

CLALLAM COUNTY Amateur Radio Club

MAY 2006

President's Log

Welcome to the May QTC.

Lots happening this month, another 5K-10K run, another Technician class and a VE exam session with 14 candidates (and counting) covering all license classes and code. Three of our friends from Victoria are also planning to attend and upgrade.

Let's start out with some CCARC trivia. Can you name the three most confusing calls that were represented at the April meeting?

If you were there, then you know that the answer is K7INA, K7NIA and WBØNAI – all in the same room at the same time for the first time.

Get over it guys and gals. None of us are changing calls!

In the "proof that our newspaper announcements work" department, last month we welcomed Dave Glas, WØOXB, the ARRL Minnesota Section Affiliated Club Coordinator and a club president to our meeting. He saw the announcement in the paper and wanted to "come see how we were doing". Thanks, Dave, for taking the time to visit and come back when you can.

The CCARC QST library continues to grow. The latest addition is an almost complete set from 1974 through 1996 donated by Bob, AC7RK. So now the club has QSTs from 1974 to present issue. We are only missing 40 issues during that time period. I will donate my monthly issues to preserve the "hit streak". The library will be stored in my heated garage to preserve the history of amateur radio that they represent. For now they will be checked out on request just as a local library would do. My intention is to keep them as a club library collection for reference or casual reading. But they come back home after you are done.

As I was organizing them in boxes by years, I came across the issues with articles and pictures of Owen Garriott, W5LFL, the first amateur operating from space aboard the shuttle Columbia.

Do you remember?? I do, I was lucky enough to work him. Got the card and audio tapes to prove it.

Thanks Bob!!!

Our Thursday evening net is getting stronger by the month. Last month we made history, at least in my memory, with 36 check-ins on the 27th. I was out of town and when K7RGR e-mailed me the list he said "hold on to your hat", so I knew something was up. The monthly total was 129 check-ins (average of 32 per net) and we have several friends from VE joining us. Thanks to all for your participation.

Field Day preparations will soon be in full swing. I am still taking orders for T-shirts or pins. Contact me on the air or e-mail at k7ina@aol.com to order.

Remember, Amateur Radio is a contact sport.

See you on the air.

73, Russ, K7INA

Get Your License Here!

Your club has scheduled another Technician Class for May 6, 13 and 20 in the Training Room at Port Angeles Fire Department. The classes will run from 9 AM to 5 PM on the first two days and a review will be conducted on the morning of the third day with tests at 1 PM.

If you know of anyone interested in taking this class please have them contact **Tom Newcomb**, **KE7XX**, at 452-8228.

We encourage the students to pick up a text book as soon as possible. These books are available from Tom Newcomb at a cost of \$19.95.

If there is enough interest we will have another General Class in June.

Clallam County ARES/RACES

Clallam County ARES/RACES is actively looking for new members and would like you to consider joining our emergency communications group.

This year we have planned quarterly field exercises. The Department of Emergency Management will be conducting one this month.

Training is conducted at each general meeting the first Tuesday of each month. This months the topics were Chapter 8 from the ARRL Emergency Communications Handbook, which was reviewed by Roger Uden, W7RGR. Al Dawson, W7YLV gave us an overview of our radio room at the County Emergency Operations Center.

All RACES members will be required to pass the FEMA training IS-700 and IS-100 by the end of the year. These courses are free and have been mandated by Homeland Security. They are available on-line at http://training.fema.gov/ EMIWeb/is/.

June's meeting topics will be Message Handling and the ICS system.

Chuck Jones, N7BV, EC Clallam County



See www. Hello-Radio.org for information on the new ARRL 2006 public relation and marketing campaign based on the word "HELLO."

New Club Directory

The new club directory is hot off the press. Pick one up at the next Club function.

PROGRAM FOR THE May 10th MEETING

Police Chief Rippie of Port Angeles will speak to our group.

Thanks: AC7RK N7BV W7WEC

2 METER NETS

CCARC : Every Thursday 7:00 pm on the W7FEL Repeater.

ARES/RACES:

Every Tuesday except 1st Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm on W7FEL Repeater.

W7FEL Repeater: 146.76 MHz., offset down 600 KHz. with a tone of 100 Hz.

Repeater Report

By Casey Hicks KJ7XE

The only report I have received this month was from Mike AD7DG in Forks, who informed me on April 15th that he was unable to access neither the Striped repeater or the 440 repeater on North Point. I tested everything that same day and everything appeared to be working fine from my end. It was most likely poor propagation conditions that morning which caused this. I haven't received any other reports for April but plan to make a trip up to North Point in May to check out the 440 equipment and scope out any changes that can be made to improve the link to and from Striped Peak, which appears to be intermittent.

