the QSO on the right foot and make the other ham feel good about continuing the contact. Not uncommonly when you hear a ham send an RST report, for example 599, they will send the letter "N" in place of the number "9". Or 5NN in this case. This number code is another time saving device used on CW. Or you may hear the letter "T" sent in place of the number zero, "MY POWER IS 2TT WATTS". Each "T" is usually sent several times in length longer than the actual letter T to distinguish it from a T. There is a number code for almost every number, even though the N and T codes are virtually the only ones you will ever hear. Although during the 1998 CQ WW DX Contest I heard many European CW stations report their zones as "a4" or "a5" instead of sending "14" or "15". It saved them several milliseconds of time I suppose. Here is the entire number code, for the interest of those old timers reading this. Its use probably dates back half a century in CW. 1 = a 6 = 6 2 = u 7 = b 3 = v 8 = d 4 = 4 9 = n 5 = e 0 = t How to Zero Beat Another Station CW stations should always try to zero beat each other. That means to adjust your rig's transmit frequency to exactly match the transmit frequency of the other ham you would like to talk to. Hearing two CW stations conduct a conversation a few hundred cycles apart is a waste of frequency space, and is inviting QRM. How does one zero beat another station? Easy to do on phone or SSB, just tune so that the other fellow's voice sounds normal. But trickier on CW because when you put your receiver exactly on a CW station's transmit frequency, you hear nothing, zero. In modern transceivers, in the CW mode, the receiver's BFO is offset from the displayed, transmit frequency in order to produce an audible tone. In other words, the transmit and receive frequencies are far enough apart for you to hear a pleasantly pitched tone when your transmitter frequency is tuned to exactly that of the ham you are listening to. This frequency offset is frequently about 600 Hz or Hertz. Here is how I zero beat another CW station with my own rig, a Kenwood TS 450. I tune into, or sweep through, the other CW signal, the pitch

going from high to low, until the other ham's CW signal disappears. Now my receiver is zero beat with the other ham's transmit frequency. But I want my transmit frequency to be zero beat with the other ham's transmit frequency. So then I tune again, with the other ham's pitch going from low to high, until I am 600 Hz away. For example, if the other ham's transmit frequency is 7137.90 kHz, I would tune my transceiver to 7137.30 (7137.90 minus .60 equals 7137.30.) to transmit exactly on his transmit frequency. The direction you tune or sweep, the pitch going either from high to low or going from low to high, is rig dependent. On Kenwood ham radios you would tune the pitch from high to low as you tune higher in frequency, to reach the 600 Hz offset and be zero beat with the others ham's transmit frequency. I wrote the above paragraph several years ago, and currently I zero beat using a different method. I still have my Kenwood TS-450, but now as I tune around looking for a station to contact, I leave my RIT(receiver incremental tuning) turned on. Leaving your RIT on while tuning goes against conventional wisdom, but I find it works for me. I leave my RIT on about 500 to 600 Hz up. When I discover another station I wish to zero beat, I tune by ear so that their CW tone drops down in tone to almost nothing, meaning that my transmit frequency is now approximately zero beat with theirs. Then I reset my RIT back up a few Hertz so that I can hear the other station. Takes me one or two seconds. Tuning by ear for an approximately 600 Hz tone just comes with experience. I have found that this method of zero beating works best for me. Recently I have become a DXing nut, and I find this new method faster for me. There is no one best method for zero beating. Whatever works best for you and for your rig. This zero beat frequency stuff is pretty weird, it confuses me at times, and I hope I explained it correctly. The frequency offset for CW in most transceivers explains why when you are listening to a CW signal in the transceiver's "CW" mode, and you switch to phone, to "LSB" or "USB," you loose the CW signal and have to go search a bit for it again. Using CW Abbreviations and Q Signals Abbreviations are very commonly used in CW. They save time and are, I think, one reason why CW is so cool. Once you have learned many of the abbreviations as well as CW operating techniques, you are "in", you're a member of the CW using fraternity. Knowing and using CW correctly is kinda like belonging to an exclusive club. Anybody can pick up a microphone and talk on the ham bands; doing CW requires skill and finesse. Lists of abbreviations and Q signals used on CW are available many places, I will just mention a few of the most commonly used. ADR address GN good night RIG station equipment AGN again GND ground RPT repeat BK break GUD good SK end of transmission BN been HI the telegraphic laugh SRI sorry C yes HR here SSB single side band CL closing HV have TMW tomorrow CUL see you later HW how TNXTKS thanks DE from (French) N no TU thank you DX distance NR number UR your ES and (French) NW now VY very FB fine business OM old man WX weather GA go ahead PSE please XYL wife GB good bye PWR power YL young lady GE good evening R received as transmitted 73 best regards GM good morning RCVR receiver 88 love and kisses And the International "Q" signals, recognizable in any language: QRL Is the frequency busy? QRT stop sending QRM interference QRX wait, standby QRN noise, static QSB fading QRO increase power QSL acknowledge receipt QRP decrease power QSY change frequency QRS send slower QTH location Don't get worried about using abbreviations when you are starting out with CW. It is perfectly OK to spell out every word during a QSO. It's just easier using abbreviations. There are many more CW abbreviations and Q signals, but those should keep you busy. There are also a whole series of QN_ signals for use on CW traffic nets. Also used commonly on CW are punctuation marks; the period, comma, question mark and BT being the most common. To separate thoughts or topics during a CW contact a period or a BT (dah dit dit dit dah) are commonly used. You'll hear the slash symbol sometimes (dah dit dit dah dit) to note portable or QRP operation for example. Like WB8FSV/9 or WB8FSV/QRP. The "K" letter used at the end of each CW transmission indicates, "end of transmission - go ahead". When two hams engaged in a CW conversation do not wish to be disturbed by anyone else breaking in, they may send "KN" instead of "K" at the end of each transmission. Or if a ham wants to limit the extent of his CQ, he may also use KN. For example, "CQ VT CQ VT de N1XYZ KN" says this ham would like to be answered only by hams in the state of Vermont. Here are a few other commonly heard CW expressions that are actually combinations of letters sent as a single character. You will encounter these CW symbols on the air. Wait, stand by (AS) dit dah dit dit dit Slash (DN) dah dit dit dah dit End of message (AR) dit dah dit dah dit End of contact (SK) dit dit dit dah dit dah and of course, Break (BT) dah dit dit dit dah At the very end of a CW contact you may hear the two stations sending dits at each other, this derives from the old expression, "shave and a haircut, two bits". It sounds like dit dit-dit dit dit, dit-dit. The first station will send the dit dit-dit dit dit and wait for the second station to send dit-dit in return. This was more popular on CW years ago, but you will still hear it today. Today it may be shortened to sending just the final dit-dit, as in "73 N1XYZ de WB8FSV GN dit-dit". New hams more frequently use the full dit dit-dit dit dit, dit dit expression than more experienced hams. Not uncommonly when I end a QSO on the novice bands and trade dit dits with the other ham, I may hear a third, or even a fourth station add their own dit dit. They were listening along in silence to our QSO, and decided to add their two bits as well. This is an unprofessional operating habit. If the eavesdropping station wants to make their presence known with a few dits, I believe they should go ahead and tailend one of us, and start a legitimate QSO. Just goes to show that as you transmit on the ham bands, there are likely more than just a few folks listening.

