



# Watts News



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

November 2004  
email: oars@att.net

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



From the  
Oval Shack

## Greetings one more time from the Oval Shack.

It was good to see a good (electing) turn-out at the October meeting. Congratulations go to the full slate of OARS officers as elected at that meeting:

- Ken Dahl K7TAG, President
- Duane Braford WB7ROZ, Vice President
- Chuck Lund K7VRE, Secretary
- Ed Fitzgerald N7WW, Treasurer
- Larry Watkinson KC7CKO, Member at Large

On to the future, guys. Thank you for your service. A special thanks also goes to Chuck Lund who volunteered for the logging duties. Nicely done, sir.

Congratulations also go to George Lanning KB6LE, now a Life Member of OARS, in recognition of all his countless hours of hard work for this club on the web site and newsletter. Keep it up, George. Thank you.

I do know that I wasn't able to be as active in this second half of the year as I would have liked, but

with my XYL still in the hospital after four months, what 'cha gonna do? She's still having a few problems with infections, but the fine doctors at UWMC seem to be on top of her care, if not ahead of it. It's been a long summer and fall, and the winter ain't shaping up to be much better. Hopefully she'll be home by Christmas.

I was glad to see our club go forward with the White Dove project, donating toys to homeless Florida kids for the holidays. This project will give us a chance to reach out to folks that have had a rough

year, both the kids and the parents. My in-laws live in Port Charlotte, and their house did survive with substantial damage to their roof and an add-on lanai. The waiting list for some roofers is TWO YEARS. The community of Port Charlotte is still cleaning up.

Speaking of emergency preparedness, our esteemed field day guru Lee Chambers K17SS, brought up some intriguing suggestions to improve our operating capabilities next June. In your minds eye, if you will, picture two vertical yagi arrays pointing south-east, one on forty, and one on eighty, and BOTH held aloft by helium-filled balloons! Budget some extra coffee money, Ken, I bet neither one of those bands would close all night, engineering challenges notwithstanding. I certainly hope I can operate with you folks in

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June, and I will try to help with some of those engineering challenges if I can.

Don't eat too much turkey. Get those Sweepstakes logs in, I'm still working on mine. Flex those rotators for the DX contests coming up. And when some driver of questionable driving ability cuts you off in the rain at your local shopping mall, or some amateur radio operator with an S9+20 db signal tromps all over your operating frequency (perhaps in the next contest) do two things: Take a deep cleansing breath, and move on.

73

— Leroy N7EIE, OARS President



## Emergency Communications — Part 2

— by Tom Dennis KA4VVA, Thurston County ARES/RACES EC/RO

Responding to an event: If you are not already a trained and qualified member of a local ARES/RACES unit, don't show up at an operating site with hat in hand and your code keyer in your pocket, wanting to help. It is far too late for that. Both ARES and RACES are organizations within the greater Homeland Security Department of the federal government.

This means mandatory training requirements and other subjects for basic membership and operations within these groups. Don't feel hurt if the local government offices and public service agencies turn you away. They have their liabilities to be concerned about.

So what can you do about it? Well, in short, get off your duff and join, as a minimum, ARES as an active member. ARES is our primary non-government public service agency communications support unit. We help Red Cross, Salvation Army, KGY, the hospitals and much more as their auxiliary communications asset.

If you want to help at the EOC, Sheriff's Office or on Search and Rescue missions, then join up with RACES that works with local government offices. In the end, we would like to see people in both units so they experience the various types of communications operations used locally.

The Thurston County ARES/RACES unit has less than 35 active members. There are over 100 members of OARS. So some basic math would say that only about 30% of OARS is public services minded, the rest are getting a free ride.

That is not that bad of figure when you check the FCC records and see there are over 1,000 hams in the county, and only 35 are willing to participate in trained public service communications.

ARES/RACES appreciates the fact OARS allows us to use their inter-linked repeaters for training, nets and during actual disasters, etc. But, we can't do it all with a small group of members. We have far too many tasks to fill and not enough bodies to keep the job going throughout the event.

Give this some thought. We are the county with the State Capital in it. When disaster strikes, yes Camp Murray will be active — BUT, state offices will still be functioning here and may ask for our support. We will be very thin on personnel to help.

During the past year, members of ARES/RACES has organized almost every public service event locally with the exception of Field Day, and the majority of active participants there were ARES/RACES folks!

