



# Watts News



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE  
OLYMPIA AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

Year 2023, Issue 8

August



## ACTING PRESIDENT'S PERCH



**Lee Chambers KI7SS**  
Vice-President

What an eventful month! Field Day's successes, described by WB7ROZ Duane at the July club meeting at Tugboat Annie's, is fading into a distant memory, replaced by the Gravel Unravel bicycle race, the upcoming BigFoot 206 mile race around Mt. St. Helens, and summer's demand for efforts large and small at home. Not to mention work, all these tasks taking time from the one looming summer task, installing new antennas for the coming fall and winter sunspot extravaganza.

My first sunspot extravaganza happened when I was a kid. I had a "Novice"-class license,

which meant I had to transmit with less than 75 watts, and was CW only on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters. Maybe there was voice on 10, I don't remember, because my Heathkit DX-20 transmitter wouldn't do it anyway. However, the sunspots were raging, and that 75 watt limit was more than enough to work around the world on 15 CW, or across the US on 40 or 80, effortlessly, making QSO's delightful. In my opinion sunspot maximums haven't been as good as that 1959 event but this coming maximum, due over the next few years, promises to change that. You will likely be working the world on the simplest of antennas with low power, effortlessly, making QSO's delightful, too. Hurray for sunspots! Good reason to erect new antennas.

Our July OARS meeting saw five hams join our ranks; welcome all!

OARS is up to about 60 members now, and we've a goal of 100 over the next few months. With Doug W7POV's "marketing ham radio" focused efforts we are implementing an aggressive outreach philosophy, trying to let the 1500 hams in the county know we exist and are a worthy group to be involved with, and letting the public-at-large know that ham radio is vibrant and has value worthy of their time. The July club meeting was an example of that outreach, with presentations on Field Day's results (2808 total points), a presentation on a misunderstood but critical part of good antenna construction, Balun's, and a presentation to one member, Duane, honoring his tireless and total commitment to ham radio. Duane, like the Energizer Bunny, just keeps going, planning and hosting our Field Day efforts, maintaining our repeaters, maintaining a six meter

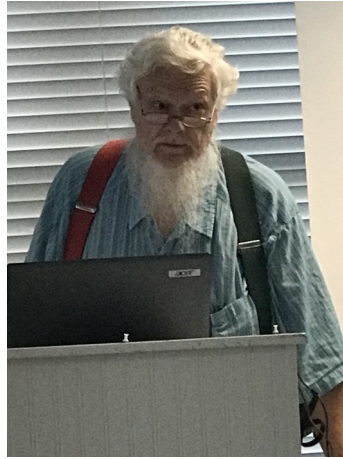
### Special points of interest:

- IT'S A CONTEST!!! DEADLINE: 9/28/2023
- 2023 SUMMER FIELD DAY PHOTOS—JUNE 24-25
- OARS 2023 FIELD DAY SUMMARY

### Inside this issue:

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## OARS MEETINGS AT TUGBOAT ANNIE'S ARE BIG SUCCESS, by Doug Grover N7POV



Duane Braford, WB7ROZ, delivers educational presentation on

Baluns at the monthly OARS Meeting at Tugboat Annie's.

"The new OARS Meeting format of gathering monthly at Tugboat Annie's, having a wonderful dinner and enjoying a truly educational presentation on everyone's favorite hobby, Ham radio, has proven to be a real winner." says Doug Grover, Director of Marketing and Communica-

tions for this popular Olympia Radio Club.

OARS Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month. Meetings start at 7:00pm, but "come early and enjoy a great meal!"

See you at Tugboat Annie's, 2100 West Bay Drive, Olympia, WA 98502

**COME TO AN  
OARS MEETING,  
HAVE A MEAL  
AND TALK WITH  
PEERS . . . YOU'LL  
BE GLAD YOU  
DID!!!**

## ACTING VICE PRESIDENT'S PERCH, Continued from Page 1

repeater on Capitol Peak, working on an alternative to the two meter/440 link, testing used equipment, and storing almost all the clubs property in his house, garage, and shop. It's a monumental commitment for sure. Thanks again, Duane!!