Please keep in mind that our repeater covers a very large area, including Vancouver Island from Tofino to Victoria, and Vancouver itself, not to mention Bellingham down to Edmonds and the San Juans. So if you hear someone with a call sign you don't recognize asking for a contact, I encourage you to break the ice and answer their call. You may be surprised to hear where they are, and what equipment they're using to access the repeater (not to mention a new friend that you might make).

Your Ad Could Go Here

Please note:

Your ad will run for two months. If your item(s) sells or you want it to run longer, please E-mail the QTC Staff at ccarcqtc@yahoo.com.

Thank you.

FOR SALE OR TRADE

Heathkit SB200 with two new 572s runs 400+ PEP output on most bands with 75 watts drive. Modified to operate on 160 meters as well as 80-10 meters. VHF parasitic mods from Rich Measures added. HV diodes replaced but original power supply capacitors. \$250.00 or best offer

Contact Bob Sampson 582-9116 or email atk6mby@olypen.com

ICOM IC-211, 2 Meter SSB, FM, CW, 10 Watt Digital Synthesized Transceiver. Excellent condition with manual \$100.00

Contact Jim Cloud 457-9299

Kenwood TS-830S transceiver, SP-230 speaker and AT-230 antenna tuner for sale. Package price is \$500, negotiable. All cosmetically great and in good working order.

Contact John Moore 681-2425 or email at k7nia@hotmail.com

Wanted for a local Handi-Ham. 100 Watt antenna tuner with built in SWR bridge and meter.

Contact Johan Van Nimwegen, KO6I@olypen. com

Kenwood TS-120S Transceiver PS-30 Power Supply VFO-120 Outboard VFO SP-120Outboard Speaker MC50 Desk Mike MC-30S hand Held Mike HS-5 Earphones And Operating Manuals

All solid state, covers 80-40-20-15-10. This group would make a good back up rig or a beginning HF station for a new General class ham. \$275.00 takes the lot. Contact Bruce Thompson W7DNA, 457-6134 or bgt@olypen. com

Fox Tales

Amateur Radio Society Canada (FARSC) was held on March 18th at Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park in Saanich, B.C.. This venue is used twice monthly by the club for alternating 2 and 80 meter hunts. The park is 1072 acres with 19 km of trails and, of course, two lakes. Other than the size and lakes the terrain is similar to our Robin Hill Farm County Park.



Jerry, John MacConnachie (VE7GED), Neil and Rick Williams (VE7TK) form teams at the start.

My son Chris, who was visiting from Spokane Valley, and I joined Neil (WA7NBF) for a rolling ferry ride to Victoria where we were met by the club president, Robin Applewhaite (VE7DFI) and driven to the park some 17 miles north of Victoria.

After meeting everyone and assembling our gear, we were given maps and a briefing on the hunt. Unlike my previous two hunts where Neil hid one fox, this hunt used five hidden 2m transmitters operating sequentially plus one 80m transmitter for good measure. Our goal was to locate each flag, an orange and white affair that resembles half of a box kite. The proof of locating a flag, which is within a few feet of the transmitter, is marking a hunt card using a coded punch attached to the flag. You might expect something that big and that bright to be easy to spot in the woods - not really - hence the radio direction finding gear.



I suggested to Rick and Neil that there was no fox back this way, but they weren't buying that.

Halfway through the allotted time, Chris borrowed John's Russian-made Altai 145 receiver and with a little guidance was soon chasing our third fox. To everyone's delight, he was the first to find that very well hidden flag. As time grew short, fox #4 died and we knew fox #2 was on the other side of the lake so we called it a day with 3 finds. It turned out that Neil and Rick found 3 as well. So, between our teams we shared one in common and bagged them all.

At the end of the hunt gathering we were able to check out a Chinese-made 80m receiver. About the size of a small book with a small antenna, this unit would be easier to use in the brush than the Yagi's we were wielding. We consumed snacks and fruit drinks while the foxes were being retrieved. After a ride back to Victoria courtesy of VE7TK, we enjoyed a tasty meal while waiting for the 4 PM ferry to Port Angeles. While I'm unable to list all the Canadians we met, I do wish to thank them all for their hospitality and a very enjoyable outing. Neil has scheduled a local hunt for 8/26. Seattle area hunts can be found at www. verdant.org/t-hunt/ and a hunt will be held in Seaside, OR during SEA-PAC in June. All hounds are welcome and there is usually enough equipment and help to go around. It's even fun to just tag along.