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A Few Notes:

1. Remember the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club (AARC) **newsletter** can be read **online** at: https://kl7aa.org/newsletters/
2. An ongoing reminder, Kent Petty, KL5T has been successful in getting us signed up with Fred Meyer for their charitable donation programs. If you aren't signed up, please do so.

Asset Reduction

The Club has a Weatherport Tent that was originally purchased for use at the State Fair. This tent was also deployed a number of years during Field Day exercises, but the effort to deploy and tear down for a short term event is not feasible and as such has not been used for quite a number of years. It is time to find it a good home.
It is a 10' X 20' steel frame tent. There is an interested party so to add your name as an interested party, please go to info@kl7aa.org.

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ARRL Division News

Northwestern Division

Northwestern News
Volume Two, December 2025
(2025 report from Division)

https://arrlnwdiv.org/
Hello Northwestern Division and welcome to the end of 2025. This will be the final newsletter of the year and will also serve as our yearly report.

Division Staff:

Section Managers:
These hard-working folks continue to lead Field Services operations in our six sections. Section reports, if submitted, are included below.

David Stevens, KL7EB (Alaska)
Kevin Kerr, W1KGK (Montana)
Don Lynn, ND7L (Idaho)
Jo Whitney, KA7LJQ (Eastern WA)
Bob Purdom, AD7LJ (Western WA)
Scott Rosenfeld, N7JI (Oregon)

Assistant Directors:
Daniel Stevens, KL7WM
Delvin Bunton, NS7U
Lynn Burlingame, N7CFO
Dave Cole, NK7Z
Steve Aberle, WA7PTM
Steve McKeen, W7QLO
Bill Balzarini, KL7BB

Advisory committee members:
Jim Cassidy, KI7Y CAC, Contest advisory committee
Dick Swanson, K7BTW DXAC, DX advisory committee

5-9 Hamfest and convention list keeper extraordinaire, Lynn Burlingame,
N7CFO http://www.n7cfo.com/amradio/hf/hf.htm

Member input and communications:
Member input has been, for the most part, positive this year. Member input on the by-law changes made in July were few and far between. I feel that was mainly due to the posting of the changes in 2024 and everyone had already commented. Those changes were needed, and I am glad that they are now behind us. I am aware of a few minor changes to be discussed at the upcoming January Annual meeting of the board. One topic in particular had to do with election material and where it can be posted. The current wording can be interpreted as too restrictive and that will be addressed.

With the division email system back in service, Michael and I have been putting out "regular Division newsletters" albeit not every month. I do miss the short period when we were able to include photos and other formatting, however that was a time-consuming matter for HQ staff to do all the processing. I can assure you Michael and I, along with others, are pushing for a more robust mail system than what we currently have.

Much of the fall communication pertained to the current HOA bill. If you have not yet made the 30 second effort to send your letters, please do so. Visit https://www.arrl.org/current-legislation click the Send your Letters link, plug in your callsign, hit send and you are done. Even though we are at the tail end of the year, these letters are still important and will be hand delivered to your legislators.

