



# the sPARC gap

Promote, advance, and have fun with amateur radio in our community



W7LT.org

2025 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter

It's already been a busy and exciting start to the year for the Portland Amateur Radio Club. From Winter Field Day to POTA, fox hunts to Go Boxes, it's clear that PARC members are getting on the air, learning new skills, and having a lot of fun doing it. I've enjoyed hearing many of you on the air, learning about your latest radio hobby project, and socializing before and after our monthly meetings. Thank you to those who shared the personal radio updates and pictures included in this quarter's newsletter.

If you're new to PARC—welcome! We're glad to have you aboard. There's always something happening, whether you're into CW, satellites, public service, digital modes, or just learning the ropes. And if you've been with us a while, thank you for helping to make this club the vibrant and supportive community it is.

I'd also like to encourage you to consider volunteering for a position on the board—we have a few slots we'd like to fill. One is treasurer and membership director (helping new and potential members with assistance and support). Our current treasurer Kathleen Kerns K7KER will help mentor you as needed. Thanks for considering this.

Here's to a great year of radio adventures, new friendships, and plenty of RF in the air. I'll see you at the next club meeting—or better yet, let's work each other on the bands!

73, Dan Presley, N7CQR  
President, Portland Amateur Radio Club

## Featured PARC Members

### PARC Member Profile: Dana Jones, K6BRR



If you ask Dana Jones, K6BRR, what amateur radio means to him, the answer comes quickly: emergency communications. For Dana, radio isn't just a hobby—it's a critical tool in service of public safety, personal challenge, and community support.

Dana has been a member of the Portland Amateur Radio Club since around 2011. At the time, he joined to support a neighbor who had just earned his license. Dana wanted to help him expand his ham network, and in doing so, deepened his own connection to the amateur radio community in Portland.

His journey with radio began in high school in Lafayette, California, surrounded by friends who were hams. Like many newcomers of that era, Morse code was a significant hurdle. Dana recalls studying by memorizing dits and dahs—an approach he later realized may not have been the most effective. The test would require a trip into San Francisco and time off work for his father. Life eventually pulled Dana away from radio for a time.

In the early 2000s, after moving back to the Lafayette area, Dana reconnected with old friends and the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club. With renewed focus, he passed the Morse code requirement and advanced to his Extra Class license. One night after a club meeting, a sheriff's deputy tapped him on the shoulder and asked if he'd consider volunteering. That tap on the shoulder led to years of public service work—first in event support, and later in search and rescue.

Today, Dana is a full-time member of the Packwood Search and Rescue Team (Lewis County, Washington) where he participates in operations as a “ground pounder.” Whether tracking lost hikers or assisting mushroom hunters reluctant to reveal their secret patches, Dana is ready to go—with a ham radio and a public safety radio on his vest, ensuring communication in even the most rugged terrain.

He's not just boots on the ground, though. Dana has invested in formal training too. He's completed numerous FEMA courses (<https://training.fema.gov/>), including IS-100, 200, 300, 700/701, and 800,



and has moved on to more advanced instruction in operations and logistics. Planning is next on his list—but at heart, Dana says, he'll always be a ground-pounder.

One of Dana's passions is BLOTA—BLM on the Air—a term he coined before POTA (Parks on the Air) and SOTA (Summits on the Air) were popular. He relishes the challenge of setting up portable stations in wild places, where rugged terrain, weather, and the occasional lack of amenities test both radio skill and resilience. His dog Riley is always by his side on these adventures—so long as Dana keeps one hand free to throw the ball. Logging might take a back seat, but the memories (and the contacts) are priceless.

A strong advocate for building skills and confidence, Dana frequently mentors new hams. He's known for lending out gear, offering stealth antenna tips for urban dwellers, and helping newcomers find groups that align with their interests, such as ARES. "It's amazing what you can do with a length of wire and a tuner," he says. His go-to antennas are inverted vees and loops—simple, effective, and field-tested.

Dana also encourages participation in traffic nets as a low-pressure way to get familiar with radio protocols and traffic handling. He's a regular voice on the nets, setting an example of consistency and preparedness. He suggests new hams try their hand at sending friendly messages—a birthday wish or a "get well soon"—to keep their skills sharp for times when seconds and syllables count.

Whether he's in the field with search and rescue, regularly participating in traffic and training nets, or helping the next generation of operators, Dana tries to demonstrate the spirit of amateur radio: service, learning, and a touch of adventure. Just don't forget the tennis ball for Riley.