Joe Young (VE7BFK) demonstrating his ARDF rig.

Whether it's called fox hunting, bunny hunting, t-hunting, radio orienteering or amateur radio direction finding, this is a "sport" that can be enjoyed casually or engaged in competitively regionally, nationally and internationally. If there is enough interest among club members we might consider forming a specific interest group (SIG). Because a fox hunter does not need an FCC license, such a SIG might be a way to interest the Civil Air Patrol and Scouting organizations. This might, in turn, infuse the club with youthful members as they are exposed to the many aspects of amateur radio and the mentoring of a few "Elmers." There are practical applications for RDF that we might consider as emergency responders (emergency locator beacons) and as hams (interfering transmitters).

Why not give fox hunting a try? It's a walk in the park, so to speak, and you'll enjoy the camaraderie. You might also enjoy responding to the people you run into that want to know what you are doing with all the weird antennas. If you check the photo on

www.robin-wood.com/Ham/Fox you'll see why the best response may not be "We're looking for the mother ship!"

As for Chris, he said his day was a lot of fun despite a twisted ankle from a fall near fox #1. And even though he found fox #6 using that simple and sweet Russian unit, he didn't quite comprehend the purpose and limitations of the exercise as evidenced by this photo.



Actually, sporting clays near Dryke Road the following day. I'm working on future fox hunter and ham here.

Fox says, "Get out of the shack and find me if you can! First clue, 146.565 MHz."

MOE -- ---- . MOI -- ---- .. 73, MOS -- ---- ... Jerry Cain MOH -- ---- KE7BVZ MO5 -- ----



PSK 101

Well, no there really is not a PSK 101 but this is a short primer on the PSK 31 digital mode. All of this information and much more may be found in the ARRL HF Digital Handbook.

PSK 31 was developed by Peter Martinex, G3PLX. Peter also developed AMTOR (Amateur Teleprinting Over Radio) which was popular in the 80s and early 90s. In the early 90s Peter set out to develop a new mode that was as easy to use as RTTY, has less bandwidth than RTTY and, would work better than RTTY in a weak signal environment. The early work was done using DOS and DSP chips but later in the 90s Peter developed a Windows application that used a standard PC soundcard for analog-to-digital and digital-to-analog conversion.

What is PSK31? PSK31 means Phase Shift Keying at a rate of 31 bit per second. The following is a quick 1,2,3 step transition from Morse code, to RTTY to PSK31.

Morse code is a binary code of short pulses and long pulses. By combining strings of short and long pulses we make up an alphabet which can be used to communicate words and sentences.

RTTY is still binary data but rather than short and long on-off pulses we shift the frequency or Frequency Shift Keying (FSK). One frequency is the mark, a "1", and the other frequency is a space, or a "0". Putting strings of marks and spaces together we make up, again, an alphabet which can be used to communicate words and sentences. An A, as an example, is expressed as a 00011. Five bits of information are always used plus there are start and stop bits used to separate letters.

Unlike RTTY which always has 5 bits plus a start and stop bit, PSK uses variable lengths of data to make up a character. Most often used characters have the smaller number of bits so throughput will be increased. A small "e", as an example, is only 2 bits (11) while a "?" is 10 bits or 1011110111. Like RTTY, something must be done to define the space between characters. In PSK a "00" is used to define that space. A "1" in PSK is similar to the "mark" or the 1 bit in RTTY. In PSK the "0" is a phase reversal (remember PSK for phase shift keying) or like a "space" in RTTY.

The DSP capability of a PC soundcard allows the creation of an audio signal that is shifted 180 degrees in sync with the 31 bit stream of data. The "1" bit does not shift the carrier but the "0" bit causes the phase reversal. This technique of using phase shifts to represent binary data is called Binary Phase Shift Keying or BPSK.

If one feeds the sound card BPSK output to a SSB transmitter microphone input one will have BPSK modulated RF at a 31 bit rate. With "information" concentrated in such small bandwidth, very little RF power is required. Typically amateurs run between 25 and 50 watts output while using PSK 31.

More information on PSK may be found on the following web pages: http://home.teleport.com/~nb6z/psk31.htm http://www.packetradio.com/bbbb.htm Digital mode sounds: http://home.teleport.com/~nb6z/frame.htm

73, Bob K6MBY



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on this subject.)

THE ROAD BACK

As most of you know, I've been away from Ham radio for more than 50 years, getting re-acquainted with the hobby only a little more than a year ago. For a very long time prior to that, a lifelong friend and fellow Ham had been nagging me to get back on the air, and for a long time I resisted. Then came that horrible morning when the alarm radio switched on to wake us with the news that a plane had crashed into the International Trade Center in New York. We turned on the television just in time to see another plane careen into the second tower and we knew, instinctively, that in that instant our lives were changed forever.

