

Clallam County Amateur Radio Club



Volume 25 Issue 1

January 2025

Happy New Year!!!



# Clallam County Amateur Radio Club



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## President's Corner

This is my first President's Corner, so I wanted to give the club membership an idea of my priorities for the coming year. I became involved in club operations last October when Sheldon asked for someone to help out with public relations. I have to admit I was surprised when he asked me to run for club president, but I agreed and here I am.

My priorities for the club are very similar to Sheldon's: increase the visibility and recognition of club activities and ham radio in general on the Olympic Peninsula, and stabilize and improve club finances. These are closely related objectives. Without more visibility, it will be difficult to attract new revenue sources such as donations.

One topic for discussion is whether to revive the club's 501C3 status. The club had 501C3 status many years ago, but lost it due to not meeting the reporting requirements. Becoming a 501C3 again would allow us to accept tax-deductible contributions from local businesses and organizations. The Kitsap County club currently does this very successfully, and I have had discussions with their president about how to make it happen for us.

I am sure that many of you also have ideas about the direction you would like the club to take. I plan to ask for discussion at the next membership meeting on January 8. Please come with your ideas and I will see you there.

John DeVries  
KK7PJL

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CCARC Hybrid Meeting Jan 8th  
1900L. Meetings are held at The  
First United Methodist Church So-  
cial Hall at 7<sup>th</sup> and Laurel in Port  
Angeles. Enter via the covered  
walkway on Laurel.



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### CLALLAM COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEMBERSHIP MEETING December 11, 2024

First United Methodist Church & Simultaneous Via Zoom  
Called to order 1903 by President Sheldon N7XEI

#### Members Present:

Officers/Trustees:, President: Sheldon Koehler N7XEI, Vice President Lee Bond N7KC,  
Secretary/Treasurer Jeramey Johnson, KF7PMC, Bob Sampson K6MBY, Mike Barnes N7WPO,

Absent: Thomas Clark N7DWU

Attendance Roster Attached.

Previous Meeting Minutes as published motion to approve by Lee and second by Chris Icide;  
approved unanimously.

#### REPORTS

Secretary/Treasurer: Balance Checking \$5,171.26, Savings \$16,091.21, (CD's  
\$3,275.53)

COB Report: No New News  
Chairman Tom:

President: Various Reports and Discussions on planning for next year.

Tech Team: Chuck WA7EBH - All working currently. Striped Peak generator not functioning  
properly, but this is DNR/big lessor site issue.

Ed & Training: None

Net (Lee): Lee: Thursdays 7PM about 40 regulars, In&Out at start  
Always looking for net operators.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Elections: President: John Devries, KK7PJL  
Vice President: Sheldon Koehler, N7XEI  
Secretary/Treasurer: Jeramey Johnson, KF7PMC  
Board Member: Thomas Clark, N7DWU

Motion to cast unanimous ballot to elect slate of candidates as nominated  
motion by Bob Sampson, Second by Joyce Strocher N7JPW; passed  
unanimously.

Motion by Sheldon N7XEI, second by Bob Sampson to spend up to \$650 for  
postage to mail invite/greetings letters to licensed hams in Port Angeles,  
Sequim, Forks. Motion passed unanimously.  
(continued next page)

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Program: LoRa Radio (Long Range, Low Power) MeshTastic Data communications by Bill Peterson K7WWP, Part 1.

## UPCOMING:

Next Breakfast Priscilla's Dec. 14th 0800

Adjourn: Motion by Dick, Second by Matt Lawson, adjourned 1937 unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
KF7PMC - JJohnson  
Attendance Roster:

## Upcoming Events

Club meeting PA First United Methodist Church, January 8th 1900

Social Breakfast Mariners, Sequim, January 11th 0900

Mike & Key Swap Meet, March 8 2025

June 28-29, 2025 Field Day - Probably back to the Fairgrounds.

## Trivia

1. What do radio amateurs mean by a "silent key"?
2. Operating your radio "barefoot" means to operate it...?
3. Many US hams participate in a national program to help provide reports and warnings for storms and tornadoes. Not limited to ham operators, what is the name of this program?

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## Member Bio

John DeVries, KK7PJL

Newly elected club president John DeVries KK7PJL is a General class ham and has only been a member for one year. However, during that time he has been working closely with former president Sheldon Koehler as Public Relations Officer. John plans to continue to expand the clubs outreach activities and to increase public awareness of ham radio on the Olympic Peninsula. John is also a member of Clallam County ARES and of CERT for Fire District 3. He lives in Sequim and teaches computer programming and cloud computing course online.

