



YAKIMA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



Club Founded in 1930
86 years of continuous service to the Yakima Valley
ARRL Affiliated in 1931

Ladder Line Newsletter April 2016



Howard & Gayle Barnes

Howard WB7VKY

"This is his story and he is sticking to it"

Since I was born in the latter years of World War II, it was almost inevitable that radio would play a major role in my life. Besides outdoor exploring, board games, electric trains and cards, listening to the radio provided entertainment for the whole family. The Shadow, "The Lone Ranger", variety shows and daytime soap operas filled our house with sound. In my little home town in northwestern Pennsylvania, television was not very common and when finally available, required a very high antenna to catch snowy black and white pictures from Pittsburgh or Youngstown, Ohio.

Many of the commercial radios in those days often included an extra frequency band beyond standard AM that focused on shortwave stations, mostly from Europe and Russia. They also covered some of the

frequencies use by "hams". Once I listened in on friendly conversations between these fellows, I guess I just wanted more of it. My father was a real "jack-of-all-trades" guy who encouraged my younger brother and me to tinker with anything our little hands could get into (well, with some limitations). Crystal radios were all the rage then, so I had to have one. Rather than buying one on the market, Dad suggested using the tuning circuits from broken radios along with germanium diode to create my very own. Luckily, I found a radio that included several shortwave bands; now I had not only my local AM station, but also those mysterious sounds from far away-and those "hams".

Once I entered the Boy Scouts, learning the Morse Code became a challenge. Of course we did not use dit-dah sounds, but instead waved a flag to one side or the other to signify them. Although I did manage to learn code at a slow pace, it was always a struggle for me, especially using my ears.

My crystal sets didn't satisfy me for long, so by the time I reached 14, a REAL radio was my goal. A neighbor kid happened to get an old Hallicrafters SX-25, but didn't know what to do with it--Howard to the rescue! In short order the radio became mine for the excessive price of fifteen dollars. After obtaining a new BFO, original manual and S-meter from Hallicrafters (they still were very much alive at that time) and a careful alignment, I was in business. Mom and Dad didn't bat an eye when I asked if I could string a long wire up over the second story roof and to a tilt-over pole I built on the edge of our large yard. That radio sat next to my bed for years. Never should have sold that.

I joined the Civil Air Patrol in my upper teens; maybe it was the uniform--I don't know. What I did know was that the commander of our unit, a retired Air Force colonel, had the absolutely most grand ham setup in his basement! He had at least two racks of equipment all lit up with dials, meters and knobs along with a giant tower and beam antenna. How could I not be impressed with that? I thought someday I must have such a setup! Although that was not to be, the memory has not gone away.

College brought on very new adventures and interests; radio slipped into the background. Although I thought I would be an electrical engineer, the math was too tough for me, and I settled for a degree in psychology. Four years later, my draft board invited me to join the ranks of many of my classmates. I chose to join the Air Force rather than be drafted into their choice of assignments. After all, Vietnam was hot and heavy then. In their infinite wisdom the Air Force chose to enter me into the communications electronics field! Felt at home with that, and while at Keesler Air Force

Base in tech training, I built my first general coverage receiver kit from Knight. My actual assignments after technical training turned out to be in the satellite commanding and tracking business in California. Not a bad fit at all, plus I got to meet Gayle, my wife of 46 years who was then a civilian working for the same outfit! These were good times and excellent assignments, but four years of service were enough for a newlywed.

Inside this issue:

- Featured Member
- Kittitas News
- It has to be true
- Club Agendas
- Repeaters
- VE Testing
- 2016 Officers



KITTITAS COUNTY HAM NEWS

April 2016

Time for a radio club meeting. The Rodeo City Radio Club (RC2) meeting will be Saturday April 2, 8 AM, at the Copper Kettle restaurant in Ellensburg. The Upper Kittitas County Am. Radio Club (UKCARC) will meet on Sunday April 17, 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.

VE testing is scheduled for Saturday April 23 which is an ARRL national test day. As usual, all tests will be available, and you need to contact us ahead of time so we know you will be there. (If no one contacts us - we won't be there.) Start time is 10 AM and the location is the Chestnut Street Baptist Church at 609 N. Chestnut in Ellensburg. Park in the lot south of the church and look for our "Ham Test" signs. You must bring photo ID, a photocopy of your current license, a photocopy and the original of any CSCE you will be using for credit, \$15.00 (exact change if possible), and your social security number (FRN if you are currently licensed). Contact Gloria Sharp WA7GYD at 962-3820 or wa7gyd@arrl.net.