I've been a ham a long time. Recently I've seen a several paradigm shifts affecting our hobby. First came cell phones, for the most part rendering the need for auto-patches moot and decreasing the desirability of a handi-talky. Then came the plethora of digital modes, each requiring unique

equipment and understandings. Then came software defined radios, waterfall displays of entire bands and internet tracking of active hams, and HOA restrictions limiting ham radio functionality. Collectively these have had a profound impact on the hobby. We get asked to provide coms where cell phones don't work but we don't get much respect from the pro's until there's a real disaster and the commercial stuff stops working. Yep, the hobby has changed a lot since I first got hooked.

I think these paradigm shifts have made the hob-

by more interesting, more vibrant, more magical, if you will. Low power digital modes that pull signals from the static are fascinating; checking in with a friend on the International Space Station as it goes overhead is a thrill. I'm hoping you are having fun with this evolving, multi-faceted hobby. If you need help choosing your next tangent to study, you're not alone, but that's the fun of it. Come to an OARS meeting, have a meal and talk with peers about it. You'll be glad you did!

73,  
Lee, K1ZSS, VP

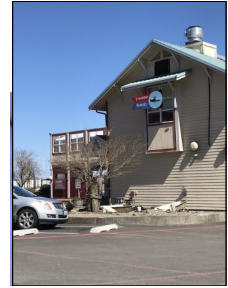
**OARS, TC-ARES 2023 CALENDAR, by Bruce Montgomery WA7BAM**

Tuesday is net night with all invited to attend on the OARS repeater system. The Thurston County ARES net starts at 7:00 pm with a formal member roll call, followed by an invitation for visitors to check-in. OARS Information Net begins at 7:30 pm with organized informal check-ins, reading of the radio calendar, discussion of club business, questions and answers, and swap and shop.

Nets, meeting, Zoom, testing information at [Olympia Amateur Radio Society](http://Olympia Amateur Radio Society) ([www.olyham.blogspot.com](http://www.olyham.blogspot.com)) Testing information at [OARS Exam Page](http://OARS Exam Page) ([www.oars-ve.duckdns.org](http://www.oars-ve.duckdns.org)) Thurston County ARES information at [Thurston County Amateur Radio Emergency Service](http://Thurston County Amateur Radio Emergency Service) ([www.wa7oly.net](http://www.wa7oly.net))

An expanded list of regional events is at: [Pacific Northwest Hamfairs](http://Pacific Northwest Hamfairs) ([n7cfo.com](http://n7cfo.com))

The full list is best viewed along with the WA7BNM contest calendar for a more complete list of world wide contests. [WA7BNM Contest Calendar: 12-Month Calendar](http://WA7BNM Contest Calendar). The ARRL also has a contest calendar at [ARRL Contests](http://ARRL Contests).



**Tugboat Annie's  
Restaurant  
2100 West Bay  
Drive, NW  
Olympia, WA**

**August VOTA Calendar**

DATE	ACTIVITY
5-6	NCJ North American QSO Party CW
9	Exam—See above information
10	ARES Meeting
11	Bigfoot 40 & 20
16	OARS Meeting
19-20	NCJ North American QSO Party, SSB
19-20	ILLW
20	ARRL Rookie Round Up, RTTY
26-27	WW Digi-DX Contest

**September VOTA Calendar**

DATE	ACTIVITY
9-11	ARRL September VHF Contesting
13	Exam
14	ARES Meeting
16-17	Washington State QSO Party, Salmon Run
17-18	QSO Today Ham Expo
20	OARS Meeting
23 (?)	Tour de Forest Road Rally
23-24	CQ WW DX RTTY
30	Reach the Beach Bike Ride
30	ARES 5th Saturday Exercise

**OARS MONTHLY  
MEETINGS HAVE  
BEEN MOVED  
TO TUGBOAT  
ANNIE'S  
RESTAURANT  
MEETINGS START  
AT 7:00 PM  
IN THE  
DOWNSTAIRS  
CONFERENCE  
ROOM**



## ANTENNA PARTY BRINGS OUT OARS HAMS



**John Price, W7MWV; Eric Messelt, W8ESM; Jim Williams, W6QWK; and John Wruble, AC7VL mulling over problems with the Vertical Antenna at Doug Grover's, N7POV, home.**

**MANY HANDS  
MAKE LIGHT  
WORK . . .  
AFTERWARDS, A  
LOT OF TIME WAS  
SPENT EATING  
AND CHATTING.  
IT WAS A GREAT  
EYEBALL QSO  
OPPORTUNITY.**

More than a dozen OARS Club members descended on Doug Grover's, N7POV, house on Saturday, July 15, to help straighten out a mis-aligned tilting mechanism on Doug's Vertical Antenna in his back yard. "Many hands make light work, and the problem was corrected easily." said Dennis Niles, WV7S.