Division statistics and some thoughts:
Division statistics at the end of November show a total membership in Division of 10,244, down from 2024 where we had 10,904. A 6% decrease.
This decline in membership is pretty much the same across all Divisions.
Nationally the decrease shows -5.7% I will not go into the weeds with each statistic for each section in our Division, but this ongoing decline in membership is very concerning. I can assure you the ARRL board discusses this regularly. This trend is not just limited to ARRL.

Other organizations are seeing a similar decline. Information on all hobbies is readily available via the internet, training classes are online for free, (i.e. no need to join or even visit a local club) and what was once a feeling of "belonging" by attending in person meetings is slowly being replaced by online chat rooms and other social media platforms. Encouraging new hams to join the hobby should everyone's goal, and what I mean by "join the hobby" is to get new Hams to embrace the culture of Amateur Radio, join a club, and join the league. When I was licensed as a novice, I joined my local club, primarily as they put on the license class and ran the testing. No one ever said, "hey you need to also join the ARRL", but it was strongly implied. I joined the league and a few years later I was president of the club and we had close to 150 members. (not because of me) I seem to remember we ran close to 75% or better ARRL membership. That trend continued until just a few short years ago, again, not due to any one person or action, just a steady decline in both numbers.

Encouraging newly licensed hams to join local clubs and the league should be top priority for every member. If you are a member of your local club, you should encourage others to join. If you are a member of the league, you should do the same. Some of our clubs are doing an outstanding job of this.

From a national perspective, the Northwestern Division has 71539 total licensed Amateur Radio operators. Nationally that number is 738701 as of December 6th , 14,432 of which, nearly 2% , are club callsigns. Our Division represents 9.6% of the total Amateur population. Looking at ARRL membership, The October total ARRL membership was 129455 and our Division represents 7.9% of that total with 10244.

In comparison, the Southeast Division is the largest by population with 10.5% of ARRL membership and 10% of the total number of Amateurs. The SE Division had 78125 total amateurs and 13020 ARRL members.

The Northwestern Division is currently the fourth largest in ARRL membership behind Roanoke with 10927, Atlantic with 10455, and as mentioned the Southeastern with 13020.

Club Updates: (A reminder):
It is getting close to the end of the year, and most clubs are starting or have finished the election process for officers. Remember to update your information on the ARRL web for your group. The listed contact person should have access to edit this information. If you run into trouble, your club officers can contact your Affiliated Club Coordinator, Section Manager, or myself and we would be glad to help. A new page has been created to help clubs at: https://affiliatedclubs.arrl.org/

Club Milestones:
Congratulations to the following ARRL Affiliated Clubs for reaching the milestones listed.
Central Washington ARC (Eastern Washington) 50 years
Hellgate Amateur Radio Club (Montana) 75 years

New Affiliated Clubs:
Congratulations to the following clubs for becoming ARRL Affiliated this year Salem Amateur Repeater Group, K7ATV – Salem Oregon Oregon Youth Amateur Radio Club, K7OYA – Albany Oregon Oregon Coast Emergency Repeater INC, W7FLO – Florence Oregon Central Oregon Amateur Radio Emcomm Team, K7HWY – La Pine Oregon
Shoreline Auxiliary Communications Service, W7AUX – Shoreline Washington

Upcoming Board meeting and Division election results:

As of this writing, I am not aware of any controversial motions for the board to address.

At the January meeting we will elect Officers of the ARRL, the President, 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, CFO, and International Affairs VP. We will also elect a new slate for the Executive committee.
The 2026 financial plan will be reviewed and approved.
Standing committee reports and motions will be addressed.

Elections this year were in the Southeast Division, where Director Baker will be back after a 4-way race. Director Baker received 1596 of a total of 3827 cast ballots. In the Southwestern Division, Director Norton received 1392 of a total of 2780 cast ballots. (yes a difference of 4 votes). In the Pacific Division, Director Litz was held his position with 1270 votes to his challenger, past Director Bob Vallio who earned 960 votes. We had no other contested elections for Directors this year.
In the Rocky Mountain Division, Director Ryan ran unopposed as well as Director Stratton in the West Gulf division.

January will bring a few changes to the board room “back row”. In the Southwestern Division, VD Ned Sterns decided not to run for office and we will be joined by John Kitchens, NX6S. John is the current Santa Barbara SM. In the Rocky Mountain Division, Mel Parkes, NM7P who ran unopposed will be joining us. From the Pacific Division we will be joined by Carol Milazzo, KP4MD who was appointed early this year and ran unopposed in the election. The Atlantic Vice Director is now Marty Newingham, AG3I, after being appointed this year as well.

Attention Montana members, your section, and the ARRL, needs you!
As no nomination petitions were received at HQ for the Section Manager position, it will be posted again in QST. Kevin, W1KGK decided not to run for another term. A formal notice will be coming out from ARRL HQ about this. If you are interested, or if you know someone that might be interested, let me know and I can help you, or them, through the process. The Section Manager terms are two years in length and more information can be found here: Section Manager I would like to thank Kevin for the years he served and wish him the best.