### **PARC Member Profile: Gary Lippert, K7VBY**

Gary Lippert K7VBY got his start in the world of amateur radio over 60 years ago. His journey began in 1962 when he earned his first license after passing the code test on his third attempt at the Portland FCC office. From there, he advanced through the ranks, ultimately achieving Amateur Extra class. While he took a break from the hobby in the late '80s and '90s, retirement in 2004 allowed him to dive back into radio with renewed enthusiasm.

Today, Gary is an active member of the Willamette View (WV) Retirement Community Radio Club (club call W7WV). Gary moved to WV in 2022 and he plays a key role in maintaining the club's impressive radio station.

The WV radio room is well-equipped, with multiple stations covering HF, VHF, and UHF bands. Gary's primary HF setup features a Yaesu FT-710 transceiver connected to a SteppIR beam antenna covering 40 through 6 meters. Gary enjoys operating FT8 digital mode, regularly making contacts across the country, some DX, and chasing Parks on the Air (POTA) activations. He also participates in CW operations, making him the only Morse code operator of the WV club's fourteen members. W7WV's beam antenna currently has a rotator issue, but with its broad beamwidth, it continues to perform well.

On the VHF/UHF side, the station runs a Kenwood V71 dual-band transceiver connected to a 14-foot collinear vertical antenna. Gary actively participates in local nets, including a Slow Scan TV (SSTV) net on the 145.29 MHz Salem repeater on Wednesday nights, where operators share and discuss images transmitted over the air. He also serves as net control for the Tech Net every Thursday at 10 a.m. on the same repeater.

Beyond traditional radio operations, Gary has also taken an interest in Mesh networking. WV's setup includes three rooftop Mesh antennas, which cover 360 degrees, and four nodes, one of which connects to Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU). The club's Mesh system, running on the latest AREDN firmware and using a laptop with Linux Mint for the ethernet connection, enables VOIP phone calls and access to Mesh Chat for the Willamette Valley. Every Thursday night, Gary joins the Mesh radio net via the 145.29 repeater. Looking ahead, he hopes to add Winlink via RF to the radio room and replace three of the five backup batteries which are starting to show their age.

Gary's dedication extends beyond the radio waves—he has been a true ambassador for the WV club. He recently helped a fellow ham from Bellevue, Washington, decide on a retirement community by giving him a personal tour of WV's radio setup. That visit sealed the deal, and the W7WV welcomed a new member. With decades of experience, a passion for continuous improvement, and a commitment to keeping amateur radio thriving at Willamette View, his contributions ensure that amateur radio remains an integral part of his community.



## PARC REMOTE ACCESS FLEX 6600 HF RADIO

We are thrilled to announce that the club's new remote FLEX 6600 HF radio is now operational and available for use by all club members. This state-of-the-art SDR radio is accessed through the internet and SmartSDR applications on your Windows and Mac computers. It works great with iOS and Android apps.

The antenna is an 80-6 meter DX Commander vertical antenna, perfectly situated in a quiet RF environment, ensuring optimal performance for all your HF contacts. Whether you're into SSB, digital, or CW contacts, this FLEX 6600 HF radio is an excellent choice, providing clear and reliable communication.

The station is remotely managed with the Station Controller provided by George Zafiropoulos, ZKJ6VU. George generously included PARC in the beta test of the Station Controller which is giving us the ability to remotely power cycle, manage, and register the radio with Flex Radio.

To gain access to this great resource, please contact Ken, AI7LF at ai7lf@w7lt.org. He will provide you with the necessary instructions, username, and password to get on the air with this radio.



## PARC W7LT Winter Field Day – January 2025

Winter Field Day (WFD) is held annually as an Amateur Radio event to contact other Hams around the world and practice emergency remote operations. WFD is organized by the Winter Field Day Association (winterfieldday.org). The association strongly believes that

ham radio operators should practice portable emergency communications in winter environments. This is because freezing temperatures, snow, ice, and other hazards pose unique operational concerns. PARC participation was great fun and great practice for emergency field communications. We operated class 4M, that is 4 stations and Mobile.

The event was held at club member Ken AI7LF's QTH and we had 19 members and guests which helped setup, operate, rag chew, and break down the event. The radio stations were set up in box trucks for shelter and there was plenty of delicious food to keep our energy up. Special thanks go to Mori KK7JWQ and Hailey KN6NVO for preparing two different chili dishes for Saturday dinner and Sunday lunch.