Phil Cornell, WB7PLC, worked to develop an analysis of the antenna sys-

tem using his VNA instruments. The results were truly amazing. "I did not know how many data points were available to help produce a more efficient antenna system." Said Doug.

Afterwards, there was a satisfying dinner of Smoked BBQ Pulled Pork, Salads and all the summer fixn's. A lot of time was spent eating and chatting. It was a great Eyeball QSO Opportunity.

Doug Grover  
N7POV



**John Price, W7MWV, shows off his "dish" antenna to Lee Chambers, KI7SS at the recent Antenna Party.**

## OARS THANKS TUGBOAT ANNIE'S, by Frank Hamilton, KF7HXV

A big thank you to Tugboat Annie's Restaurant and its management for providing their banquet room to the club, free of charge, in exchange for meals and beverages ordered during the monthly OARS meeting.

The monthly OARS meetings begin at 7:00 pm. Members and guests arrive any time after 6:00 pm to begin ordering food and beverages to eat and drink before and during the meeting.

The OARS meetings are held the third Wednesday of every month at Tugboat Annie's Restaurant located next to the marina on Westbay Drive SW. The meetings are open to all.

# It's A Contest!

OARS is asking the members to help in the design of a new logo depicting our club. In order to facilitate this we are having a contest. To help you come up with some thoughts and a new logo, we have assembled a few pages of information regarding logos and their purposes.\* A complete set of rules are also available.\*

- Everyone can participate
- Great Grand Prize for winning submission
- The winning logo will appear on all OARS public relations efforts
- Whenever you see the word OARS, you will see your handiwork!

*For thoughts and ideas on logo's and for a complete set of rules for this fun and exciting contest, email [dtgrover4975@gmail.com](mailto:dtgrover4975@gmail.com)*

*Deadline for all entries is September 28, 2023 18:00L.*



Old Logos



## EVERGREEN PARTNERS WITH HAMS TO IMPROVE EMERGENCY SERVICES AND RESPONSE



**Beth Mason, KE7CRL Facilities Technology Specialist, and Jackie LaVerne, Emergency Coordinator, both of Evergreen State College in Olympia are testing the radio equipment at the Emergency Communications Center.**

The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Wash., has joined with the Olympia Amateur Radio Society to improve the college's emergency services and responses in the event of a natural disaster.

"One of our strongest buildable resources here on campus is the ability to expand and integrate radio emergency communications into our environment and culture of preparedness," said Jackie LaVerne, Evergreen's emergency management coordinator.

"Ham radio is the direction that Evergreen environmental health and safety is taking to educate and train our staff, students, and faculty," she said.

LaVerne said rapid, accurate, and purposeful communication of information and messages during emergencies and disasters is key to the campus community's safety. And by partnering with OARS, Evergreen will be able to 'build a bench' of emergency responders that will help augment state and local Amateur Radio Emergency Services groups.

One of the benefits to having a group of trained, licensed radio amateurs available during an emer-

gency or disaster is radio's ability to operate when other systems, such as cell-phones, can't, said Beth Mason, KE7CRL, a facilities technology specialist at Evergreen.

"What people don't realize is that in a crisis, all these students are going to be trying to call their parents out East, or what have you, and they're not going to be able to get out," Mason said. "And as a matter of fact, the only way we're going to be able to get out is by repeater-to-repeater."

OARS and the school plan to begin offering Evergreen students, faculty, and staff the chance to earn their amateur licenses later this year, as part of a larger effort to provide emergency services.

"By inviting OARS and its in-house instructors into our classrooms to educate, train, and test students, staff, and faculty to become Federal Communications Commission-licensed ham radio operators, we'll be rebuilding and expanding our capabilities to increase safety and preparedness," LaVerne said.

The six-week classes will be free to attend, LaVerne said, and will build lifelong

skills. OARS members Lee Chambers, K17SS; Eric Messtelt, W8ESM; and Doug Grover, N7POV, are among those who are expected to help teach the classes, slated to begin in September. The classes will be held on Mondays, 3 – 5 p.m.