HAMFESTS and Meetings:
This year I attended;
The Mike and Key swap
N7YRC tailgate
Kamiah Hamfest
Seapac (Division Convention)
Wenatchee Hamfest
Idaho St. Convention
Spokane Hamfest (Washington State Convention)
PNW DX Convention (hosted by the WVDX Club)
And I managed to get into the parking lot for Swaptoberfest only to find it had been canceled early that morning due to a major water leak. Many were disappointed about this but nothing could be done.
I look forward to seeing fellow amateurs at most of these events again in 2026.

I also attended a number of club meetings both in person and virtually.

Presidents Award presented to Tad Cook, K7RA
In March it was my great privilege to present the ARRL Presidents Award to Tad Cook, K7RA from Seattle. For those who recognize the call, Tad wrote the ARRL solar reports for QST over the course of 36 continuous years, never missing a single month. Tad retired from writing the report due to health issues, and sadly passed away on April 13th. On behalf of

the entire Division, I would like to thank President Roderick, the ARRL Executive Committee, CEO Minster, and HQ Staff for expediting the process for this award. It showed on Tads face how much it meant to him.
(See more in December QST, page 63)

As I also serve as a Director of the ARRL Foundation, I am looking forward to the upcoming Scholarship season. This is one of the most rewarding aspects of Amateur Radio to me. It is a ton of work, but it is truly a pleasure to do. If you are looking at additional funding for college or trade schools, or have Harmonics that are (children) look at (or have them look) at the scholarships offered by the ARRL and ARDC.
They still have a few days to be in the running for next year's awards. http://www.arrl.org/scholarship-program

That's a wrap
This will be the last newsletter until after the January Board meeting.
Michael and I are always available for questions, comments, or concerns.
I hope this finds you well, and I wish you the best for this holiday
season and a great upcoming 2026. It is a privilege to serve as your
Director.

73..
Mark J. Tharp - KB7HDX
ARRL Director
Northwestern Division
kb7hdx@arrl.org
509-952-5764

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A few yearend words from Vice Director Sterba.

Hello Northwestern Division!

Wow, this year has flown by! With the large input from across the division provided from Director Tharp, I'll keep this to the point.

There has been an impact to our division wide license counts due to the shutdown of the FCC offices and website. Our Northwestern Division membership numbers have had a strong correlation to these suggesting that we may witness matching reductions. We hope this doesn't result in long term impact, but will be closely monitoring as we prepare for the 2026 Annual Board Meeting. Thankfully, the FCC has announced the restoration of services and is working through the reestablish full operations soon. The FCC also has extended the filing deadline to March 5, 2026, for amateur radio licenses that otherwise were due to expire
from October 1, 2025, to March 5, 2026. For more information, please visit:
https://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-vec-ready-to-file-2-500-ham-radio-license-applications-fcc-extends-renewal-filing-deadline

Annual Activities:

I attended the Administration & Finance Committee Meeting (12/13/25) where we stepped through the upcoming challenges for the League and amateur radio. Future decisions needing to be made will not be easy ones as we balance member needs versus organizational health in reference to a lowering ham license count. Updates will be provided in the coming months.

Committee Attendance:
ARRL Annual Board Meeting
ARRL 2nd Board Meeting
Administrative & Finance Committee Meeting (Committee Member)
EC FSC Clubs Subcommittee Meeting (Sub-Committee Member)
Executive Committee Meeting (Visitor)
EC-FSC Clubs Subcommittee (Visitor)
Programs & Services Committee (Visitor)

Event Attendance:
Salem Hamfair
Mike and Key Swapmeet
Stanwood / Camano Island Swapmeet
SEAPAC
Wenatchee Hamfest
MARA Hamfest
Multiple club/organizational member meetings

Effort Summation YTD in hours:
Meeting Hours: 73
Tasking Hours: 178
Public Service Hours: 143

(Canned Reminder) Director Tharp and I are always open to input, good and bad, (we prefer good) from members. If you have anything you would like to talk about, shoot us an email or call on the phone. In addition, we are always looking for information to share with the Division. If you have a news item you would like to offer, please send us a note and we would be glad to include it here. It is always great to hear from members.

From my radio shack to yours, I hope you and yours have a wonderful holiday upcoming. Enjoy Amateur Radio… Be Active, Be Positive, Be Safe, as your voice carries

Respectfully your servant,

Michael A. Sterba, KG7HQ
ARRL Vice Director
Northwestern Division
kg7hq@ARRL.org

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SECTION REPORTS:

Oregon Section, submitted by Scott Rosenfeld N7JI
2025 Oregon (OR) Section Report
Scott Rosenfeld, Section Manager (SM)
December 7, 2025
Overview

In September 2025, the Oregon section had a total of 2,969 ARRL members.
(2,757 Full and 212 Associate members)
This number was 4% below the November, 2024 membership tally. This continues to be a worrying trend.

