



Watts News



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
OLYMPIA AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

Year 2023, Issue 11

November

ACTING PRESIDENT'S PERCH



Lee Chambers KI7SS
Vice-President

October's almost gone, and with it the sun and summer's warmth. So of course I've been out doing antenna work in the tall grass getting wet. I'm working on a "curtain" dipole antenna for 80 meters that has a series of different-length wires hanging loosely down, out towards the ends, in an attempt to widen its bandwidth. I'd like end-to-end low SWR from ONE dipole. Every time I add a couple wires everything changes, sometimes for the better. Fun!

We voted new officers in at Octobers' meeting. They'll be guiding us be-

ginning in January. Please welcome them and help them get settled in. They are:

- President Eric W8ESM
- Vice President Howard W1COL
- Secretary Ben K7BCF
- Treasurer Dan KJ7LXU
- Member at Large Duane WB7ROZ

I am particularly pleased with the way the election went. For the first time in my memory every candidate stood and spoke about how they view the club and the role they are accepting. It was invigorating!

We are ending this year in a good place: 85 members and growing, a great place to meet, excellent meetings, and people with the right skills doing the right things and of course an excellent incoming

board. Duane is making headway on the 220 repeater and on the link between Crawford Mountain and the Wattertower repeaters. Doug has a new logo ready for a professional graphic artist to polish and us to utilize. and most importantly the philosophies that make our outreach efforts successful are accepted with enthusiasm by all of you. By that I mean, as opposed to many clubs that don't do much except exist to keep a repeater up, or have a get-together "meeting" which is little more than a business meeting, we have a lot going on all the time, and our membership stays the course, volunteers for the tasks, and makes each project successful. From volunteering on car rallies and night hikes and field days and horse rides and marathons and kids fairs, we have people in

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this club who step up! Our meetings have programs! I'm very proud to have been a part of the OARS group as it is now.

The Boy Scout night hike is coming up, one of my favorite events. I'm pretty sure there's enough hams for it--you could ask WA7BAM, the ham organizer. Me, I get a real kick out of watching 300 kids in troops of 10 or 20 marching down the road toward us and singing in the darkness, with LED headlamps glowing, unafraid of the challenges facing them. Their songs are a bit corny: "There ain't no fleas on me, there might be fleas on you, but there ain't no fleas on me!" What a hoot!

I've got a good program lined up for the November club meeting, you'll see. So...plan to be at the meeting. Oh...and if you haven't signed up for the December Christmas dinner and Cut-throat Gift Exchange, please do so! Give me a call...the spreadsheet's right here, waiting for your food decision.

I have about 30 students studying for the Technician license in my class at Evergreen State College; I've just had my third meeting and long-time OARS member Steve WC7I showed up and helped teach. Yea! There are some very bright young people cueing up out there I can tell you, and my goal is to

get them all licensed and in OARS or failing that, to create a satellite OARS club on campus. Anyone ever done that? How'd it work? I envision them having regular meetings that we attend, and them coming to ours. Them coming to Field Day...maybe us even having Field Day out there some time, or them having their own Field Day and we competing for Q's. Maybe we could put a repeater on the clock tower! We could have a continuing education class there every quarter....

See you soon!

73! --Lee ki7ss, V.P.

PLEASE SIGN UP FOR THE DECEMBER CHRISTMAS DINNER AND CUT-THROAT GIFT EXCHANGE. CALL ME, LEE, @ (360) 951-2538 WITH YOUR FOOD CHOICE.

OARS 2024 NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD, BY FRANK HAMILTON KF7HXV

President	Eric Messelt	W8ESM	eric@messelt.org	(360)529-1300
Vice-President	Howard Lim	W1COL	howard.y.lim@gmail.com	(360)302-2135
Secretary	Ben Fetherston	K7BCF	ben.fetherston@me.com	(503)569-2485
Treasurer	Dan Bivens	KJ7LXU	bivensda70@gmail.com	
Member-at-Large	Duane Braford	WB7ROZ	dabraford@yahoo.com	(360)412-1902

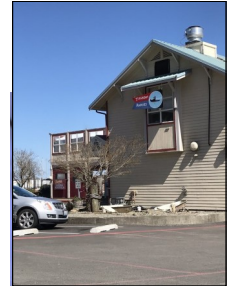
OARS, TC-ARES 2023 CALENDAR, by Bruce Montgomery, WA7BAM

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 (www.olyham.blogspot.com) Testing information at OARS Exam Page (www.oars-ve.duckdns.org) Thurston County ARES information at Thurston County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (www.wa7oly.net)

An expanded list of regional events is at: Pacific Northwest Hamfairs (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).