We made a total of 304 contacts, 164 CW, 72 Phone, and 68 Digital. Sean KK7OVF made both FM and SSB satellite contacts. The award for most contacts goes to Kathleen, K7KER with 59 CW contacts. Runner up was Dave W7AQK with 56 CW contacts. Our antennas were two hex beams and two 40M vertical beams, setup at two locations across the road from each other.

This year's WFD included score multipliers for completing challenges, including operating on alternative power, operating away from home, deploying multiple antennas, making both FM and SSB/CW satellite

contacts, copying the WFD special bulletin, sending and receiving email via Winlink, operating on at least six different bands, using multiple modes (CW, phone, digital), operating QRP, and operating six continuous hours during the event. PARC completed all of the multiplier challenges other than copying the bulletin and operating away from home.

WFD participants for setup, operations, rag chewing and/or tear down were:

|                          |                         |                              |                       |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Nick Appelmans - KI7PTT  | Kathleen Kerns - K7KER  | Mori Fisk - KK7JWQ           | Tony Pinkham - KA7AHP |
| Sean Borgerson - KK7OVF  | Gary Miller - KK7PJM    | Ray Fogg - No call sign yet  | Raoul Sevier - W7RPS  |
| Elie Bulka - KK7HRY      | Ken Milnes - AI7LF      | Steve Granmo - KK7GFI        | Bob Grange – KK6WLU   |
| Hailey Clark - KN6NVO    | Michael Nadler - KI7QIB | Dan Holst - No call sign yet | Jim Toothaker – K8SAT |
| Denny Doolittle - WB7UFJ | Arvind Nayak - AJ7AY    | Dave Yarnes - W6AQK          |                       |

Continued on next page

Total Contacts by Band and Mode:

| Band  | CW  | Phone | Dig | Total | %   |
|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|
| 80    | 0   | 1     | 0   | 1     | 0   |
| 40    | 21  | 6     | 18  | 45    | 15  |
| 20    | 50  | 30    | 31  | 111   | 37  |
| 15    | 92  | 15    | 13  | 120   | 39  |
| 10    | 1   | 19    | 5   | 25    | 8   |
| 2     | 0   | 1     | 1   | 2     | 1   |
| Total | 164 | 72    | 68  | 304   | 100 |

Total Contacts by Country:

| Country | Total | %  |
|---------|-------|----|
| USA     | 294   | 97 |
| Canada  | 6     | 2  |
| Alaska  | 2     | 1  |
| Mexico  | 2     | 1  |

**Portland Area ARES & Emergency Training Nets**

**Oregon ARES District 1:** Daily 7:30 PM 147.32, 442.325, 444.400, 147.040 MHz repeaters <http://www.oregonaresd1.us/wp/>  
**Clackamas County ARES** Sundays at 7 PM 147.120 & 444.225 repeaters, Echo Link AC7QE-R <http://clackamasares.org/>  
**Washington County ARES** Tuesdays at 7 PM (except 3<sup>rd</sup> Tue) 145.450 MHz repeater <http://washcoares.org/>  
**Multnomah County ARES** Wednesdays at 7 PM 146.840 MHz repeater PM <https://multnomahares.org/>  
**Clark County ARES** Mondays at 7 PM 443.925 MHz repeater <https://www.ccareswa.org/calendar>  
**Portland Prepares Net Net** Sundays at 8:10 PM 147.040 MHz repeater <https://portlandprepares.org/net-resources/radio/ham-radio-2/practice-opportunities-2/net-net/>  
**Oregon Traffic and Training Net** Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat at 6:05 PM KJ7IY Timber Repeater 145.27 MHz <https://qsl.net/nttn/> (read website for back up repeater and simplex frequencies)

**Other Portland Area Nets of Interest**

**PARC Club Net** Tuesdays at 7:00 PM on 146.84 club repeater [w7lt.org](http://w7lt.org)  
**Linux User Net** every Monday 8:10PM-9:00PM 147.32, 442.325, 444.400, 147.040 MHz repeaters <http://kc7nyr.com/linux/>  
**The Outdoors Net** every Thursday 8:05PM-9:00PM 147.32, 442.325, 444.400, 147.040 MHz repeaters <https://theoutdoorsnet.net/>  
**HandiHam Net** Sundays at 7:00 PM on 146.84 club repeater  
**Oak Lodge Net** Mondays at 7:30pm on 147.18 club repeater  
**CW Practice Net** – Dan Presley N7CQR - Every Tuesday - 7 PM (local PST) on 28.160 and 8 PM on 3.550 KHz. Any speed or skill level is welcome!