If you are currently studying for your upgrade to extra class, please read this. 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.

National Weather Service weather spotter training is scheduled in Ellensburg on Monday April 18, 2 PM at the County Courthouse (corner of 5th and Main) room 109. Weather spotter training does not obligate you to anything. The training teaches you what the Weather Service is interested in, how to recognize it when it happens, and gives you a toll free phone number to call when you see it. You don't need to be home all the time, just be a little observant when you are home. Kittitas County is an area that the Weather Service radar has trouble with and they don't always know what is really happening. They would especially like to have more spotters in the areas west of Cle Elum. There's no registration required, just be there if you're interested. The class usually lasts a couple of hours.

Just so you know - upcoming fifth Saturdays are April 30 and July 30. Contact Bill Thrush N7MLL (bigdaddy@superxstudios.com or 206-852-8177) if you want current information as available.

I'm sure you realize that your ham license will expire at some point, but did you realize that the FCC does not let you know when that happens? Check your license, the expiration date is on it. You can renew up to 90 days in advance and for a period of time after. I think the grace period is two years but I'm not sure. If you are an ARRL member, they will remind you if you sign up for that service. And, you can renew at a VE session.

Bob Davis K7RJD has two items for sale that you might be interested in. The first is an **MFJ-941E tuner 2**, he is asking \$75. The second item is a **Diamond X510HDM 2m/440 base station vertical antenna**. It is 17.2 feet tall and includes 50 feet of coax with 239 connectors, he is asking \$125. Please contact Bob at 509-674-3972 or davisbob665@aol.com .

David Kaufman N7ENP also has some equipment that needs a new home. He says he has listed prices but is more interested in getting the items to new homes. (that means if you are interested and can't afford his price you should make him an offer) Please contact Dave at gildedlily@charter.net .

Kenwood TS120s transceiver with VFO 120 and car mount bracket MB100 - \$225.00

ICOM 245 2meter mobile transceiver with car mount bracket - \$100.00

Tokyo Hi-Power antenna coupler HC200 - \$200.00

Astron RS20A power supply - \$50.00

TET Antenna Systems HB43sp - \$120.00

If you travel over the Manastash Bridge outside of Ellensburg, be aware that there is now a weight limit on it and it may be converted to one lane, one way at a time in the near future. Repairs are being planned but may not happen as soon as you would like.

Upcoming First Aid - CPR - AED classes will be Saturday April 23 in Cle Elum and Saturday May 21 in Ellensburg. Time is 9 AM to 2 PM, cost is \$40.00, you may purchase or borrow a book, you have to register in advance, and bring your own lunch. Location in Cle Elum is the fire station, in Ellensburg it's the senior center. To register - 509-674-2932 (leave a message) or kcems@outlook.com (include your name, phone number, and date/location you want to attend). Usually these classes are offered every month in rotating upper/lower county locations. Ask if another month is better for your schedule.



Apparently Mac supports Winsows now.

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KITTITAS COUNTY HAM NEWS [page 2]

UPCOMING EVENTS - Yakima Canyon Marathon, Saturday April 2. They probably still have room for you if you'd like to provide communication support. For more information contact Rod Rath KC7VQR at rrath@charter.net. UKCARC is planning a Field Day event again this year. The date is Saturday June 25, 2016, place will be the park in South Cle Elum, more info as it gets closer. Mark your calendar for the Cascade Crest 100 mile race - August 27 and 28. The Yakima hamfest will be Saturday April 9 at the Selah Civic Center. The annual CommAcademy is April 9 and 10 in Seattle, more info at www.commacademy.org. The SeaPac convention/hamfest is June 3 - 5 in Seaside OR, more info at www.seapac.org. The Wenatchee hamfest is June 10 11 12, info at www.qsl.net/w7td. The Spokane hamfest/state ARRL convention is Saturday Sept. 24, and the Pacific NW DX convention is Aug. 5 6 7. Again this month, please note that the Whisky Dick Triathlon will not be held this year. We can participate at the Ellensburg Sprint Triathlon, Saturday July 23, Carey Lakes/Irene Rinehart Park if there is interest. Contact Gloria Sharp WA7GYD (wa7gyd@arrl.net or 962-3820)

This link arrived in an email from section manager Mark Tharp KB7HDX. n7cfo.com/amradio/hf/hf.htm I must admit that all I wrote down was the address; I assumed I would remember the rest. And of course, right now I have no idea. I believe that N7CFO is an EWA ham who has lots of good information on his website. Look at it and send me a message about it for the next newsletter. Thanks.

