

SEARC NEWSLETTER

Vol 1 issue 2



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July 18 Member Meeting Astoria Public Library 10th Street & Duane

The library opens at 10, so **the starting time of the meeting is 10:30**. The meeting will be hybrid in-person/zoom.

There will be a short(!) business meeting, and then Dave W7PDQ will give a presentation about "Listening on Reverse". **Bring your hand-held ham radio, even if you already know how to do this. We will finish with a net exercise to practice the skill!**

Coming Events

Membership Meeting	7/18
KMUN Block Party (CW demo!)	8/1
Technician License Prep Class	10/10,17,24
Testing Session	10/24
Radio Resource Class	11/14

NEWS from our neighbors: Washington Hams help local High Schoolers win Robotics Contests

Ron Wright (W7ERY) a retired teacher from Cathlamet WA, helped launch Robot Clubs at both the Wahkiakum and Naselle Schools, and the teams have consistently ranked high, winning at the nation level at least 3 years.

The top two high school students from Naselle competed in Atlanta in the Skills USA Robotics and Automation Technology category and won first place. Last year, they came in second so we knew they'd be strong competitors. Ron volunteers in Naselle one full school day each week; Elaine (AA7ER) helped in the after school robot club. Elaine helped the middle schoolers build and code their robot kits; Ron lead with the more robust builds and coding for the high schoolers. The very dedicated teacher at the Naselle school is Rudi Rudolph.

See the article at this link for more information:
<https://theeagle.news/2026/03/26/naselle-and-wahkiakum-compete-at-robotics-cup/>

Ron also set up the SeaPerch (submersible robots) program for both local schools, and either Naselle or Wahkiakum has been to nationals each year for several years. This year the Wahkiakum SeaPerch team competed in the national competitions in Washington DC, earning a first place and a world record time for the underwater robot obstacle course, and was one of only three teams to be able to complete an underwater operations competition in the allotted time.

More information in this article:
<https://theeagle.news/2026/06/04/wahkiakum-mecha-mules-set-new-world-record/>

Wahkiakum school also has a radio club that many of the adults help run; Ron and Gordon WA6TTR included.

Information supplied by Elaine AA7ER, Long Beach WA

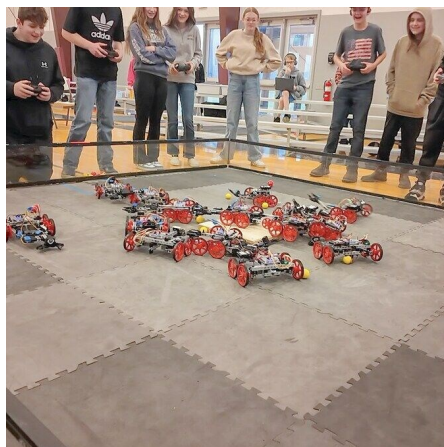


Image from
<https://theeagle.news/2026/03/26/naselle-and-wahkiakum-compete-at-robotics-cup/>

Ham Licenses in Clatsop County

Arch Cape / Cannon Beach	75
Astoria	345
Hamond / Warrenton	158
<u>Seaside / Gearhart</u>	<u>298</u>
TOTAL	876

(From the FCC license lookup, 6/15/26)

SEARC members as of 7/1/2026

Arch Cape / Cannon Beach	9	12%
Astoria	25	7%
Hamond / Warrenton	13	8%
Seaside / Gearhart	12	4%
Washington	11	
<u>Other</u>	<u>15</u>	
TOTAL	85	

NOTE: "Astoria" and "Seaside" are done by zip code, so they cover large areas to the east in the county.

KMUN Block Party (CW demo!)

On August 1 from 1—5 pm SEARC will have a booth at the KMUN Block Party.

Frank KF7NPC will bring his Morse Code key setup so that visitors can try their "fist" during the event. He does this successfully with non-ham visitors at the Light Ship Columbia. Come try it out if you don't do CW, or come show off your skills if you do!



Photo Credits: Pg. 1 top: John McKinney KK7HAB

Questions and comments on this newsletter ? See www.W7BU.club, or email webmaster@w7buams.club.

