



# YAKIMA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



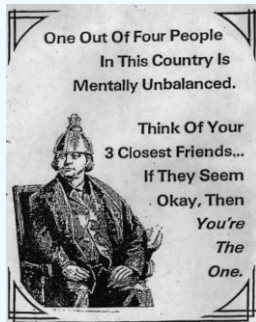
**Club Founded in 1930**  
86 years of continuous service to the Yakima Valley

**ARRL Affiliated in 1931**

## Ladder Line Newsletter March 2016

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73  
Bob WB7WAM  
Editor or the one that gets all the blame.

(Bad Spellers of the world Untie!)



Jerry K7PNW Evelyn K7OMY

### **JERRY HORN** **K7PNW (Pacific Northwest)**

**My introduction to electronics** started when I was 10 years old. It was a Cub Scout project where all us kids built crystal sets. And with a cheap set of headphones we could actually hear local radio stations. Amazing! A couple of us even taught other kids how to make them. Somewhere around that time I was introduced to Short Wave and Amateur Radio.

My grandmother let me use her old wood case radio, the kind with a round dial that was permanently marked "NBC Blue" along with other networks. You could switch the receiver to different bands including some of the ham bands. Long story short, I had antenna wire stretched all over the walls of my bedroom and the radio sat on a table right next to my bed. I must have been about 12 or 13 when I assembled an AM radio from plans in Popular Electronics (or maybe it was Popular Mechanics). That project was my introduction to reading schematics and soldering. I used a big old soldering iron about a foot long. It looked like something out of a plumber's tool box! The radio worked, but not all that great.

Somewhere around that age I learned Morse Code for a Boy Scout merit badge. Another kid and I use to pass coded notes in our Jr. High School class. I tried to learning to receive code and even built a code practice oscillator that sounded more like a train horn than a high pitch "dit dah dit". My cousin, Larry, who was the same age as me, had become interested in ham radio and we worked on the code together.

He got his Novice ticket at age 15 and I never did learn to receive code. Larry, K7EKD, tried getting me involved in Amateur Radio for 50 years. Can you believe it? FIFTY YEARS! Finally, it took the need for dependable emergency communications on our backroad trips to get me off my duff and get licensed. By then I was 65 years old. My goodness, where had all the time gone? Well, the need for a communications tool eventually turned into a hobby. I gathered up our radios, ancillary wires and black boxes that were heretofore parked on Ev's lace tablecloth in the dining room and moved them to a shelf on my desk where with few additions they sit to this day.

My wonderful wife Evelyn, K7OMY, has joined me in the hobby and besides both of us being proud to have earned No-Code Extra Class licenses, we are delighted to be associated with the fine folks at W7AQ.

Jerry Horn, K7PNW

Jerry and Don KC7FFK of Grandview received the "E.C. Welch Humanitarian Award from Yakima Amateur Radio Club" Hams help Hams if there is a problem there is always someone that will jump up and go out of their way to help a fellow ham get out of trouble. Jerry and Don have gone out of their way to help a ham out in the middle of the night or any time.

We will have the whole story in a up coming newsletter all about Jerry K7PNW, Don KC7FFK and Chad KD7KJF or you could wait for the movie.

# KITTITAS COUNTY HAM NEWS

Okay, it's time again for the radio club meetings. The Rodeo City Radio Club (RC2) meeting will be Saturday March 5, 8 AM, at the Copper Kettle restaurant in Ellensburg. The Upper Kittitas County Am. Radio Club (UKCARC) will meet on Sunday March 20, 8AM, at the Cottage Cafe in Cle Elum. You, your family, and your interested in ham radio friends, are invited to either or both of them.

The February VE test was very successful. There were 5 test takers and they all passed. There are new Tech licensees in Ellensburg, Easton, and Selah, a new General licensee in Cle Elum (KG7LAA), and a new extra in Grant County. Congratulations to all of them. Our next test is scheduled for Saturday April 23 which is an ARRL national test day. Watch for details in the next newsletter.

If you are currently studying for your upgrade to extra class, please pay attention. The extra class test is being updated this year; the new version goes into use as of July 1, 2016. And it will be quite different from the current test. Most test updates just involve new questions, this one includes some new subject matter as well as new/updated questions. Our last test session using the "old" questions will be Saturday June 18 2016.

**It occurs to me** that newer hams/readers may not exactly know what VE means. So here it is. Years ago in order to get a ham license an individual had to make an appointment at the local FCC office. Which may or may not have been close or convenient. All tests were given by FCC officials. When the government started to look for ways to save money and time someone decided that changes could be made in the ham license system. The result is the current system. The FCC has sanctioned some national groups as Volunteer Examiner Coordinators. These groups (VEC's) serve as liaisons between Volunteer Examiners (VE's) and the FCC. VEC's recruit, accredit, and supply VE's who actually do the testing. The VEC then submits the test results to the FCC (now done electronically). The FCC still issues the licenses, maintains the official database of licensees, has the right to administer examinations if it chooses to, and is responsible for enforcement. The VEC groups are responsible for maintaining and updating the exams and questions.

Local VE's arrange, manage, and do all of the actual testing. And you are invited to be one. An extra class licensee can participate fully in the process, a general class licensee can do technician class testing. Our usual schedule is a test session every other month (even numbered months), on a Saturday morning, and it takes about one and a half hours. Actual time varies depending on the number of tests being taken. We are required to have at least 3 VE's present at each session, more is generally better and faster. Also, the more names we have on our list, the less likely any one person will need to participate every time. If you would like to be a VE please contact Gloria Sharp WA7GYD (wa7gyd@arrl.net, 509-962-3820) for more information. Thanks.