Here is the link to the FEMA online training courses. www.training.FEMA.gov/is; recommended courses are - IS-100.b, IS-200.b, IS-700.a, and IS-800.b.

One of the other courses available on the FEMA site is IS-317 Introduction to Community Emergency Response Teams, or CERT. CERT is a program which was originally intended to get ordinary people prepared to deal with emergency events on a neighborhood basis. Currently CERT training is offered through government agencies, typically law enforcement agencies, and is not available in our county. At times, CERT has been recommended to hams as a way to make a difference in their own neighborhoods during an emergency. You don't have to leave your family or home to be a help to someone. Organize, or at least, talk to your neighbors about what could be done in your area, or what might be needed if there was an emergency. Maybe you can make a plan and work together to help yourselves until the government can get to you. In my previous home of Skagit County, several areas had CERT plans. Some of them were quite extensive, others more basic. Some actually organized training drills, some got together at backyard gatherings and talked. Either way works. See page 84, April 2016 QST for more.

RC2 recently received an advertising email from bioennopower.com. I include this information because one of the things they advertised was foldable solar panels and I thought that might interest some of you. They also have "advanced battery solutions" (12 - 48v, 3 - 200 Ah) and powerpacks.

Some of you have asked about this in the past. At the last emergency meeting it was announced that the County Sheriff's office is now on Facebook. I don't know about an address - I assume you can find it if you are interested. Please remember that they have just started this, I can't remember exactly what the deputy said but it had to do with this being a beginning. So don't be too hard on them.

The Kittitas County ARES/RACES net meets every Sunday evening at 8:00 PM on the 147.360 repeater (131.8 or 141.3 tone, + offset). Our simplex backup frequency, if needed, will be 147.540. This is a directed net, if you are not a regular roll call member, please check in when the net control calls for visitors. Everyone is welcome to check in. The 147.360 repeater (or 147.540 simplex) will also be our primary gathering spot in case of emergency or other unusual event.

The Kittitas County round robin net meets daily at 7:30 AM on 147.360. Everyone is welcome. This is not a directed net.

Hams meet for coffee/breakfast every Tuesday in Cle Elum at the Senior Center at 8:00 AM. On Wednesday's in Ellensburg there are two groups. One meets at Super One at 8:00 AM, and one meets at Carl's Jr at 8:00 AM. Everyone is welcome.

Both clubs have web sites. See them at www.qsl.net/wr7ukc and www.qsl.net/rcrc. Thanks to Jack Williams W7HNH for keeping them both updated.

Both clubs are ARRL affiliated clubs and can earn money from your ARRL membership. Before you join or renew ARRL please talk with your club treasurer. Thanks.

Please send comments, questions, ideas, or address changes to Gloria Sharp WA7GYD at 962-3820 or wa7gyd@arrl.net or 7731 Reecer Creek Road, 98926. Your input is appreciated.



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I am ask all the time what it takes to become a ham. I think hams get tired of giving out the same information over and over. We make the information shorter and shorter and that is unfair to someone that is excited and wants to become a ham. When we are asked about ham radio we should explain it with all the enthusiasm we had the first time we wanted to know how to become a ham. They are ready for all the info you can give them. As they study, they need someone to talk to and bounce ideas off of. You did the same thing to your elmer.

Amateur Radio (ham radio) has been around for more than 100 years. The United States government began licensing Amateur Radio operators in 1912. For many years the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) required anyone wanting a ham radio license to take the test before an FCC examiner.

Ham radio licenses are at an all-time high, with over 700,000 licenses in the United States, according to the Federal Communications Commission. Amateur Radio is a great hobby, you can communicate with fellow hams all over the world. There are many contests that you can participate in one of many is Worked All States. If you can communicate with a ham in each state and get a QSL (confirmed contact) from the station then you can send this to The American Radio Relay League and receive a certificate showing you have had contact with all 50 states. There are many more contest and activities that hams can participate in.

Some hams join a group (there are many) on the air, they have a time, date, and frequency to meet for an hour or so and chat. (called rag chew on ham). Sometimes the group will have an eyeball gathering with activities Many hams have a ham radio license so they can help their communities. Weather related emergencies such as tornados, hurricanes, flooding, lighting, can cause power failures and loss of communication. Hams have AC and DC operated gear, some have generators. The repeaters hams use have backup generators. When all other communications including phones and cell phones fail, ham radio can communicate.