"The hope is that we'll build a culture of appreciation for technology that is efficient, time-tested, and accessible to anyone who is willing to learn," she added.

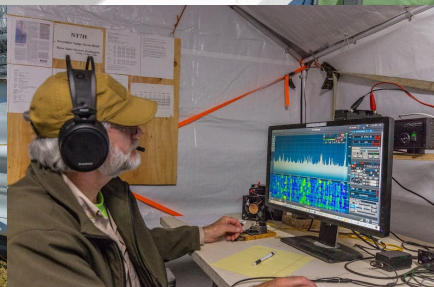
Evergreen already has a complete and well-equipped radio room on campus, featuring multiple VHF sets, an HF set, radios to communicate with the school's police and emergency services, and landline telephones. In the corner sits a repeater, all ready to set up and operate.

"If [communications in] the police services building goes down, we have to have options," LaVerne said "Ham radio covers that."

For more information about OARS, amateur radio licensing, or how to sign up for classes, visit [olyham.org](http://olyham.org) or email Lee Chambers at [K17SS@arrl.com](mailto:K17SS@arrl.com).

Christopher Larsen,  
WB0BZD, OARS

MORE 2023 SUMMER FIELD DAY PHOTOS — JUNE 24-25



Photos from:  
Doug Grover  
Duane Braford  
Kent Lopez  
Bob Lloyd  
Ed Fitzgerald  
Frank Hamilton

# Watts News

## CLUB INFORMATION PAGE

OARS WEBSITE: [www.olyham.org](http://www.olyham.org)

OARS OFFICERS 2023				
POSITION	NAME	CALL SIGN	PHONE	E-MAIL ADDRESS
President	Frank Hamilton	KF7HXV	(360)951-1174	rallyguy@comcast.net
Vice President	Lee Chambers	KI7SS	(360)951-2538	ki7ss@arrl.net
Secretary	JC Armbruster	K17TLR	(360)250-2619	jcarmbruster@earthlink.net
Treasurer	Howard Lim	KK7HLH	(360)302-2135	howard.yelim@gmail.com
Member-at-Large	Duane Braford	WB7ROZ	(360)412-1902	wb7roz@arrl.net
CONTACT PERSON				
POSITION	NAME	CALL SIGN	PHONE	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Calendar & Programs	Bruce Montgomery	WA7BAM	(360)259-9300	mont7881@yahoo.com
Outreach Committee	Eric Messelt	W8ESM	(360)529-1300	eric@messelt.org
Club License Trustee	Duane Braford	WB7ROZ	(360)412-1902	wb7roz@arrl.net
Repeater	Ken Dahl	K7TAG	(360)534-9357	k7tag@comcast.net
Repeater	Duane Braford	WB7ROZ	(360)412-1902	wb7roz@arrl.net
Equipment Custodian	Art Taylor	KL7SK	(360)578-0162	kl7sk@comcast.net
Information Net	Lee Chambers	KI7SS	(360)951-2538	ki7ss@arrl.net
ARES Liaison	Steve Tomlin	W7SLT	(360)970-6850	stomlin2@comcast.net
Web Page & Historian	Phil Cornell	W7PLC	(360)515-1263	w7plc78@gmail.com
Newsletter Publisher	Frank Hamilton	KF7HXV	(360)951-1174	rallyguy@comcast.net
Newsletter Editor	Corinne Tobeck	n/a	(360)352-1835	ctobeck@comcast.net
Classes & Programs	Lee Chambers	KI7SS	(360)951-2538	ki7ss@arrl.net
License Exams	Klaus Neubert	AC7MG	(360)280-2428	ac7mg@comcast.net
Network Coordinator	Duane Braford	WB7ROZ	(360)412-1902	wb7roz@arrl.net
Mktg & Comm Director	Doug Grover	N7POV	(360)402-2968	dtgrover4975@gmail.com

## WHY COMMUNICATE, by Frank Hamilton, KF7HXV

An emergency manager has the task of solving problems before they become emergencies. Communication is a critical part of the effort. We, in ham radio, are part of the solution.

Think about it: We can talk around the world where most mediums cannot. When other communications don't work, we can call for help or deliver messages. We have done that.

Our first mission is conveying information in an emergency.

It goes without saying: We have made a hobby. That hobby is more than just fun!