The same scenario, or one just as devastating, could be played out anywhere, anytime. What could I - one lone individual - do about it? My first reaction was one of helplessness and denial. I'm retired, I reasoned; getting on in years and not the man I used to be - if I ever was. Besides, I served my country long ago. It's someone else's turn. But is it, really?

I thought about it for three long years, and reluctantly came to the conclusion that maybe I still had some skills that could be of use in an emergency. Ham radio had changed a great deal over the years and was hardly recognizable to a techno-fossil like myself but the laws of physics hadn't been revoked and I could still learn! The rest you know. I became re-involved in Ham radio and committed to the art of emergency communication.

I joined ARES and RACES and was made Training Coordinator. I took courses in Emergency Communication and the inner workings of NIMS (National Incident Management System) and FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) and discovered that I could, indeed, be useful - as a part of a coordinated and well-oiled team of volunteer Ham radio communicators backing up civil agencies when their own communications become overburdened.

We've all heard that it's not *if but when* a major disaster will strike Clallam County. Whether the "big one" will be a tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, big wind, forest fire, or terrorist incident, Ham radio will certainly be a part of the solution. I fervently hope it never comes but if it does, I'm proud to be a part of the team that will maintain the flow of communications.

Paul Honore' W6IAM

OPERATING SKILL OPPORTUNITY OFFERED BY KO6I

The first Operating Skills gathering started with eight people in attendance. Johan had left a list of what was coming. A couple of free ham radio software programs were discussed and demo'd; EZNEC antenna modeling program and W6EL propagation program.

Eventually we will cover everything you ever wanted to know about setting up and operating an amateur base and mobile station. This setting will be ideal for beginners or old timers who want to refresh their skills. My shop is located just north of the Grey Wolf Elementary school on the east side of the street at 288 Carlsborg Rd. Turn in at the New Lighthouse sign and be careful of the 20 MPH speed limit in the school zone.

Bring your questions as we will have experienced Elmer's to help. I am just beginning to put my station together and as such you will be able to see first hand how a base station is designed and set-up. We will also cover mobile installations and have a fully equipped test bench for demonstrations and trouble shooting as well as a technical reference library.

If there is interest we will plan to build electronic projects as part of the program. Our second gathering will be on Saturday May 20th 11am. If you want more information please call Johan KO6I at (360) 809-0777 or Chuck N7BV at 452-4672.

PCB Design Services

Printed Circuit Board design services by Paul, WB8BVK. Turn those breadboards and prototypes into printed circuit boards. Thru-hole and surface mount, single and multi-layer (up to 16 layers) capabilities. Give me your schematics and specifications and get back Gerber and drill pattern files ready for the foundry.

Got an idea for a circuit that requires a microprocessor/microcontroller but don't have the knowledge or capabilities to design it in? Give Paul , WB8BVK a call or email. 683-6072, pbenedum@earthlink.net

CLALLAM COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Minutes of the General Meeting 4/12/06

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Russ Fish K7INA.

Introductions were made around the room, then April birthdays were acknowledged.

It was noted that WB0NAI, K7INA and K7NIA were all present at the meeting.

Tom KE7XX announced there will be a Technician level license class starting May 6^{th} , and continuing on May 13^{th} and May 20^{th} , with testing to be held on the 20^{th} .

Paul WB8BVK said the new Club Directory is ready to print.

Russ reported on the new club newsletter, "QTC". The first edition, with nine pages, has been published and can be found on www.olyham.com. Hard copy is also available for those who don't have access to the website. Two articles received special mention: The "Repeater Report" by Casey KJ7XE, and "Say 'Hello' to your microphone" by Paul W6IAM.

Nita KE7DRT announced that "EOC will have a presence at Field Day."

The program for the evening was on APRS, a packet system used for tracking, weather, etc., given by Bill W7WEC. He talked about what it can do, how to do it, and shared information about equipment and software.

Russ announced that copies of "QST" magazine from January 1996 through March 2006 have been donated to the club to be used as reference; they are available through Russ.

Orders are being taken for Field Day shirts (\$12.95) and pins (\$5.00). Contact Russ soon, if you wish to order.

At Field Day, AI W7YLV will have setups for both 80 meters and 40 meters. Joe KC7LGT will have 20, 15 and 10 meters. Russ will have CW capability on all bands. There will be a GOTA station setup. Possibly there will be a packet station.

(Our Field Day designation will be "3A".)