Many astronauts are ham radio operators. Amateur Radio is used as a back up for the Space Station communicating with Houston, Cape Canaveral, and other needed locations. Their normal communications have failed more than once and they used ham radio. Part of their training is an optional Amateur Radio licensing class. Once licensed and in space, these astronauts can use Amateur Radio to communicate with people here on Earth. Hams with the proper equipment may be able to schedule a contact with the space station when it is passing over your location.

When a person is considering getting a ham license they usually ask how much is it going to cost. How much money do you have in your rat hole? You can spend on ham radio gear what you can afford. To help with the above mentioned emergencies a two meter hand-held transceiver can be very useful. This along with a Technician license will let you communicate locally, upgrading later to a higher license will allow you to communicate world wide. You can purchase a new one for anywhere from \$40 to \$400. The higher the price the more bells included. Used ham radio gear is available at ham fest, just be sure it is in working condition. A ham fest is a flea market for electronic gear. With a 5 watt hand-held the range of coverage depending on the terrain could be up to 15 – 20 air miles. By using one of repeaters your coverage could be up to 40 – 50 air miles.

There are now three classes of Amateur Radio License. The Technician license with all privileges above 50 MHz, limited CW, Phone, and Data privileges below 30 MHz. This is the starting license, after you get this you can upgrade to the General or Extra class license which will give you more operating privileges. The Technician license is on the Very High Frequency (VHF) bands. General class license has all the Technician privileges plus most amateur High Frequency (HF) bands. Amateur Extra class license has all amateur privileges. Small exclusive sub-bands are added on 80, 40, 20, and 15 meter bands.

Over the last several years many changes have been made by the FCC on acquiring a ham radio license. Sending and receiving Morse code at the testing session is no longer a requirement. You are no longer required to go before the FCC ham radio testers to take the test. Now three extra class licensed hams must be present for the testing. Test can now be administered by authorized local Volunteer ham radio Examiners. Amateur Radio (ham radio) has been around for more than 100 years. The United States government began licensing Amateur Radio operators in 1912. For many years the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) required anyone wanting a ham radio license to take the test before an FCC examiner.

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Howard WB7VKY (part II)

We moved to Washington State so I could attend Eastern Washington State College to get a Master's Degree in developmental psychology. I worked for the State of Washington as a psychologist at Rainier School, Buckley, Washington for five years. In that time, Gayle and I brought two children into this world, a son, David, and a daughter, Dana. An administrator job at Yakima Valley School in Selah brought us here in 1976. It was a few years later that I discovered a renewed interest in radio and the club W7AQ. I built my HW-101 and got my novice license while participating in the amateur club. Tom Plaisance (KC7PH) became a good friend, and I even held a club office while he performed as president.

Life happened--growing kids and a busy work career--my license lapsed and the Heathkit went into a box for storage. I took a job as a trainer in the welfare department of DSHS until retirement at the end of 1998. It was during this part of my career that I took on a weekend job at KXDD radio as a disk jockey. This improved my diction for teaching and gave me confidence at a microphone. Also, Gayle finished her education at Central Washington University and became a school counselor for the Ellensburg School District. She is now retired also. Since retirement, I worked as an office manager at the Yakima Valley Farmworkers Clinic and currently sub teach at two local school districts. Gayle also subs at three school districts. As many have experienced, retiring brings on a whole new set of issues, among which includes how to fill time appropriately while NOT working. Well, amateur radio reared its head again, so I contacted Tom. With his encouragement and some others in W7AQ, in 2015 I managed to obtain my technician license and a few months later my general! A little late in coming, but I must say the no-code feature of today's licenses allowed me to finally join the ranks of the folks on the air. My new 2-meter/440 rigs keep me in the game, but restoring my HW-101 back to operational status is my next real goal (along with a tower and a beam of course). W7AQ is a great bunch of folks; I feel right at home.