# OARS 2023 Field Day Summary

	Phone	Data	CW	Totals	Band	CW	Data	Phone	Total
QSOs	194	0	0	194	160M	0	0	0	0
X	1	2	2		80M	0	0	6	6
	194	0	0	<b>194</b>	40M	0	0	147	147
					20M	0	0	24	24
GOTA	106	0	0	300	15M	0	0	10	10
X			5	<b>530</b>	10M	0	0	0	0
					6M	0	0	1	1
Power X			2	<b>1448</b>	2M	0	0	5	5
Bonus				<b>1430</b>	Other	0	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>				<b>2878</b>	Total	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>194</b>

Participants 25

## Bonuses

100% Emergency power (100 per xmtrs)	300
Media Publicity	100
Set-up in Public Place	100
Information Booth	100
NTS message to ARRL SM/SEC	100
W1AW Field Day Message	60
Formal NTS messages handled	
Satellite QSO completed	
Natural power QSOs completed	100
Site Visited by invited elected official	100
Site Visited by invited served agency official	100
Youth Operators	20
GOTA Elmer	100
Educational Session	100
Safety Officer	100
Web Submitted	50
Social media	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1430</b>

## Operators

Call	Phone	Data	CW	Total
KI7SS	71	0	0	71
K7TUM	27	0	0	27
K7DKP	26	0	0	26
WA7BAM	21	0	0	21
AG7WL	20	0	0	20
KJ7HFF	11	0	0	11
W8ESM	7	0	0	7
K9SAT	6	0	0	6
CALEB H, 16	1	0	0	1
W7SGD	1	0	0	1
AC7VL	1	0	0	1
WB7FDE	1	0	0	1
FABI	1	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>194</b>			<b>194</b>
KL7CVW	83	0	0	83
KK7MCS	17	0	0	17
KK7KKB	5	0	0	5
KK7MTR	1	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>106</b>			<b>106</b>





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Primary Business Address  
OARS  
PO Box 2861  
Olympia, WA 98507  
Phone: 360-951-1174  
E-mail: rallyguy@comcast.net

## OARS Net Check-ins

The following stations checked in one or more times on the OARS General Information Net in July. Thank you **Lee Chambers KI7SS**, for keeping us posted.

KJ7AWM	WA7HH	KI7MTA	WV7S
WA7BAM	KB1SI	KK7NCW	WA7SH
W7BRR	KK7JBY	W7NN	KL7SK
WB0BZD	KI4JXZ	AG7OO	K7TAG
W1COL	KK7KKB	AE7P	K7TUM
KI7CKD	KK7LFR	W7PLC	K5VMA
KK7CVW	WB4LWQ	KL7PLJ	AC7VL
KL7CW	KJ7LXU	AG7PR	KF7VVA
W7DCA	KK7MTR	W6QWK	N7WW
WB7FDE	KK7MCS	W7RUE	KB6ZBS
N7GQP	AC7MG	WB7ROZ	AND ME, KI7SS

### OARS Repeaters

147.36 MHz(+)  
(PL 103.5 on TX output only)  
  
224.46 MHz(-) (PL 103.5)  
  
53.570 (-) (PL 100 Hz)

### License Exam Sessions

Please go to this website for current information:  
[www.oars-ve.duckdns.org](http://www.oars-ve.duckdns.org)

### We're on the Web

[www.olyham.org](http://www.olyham.org)

## DUANE BRAFORD RECEIVES OARS MERIT AWARD



VP Lee Chambers presents the OARS Merit Award to Duane Braford

"Duane, speaking for the club and for as long as I've known you, and that's been many years, you have been a singular force for the betterment of ham radio and this amateur radio club. Your total commitment to the club's goals and processes have materially helped make this club a powerhouse among amateur radio clubs statewide. Your unselfish efforts, willingness to go the extra mile, technical skills, enthusiasm, and patience have earned you our praise and gratitude. Please accept this award as a small, en-

during token of our appreciation of your efforts.  
Thank you, Duane."  
Lee Chambers, KI7SS

Duane Braford, WB7ROZ, has kept our repeater system working for years. No one has the knowledge of our system that Duane does. He is the keeper of our FCC licenses and coordinates with those who regulate fee licenses.

A BIG THANK YOU to Duane from all OARS members.

Frank Hamilton, KF7HXV