



Watts News



Monthly Newsletter of the
Olympia Amateur Radio Society
P.O. Box 2861, Olympia, WA 98507

August 2007
email: oars@comcast.net

Edited by KB6LE (George Lanning) 360-866-2185
website: <http://olyham.org>



President's Message

This month the monthly OARS meeting will be held at Burfoot Park. Check the web site olyham.org for details. It promises to be a fun event and we should even be able to make some good contacts!

Bring something you may find of interest to show off.

During the my time in the service I had the assignment of being deployed to Desert Storm. It was fun looking back at it, challenging at the time, but definitely very educational and interesting. One day I was talking to a guy who sat out in the desert with a stinger missile waiting for the indication to fire it. I asked him why his missile was so deadly. His answer was very interesting. He said the answer was very simple. The missile has the ability to make corrections faster than the target. Interesting thought.

Correcting course is a very important factor to the development or accomplishment of any mission. As I assumed the job as the President of OARS, I did so knowing that I was not the most qualified for the job. My vision for the club was to recruit and to re-

view the basics. I am fortunate to have had so many good folks to help me make course corrections.

In fact I even have a telephone dedicated to OARS. The number is 878-0834. Call it sometime and give me some of your ideas on what you would like to see the club do or not do. Your feedback is very much appreciated. Together we can make course corrections and keep a strong club getting stronger.

— Bart Tirrell



Portable Repeater

Here are some details on the new OARS portable repeater:

- Vertex VXR-7000 VHF Repeater with mike
- 110VAC or 12VDC Operation
- 120 ft RG8x Coax
- Cavity set – 145.13 MHz – WWA SNP1
- 16 ft portable fiberglass mast
- Diamond CP23 2 M antenna
- Waterproof Carry Case
- West Mountain Radio 4005 RigRunner – PowerPole DC Distribution

Watts Inside

! ARRL Teachers Institutes	2
! Treasurer's Report	3
! Behave, now	3
! OARS Net check-ins	4
! OARS Picnic	4
! Battle of the Sexes	4
! OARS Calendar	5

For a picture of the portable repeater, go to the OARS web site <http://olyham.org>.

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2007 ARRL Teachers Institutes Reach 45 Schools

Forty-eight teachers representing 45 schools from around the country attended the 2007 ARRL Teachers Institutes, held this summer in Rocklin, California, Spokane, Washington and at ARRL Headquarters in Newington. Each class of 12, ranging from pre-school teachers to college professors, got the opportunity to explore and experience firsthand wireless technology basics, how to teach basic electronics concepts integral to microcontrollers and robots, as well as how to bring space technology into the classroom. The four day course culminated with building and programming a robot.

Education and Technology Program Coordinator and Director of the ARRL Teachers Institute Mark Spencer, WA8SME, said, "We had a good range of students this year. We had a higher percentage of hams than we have seen in the past. These were slightly older teachers, ranging in all levels of experience. We even had a student teacher at one of the sessions, something I am really excited about."

Spencer said his four "instructional pillars" — Science of radio, Space in the classroom, Microcontrollers, and Robotics — are "ever-present" during the Teachers Institute. "Each day is packed with lectures, hands-on activities and demonstrations, building, programming and a robotics competition. The first two days include instruction on how to teach wireless technology. Day three covers microcontrollers and the finale is how to teach basic robotics. The class materials are a mix of basic theory coupled with teaching strategies these instructors can use immediately when they return to the classroom."

A new feature in this year's Teachers Institute is Soldering 101. Spencer said including this basic skill was "extremely useful. We had both experienced hams and people new to technology. A lot of the experienced hams hadn't soldered in a

while, so it was like a refresher course for them. The new people enjoyed learning a new skill."

Spencer said some people might have already known how to solder, but had never considered soldering in the classroom. "They came up to me, happy that they had learned the teaching skills that would enable them to bring soldering in the classroom. They said, 'I knew how to solder before I came here, but I never thought I could teach it to my students. Thank you for giving me the skills and showing me the way so I can teach this to my students in a way they can understand.'"

Another new feature this year was satellite contacts. Spencer chose AO-27 due to the timing of its pass. Spencer divided the class into two groups and took them outside for the pass. "The satellite comes over the horizon, and the participants announce their call sign and grid square and maybe exchange some short pleasantries. Once that's done, they go on to the next contact," Spencer said.

By using satellites, Spencer said, he shows the Teachers Institute participants that they can actually contact an orbiting satellite using inexpensive equipment. "The lessons involving satellites are valuable and focused. By using satellites, these teachers can go back to their classrooms and teach more than just the satellite. This lesson teaches the students how to get ready, how to prepare; this is something they can and will carry with them all their lives. Without advance preparation, it's really hard to make the satellite contact."