DigiKey's online conversion calculators offer a one-stop resource for many electronics industry calculations. Whether you are identifying a 4 band resistor or trying to determine battery life, DigiKey can help you get the answers you need. Use DigiKey's calculators as a quick and easy-to-use resource and don't forget to bookmark the page for future use.

[https://www.digikey.com/en/resources/online-conversion-calculators?  
dclid=CJiq75DfnooDFVAE0AQdoRUQaQ](https://www.digikey.com/en/resources/online-conversion-calculators?dclid=CJiq75DfnooDFVAE0AQdoRUQaQ)

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## Answers to Trivia Questions

1. Answer: **a deceased radio amateur**

A "telegraph key" (or simply "key") is a device used to send Morse code. A key goes silent when its owner has passed on.

2. Answer: **Operating without and amplifier....**

Generally, barefoot operating means using 10 watts to 100 watts. An amplifier would typically boost that to approximately 1000W.

3. Answer: **Skywarn**

Since the early 1970s the Skywarn program has enabled volunteer storm spotters to communicate information to the National Weather Service about severe weather activity.

## MISCELANOUS

### Equipment For Sale

Icom 746 Pro, Power Supply and Speaker \$800

2 ea MFJ 259 SWR Meter(s)

1 Bird 43 Thruline SWR Meter

Bob Sampson, K6MBY 360-477-0776

## Raffle

A raffle will be held with \$1.00 tickets. Winner gets 50%. The Church gets a 50% donation for the use of the Social Hall. Hoping for at least a \$50 donation to the Church.

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## Officers and Board Members

President <a href="#">John DeVries KK7PJL</a>	Vice President <a href="#">Sheldon Koehler N7XEI</a>
Secretary <a href="#">Jeramey Johnson KF7PMC</a>	Treasurer <a href="#">Jeramey Johnson KF7PMC</a>
COB <a href="#">Mike Barnes N7WPO</a>	2nd Year <a href="#">Bob Sampson K6MBY</a>
3rd Year <a href="#">Thomas Clark N7DWU</a>	Trustee <a href="#">Chuck Stroehrer WA7EBH</a>

### Local Nets and Repeater Frequencies

CCARC Net every Thursday at 7:00 pm on Striped Peak Repeater 146.760 minus with tone 100 Hz.

Clallam ARES Net Tuesdays at 7:00 pm on Striped Peak Repeater 146.760 minus with tone 100 Hz.

Olympic Peninsula DMR Sunday afternoon 4:30 pm Talk Group 31531 on K6MBY DMR TS1, or KC7EQO DMR TS1 or your local hotspot.

WF7W - Port Angeles - 145.310 minus tone 100 Hz. .

KC7EQO - Dual Mode - Blyn Lookout 442.100 plus tone 100 Hz and DMR CC1 on Time Slot one and two.

K6MBY/W6MPD - 444.900 plus. K6MBY (Sequim) tone 131.8 Hz. W6MPD (PA) tone 102.7 Hz. W6MPD -

### New Or Returning Members

Darrel Ford, AJ7AF, Nov 24

Paul Lucus, WA5PL, Dec 24

Dan Levien, KN6AZZ, Nov 24



**Welcome!!**

Newsletter Editor... Long ago Chuck Jones (SK), N7BV, and I did the newsletter by alternating months. I ran with this months newsletter as the Board has not sought out a new Editor. If you would like the opportunity to give the editor position a try, give me a call or email. Bob Sampson 360-477-0776.

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## CCARC Standing Committees

**Field Day:** Vacant

**Health and Welfare:** [Lee Bond, N7KC](#)

**Membership Chair:** [Lee Bond, N7KC](#)

**Net Coordinator:** [Lee Bond, N7KC](#)

**Program Committee:** Vacant

**Public Relations:** [John DeVries, KK7PJL](#)

**Publications (Newsletter):** [Bob Sampson, K6MBY](#)

**Technical Committee Coordinator:** [Chuck Stroehner WA7EBH](#), [Doug Welcker WB4KGY](#), [Ed Bowen N7OZZ](#), [Bill Peterson K7WWP](#)