Setup will start at 11 AM on Friday (6/23/06). Ernie N7INB will provide pizza for Friday supper at 6 PM. Food for Saturday and Sunday will be provided by Roger W7GRS and Pris KB6FWJ.

The next club meeting will be on Wed. May 10th, at 7 PM. The speaker will be Tom Riepe of the Port Angeles Police Dept. After his program, Field Day prepara-

tions will be discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM

Minutes by Rich Golding N7NCN

CLUB OFFICERS For 2006

President: Russ Fish K7INA 360-452-9195 k7ina@aol.com

Vice President: Roger Uhden K7RGR 360-681-7450 k7rgr@olypen.com

Secretary: Rich Golding N7NCN 360-683-9309 n7ncn@myfam.com

Treasurer: Frank Doherty KJ7SK 360-681-0691 kj7sk@arrl.net

Board Member: Roger Steelman W7GRS 360-681-3534w7grs@olypen.com

Board Member: Chuck Jones N7BV 360-4524672 n7bv@yahoo.com

Board Member: Tom Newcomb 360-452-8228 ke7xx@arrl.net

HOT OFF THE PRESS!

The new 2006 CCARC directory is now available. Come to the May meeting and get your copy! The directory committee did their very best for accuracy. If you find a problem with your information please submit the correct information via the QTC e-mail address (ccarcqtc@yahoo.com) so it can be included in the next newsletter edition.

QTC Editors: Nita Lyman, KE7DRT, Chuck Jones, N7BV, Bob Sampson, K6MBY Please send submissions to the QTC via Ccarcqtc@yahoo.com Clallam County Amateur Radio Club QTC

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YL LUNCHEON

The May 12th luncheon will be at the Café Garden in Port Angeles.

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Find us on the web at www.olyham.com Check it out. Lots of information about ham radio in Clallam County!

COMING EVENTS

SEA-PAC 2006 - June 16-18, 2006 in Seaside, Oregon! Seaside Convention Center. Registration and Entry Fees - \$8 for pre-registration, \$10 at the door. See http://seapac.org/ for details and online registration.

The Pacific Northwest DX Convention (DX 2006) will take place July 21, 22 and 23, 2006, Vancouver, BC, Canada. The BCDX Club takes pleasure in announcing Bob, K4UEE as the keynote speaker. Please see http://www.bcdxc.

org/2006convention.htm

Description	Time/Date	Location	Contact
Clallam County ARES/RACES meeting	7 pm, first Tue of every month	Clallam County Courthouse EOC, 223 E. 4 th St., PA	Chuck Jones N7BV 360-452-4672
Clallam County Amateur Radio Club general meeting	7 pm, second Wed of every month	Port Angeles Fire Station 5 th & Laurel Streets, PA	Tom Newcomb KE7XX 360-452-8228
Clallam County Amateur Radio Club social breakfast	8 am, first Sat of every month	Joshua's Restaurant Hwy. 101 & Del Guzzi Dr.	Tom Newcomb KE7XX 360-452-8228

Clallam Country Amateur Radio Club YL social lunch 11:45 am 2d Fri of every month

Rotates - announced on Thursday night Net

MAY BIRTHDAYS:

Darlene, XYL of Jerry KD7TFL, May 7th
Bill, W7WEC, May 14th
Sally, KD7DRV, May 15th
Barb, XYL of John K7NIA, May 17th
Jim, WF7W, May 19th
Joe, KC7LGT, May 20th
Jan, XYL of Dennis W7DLK, May 21st
Bob, KI7ZC, May 28th
Gen, XYL of Lew WBØNAI, May 30th
Herb, KA7PXL, May 31st
Russ, K7INA, May 31st

Happy Birthday!

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NET CHECK IN HONOR ROLL: Stations that have checked in more than half of the Thursday night net check ins (in alphabetical order)...they are...drum roll please....

N7BV, Chuck; KA7CSZ, Marsha KE7DRT, Nita; W6FEH, Bob; N7HFL, Chuck; K7IDX, Bruce; KC7IY, Mary; KC7LTW, Donald; WA7NBF, Neil; KC7NMN, Bess; K7PVZ, Bob; K3SWH, Jerry; W7WEC, Bill; KC7ZQA, Shirley

W7DNA, Bruce KG6EI, Carl; W7GRS, Roger W6IAM, Paul; K7INA, Russ; WA7LDM, Jim; K5MTW, Don N7NCN, Rich; W7PRS, Priss KJ7SK, Frank; K7VQF, Ray KE7XX, Tom;

KE7BVZ, Jerry

Submitted by Russ K7INA

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