Remember, when you want to argue your rights to be a Ham, remember what Part 97 says: AMATEUR RADIO SERVICES, not Ham Radio Hobby, DX Club, SSTV group, packet cluster committee, etc. Your license says you are willing to provide a

### OARS OFFICERS FOR 2004

President	Leroy Smith	N7EIE	458-8286
Vice President	Duane Braford	WB7ROZ	412-1902
Secretary	Helen Hannigan	KB7JDL	352-9189
Treasurer	Ed Fitzgerald	N7WW	491-2289
Member at Large	Larry Watkinson	KC7CKO	943-4352

### 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	754-6651
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
Classes	Lee Chambers	KI7SS	866-0800
License Exams	Klaus Neubert	AC7MG	
Equip. Custodian	Larry Watkinson	KC7CKO	943-4352

REPEATERS: 147.36 MHz 224.46 MHz 441.40 MHz

PACKET: 145.07 MHz OLY Node 441.40 BBS

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

service in time of need. It is time to step up to the plate and play ball with the big league.

Don't give excuses about age, what you did way back when, or how you're developing the high-speed answer to all of our needs. We need you NOW, not when we are up to our elbows in disaster messages, to volunteer to help with communications.

The basic requirement is the ability to take pen in hand and write messages, and talk over the radio. Everything else is just fine-tuning those skills.

If you are a person who only does things to better him or herself socially, we don't need you. We want people who want to help others in the time of need in adverse conditions and locations, and not have the need to take credit for it.

Want to know more about us, or even join? Check out our web page at:

[http://www.wva-district3-ares.org/thurston\\_county/](http://www.wva-district3-ares.org/thurston_county/)

or call me during the day at 786-5500.

— Tom Dennis, KA4VVA

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## The Inheritance

Due to inherit a fortune when his sickly, widower father died, Bill decided he needed a woman to enjoy it with. Going to a singles bar, he spotted a woman whose beauty took his breath away. "I'm just an ordinary man," he said, walking up to her, "but in just a week or two, my father will die and I'll inherit 20 million dollars." The woman went home with Bill, and in four days she became his step-mother.

Men will never learn!

— from David, ZL3AI, via packet

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## Useful life of UO-22 satellite appears over

According to AMSAT-UK, the UO-22 satellite is not in good shape and its useful life may be over. The Surrey Satellite Technology Limited (SSTL) Ground Station control center has tried several times in recent weeks to reactivate the satellite, AMSAT-UK reports. The satellite did come back to life briefly following one attempt, but other tries have failed completely.

The SSTL ground control station may make further attempts to reactivate UO-22, "but it seems unlikely that they will be completely successful." The cause of the satellite's failure is not known for certain, but SSTL believes it may be related either to the spacecraft's batteries or to the fact that the satellite is very hot due to orbital precession, which has generally put the spacecraft in full sunlight. The elevated temperature has been causing problems with the receivers as well as with the batteries.

Launched on July 17, 1991, UO-22 has served for many years as the 9600 baud store-and-forward satellite for the Amateur Radio packet radio worldwide SatGate service, which linked packet radio networks in many countries. AMSAT-NA reports UO-22 as "non-operational."

For further information on UO-22 contact Jim Heck, G3WGM, via email at, [g3wgm@amsat.org](mailto:g3wgm@amsat.org).

— ARRL Bulletin ARLS013

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## Basic Philosophy

- Gardening Rule: When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant.
- The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.
- Never take life seriously. Nobody gets out alive anyway.
- There are two kinds of pedestrians -- the quick and the dead.
- Life is sexually transmitted.

- An unbreakable toy is useful for breaking other toys.
- If quitters never win, and winners never quit, then who is the fool who said "Quit while you're ahead?"
- Health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.
- The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth.
- Get the last word in: Apologize.
- Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day; teach that person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks.
- Some people are like Slinkies — not really good for anything, but you still can't help but smile when you see one tumble down the stairs.
- Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in hospitals dying of nothing.
- Have you noticed since everyone has a cam-corder these days no one talks about seeing UFOs like they used to?
- Whenever I feel blue, I start breathing again.
- All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.
- Why does a slight tax increase cost you two hundred dollars and a substantial tax cut saves you thirty cents?
- In the 60s, people took acid to make the world weird. Now the world is weird and people take Prozac to make it normal.
- Politics is supposed to be the second oldest profession. I have come to realize that it bears a very close resemblance to the first.
- How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a barbecue?