One more note about VE testing. Lots of places have no local VE tests. It's not quite as inconvenient as going to the FCC office, but large portions of eastern Washington have no ve's. Of course, many eastern Washington counties have very few hams. Right now, going east from here, the only scheduled ARRL VE test is in lone WA (north of Spokane). There are regular tests scheduled in Yakima, Kennewick, and College Place, but nothing to the east. So, please consider being a VE. Without VE's there are no hams.

The first operating event of the year is the Yakima Canyon Marathon scheduled for Saturday April 2. As you might guess, this is a running event on the road down the Yakima River Canyon. The race starts on the Canyon Road at the edge of Ellensburg and finishes in the Selah area. The road is closed to traffic during the race. You will be stationed at an aid station, as a communication person. Start time is about 7 or 7:30 AM, ending time depends on the race, usually early or mid afternoonish. Some locations will require a mobile radio with outside antenna. In other words, your 5 watt handheld with rubber duck may not work everywhere on the course. For more information or if you would like to participate, please contact Rod Rath KC7VQR at rrath@charter.net. Thanks for volunteering.

Latest news is that UKCARC is planning a Field Day event for Saturday June 25, 2016. The location will be the park in South Cle Elum, same as the last couple of years.

Mark your calendar for the Cascade Crest 100 mile race - August 27 and 28. All the details should be the same as before; it looks like the entry drawing has already been completed with a waiting list as long as, or maybe longer than, the runners list. No, I didn't count either list.

## Here are the other currently known upcoming events.

<b>Puyallup hamfest</b> -	Saturday March 5, 9 AM, Puyallup Fairgrounds	<a href="http://www.mikeandkey.org/flea.htm">www.mikeandkey.org/flea.htm</a>
<b>Microhams Digital Conference</b> -	March 19, 8 to 5, Redmond WA	<a href="http://www.microhams.com/mhdc">www.microhams.com/mhdc</a>
<b>Yakima hamfest</b> -	Saturday April 9, 9 AM, Selah Civic Center	<a href="http://www.w7aq.com">www.w7aq.com</a>
<b>CommAcademy</b> -	April 9 -10, Seattle	<a href="http://www.commacademy.org">www.commacademy.org</a>
<b>SeaPac convention/hamfest</b> -	June 3 - 5 Seaside OR,	<a href="http://www.seapac.org">www.seapac.org</a>

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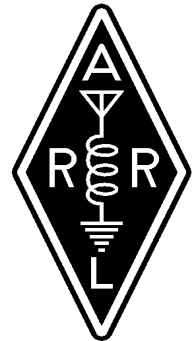
# YAKIMA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



# YAKIMA Hamfest

"Serving the Yakima Valley since 1930"

## APRIL 9, 2016



### PRIZE DRAWING

AT 3:00 PM

PRIZES  
WORTH WINNING

Type of prizes to be announced later

### ARRL VE Testing

12:00 Noon

Walk-ins welcome Bring Picture ID  
& copy of license if upgrading

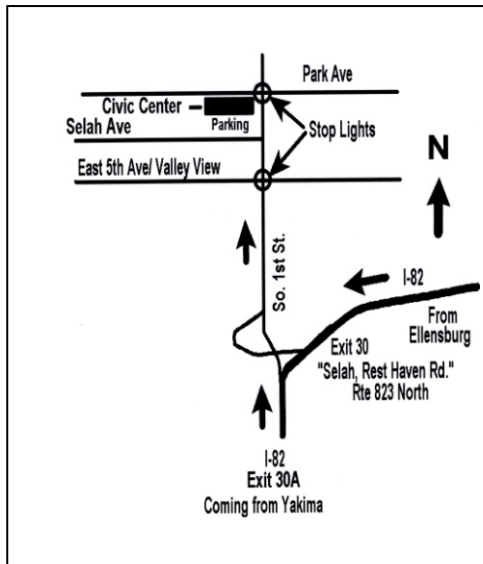
For INFO

Mark Delagasse (509)307 -4217  
n6hyf@arrl.net

### Bunny Hunt

2:00pm

2 M Hand =Held 146.220  
Rubber-Duck antenna only



### Location

### Selah Civic Center

216 South 1<sup>ST</sup> Street  
Selah, WA

### W7AQ

### Concessions on site

Breakfast.....7 AM - 10 AM

Lunch.....11 AM - 1 PM

Talk - in Frequency

146.660 MHz

PL 123.0

## SAT 9AM - 4PM

THOSE INTERESTED IN PURCHASING TABLES CAN VIEW TABLE LAYOUT IN  
DOWN LOADABLE FILE AT THE CLUB WEBSITE (FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED)

[www.w7aq.com](http://www.w7aq.com)

PICK UP PRE-REGISTRATIONS AT THE DOOR

Cut Here

### REGISTRATION FORM

NAME	CALL SIGN		
OTHER NAMES	CALLS		
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
EMAIL ADDRESS			

All Amateurs, Visitors, Swap & Shop and  
Commercial Participants MUST Register

Mail to:

W7AQ, PO Box 9211, Yakima, WA 98909

Internet address: <http://www.w7aq.com>

Registration @ \$7.00 each - Children under twelve FREE = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Register before March 27th & receive an extra door prize ticket

Swap & Shop tables \$20.00..... = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(tables reserved with pay only) (does not include registration ticket)

Table Number/s Desired \_\_\_\_\_ (First Come First Served)

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Yakima ARC - W7AQ

Include your Email address for Ticket/Table confirmation

FOR COMMERCIAL SPACE and/or Tables: CONTACT Bob Dameron KE7HLK 509-452-3877 bigiron9@msn.com