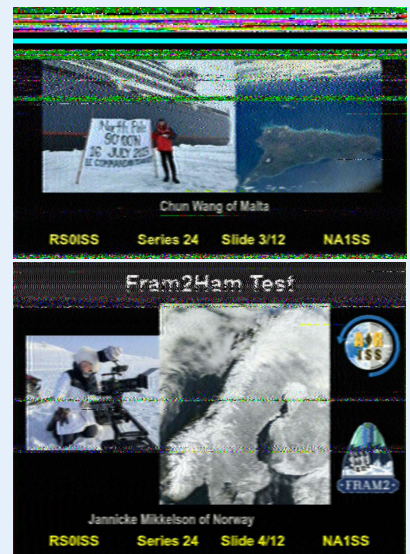
**Fram2Ham SSTV Simulation on International Space Station**

It must be 2025... A cryptocurrency entrepreneur, Chun Wang, is funding a private space mission on board a SpaceX Dragon capsule, called Fram2. It will be the first to focus on exploring Earth’s polar regions. The crew will be led by Wang, from Malta, and his team of astronaut-travelers will include Jannicke Mikkelsen from Norway, Eric Philips from Australia and Rabea Rogge from Germany. The targeted launch is scheduled for late spring or early summer 2025.

During the Fram2 mission Rabea Rogge, LB9NJ (Norway) and KD3AID (USA), will be operating the onboard amateur radio system sending SSTV images as part of a high school and university student competition. The images will be puzzle pieces of three geographical locations and student competitors will need capture the images and then determine what location on Earth they depict and what that location’s role in polar history was. The competition is open to members of educational institutions between ages 16-25 years and the prizes include QSL cards with space-flown Fram2 mission stickers. ~ See [F2.com](http://F2.com) for more information

The ARISS international team held an SSTV warm up event from February 13 (World Radio Day) to February 17, 2025, using a similar frequency and SSTV mode as FRAM2, to help student teams test their equipment and skills in advance of the actual mission. The International Space Station broadcasted a series of twelve images using a Kenwood TM-D710GA transmitter set to five watts and 437.550 MHz ~ See [ARISS.org](http://ARISS.org) for more information

**SSTV Captures**



PARC sent out an email communication to members on the morning of February 13<sup>th</sup> announcing the ARISS SSTV warm up event and included a guide to capturing SSTV images with an HT and a smartphone app. Members were asked to share captured images with the club and Ken AI7LF and Sean KK7OVF shared a sample of the images they captured.

### East County Fox Hunting with Denny

Denny Doolittle WB7UFJ has been busy organizing Fox Hunts for radio community. Radio direction finding, commonly known as a "fox hunt," is a fun and challenging amateur radio activity where participants use directional antennas and receivers to locate hidden transmitters, or "foxes." These events test a hunter's ability to interpret radio signals, navigate terrain, and think strategically—all while having a great time with fellow radio enthusiasts.

The East County Fox Hunt on January 18, 2025, brought together fourteen eager hunters, including four younger hams in training, for a morning of signal-chasing fun at Mt. Hood Community College. Organized by Denny, the event featured eight hidden transmitters scattered across the MHCC campus and surrounding areas. Some transmitters were easy to locate on foot, while others required a bit more effort and skill.

A unique aspect of this hunt was the option to hunt from a warm vehicle rather than having to track signals on foot in the chilly January weather. Participants could use mobile radios to zero in on the off-campus transmitters while staying comfortable. On-campus foxes presented different challenges, with one designated as "very easy" for beginners and another ranked as the "most difficult" for seasoned hunters.

All eight hidden transmitters were successfully located and retrieved by the end of the hunt. The weather cooperated, staying cool but dry—ideal conditions for an enjoyable morning of radio tracking. A highlight of the event was seeing the kids participate enthusiastically, a great sign for the future of amateur radio.

The March 15, 2025, fox hunt attracted fifteen hunters. Fortunately, the threatened rain held off until the hunt was complete, but the crisp winds kept everyone on the move.