Oregon still has over 20,000 ham radio operators, representing nearly 0.5% of the total state population, which ranks in the top 3 in the nation. However, only 15% of Oregon's hams are ARRL members. Oregon's licensing tallies show that the number of hams is relatively
stable, with about 50 new hams and 50 licenses expiring every month. Even though we have improved our recruitment efforts as a section, we are apparently still not doing a good enough job recruiting new members.

Our field organization continues to work to maximize and expand benefits provided to the Oregon section. Lane County now has an ARES program. We have helped clubs rebuild and become newly incorporated. Oregon hosted a hamfest, a regional DX conference, and a Division convention. We now have a third Public Information Officer, and continue working to implement youth development programs by encouraging clubs to identify club youth coordinators.

We are working to improve participation in Oregon section volunteer activities by our ARRL members.

In April, we asked for and received a proclamation from Oregon's Governor, Tina Kotek, that June would be Amateur Radio MONTH in Oregon. We plan to do this again in 2026.

It was a very busy year in our section, and I hope to keep the momentum going into the future.

My term runs until June, 2026, and I am planning on running again this spring for another term.

Item #1 - Building ARES / EmComm
Our primary goal for 2025 was to continue rebuilding the presence of Oregon ARES. Oregon's 36 counties are divided into 6 ARES districts, and range from urban to suburban to rural to very sparsely populated.
County populations vary from 1,400 to over 800,000, and the number of licensed amateurs in each varies just as widely.

Bonnie Altus, AB7ZQ, Oregon's SEC, has done an excellent job in serving as a liaison between Oregon's ham radio-based EmComm groups and Oregon's Department of Emergency Management. Many ARES and AUXCOMM units have a SHARES license and participate in the SHARES nets with FEMA and Oregon Department of Emergency Management (ODEM).

ARES was reintroduced in Lane County in 2025 and is now a functioning entity, with working agreements with the cities of Eugene and Springfield as well as Lane County. Lane County ARES now participates and cooperates with West Lane ARES, which serves the coastal areas of Lane county. Lane County ARES now serves Lane County east of the Coast Range, including the Eugene metropolitan area, which is the home of the University of Oregon. Lane County ARES is led by Kathryn Catherwood, KI7RNU, with support from local clubs, EmComm groups, and municipalities. Training classes were held from April through August.
The organization has over 30 members, holds an on-air net every Monday evening, and holds in-person meetings once a month. A new radio room is being constructed for use by ARES.

Under the leadership of Joe, AA7JS, Josephine County ARES has implemented a training program that incorporates a "clubhouse" as well as training nights where prospective ARES members are invited to do hands-on activities with more experienced members, resulting in organizational growth to over 60 members.

Oregon now has four Assistant SECs, and four of our six DEC positions are filled (districts 2 and 6 are vacant). Bonnie has worked and met regularly with our ASECs, DECs, and ECs on training, emergency tests, planning, interoperability, Winlink, and other topics. Our groups.io mailing list serves to connect hams in charge of EmComm-related units, including both ARES and non-ARES units. Regular communications with and between the ARES and non-ARES EMCOMM leadership has been key in revitalizing the program in Oregon.

Oregon's traffic nets remain active, although the number of traffic handlers has been continually declining over the years.

EmComm meetings were held at the Salem Hamfair in February and at the SeaPac convention, and they were well-attended. HF ARES nets continue to be very popular and with high levels of attendance. We continue to update our database of county ECs, and to cancel and make appointments as necessary.

The following is our list of Oregon district and section level EmComm appointees as of November, 2024:
SEC – Bonnie Altus, AB7ZQ
ASEC - Mitch Bayersdorfer, W7MDB
ASEC - Thomas Noel, KF7RSF
ASEC - Larry Clark, N7LJC
ASEC - Ed Bodenlos, W7EWB
D1 EC - Pat Roberson, W7PAT
D2 EC - vacant (Bend / Redmond / Prineville)
D3 EC - Stuart Bottom, K7FG
D4 EC - Steve Duck, KW7S
D5 EC - Joe Stodola, AA7JS
D6 EC - vacant (Klamath Falls / Lakeview / Burns / Hines / Ontario)

Item #2 - Affiliated Clubs
Max Sabo, K7MAX, VP of the Portland Amateur Radio Club, continues as our ACC. We hold quarterly Zoom meetings for officers of affiliated (and yet to be affiliated) clubs from all over the state. These meetings continue to be attended by 20-30 people, and have been an excellent venue for discussion of best practices.

The Oregon section welcomed Salem Area Repeater Group and Oregon Youth Amateur Radio Club as new affiliated clubs. New clubs are being formed at Chemeketa Community College,

Portland State University, and George Fox University. We are very, very happy to see new college-level clubs forming.

In the scouting arena, Michael, N7PEA, has worked to form a radio-specific, regional, Venturing Crew. This group seeks to become an ARRL-affiliated club.

We are still working to ensure that the club information database is up to date. We encourage all clubs to update their information on the ARRL and their own websites.
We also encourage clubs that have significant community outreach and wide-ranging programs and activities to apply for the distinction of becoming a Special Service Club.
Our four Special Service Clubs are:
Radio Amateurs of the Gorge (RAGS)
Valley Radio Club (Eugene)
Oregon-Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club (OTVARC)
Hoodview Amateur Radio Club

We continue to encourage Oregon's affiliated clubs to develop young hams within the section by working with scouts, schools, and students.