**VE Education and Training:** [Rick DeWitt AAORD](#) (ARES)

**Web Site Administrator:** [Bill Peterson K7WWP](#)



Christmas Party  
Dec 7, 2024

**“ THE CHECK- IN”**

**The timid soul sat quiet and still  
With great intent— Until –  
He heard his call and knew for sure  
He had to answer with signal pure.**

**For many nights he had listened  
Until the sweat just glistened.  
From his brow, and from his hands  
For he had heard from many lands.**

**The net, however, was always elusive,  
Whether it was there was never conclusive.  
But now he had heard—Heavenly stars,  
The marvelous sound of Navy Mars.**

**Those many days spent in the shack  
Awaiting the moment – Just setting back;  
Now would pay off and he could send  
His message - - Then to his family tend.**

**It was long since, wife he'd seen  
His boy now had reached a teen.  
By golly, now let them scoff;  
His perseverance had now paid off.  
Yes, it was his call, sure enough,  
The signal didn't even seem rough.  
Now came the part he dreamed about,  
He took the mike, and switch pulled out.**

**Let's see now, -- Who was Net Control?  
Gotta get it right and get on the roll.  
This was his chance for him to show  
What a signal's like. – He'll lay them low.**

**Message blanks before him, pencil in hand  
Oh, these many nights at his lonely stand.  
Those other members may have believed  
They'd lost me; Bet they'll be relieved.  
Net concluded; to the house to go  
With happy smile and face aglow.  
For he was on the air—With NO—too,  
And they even heard his Q.R.U.**

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## What is Echolink?

The major difference between IRLP and Echolink is that IRLP is radio only, Echolink has computer or phone based application to access the network and IRLP does not.

Both are Voice-Over-IP (VoIP) custom software and hardware. Coupled with the power of the Internet, both Echolink and IRLP will link your repeater site or simplex station to the world in a simple and cost effective way.

## What does Echolink do for CCARC members?

There are thousands of Echolink stations around the world. Some of them are repeaters, some are simplex base stations. Each has a 5-6 digit "phone number" dialable from your radio's DTMF key pad. By going to Echolink.org and, in the left column, look for and click on "current logins." You will find a list of "Repeaters," "Links," "Users," and "Conferences." For now stay in the first list or Repeaters and scroll down to W7FEL. You will see that 557235 is the node number for the system on Striped Peak attached to the Club's repeater. So, if you were on vacation in Rousillac, Trinidad, go to the Link Status page and look for the 9Y call prefix. You will find 9Y4JAG-R (a repeater rather than a link<sup>1</sup>) and the repeater frequency.

Key up your radio and announce you are going to make an Echolink call. DTMF in 557235 and soon you will hear the W7FEL Echolink announcement that you are linked in.

<sup>1</sup> a link is a simplex station, not a repeater.

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Western Washington Amateur Relay Association (WWARA) narrow-banding vote (12/07/2024)

All the proposals passed with a wide margin. This means narrowband is coming to a repeater near you. Be prepared to start updating your radio. The official results are below.

Proposal 1: No longer accept applications for new 2m coordinations that exceed 12.5kHz bandwidth, starting January 1, 2025.

Approve % 86

Decline % 14

Proposal 2: No longer accept applications for new 70cm coordinations that exceed 12.5kHz bandwidth, starting January 1, 2025.

Approve % 86

Decline % 14

Proposal 3: No longer accept renewals for existing 2m coordinations that exceed 12.5kHz bandwidth, starting January 1, 2030.

Approve % 79

Decline % 21

Proposal 4: No longer accept renewals for existing 70cm coordinations that exceed 12.5kHz bandwidth, starting January 1, 2030.

Approve % 76

Decline % 24

Thank you to Scott Honaker, N7SS, for supplying this data to us to share with the section members.

This decision by the WWARA Board of Directors is necessary to amateur radio in Western Washington to keep up with the demand for repeaters. Also remember the decision calls for 12.5 kHz Narrow Band Analog repeaters. As Scott mentioned

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earlier, "Be prepared to start updating your radio."

Additional information may be found on the WWARA website: <https://www.wwara.org/documents/narrowband-plan/>

Western Washington (WWA) Counties that border the Columbia River and the State of Oregon are coordinated by Oregon Region Relay Council (ORRC) who has not developed a narrow banding plan. Hams from Western Washington may find a similar Issue as they cross the Cascades into Eastern Washington (EWA). Further information has been requested from the Inland Amateur Coordination Council (IACC).

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Comment by Bob Sampson K6MBY

So what does this mean for the Clallam County Ham community.