For those new to fox hunting, Denny shared a key piece of wisdom:

*"Radio Direction Finding is an art, not a science. It requires skill. You may need to practice to acquire that skill."*

Whether you are an experienced hunter or a newcomer looking to develop your skills, these events are a fantastic way to sharpen your radio direction-finding abilities while enjoying the camaraderie of the amateur radio community.

Interested in learning more or joining the next hunt? The next event is scheduled for May 17, 2025. The hunt will start at 11am from the Fisheries Building on the north end of the Mt. Hood Community College campus. Reach out to Denny [wb7ufj@arrl.net](mailto:wb7ufj@arrl.net) to make sure you are on his fox hunt email list!

### Dits and Dahs – Updates from Members and Friends, Lightly Filtered

Ken AI7LF warns us that this is what happens when you try to erect a hexbeam on a 40' mast and don't have enough people to hold the guy lines.



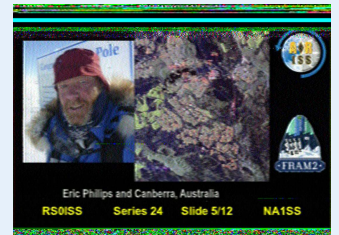
Dan KK7VYJ shares - finally made my first HF contacts on Sunday (3/23/25). Noise level was too high at the house. I tried a half dozen deployments of my Packtenna but no joy. I tried on Saturday in park and while I could hear the whole country, no one could hear me at 100 watts. On Sunday I tried a new location (Browns Camp) but also tried having the feedpoint at the top of a "pole" (a long branch). Got 4 contacts after an hour of trying. Still have a lot to learn about antenna placement. Will be at the Elmer session in April.



Steve KK7GFI made his first two successful FM satellite QSOs on Winter Field Day via the ISS with KJ7COA and W0NT

Lauren KK7PBA obtained her General class license and is now active on HF

### SSTV Captures (cont'd)



**Dits and Dahs - continued**

Etienne K7ATN tossed his EFHW antenna wire over the side of Beacon Rock while activating SOTA. The last twenty feet or so ended up wadded up on a tree branch – this ‘deployment’ produced the best SWR he has experienced on 20m and 10m for this location and the activation was on!

Sean KK7OVF, after chasing FM satellites for a year, is now also chasing SSB satellites with new gear and working to complete *Worked All States - SAT*

Raoul W7RPS is using node-RED integration tools to enhance the Ham experience by getting radio-related data and presenting it in dashboards. Areas include propagation and space-weather analysis, Flex radio status, radio astronomy, and others.

**Welcome to Our New Members!**

|           |             |         |             |           |             |
|-----------|-------------|---------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| Gregory   | K6GAB       | Kay     | K6KJN       | Joe       | W7COM       |
| Scott     | No Call Yet | William | K17EJG      | Catherine | KK7WHZ      |
| Jamie     | KW7WP       | Paul    | KE7OLU      | Ken       | K7BXI       |
| Uni       | KI7BXT      | Benton  | NX7O        | Richard   | KJ7JKR      |
| Michael   | KF6YAL      | Nevton  | N2CPP       | John      | No Call Yet |
| & Bridget |             | Thane   | No Call Yet |           |             |

We’re excited to welcome all our new members to the Portland Amateur Radio Club! Whether you are brand new to the hobby or a seasoned operator, we’re glad to have you with us.

Zoom is great for staying connected, but nothing beats sharing stories and slices

in-person at our monthly meetings—yes, there’s pizza! Baked goods are also welcome. Come early for the Elmer Help Session before the meeting. It’s a great chance to ask questions, get advice, or share your own experience with others.

Be sure to check out the club calendar at the end of this newsletter for upcoming activities like Parks on the Air (POTA), foxhunts, public service events, and the always-popular Summer Field Day. There’s something for everyone, and it’s a great way to learn, operate, and have fun with fellow hams.

Welcome aboard - 73!

**January Club Meeting - Satellite Savvy: Successfully Working with Radio Satellites**

PARC member, Sean KK7OVF, delivered an engaging session diving into the world of amateur radio satellite communication. The primary focus was on the essential tools and techniques for making successful voice contacts via satellite transponders. Additionally, Sean touched on working with weather satellites, capturing Slow Scan Television (SSTV) broadcasts, and utilizing Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS) with satellites.