Field Day 2026 in Clatsop County

Light Ship Columbia

Joe N7BF and Frank KF7NPC had the Lightship Columbia radio room open for ARRL Field Day on Saturday 6/28 from 0930 to 1430 (PST) and Sunday 6/29 from 1000 to 1200 (PST). On Saturday we were joined by SEARC members Alex KG7RQJ and Kevin KK7RYM, each able to make contacts.

We made 25 contacts in 12 states (CA, ID, AK, NV, CO, WA, NC, MD (Nat'l Press Office), MO, TX, UT, OR), Alberta and British Columbia.

Morse Code keys were set up in the mess hall. More than 80 visitors tried their "fist" during the event. Several families sent messages to each other.

73 Frank KF7NPC

Clatsop AUXCOMM

Field Day 2026 in Clatsop County was a cooperative effort between AUXCOMM, Seaside Tsunami Amateur Radio Society, and SEARC.

The entire exercise – we called it “When Harry Met Sally on Field Day” -- was done on VHF and UHF simplex to give everyone an opportunity to use their radios and get firsthand insight about simplex.

Simplex is a very local thing. You can't reach very far; you can only communicate with other operators as long as they're in line-of-sight.

It's quite likely, in an emergency, that our reliance upon repeaters will be foiled by nature and, therefore, we have to have an alternative. We want to be able to use repeaters, but in planning for emergencies, it's folly to assume those repeaters will be working. So we all need point-to-point communication experience.

Our collective ability to assist local emergency responders depends, in part, on us practicing the how-to's of doing that.

For our Field Day exercise, we had three hams who volunteered to be monitors that we could advertise their availability and frequencies in advance. Contestants also were free to contact others using whatever frequency they wanted at whatever location they wanted.

No repeaters were allowed for contest points, but contestants were encouraged to use repeaters to call their results in to the EOC.

What went right? We had good participation with about two dozen individuals involved. At the EOC, we had eight volunteers who were listening in on repeaters so contestants could report their points. We also had one or more stations all day long that were calling CQ from the EOC for others to connect with.

Cindy, KF7CYH in Warrenton, was able to reach Ellen AA7EN in Long Beach. Mike, NA7Q was able to reach KF7CYH from Naselle. Monitor Pat, KE7RBM in Seaside, earned the most contest points.

What went wrong? We had only 10 days to organize the event. Next year will be better.

The next big AUXCOMM event is Hood-To-Coast in August, and we're encouraging everybody who wants to participate to join us.

D.B. Lewis KF7CYH, Clatsop AUXCOMM team leader

SEARC training and testing report

In April SEARC and STARS (Seaside Tsunami Amateur Radio Society) jointly conducted a three Saturday license preparation class for people interested in earning their Technician license. We had 13 people register, and by the end of the class we gained five new hams in Clatsop County, plus a sixth who tested a few weeks later!

Congratulations and ***Well Done*** to the new hams!

In May, 2 weeks after the end of the class, the two clubs jointly held the first Radio Resource class that we have offered since 2019. This class attracted a total of 27 people when we count both the participants and the instructors, most of whom were also participants. There was a lot of good information presented, there were a lot of acquaintances made or renewed, and there was a fun net exercise at the end calling in National Parks playing cards that had been scattered around the third floor of Towler Hall at Clatsop Community College in Astoria. In the post-event survey, one participant said, ***"I really liked the scavenger hunt and practicing the chaotic scenario that is likely if lots of unpracticed hams are trying to get on at the same time."*** We got a lot of good feedback from the event, both "thanks!" and suggestions for the future.

The two clubs will be offering the same two events in the fall at Clatsop Community College in Seaside. The dates are October 10, 17, 24 for the Technician class and November 14 for the Radio Resource class. Please spread the word about the class to anyone you know who is interested in getting their license, and plan yourself to come to the Radio Resource class. **The two posters are attached to this newsletter**, feel free to post them, email them, or otherwise get the word out!

There will also be a **testing session for all levels of ham license on October 24 at 4 pm** in Seaside, so if you are interested in upgrading, here is your chance!

Ham Activities Interest Survey

One of the many suggestions that we received after the class was the request for contacts to help new and current hams expand into the many varied aspects of the ham radio hobby. To accomplish this, we would like to put together a list of folks interested in the particular parts of the hobby. **Please go to [SEARC Member Interests \(w7buhams.club/searc-member-interests/\)](http://w7buhams.club/searc-member-interests/) and fill out the survey if you are interested in getting together with other members who share your ham related interests.**