Howard Barnes, WB7VKY

Join us w7aq facebook & check out w7aq.com
<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/w7aq/info>



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MONTHLY AGENDAS 2015

January 13 – 2nd Wednesday

- *Address Hamfest Cards
- *Send out Hamfest Cards

January 27 – 4th Wednesday

- *Club Social Dinner

February 10 – 2nd Wednesday

- *Hamfest Report

February 24 – 4th Wednesday

- *Club Social Dinner

March 9 – 2nd Wednesday

- *Hamfest Program
- *Hamfest Sign up Sheet for Jobs

March 23 – 4th Wednesday

- *Club Social Dinner

March 30 – 5th Wednesday

- *Board Meeting

April 9 – 2nd Saturday

- *Hamfest

April 13 – 2nd Wednesday

- *Club Meeting

April 27 – 4th Wednesday

- *Club Social Dinner

May 11 – 2nd Wednesday

- *Hamfest Report

May 25 – 4th Wednesday

- *Club Social Dinner

May 28 Ham in the Park

- *West Valley and Picnic

June 8 – 2nd Wednesday

- *Plan Field Day

June 22 – 4th Wednesday

- *Club Social Dinner

June 25 & 26- Last Weekend

- *Field Day

June 29 – 5th Wednesday

- *Board Meeting

July 13 – 2nd Wednesday

- *Plan Picnic

July 27 – 4th Wednesday

- *Club Social Dinner

August 10 – 2nd Wednesday

- *Picnic

August 24 – 4th Wednesday

- *Club Social Dinner

August 31 – 5th Wednesday

- *Board Meeting

Sept 14 – 2nd Wednesday

- *Hamfest Card /Hamfest Flyer

- *Hamfest Prizes

Sept 28 – 4th Wednesday

- *Club Social Dinner

October 12 – 2nd Wednesday

- *Hamfest /Card/Flyer/Prizes Update
- *Officer & Board Nominations
- *Plan Christmas Potluck

October 26 – 4th Wednesday

- *Club Social Dinner

November 9 – 2nd Wednesday

- *Officer & Board Nominations

- *Election

- *Finalize Christmas Potluck

November 23 – 4th Wednesday

- *Club Social Dinner

November 30 – 5th Wednesday

- *Board Meeting

December 14 – 2nd Wednesday

- *Christmas Potluck

December 28 – 4th Wednesday

- *No Club Social Dinner

VE Testings

VE testing schedule for 2016, for the W7AQ YARC

| | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| January 23rd | American Red Cross | 302 S. 2nd St., Yakima, WA 98901 | (Testing starts at 10 AM) |
| March 19th | American Red Cross | 302 S. 2nd St., Yakima, WA 98901 | (Testing starts at 10 AM) |
| April 9th | W7AQ Ham Fest | Selah Civic Center, Selah, WA 98942 | (Testing starts at 12 Noon) |
| July 23rd | American Red Cross | 302 S. 2nd St., Yakima, WA 98901 | (Testing starts at 10 AM) |
| September 17th | American Red Cross | 302 S. 2nd St., Yakima, WA 98901 | (Testing starts at 10 AM) |
| November 19th | American Red Cross | 302 S. 2nd St., Yakima, WA 989011 | (Testing starts at 10 AM) |

Mark Delagasse, N6HYF

VE Liaison for the W7AQ, Yakima Amateur Radio Club, VE program

YAKIMA VALLEY REPEATER FREQUENCIES

146.66 (123) W7AQ Yakima Ridge
 147.300 (123) W7AQ Bethel Ridge
 146.840 (123) W7AQ Elephant Mnt
 445.875 (103.5) IRLP Node 3674 / Echolink WB7WAM-L

147.040 (123) Cherry Hill
 146.720 (123) White Swan

146.94 (173.8) Ahtanum Ridge
 146.90 (173.8) Mission Ridge

147.080 (123) Trout Lake (King Mtn)
 444.600 (131.8) Lookout Point
 146.860 (123) SAR, Darland Mtn
 145.270 (123) SAR, Quartz Mountain
 442.725 (127.23) Cowiche, Echolink
 444.225 (123) Tieton

442.475 (123) Divide Ridge (Link to 145.411 in Tri Cities)
 147.200 (156.7) Moxee, Spokane Repeater Group

We will add any repeaters, nodes or what ever, just let us know what you would like on this list.

2015 Officers

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------|--------|
| President | Robert Rutherford | WB7WAM |
| Vice-President | Bob Dameron | KE7HLK |
| Secretary | Betsy Becker | KG7SMB |
| Treasurer | Dave O Hansen | W7ICW |
| Past President | Joe Ackermann | KK7KI |
| Trustee | Andy Thomson | W7CXA |

Board of Directors

Board Members 2014 - 2015

| | |
|--------------|--------|
| Evan Wolfe | KG7ODK |
| Randy Becker | KG7PFW |

Board Members 2015 - 2016

| | |
|--------------|-------|
| Stu Siebel | K0QKM |
| Keith Bowman | N7TRN |