Of the 48 teachers at this year's Teachers Institutes, about 20 percent come from "Big Project" schools, Spencer said. "About another 25 percent of the non-Big Project schools go on to apply for grants and get involved in the Big Project. These schools then go on to apply for an Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program, but the Teachers Institutes show them that there is much more to it than just an ARISS contact."

While the emphasis of the course is not Amateur Radio and teachers need not be hams to attend the all-expenses-paid sessions, some do go ahead and take the Technician license exam. Seven have received their Technician license and two have upgraded to General this year alone. "About 80 percent of the non-ham teachers have gone on to get their Amateur Radio license. They get really 'jazzed up' about ham radio while they are here.

Since the genesis of the Teachers Institute, each participant that has taken their Amateur Radio license exam has passed on their first attempt,” Spencer said.

Spencer said the Teachers Institute curricula are constantly being tweaked. “Right now, we are at a maturing stage, doing the grunt work and sustaining the program. Next year we are looking at adding Amateur Radio Television and making an umbrella activity board that ties all four of the instructional pillars together. I am already looking at expanding the program for next year.”

He has many long range plans in mind for the Teachers Institute. “In the next 10 years, I would love to see a Teachers Institute in each of the 15 ARRL Divisions. These instructors would work in conjunction with their state’s science museum and run the Institute regionally through the museum. What a great way to bring science to kids,” Spencer said.

— from the ARRL Letter



License Exam Sessions
 6:00 pm before each monthly OARS meeting
 Walk-ins allowed
 To apply contact Klaus Neubert 753-1493
oars-ve@comcast.net

Treasurer’s Report

As of 7/31/07

GENERAL FUND (checking account)

Previous balance	\$ 2,875.70
Income	0.55
Expenses	1,037.23
Ending balance	1,839.02

REPEATER / PACKET FUND (savings account)

Previous balance	\$ 1,005.72
Income	0.00
Expenses	0.00
Ending balance	1,005.72

— Ed Fitzgerald, N7WW, Treasurer



Behave, now

This guy pulls into a crowded parking lot and rolls down the car windows to make sure his dog has fresh air. The dog is stretched out in the back seat, and the guy wants to impress upon him that he must remain there. The guy walks to the curb backward, pointing his finger at the car and saying emphatically, “Now you stay. Do you hear me? Stay!”

The driver of a nearby car gives the guy a startled look “I don’t know about you, man,” he says incredulously. “But I usually just put my car in park.”

— from Ajokeaday via Internet



OARS OFFICERS FOR 2007

President	Bart Tirrell	AB7AX	570-8949
Vice President	Lee Chambers	KI7SS	866-0236
Secretary	Paul Taylor	KC7LA	866-0683
Treasurer	Ed Fitzgerald	N7WW	491-2289
Member at Large	Fred Baker	W7SIX	357-2662

KEY CONTACTS

RFI Committee	Ghery Pettit	N6TPT	412-1340
Repeater Committee	Larry Watkinson	KC7CKO	943-4352
Club License Trustee	Duane Braford	WB7ROZ	412-1902
Information Net	Duane Braford	WB7ROZ	412-1902
ARES Net	Tom Dennis	KA4VVA	786-5500
OLY Packet Node	Larry Ikenberry	K7APT	943-7208
	Rick Taylor	K7CAH	943-6793
Packet BBS	George Lanning	KB6LE	866-2185
Newsletter	George Lanning	KB6LE	866-2185
OARS Website	George Lanning	KB6LE	866-2185
Classes	Lee Chambers	KI7SS	866-0236
License Exams	Klaus Neubert	AC7MG	753-1493
Equip. Custodian	Larry Watkinson	KC7CKO	943-4352

REPEATERS: 147.36 MHz 224.46 MHz 441.40 MHz

PACKET: 145.07 MHz OLY Node 40 BBS

Membership is open to all interested radio amateurs.
 Yearly dues are: \$20 for individual, \$25 for family.

OARS Net check-ins

The following stations checked in on the OARS General Information Net one or more times on the dates of July 10, 17, 24, or 31:

AA7YD	AB7AX	AB7PS	AL7MG
K7MBB	K7TAG	KB6LE	KB7DFL
KB7ROZ	KB7STO	KC7CKO	KC7FEE
KC7LA	KD7RAT	KD7TQW	KD7WXL
KD7YXY	KE7EJJ	KE7FHA	KE7JTU
KE7JTW	KE7NVS	KI7CQ	KI7SS
N7IVM	N7IVM	N7JHJ	N7WK
N7WW	NX6W	W7KDD	W7SIX
W7ZRK	WB7ROZ	WC7I	

Net control stations reporting for the month were Dan Crane KB7DFL, Steve Ward WC7I, Bart Tirrell AB7AX, and Tom Bohon KE7EJJ. Thank you for your support!!