We also promote the idea of incentives for new hams to join our clubs. As VP of the Willamette Valley DX Club, for example, we have inducted several new members under the age of 25. We have also implemented a policy of giving free membership to licensees 25 and under, thereby removing financial barriers to membership. Similar membership policies have been rolled out by other clubs, including a free handheld radio and free membership for any new member 18 years of age and under.

Item #3 - Youth and Educational Activities
Ham radio is a powerful teaching tool for STEM, and is key to developing young hams in Oregon.

Oregon has two Section Youth Coordinators (SYCs), Frank Gruber, KB7NJV, and Russ Mickiewicz, N7QR. Frank is focused on introducing ham radio in schools, while Russ is focused on Scouting. They have proposed that clubs should have youth coordinators, and we have continually pestered clubs to do this…but it has been a slow process.

The radio club project within the Ione school system has hit a bit of a slowdown, but has a promising future.

Russ, N7QR, continues to work with Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) operations.

New university clubs are being formed, as mentioned in the previous section.

Existing university clubs within Oregon continue to be active.

Portland State University students presented their RF-focused engineering projects at Sea-Pac.

Zeke, KJ7NLL, made a presentation at Sea-Pac about the ISS contact project that he led for his school.

Ethan, KK7UXY, made a presentation at Sea-Pac about OYARC, the youth-focused radio club he formed.

Several young Oregon hams participated in significant DXpeditions in 2025.

In November, Salem Amateur Radio Club, Chemeketa radio club, and other groups cooperated to present ham radio to a crowd of 2,000, including nearly a thousand Girl Scouts, at the STEM fair at Oregon State Fairgrounds. We had obtained the W7G special event callsign and printed 1,000 W7G cards which could be given to scouts who participated by making a contact with "the ham on the other end of the radio." Over 200 Girl Scouts made QSOs with local hams, with each receiving a card. Hundreds more Girl Scouts learned (some) Morse code and made a LOT of noise. Others got to learn and practice spelling with the ITU phonetic alphabet. A large number of various ARRL publicity flyers were handed out at this event.

Item #4 - Technical Services
Our technical group is stable at eight people with KO7V as the technical coordinator. We have a groups.io mailing list called the ARRL OREGON TECHNICAL GROUP. We still have about 90 subscribers, with a wide array of topics covered.

Amy Haptonstall, AG7GP, joined as an expert in portable and SOTA operations.

Our technical experts continue to solve problems for hams in Oregon, the most common of which is RFI.

We look forward to increasing our TS ranks and continuing growth of the technical mailing list in the coming year.

Item #5 - Volunteer Counsels and Engineers
Oregon now has two VCs, Althea Ender, KE7OOJ, and Russ Garrett, KD7MPK, who also serves as Oregon ASM.

We are still looking for Oregon Volunteer Engineers.

Item #6 - Traffic Management
Oregon STM David Bogner, W7EES, and NM Carl Clawson, WS7L, are very involved in Oregon's traffic handling programs. In general, Oregon's CW nets are shrinking in number, participation, and volume of traffic other than "congrats on passing your exam." Oregon's phone- and CW-based traffic nets still have issues with the willingness of operators to actually handle traffic, resulting in most traffic being handled by a very small group.

The Digital Traffic Network handles the majority of Radiogram traffic in the Oregon Section. We are concentrating on last mile operations by encouraging the development of local area nets for distribution, delivery and reply Radiogram services for the civil population.

The impasse regarding routing of inter-sectional traffic at the local level has not been completely resolved. Oregon Section traffic nets continue to follow recommended procedures found in the Methods and Practices Guidelines manual that adhere to Section, Region and Area Boundaries.

We have also discussed the fact that traffic handling and EmComm functions may sometimes overlap, although there are significant issues using Winlink forms to inject messages into the traffic handling system, leading to friction, confusion, and lost traffic.

We strive to recruit new traffic handling operators and teach new hams of the uses and functionality of traffic handling. We hope to see reinvigorated publicity from ARRL increase the number of Net Managers (NMs) within the section, and see that many issues with NTS are addressed by NTS 2.0.

Item #7 - Public Outreach
In 2025, we continued to develop our Public Information Outreach. We now have three PIOs.
Hannah Rosenfeld, W7HER, PIO
Nelson Farrier, NF7Z, Section webmaster
Matt Laubach, K7EPW, PIO

We are looking for a PIC (Public Information Coordinator) to run the show.

Hannah focuses on social media including our brand-new Instagram feed, "OregonARRL".

Our section website is now found at www.oregonarrl.org.
It is updated with section news as it happens.
We hope that it becomes a central location for section information.

In the lead-up for Field Day, after receiving our governor's "Amateur Radio MONTH" proclamation, we contacted newspapers, radio stations, TV stations, and any other media outlets we could think of.
We did several interviews on the radio, including OPB and JPR.
PARC had a booth at the very well-attended Portland Rose Festival and used the W7R special event call.

Field Day sites all over the state received many, many visitors.