We learned about the currently active and upcoming FM satellites and how to track them, satellite footprints, adjusting for doppler, using directional antennas, the Maidenhead locator system, making a QSO, logging, AMSAT satellite status contributions, and applying for ARRL and AMSAT awards. Sean noted that the ISS and its repeater are being retired in 2030 and we should let this be our ‘call to action’ to get out there and make a satellite QSO via ISS while we still can. A full copy of the presentation is available on the PARC website ([https://w7lt.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/SatelliteSavvy\\_KK7OVF\\_PARC2025.pdf](https://w7lt.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/SatelliteSavvy_KK7OVF_PARC2025.pdf)).

**February Club Meeting - Go Box: Build and Operation Demonstrations**

Club members and others were asked to demonstrate what they have built for remote operating (e.g., POTA/SOTA) and emergency “Go Boxes.” By packaging radios and batteries in cases and backpacks, ham operators can quickly deploy a remote station and be assured that all of the essential equipment is available. After the demonstrations, folks who attended in person were able to inspect all the builds and ask questions. It was great to see what our friends have put together. A big thank to you everyone for contributing to this wonderful show-n-tell: In order of the pictures below Jurgen N5MBI, Raoul W7RPS, Andrew N7UL with David KK7VKR, Greg K7AGL, Mori KK7JWQ, Steve AE7NW, Arvind AJ7AY, Max K7MAX, David K7DHZ (not pictured).



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### March Club Meeting – Digital Library of Amateur Radio and Communications

At our March meeting, we were pleased to welcome Kay Savetz (K6KJN), who recently joined PARC and brought with him a fascinating presentation on the Digital Library of Amateur Radio and Communications (DLARC).

DLARC is an ambitious project to document and preserve the rich history of amateur radio and early communications. Funded by a generous grant from Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC), this freely accessible online library offers a vast array of resources for radio enthusiasts, researchers, educators, and the general public.

Kay shared that the DLARC collection includes everything from archived and digitized print materials to born-digital content, websites, podcasts, magazines, newsletters, videos, and more. The goal? To ensure the legacy of amateur radio is not only preserved but also made openly available for future generations to explore and learn from. All of the audio has been transcribed and is fully searchable.

With great enthusiasm, Kay described his own hands-on efforts in building the collection—traveling across the country, digging through forgotten boxes, converting aging cassette tapes to digital files, and recovering rare audio from long-past DXpeditions. He also brought the archive to life through stories of the people behind the materials—the hams, tinkerers, and communicators whose contributions now live on in this remarkable resource.

If you haven't yet explored the DLARC, it's well worth a visit. You never know what treasures you might uncover—or what part of radio history you might help preserve. Check it out at <https://archive.org/details/dlarc>

**Just some of the material available in the DLARC library**

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <p><u>Magazines</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>73 Amateur Radio Today</li> <li>Coop's Satellite Digest</li> <li>DXing Horizons</li> <li>Florida Skip</li> <li>Mobile Radio Technology</li> <li>Monitoring Times</li> <li>NZART Break-In</li> <li>Radio &amp; Television News</li> <li>Radio Craft</li> <li>RTTY Journal</li> <li>Telegraphic Journal and Electrical Review</li> <li>VHF Communications</li> </ul> | <p><u>Conference Archives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comm Academy</li> <li>Computer Networking Conf.</li> <li>Digital Communications Conf.</li> <li>FOSDEM radio presentations</li> <li>GRCon GNU Radio Conference</li> <li>HamSCI</li> <li>International EME Conference</li> <li>MicroHams Digital Conference</li> <li>Pacificon</li> <li>QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo</li> <li>Software Defined Radio Academy</li> <li>...and more</li> </ul> | <p><u>Audio</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amateur Radio Newslite</li> <li>California Historical Radio Society News</li> <li>Glenn Hauser's World of Radio</li> <li>International Radio Report</li> <li>National Radio Club DX Audio Service</li> <li>RAIN Report</li> <li><b>Plus</b></li> <li>Historical callbooks</li> <li>40,000+ newsletters</li> <li>Radio catalogs</li> <li>College radio archives</li> <li>Early Internet ham radio discussions</li> <li>Robert B. Cooper's personal archives</li> </ul> |
|---|---|--|