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

November VOTA Calendar

DATE	ACTIVITY
09	Exam
	ARES Meeting
12	NA SSB Sprint
16	OARS Meeting
18-19	Scout Night Hike
18-20	ARRL Sweepstakes Contest SSB
25-26	CQ Worldwide DX Contest CW
22	WATTS News Articles Due—Send to ctobeck@comcast.net

Newsletter articles due 4th Wednesday of the month. Please put OARS News in subject line. Don't see your article? Did you send one?

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

December VOTA Calendar

DATE	ACTIVITY
01-03	ARRL 160m Contest
03	Skywarn Recognition Day
??	Olympia Jingle Bells Parade
05	Lacey Parade of Lights
08	ARES Meeting
10-11	ARRL 10 Meter SSB Contest
14	Exam
17	ARRL Rookie Roundup CW
21	OARS Meeting
27	WATTS News Articles Due — Send to ctobeck@comcast.net
30	ARES 5th Saturday Exercise

When sending pictures for the WATTS News, Please send in jpg format.



SO YOU PASSED YOUR TEST . . .

BY PHIL CORNELL, W7PLC

You passed the test, you have your brand-new call sign, what's next?

What do we, OARS & TCARES, do with all these new hams?

We treat them with respect and offer them all the help that they need to become successful in whatever facet of this vast hobby that they choose to pursue.

Like anything new, there is a steep "learning curve" where they may get frustrated and lose interest.

This is where we, as OARS and TCARES members, come in.

We need to make sure that each new ham that comes out of Klaus' VE testing sessions knows that they have a vast resource of information and assistance to help them on their way. "You don't know what you don't know" and we are here to teach you what we know.

There is a lot of new technology coming out in new radios and peripherals and the new hams

will have a distinct advantage over us older hams in that they haven't learned any bad habits, yet, like wanting a radio with a thousand knobs and switches instead of one that is totally computer controlled, or using an SWR meter instead of a VNA to check your antenna.

So, you now have this piece of paper with your call sign, what's next?

Purchase a new or used handheld radio and get on the air. There are lots of places to purchase a radio, Ham Radio Outlet (www.hamradio.com) probably has the best prices on new gear, check QRZ.com's Swapmeet for good deals on used equipment. A radio, coax, antenna, and power supply can be purchased for under \$300. This is a small investment, and it will help you decide which of the many directions you can go within this hobby. Program the radio with the OARS repeater frequencies;

- **VHF:** 147.360 MHz, +offset, 103.5 pl or CTCSS tone encode only,

- **UHF:** 441.400 MHz, +offset, 103.5 pl or CTCSS te encode only, and join in the fun on your radio.

Nets begin at 7:00 PM (19:00) every Tuesday evening with the TCARES (Thurston County Amateur Radio Emergency Service) Information Net followed at 19:30 with the OARS (Olympia Amateur Radio Society) Information Net on all of the OARS repeaters. You are welcome to check-in as a visitor on the TCARES Net and everyone is welcome to check-in on the OARS net.

You start your ham radio life as a Technician, and you are limited to VHF/UHF and above. This is not really a limitation, there are lots of activities on these bands for you to enjoy. Some of ham radio's most exciting accomplishments have occurred on these bands, we bounce radio signals off the moon, we make contacts "QSO's" through orbiting satellites, we talk with the astronauts on the International Space Station, we experiment with

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LIKE ANYTHING NEW, THERE IS A STEEP "LEARNING CURVE". WE NEED TO MAKE SURE EACH NEW HAM KNOWS THEY HAVE A VAST RESOURCE OF INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE TO HELP THEM ON THEIR WAY.

WHAT'S NEXT? CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

basic radio telescoping, and much, much more. These higher frequencies are home to many experimenters and DIY'ers, there is a whole world out there for you to explore.

How to become a "successful" ham radio operator:

1. Join OARS, the Olympia Amateur Radio Society, <http://www.olyham.org>. You can even join OARS before you get your license and get a jump start on your enjoyment of this hobby.