We participated at the Oregon State Fair by presenting ham radio through a number of exhibits to the public for FIVE days, 10 hours each day.
This was a very well-attended event with many thousands of visitors.
Volunteers came from all over western Oregon and Vancouver, WA to help, and State Fair management was very happy with the results. We plan on repeating this effort in 2026.

In conjunction with the State Fair, hams all over the state of Oregon used the W7O special event callsign to make contacts all over the world over a period of 10 days.

Section Manager Event Participation
February - ARRL SM presence at Salem Hamfair in Rickreall, OR.
May - ARRL SM presence at Hamvention in Xenia, OH..
June - ARRL SM presence at SeaPac NW Division Convention.
June - Arranged representation for ARRL's Collegiate Amateur Radio Project (CARP) at SeaPac.
June - ARRL SM visited Field Day sites in Florence, OR, and Lowell, OR.
August - ARRL SM presence at Pacific Northwest DX Convention in Portland, OR.
September – ARRL SM presence at ROADS club meeting in Dallas, OR.
September – ARRL SM presence at Peak Radio Association (PRA) picnic & POTA event in Monmouth, OR.
September – ARRL SM presence at ROADS club meeting in Dallas, OR.
October – ARRL SM participation in PARC club meeting via Zoom.
October – ARRL SM participation in FW5K DXpedition including joining WVDXC meeting via Zoom..
I continually offer to be able to attend club meetings and events.

Other items
We continue to recommend that people go to www.send-a-letter.org/hoa and do their legislative part. We also continue to recommend that clubs do their part, and GMRS users do their part.

I send out "welcome to ham radio" letters to all new hams in the Oregon section, introducing myself and welcoming them to join ARRL, and urging them to find and join their local radio clubs.

Every ham in Oregon knows at least one other ham who is not a member of ARRL. I have minimal ability to make anyone join ARRL through my SM emails, as everyone on the list is already an ARRL member. However, a recommendation from an ARRL member who is a personal friend has added weight. Outreach by ARRL members is the most significant activity needed
for our section to increase its membership. There are many reasons to join ARRL, and our members need to convey that to non-members.

Nearly 1,300 ARRL Oregon members are not receiving SM emails. I encourage those who do receive SM emails to ask their friends if they receive these emails, and encourage them to opt-in.

I plan to continue attending conventions and hamfests, and continue to contact Oregon's ARRL-affiliated clubs (as far as email permits) to offer visits to club meetings and events, either in-person (when practical) or remotely. I always provide SWAG in the form of pens,
stickers, books, and the like, when visiting clubs, including mailing
books to those who may win raffles when visits are done remotely.

I will encourage other appointees within the section to, when appropriate, make in-person visits, which can be reimbursed from my SM budget.

Oregon also has a rapidly growing AREDN presence, linking areas of the state together with a high-speed, alternate data network. The growth of this network should continue to be supported, as it can be utilized as a high-speed information backbone in times of emergency.

Oregon, as a section, is always looking for motivated individuals

who would like to be a part of the field organization to serve the amateur radio community. I also believe that every appointee needs to work to identify his or her replacement in the interest of seamless transitions and continuity within the section's field organization.

I greatly appreciate your support and faith in my abilities to carry out the duties of this position. Please let me know if you have any questions, comments, or complaints.

Scott N7JI, ARRL Oregon SM
541-221-2475
ars.n7ji@gmail.com

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2025 Eastern Washington SM report (Jo Whitney, KA7LJQ)

There are 19 affiliated clubs listed in the Big Club list for EWA. Contact with the clubs was sporadic. When contacting each club to submit a club letter in support of the HOA bill I found some contact information was out of date. Approximately 25% of the clubs supplied an annual report in 2025. I will be seeking invitations to attend club meetings to spread the word about ARRL and the benefits of joining as an individual and affiliate as a club. Membership numbers dropped 6.6% between November 2024 (total; 905) and October 2025 (total; 848).

2026 is the YEAR OF THE CLUB for ARRL. It is the 100th anniversary of the ARRL Field Organization. Join a club, get involved.

Conventions, Hamfests, and Tailgates. I enjoy the opportunity to meet and talk with amateurs across the state at a function designed to bring radio operators together for their hobby and encourage membership in the ARRL. I was able to participate in the following events in 2025:

-March 8th – 43rd Annual Mike and Key Electronics Show and Swap Meet, Puyallup
-April 12th – 7th N7YRC Tailgate Swapmeet, Yakima
-April 19th – Kamiah ID Hamfest
-April 26th – 2025 Spokane Hamfest, the Washington State Convention, Spokane Valley.
-May 10th – Spout Springs Repeater Association Tailgate and Swapmeet,
Kennewick
-May 30-June 1st – SEA-PAC Northwestern Division Convention, Seaside
OR
-June 6-8th – 57th Annual Apple City Amateur Radio Club Hamfest,
Peshastin (Dryden)
-June 14th – Inland Empire VHF Radio Amateurs Tailgate Swap, Spokane Valley
-August 9th – Idaho State Convention, Post Falls ID
-August 16th – PNWDX Convention, Portland OR

There were last-minute notices of gatherings I could not attend; please let me know what you are planning and I will make every effort to attend if asked.