— from *Joke of the Day*, via Internet



## Treasurer's Report

As of 10/31/04

### GENERAL FUND (checking account)

Previous balance . . . . .	\$321.75
Income . . . . .	.06
Expenses . . . . .	5.00
Ending balance . . . . .	316.81

### REPEATER / PACKET FUND (savings account)

Previous balance . . . . .	\$ 978.61
Income . . . . .	0.00
Expenses . . . . .	0.00
Ending balance . . . . .	978.61

— Ed Fitzgerald, N7WW, Treasurer



## Ham Veterans

*Tom Dennis KA4VVA contributed the following, which was sent by email to the OARS list:*

Special Note: Don't forget our veterans in Amateur Radio on this November 11th. From Jack Barber W1PRT who flew over the D-Day beaches of Normandy in B-25s, to Dave Taylor KA7UZU (Of CAPCOM and the son of Rick Taylor K7CAH) who was with the Marines in Desert Storm and all those who are over there now.

Let us all wish them the best, our thanks and the hopes of seeing them next year on that day.

Remember: Lots of soldiers took a bullet for us, but you've never seen a politician take a bullet for any soldier.

*Jack Barber sent the following response:*

Say, thanks for the vets day message, however Tom Dennis credits me with too much. Yes, I was involved with D-Day in Europe, however it was from a B-26 Marauder medium bomber airstrip in England at the time. I was, of all things, a communications officer. My job was running the crypto room. I

also pulled occasional duty as “duty communications officer.” As it happened, I was on duty the night before D Day and was first on the base to learn of the coming invasion because I got a call from the Wing Commander with the other bomb groups.

We moved over to France a bit later and set up in a ruined house there with our message center. So, I was no hero.

*You are too modest, Jack. As far as I am concerned, all WW II vets are heroes. — Ed.*

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## ARRL Disappointed with Administration over BPL Report and Order

The ARRL has expressed its disappointment with the Bush administration’s failure “to prevent radio spectrum pollution by BPL systems.” In a November 1 letter to Secretary of Commerce Donald L. Evans copied to President George W. Bush, ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, recalled Evans’ assurances on the administration’s behalf earlier this year “that we are responsible and sensitive to valuable incumbent [radiocommunication] systems.” Haynie told Evans the FCC’s BPL Report and Order (R&O) in ET Docket 04-37 — adopted October 14 and released two weeks later — suggests otherwise.

“Despite excellent work conducted by the technical staff of your National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to document the extensive harmful interference that will occur if BPL systems are deployed at the radiated emission limits presently permitted by the FCC rules,” Haynie said, “it appears that the NTIA concurred in the FCC’s decision not to tighten those limits.”

The FCC maintains that BPL emissions are localized and at low enough levels to preclude harmful interference in the first place, and it has left the door open to possibly upping the limit in the future.

Haynie pointed out that both international treaty and US law entitle licensed radiocommunication services to protection from harmful interference

that unlicensed systems like BPL might generate. “Despite this,” he continued, “the FCC has shifted the burden for initiating interference mitigation from the BPL system operator to the radio licensee.” The NTIA’s September 13 submission to the FCC shows that at FCC Part 15 limits, the probability of harmful interference is essentially 100 percent within 200 to 400 meters (approximately 660 to 1300 feet) of a power line carrying BPL signals — depending on the operating frequency.

“Amateur Radio stations are typically located in residential areas, nearly always well within such distances,” Haynie noted. “The FCC’s Report and Order provides no assurance that when interference occurs — as it unquestionably will — it will be promptly eliminated.”

As part of the Commerce Department, the NTIA not only administers radio spectrum allocated to federal government users but advises the White House on telecommunications policy. On June 24, President Bush extolled BPL during a speech on technological innovation even while acknowledging interference concerns.

Haynie said the League will continue efforts to improve the R&O. Calling the HF spectrum “a unique and priceless resource,” the ARRL president expressed regret that the administration “is willing to squander such a unique natural resource in order to provide a short-range broadband connection that can easily be provided by several other non-polluting means.”