2. Determine your equipment budget, converse with the approving authority (XYL, significant other, etc.?)

3. Understand the limits of your license. You don't need a license to listen, and listening is 90% of what we do on the radio. You must be licensed to transmit. If you are a Technician class licensee you basically have VHF/UHF privileges as described above, upgrading to General or Extra Class will expand your privileges exponentially.

4. Determine what you want to do in this vast hobby; mobile, QRP, DX'ing, contesting, building antennas, emergency communications, (join TCARES, www.wa7oly.org), etc. This will help to decide what type of radio equipment you will consider purchasing.

5. Do your research, ask questions ("the only dumb question is the one you didn't ask"), make mistakes, learn new things.

6. Get on the air! Check in to the Tuesday evening nets on 147.360 MHz + 103.5, attend the monthly OARS meetings, info at <http://www.olyham.org>

7. Start with a good dual band handheld, be wary of the Chinese brands as some are not FCC certified. A good dual band HT will work fine both mobile and in the house, make sure you have a good antenna for both locations. Good additions for the HT are an external spkr/mic and an improved antenna to replace the stock rubber duck "dummy load".

8. Expand your equipment inventory to suit your operating habits and your budget, don't forget the approving authority!

9. Above all, HAVE FUN!!!

Hopefully I have dispelled some fears and answered some questions, if you have any further questions just ask any OARS or TCARES member and we will at least point you in the right direction.

I have been a ham radio operator for over 45 years (1st licensed in 1978 as KA7FRZ), some have been hams for longer than that. There is a reason that we stick with this hobby. It is very rewarding, challenging, frustrating and confusing, but when we get together we can solve almost any radio-related problems. This is why we call it a ham radio community, it's more than just getting on the radio.

73's (ham radio term for "Best of everything to you")

Phil Cornell – W7PLC

HOPEFULLY I HAVE DISPELLED SOME FEARS AND ANSWERED SOME QUESTIONS, IF YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS JUST ASK ANY OARS OR TCARES MEMBER AND WE WILL AT LEAST POINT YOU IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

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CLUB INFORMATION PAGE

OARS WEBSITE: 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
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Newsletter Editor	Corinne Tobeck	n/a	(360)352-1835	ctobeck@comcast.net
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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

OARS EXAM SESSIONS

NOTE: Time Change Effective January 2024

Beginning January, 2024 the OARS exam sessions will be held at Tugboat Annie's from 4:30 to 6:00PM on the third Wednesday of each month except for December. This is the same night as the OARS meetings, so walk-ins will be welcome, appointments/reservations will no longer be required.

Klaus, AC7MG

REPEATER ROUNDBOUT

November 11-12, 2023 — 48 Hour Event

Get to know the local repeaters this November by making as many contacts as possible.

For rules and additional information, contact:

www.repeaterroundabout.com



Watts News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OLYMPIA AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

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 **October**. Thank you **Lee Chambers K17SS**, for keeping us posted.

- | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|--------------------|
| NT7A | WB7FDX | A17MW | WV7S |
| KK7ASX | N7GQP | W7NN | WA7SH |
| KJ7AWM | KG7HPP | KK7NPK | KL7SK |
| A17MW | KI7HSG | KK7NYX | W7SLT |
| WA7BAM | AB7I | AG7OO | K7TAG |
| N7BCF | KB1IS | KN7P | K7TUM |
| WB0BZD | KI4JXZ | AE7P | KB7TLR |
| KG7CES | KK7LVO | W7PLC | K5VMA |
| W1COL | WB4LWQ | N7POV | AC7VL |
| KK7CVW | KJ7LXU | AG7PR | N7WW |
| KK7CLV | KK7MCS | W6QWK |AND ME, K17SS |
| KI6DJJ | AC7MG | K4RNT | |
| W8ESM | KK7MTR | WB7ROZ | |

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

We're on the Web

www.olyham.org



WHAT IS THANKSGIVING MOST FAMOUS FOR?

It's the most wonderful time of year in the US — **a time for food, family, friends, and being thankful.** Originating as a harvest festival, Thanksgiving is one of the biggest holidays in the US. People across the country gather together to share a meal and reflect on all the things they're grateful for.

Thanksgiving has deep historical roots in American culture, tracing back to the early days of European settlers in North America. The holiday's origins are often associated with the Pilgrims and their feast with Native Americans in 1621 to celebrate a successful harvest. Over time,

Thanksgiving became an annual tradition and in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed it a national holiday.

Today, Thanksgiving is celebrated as a day of gratitude, unity, and appreciation for the blessings in our lives.