Field Day June 27-28th. Traveling to club field day sites is a highlight for me. I save the weekend for long hours of travel, 785 miles, to Field Day set-ups posted on the ARRL locator. Posting your hours of operation is helpful. I was able to make site visits to:

-Panoramaland Amateur Radio Club K7JAR sets up 4 stations plus a GOTA station in and around a large field in Colville.

-Spokane County ARES/ACS W7GBU had the communications trailers set up in a parking lot in Spokane Valley.

-Kamiak Butte Amateur Repeater Association (KBARA) set up 3 stations at the Valleyford Community Park in Valleyford. They were very pleased to have their group return to Field Day set-up.

-Central Washington ARC W7TT set-up again at the White Tail Grange in Ephrata. They modify the building (replace a door) for the coax entry from their crane suspended antenna.

-Lake Chelan Amateur Radio Club set up several stations on a flat top high above Chelan. Arriving in the early morning, I was greeted with a hot breakfast.

The journey was recorded in photos. I will make a point to get help to upload them onto the EWA Section Facebook page in 2026.

Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC), Frank Hutchinson AG7QP, continues to encourage local amateur groups and EMCOMM focus groups to support emergency communications efforts with their local agencies in EWA.
Meeting with Emergency Managers across EWA he is keeping doors open for amateurs to use their desire to support public service. The 20 counties of EWA are divided into Districts 7 (Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Kittitas, Okanogan), District 8 (Benton, Franklin, Klickitat, Walla Walla, Yakima), and District 9 (Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Orielle, Spokane, Steven, Whitman). The SEC has recruited Emergency Coordinators for all except Garfield and Whitman. The role of an Emergency Coordinator in the county is to work with the local jurisdiction for preparedness. The level of preparedness depends on the county, the number of radio operators in the county and the number of volunteers willing to serve. Please consider service in your community bringing your interest, knowledge and experience to an EMCOMM group.

Jo Whitney KA7LJQ
ka7ljq@arrl.org
509-952-5764
****

Western Washington – Robert Purdom SM (No report submitted)

Idaho – Don Lynn SM (no report submitted)

Alaska – David Stevens SM (no report submitted)

Montana – Kevin Kerr SM (no report submitted)

ARRL Northwestern Division
Director: Mark J Tharp, KB7HDX
kb7hdx@arrl.org

As an Ongoing Reminder
5167.5 kHz Alaska Emergency Frequency Test

The last Saturday of each month, at 1000 local time, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Auxiliary Station NNAØLP hosts a test of
the Alaska Emergency Frequency on 5167.5 kHz.
Use only upper sideband USB (J3E or R3E).
Continuous Wave CW (A1A) and digital modes (F1B, J2B, etc.) are not authorized on this frequency.
Maximum power is 150 watts PEP. There are no restrictions on types of antennas.
NOTE: Government stations often use procedures taken from the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Radiotelephone Handbook, for example USCG Force Readiness Command (FORCECOM) CGTTP 6-01.1B, available on-line: https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/CGTTP_6-01_1B_Radiotelephone_Handbook.pdf [1]
Each month, a summary report regarding this test is sent to the State of Alaska Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region X staff are copied in.
Thanks very much,
TJ Sheffield, KL7TS
Vice President, AARC
Station Manager
Radio Science and Operations Center (RSOC)
Anchorage, Alaska

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Swap and Shop
Photos for listings can be found at:
https://kl7aa.org/category/swap-shop/

Telescoping tower for sale
Cushcraft 3 element 10, 15, 20 band with 40 m add on. Plus roof mount tower 'kit'. $100 or best offer Contact: Andy Kmak WE9H 661-992-9224 20610 Jayhawk Drive Chugiak,..

An older ham who is retiring his station has a number of items to sell. Anyone interested in any of the items please contact the Club at info@kl7aa.org.

Ameritron AL80B
Ameritron SPS75MV
Ameritron ALS500M
Kenwood TS890S
Yaesu FT 857D
Yaesu FT 2900R
Mosley TW-32
Hygain Tailtwister
Hygain TH3MKY
LDG AT-600 Pro II
MFJ 9390Y
MFJ941E
MFJ 962C/D
ACR Terra Fix (GPS)
Pixel RF Pro-1b

Older listings can also be found on the Club website.

Anchorage ARC Youth Licensing Scholarship Established!

By KENT PETTY Published DECEMBER 16, 2025 DONATIONS, EDUCATION, FUNDRAISING, LICENSE TESTING, PRESS RELEASE, VEC

The Anchorage ARC has established a Youth Licensing Scholarship.
This scholarship was established to foster youth development by reimbursing qualified applicants for the Anchorage VEC amateur radio license examination fee and, for new licensees, the FCC license application fee. The program is funded through donations from individuals and organizations and is open to any youth under the age of 18. Scholarships are awarded on a funds-available basis. If the Scholarship Fund is depleted, awards will be suspended until additional funds are received.
Learn how YOU can support the fund via your donations and how youth candidates can apply for the scholarship by clicking here. (Link is on the KL7AA Blog site)

73,
Kent Petty, KL5T, Treasurer