The net meets at 7:30 every Tuesday evening on the 3 linked OARS repeaters: 147.36, 224.46, and 441.40 MHz. All Hams are invited to check in.

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OARS Picnic

Come one, come all, to the annual Oars summer picnic

August 25 at 2 p.m., until we're done!

Picnic food served at 5 p.m. +, until we're full!

There will be portable HF and maybe PSK, on 80 and 20 meters; bring your operating skills!

Bring lawn chairs.

Burgers and dogs and condiments provided by the club.

If your last name begins with:

A-J	bring salads, dressings, chips, etc.
K-R	bring drinks, cold or hot
S-Z	bring desserts, etc.

Note: if you've a favorite dish but are in the wrong group, please bring the favorite dish anyway!

Location: Burfoot Park upper picnic site (the first one you see as you come in). Burfoot Park is located approximately 5 miles north of Olympia. Take Eastside past Priest Point Park, keep going north, bear left at the two "Y"s you'll encounter. Continue toward Boston Harbor. Turn left into the park.

Talk-in on the OARS repeater 147.36 +, 103.5 Hz tone.

Note: The picnic replaces the regular August OARS meeting. However, a license testing session will still be given at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 22, at the South Bay Fire Station.

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Battle of the Sexes

A couple drove down a country road for several miles not saying a word. An earlier discussion had led to an argument and neither of them wanted to concede their position. As they passed a barnyard of mules, goats, and pigs, the husband asked sarcastically, "Relatives of yours?"

"Yep," the wife replied, "in-laws."

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A husband read an article to his wife about how many words women use a day — 30,000 to a man's 15,000. The wife replied, "The reason has to be because we have to repeat everything to men. The husband then turned to his wife and asked, "What?"

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A man said to his wife one day, "I don't know how you can be so stupid and so beautiful all at the same time." The wife responded, "Allow me to explain — God made me beautiful so you would be attracted to me; God made me stupid so I would be attracted to you!"

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September 2007

OARS Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 7:15 AM Breakfast at Nickelby's 600 Trospen Rd. All-Asian DX Contest phone IARU Region 1 Field Day SSB
2 All-Asian DX Contest phone IARU Region 1 Field Day SSB	3	4 7:00 PM ARES Net 7:30 PM OARS Net	5	6	7	8 ARRL September VHF QSO Party
9 ARRL September VHF QSO Party N American Sprint CW	10 ARRL September VHF QSO Party	11 7:00 PM ARES Net 7:30 PM OARS Net YLRL Howdy Days CW/SSB	12	13	14 Deadline for Watts News Inputs	15 ARRL 10 GHz Contest QCWA Fall QSO Party Washington State Salmon Run CW/SSB/Digital
16 ARRL 10 GHz Contest QCWA Fall QSO Party Washington State Salmon Run CW/SSB/Digital	17	18 7:00 PM ARES Net 7:30 PM OARS Net N American Sprint SSB	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 7:00 PM ARES Net 7:30 PM OARS Net Fall QRP Homebrewer Sprint CW	26 7:00 PM OARS Meeting at South Bay Fire Station	27	28	29 CQ WW RTTY DX Contest CQIR Ireland Calling CW/ SSB
30 Classic Exchange AM/SSB CQ WW RTTY DX Contest CQIR Ireland Calling CW/ SSB						

August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

OARS Membership Application

" New Date _____
" Renewal ARRL member ? _____
Call Sign _____ License class _____
Name _____
Address _____
City, St. _____ ZIP _____
Home phone _____
Day phone _____
Email _____

Annual Dues: \$20 (\$25 family) — first year prorated by number of months.

If family membership, please attach above information for each family member.

Send to: OARS
PO Box 2861
Olympia, WA 98507

OARS Potluck Picnic at Burfoot Park

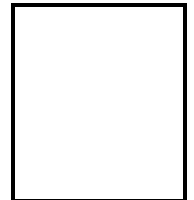
Saturday, August 25th, 2:00 p.m.

(No regular meeting in August)

An Invitation

If you are a Ham who has received this newsletter, but are not yet a member of OARS, you are cordially invited to join us. Submit the membership application at the left to OARS at PO Box 2861, Olympia WA 98507, or bring it to an OARS meeting and see Treasurer Ed Fitzgerald.

OARS
PO BOX 2861
OLYMPIA WA 98507



If the date on your address label is marked in red, it is time to renew!