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, echoed Haynie’s concerns. The FCC R&O, he said, “shifts the burden to licensed operators to react to interference rather than adopting rules to prevent interference from occurring.” The R&O advises locating “sensitive receiver antennas” as far as practically possible from power lines. Additionally, the FCC admonished ARRL that in cases where its members experience RF noise, “such noise can often be avoided by carefully locating their antennas.”

Reacted Sumner: “If a BPL system operator wants to meet its obligation by picking up all of the costs of relocating a licensee’s antenna, it’s free to make the offer.”

If interference occurs, the new Part 15 rules will require BPL system operators to employ “interference avoidance techniques” such as “frequency band selection, notching, or judicious device place-

ment.” Notches would have to be at least 20 dB — slightly more than 3 S units — below applicable Part 15 limits on HF and at least 10 dB below Part 15 limits on VHF — not much protection for weaker signals common in HF work.

“We might be more optimistic if there had, to date, been a single instance when the FCC had ordered a BPL system to terminate operation for causing harmful interference,” Sumner said. “The Commission continues to be in denial, despite hundreds of pages of documentation of ongoing interference.”

Sumner said the ARRL was gratified that the FCC R&O recognized that BPL devices have significantly greater interference potential than other Part 15 devices and that the Commission will require certification of BPL systems rather than the less-stringent verification. Additionally, Sumner said, the League was pleased that the FCC-mandated public BPL system database will require systems to be listed several weeks ahead of actual implementation so that amateurs and others have advance notice.

ARRL officials continue to mull possible formal responses to the R&O. The ARRL Executive Committee already has okayed the filing of a Petition for Reconsideration. It further authorized ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, to “prepare to pursue other available remedies as to procedural and substantive defects” in the BPL proceeding.

For more information on BPL, visit the Broadband Over Power Line (BPL) and Amateur Radio Web page <http://www.arrl.org/bpl>.

— from *The ARRL Bulletin*

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## Dues Reminder

All OARS dues are payable on January 1. Why not get a head start and pay them now? (Information is on the cover of this newsletter)

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## OARS Net check-ins

The following stations checked in on the OARS General Information Net one or more times on the dates of October 5, 12, or 19:

AA7YD	AB7PS	K7TAG	K7VRE
K9ALF	KA7VVA	KB7DFL	KB7GEG
KC7FEE	KC7LA	KD6ZBS	KD7ISO
KD7RAT	KD7TQW	KD7UST	KD7XYX
KD7YOE	KD7YXY	KE7CG	KI7SS
KJ7NV	N7GGX	N7IVM	N7JHJ
N7WW	NX6W	W7IOM	W7MRK
W7SIX	WC7I		

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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## Dieting

- The Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.
- The French eat a lot of fat and also suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.
- The Japanese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.
- The Italians drink excessive amounts of red wine and also suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.

Conclusion:

Eat and drink what you like. Speaking English is apparently what kills you.

— from *W1GMF via packet*

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# December 2004

## OARS CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																										
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<p><i>5</i></p> <p>ARRL 160 Meter Contest Holiday Spirits Homebrew CW Sprint</p>	<p><i>6</i></p>	<p><i>7</i></p> <p>7:00 PM ARES Net 7:30 PM OARS Net 8:00 PM Slow Speed CW Net 3.68 MHz</p>	<p><i>8</i></p>	<p><i>9</i></p>	<p><i>10</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; color: red;"> <p>Deadline for Watts News Inputs</p> </div>	<p><i>11</i></p> <p>ARRL 10 Meter Contest Great Colorado Snowshoe Run CW <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">N American Meteor...</div></p>																																																																																										
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<p><i>26</i></p> <p>DARC Christmas Contest CW/SSB</p>	<p><i>27</i></p>	<p><i>28</i></p> <p>7:00 PM ARES Net 7:30 PM OARS Net 8:00 PM Slow Speed CW Net 3.68 MHz</p>	<p><i>29</i></p>	<p><i>30</i></p>	<p><i>31</i></p> <p>ARRL Straight Key Night</p>																																																																																											

## 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

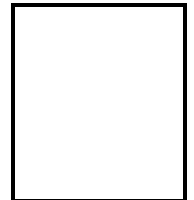
**O A R S Meeting**  
**Wednesday, December 1, 7 PM**  
*"Legislative Interfacing"*  
*– Lee Chambers, KI7SS*

**Thurston County Courthouse**  
**Building 1, Room 152**

### 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!