1. As of Jan 1 2025, if you plan on putting up a new 2 meter or 70 cm repeater and want it coordinated with the WWARA, it will need to be narrow band.
2. If you have and existing 2 meter or 70 cm repeater that will need a new coordination after Jan 1, 2030, it will need to be narrow band. (The Striped repeaters existing coordination expires Oct 2028 and it will be renewed (wideband) for another 5 years or until Oct 2033. At that time, assuming the club wishes to continue with WWARA, the repeater would need to be narrow banded and all mobiles/ handheld radios using the repeater would need to be capable of narrow band operation.)

### It's Harder to Become a Ham Today Than 65 Years Ago

How many times have you heard an old-timer complain that it was harder to become a "real" ham back in the day? You know the type—the ones who roll their eyes at today's newcomers, convinced that the hobby used to be "legitimate" only if you worked harder for it. Well, I am here to say they have got it wrong. Becoming a ham today is much more difficult than it ever was 65 years ago.

I was licensed in 1956. Back then, the process was straightforward. You learned Morse code at a manageable pace (5 words per minute), studied a bit of basic electronics, understood the fundamental concepts of ham radio, and then you took a test. Weeks later, you were issued a Novice class license. But here is the kicker—even with that license in hand, I still didn't feel like I was a "real" ham. It was just the first step.

Fast forward to today. A prospective ham needs to memorize hundreds of questions, all of which have multiple answers, and pass a test to get their Technician license. That is right, hundreds of questions. And even after they have passed, they are still not really "in" yet. Sure, they have the license, but the real depth of the hobby? That is a whole other world they have only just begun to scratch.

Back in the 1950s, the biggest challenge was simply getting on the air. You could buy a transmitter, build a receiver, set up an antenna, and you were good to go. That was the essence of it—getting your equipment up and running and making those first contacts. The barrier to entry was not too high. If you were motivated, you could get there quickly. And that is what made it exciting—the simplicity of it. You got on the air and learned by doing. No complicated setups. No overwhelm. Just you, your radio, and the airwaves.

Today, it is a whole different ballgame. The moment a new ham gets licensed, they go out and buy a Baofeng or some other handheld radio, strap it to their belt, and look for a local ham club to join. They are hoping to find a group of people who will help them grow in the hobby. But too often, they are met with grumpy old-timers who look down on their inexpensive radios and treat them like they're not "real" hams. The old-timers, who had to figure out everything themselves back in the day, seem unwilling to offer help to newcomers. "Why should I help them?" they think. "I had to learn the hard way and did it on my own."

And so, the newcomer, feeling lost and intimidated, keeps their mouth shut, hoping to pick things up on their own. But instead of a welcoming atmosphere, they are faced with jargon and tech-heavy conversations (continued next page)

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that might as well be in a foreign language. Digital modes, CW nets, code plugs, ARES, Pactor, MARS, RACES, FT8, PL tones, nodes, remote control via the internet—on and on it goes. The complexity of the hobby has exploded, and the newcomer is expected to just know it all. It is enough to make anyone feel overwhelmed.

By the end of their first meeting, the newbie is likely to feel like they have just been hit by an avalanche of information. They came to explore a hobby they were excited about, but now they are questioning whether they can even keep up. The excitement they felt is quickly replaced with frustration, confusion, and a sense of being out of their depth. Many of them—disheartened and lost—walk away and never return to the hobby.

Here is the thing: it was easier to become a “real” ham decades ago because the path was simpler. There were fewer distractions, fewer options, and fewer hurdles. We learned things gradually, piece by piece, as technology and methods evolved. But today? Newcomers are bombarded with so much information, so many paths to follow, and so many things to figure out all at once. Instead of a gradual, step-by-step learning process, they are thrown into a whirlwind of confusion. The hobby feels less like an adventure and more like a mountain to climb.

I do not want to dismiss the progress that has been made in ham radio, or the new technologies that have come along. But the reality is that becoming a ham today is more than about passing a test, buying a radio, and learning to navigate a sea of confusing tech. It has, unfortunately, become less about mentorship, and more about self-directed learning. For many, it is just too much to handle.

The bottom line is this: becoming a ham today is not just about memorizing answers and getting your license. It is about finding a community that’s willing to help you, understanding an ever-growing landscape of new technology, and building your skills a little at a time. And for a lot of newcomers, that journey is just too overwhelming without help.

Ernie Rader

W5NH