**Featured Story - Oregon Coast POTA Rove, Dan Presley N7CQR**

Last December (2024) I was planning a trip with friends to Tucson, AZ while my wife was traveling abroad. I enjoy the opportunity to go somewhere warm during the winter if possible. Alas, the trip fell apart, and I decided to take the opportunity to spend a week traveling on the Oregon coast and activating as many parks as possible. My plan was to start on the central coast around Newport and travel as far south as time permitted. Sometimes we get a nice stretch of warmer weather in this region in December and January. The coast is blessed with many small and medium sized state parks, and many are oceanside, so I would have plenty of options for daily activities within a relatively short distance from where I would be staying. I picked four towns to stay at as I drove south-Yachats, Coos Bay, Bandon and returning north to Newport. I compiled a list of about 25 potential POTA sites between Newport and Bandon on the southern end of my route. Obviously, I wouldn't be likely to activate all of these for various reasons such as temporary closures, weather conditions (especially as related to exposure to rain or wind -very common on the coast), access to a good area to set up or other unforeseen circumstances. And there's always variable propagation to deal with. Here on the west coast, we just don't have the population density and thus less active hams than the rest of the country. My goal was to activate 3 parks per day. Sometimes it was a very short distance to do this, but often I had to drive a fair amount to get some of the more remote locations.



1 - Coquille River lighthouse



2 - POTA US-2581 Shore Acres State Park

The other challenge was planning what gear to bring as I might be operating in a couple of different conditions depending on the weather. Ideally, I wanted to set up outdoors when possible, but realistically I had to have a plan for also operating in my car. And since I'm a dedicated portable CW/QRP op I don't have any permanent radios or antennas mounted in my car. My two main portable radios are my KX2 and KH1 which are small enough to use in the car without taking up a lot of space. For an antenna I had a Diamond K400 door/hatch mount that I mounted on the rear hatch of my Kia Sorento, and I had a telescoping whip that would extend to a quarter wavelength on 20 and could be adjusted for 17, 15 at 10M depending on which band I was using. I had to get an adapter (McMaster Carr hardware) from the 3/8x24 thread of the mount to the M10 metric thread of the whip. The tuner in the radios would make up any mismatch. I ran RG 316 to the front seat and attached a couple of 13' counterpoises to the antenna mount for good measure. The mount was grounded to the car body through the mounting bracket as well. I almost always got a very good match, so SWR wasn't a problem, especially since I only ran 5W.

For outdoor operation I had the KH1 with the whip: the KX2 with the AX1/AEX1, my Chelegance MC-750 vertical, and my K6ARK end fed random wire with the 9:1 balun built into the BNC connector.

Here particularly in western and coastal Oregon we have an abundance of trees but they're often Douglas Fir with very thick foliage that makes it tricky to toss a line into a tree. Especially at the coast it's often quite steep and rocky, such that you don't have a long stretch of level ground to toss and retrieve a line. Or if it's an open wayside there might not be any trees close by to use. Options are always a good idea.

When I had to activate from my car, I found that using the KH1 was easier than wrestling with the KX2 on my lap or the console especially for CW. I could hold it in my hand and log using the tray with the little log sheets. However, I know there's some good solutions to using trays or shelves that mount in the vehicle for larger radios. Still, most of my operating is outdoors whenever possible.

As expected sometimes I'd arrive at a park, and I encountered situations that made it difficult to activate. And in a couple of cases the parks (actually more like small waysides off the highway-usually on the coastal side) were closed due to maintenance issues or in a couple of cases flooding. One spot I really wanted to activate had a horrendous noise level that I never was able to pinpoint. My best guess was that the shelter/restroom structure had a problem with a power line or LED lighting. I've also noticed that some of the buildings in the larger parks have remote cameras and maybe other security sensors that might be using some sort of RF connection. Many of the facilities are pretty remote from any towns or communities. Some of the larger parks may have a campground host or monitor who is living in a trailer or camper to help manage the facility. If so, I usually try to check in with them and explain what I'm doing, and they're always really receptive. Some are familiar with ham radio and they often have CB rigs or FRS/GMRS to communicate with campers and truckers.



3 - Bullards Beach State Park & Coffee



I managed to activate 19 separate parks over 7 days and a number of ‘2 fers’ with being close to the Oregon Coast Trail. It meanders along some existing paths; sometimes the beach (see proper and sometimes through the parks or along the shoulder of Hwy 101. A couple of highlights included the activations at Bandon -the southernmost point I got to. I activated at two different parks at the mouth of the Coquille river-one on the south side and then a very large park (Bullards Beach State Park) on the north side of the river mouth. The contrast between the two locations couldn’t be more pronounced. On the south side the wind was blowing steadily at 30-35 MPH with really high seas. I managed to find a parking spot next to the shelter/restroom building that blocked the wind allowing



4 - Bandon State Recreation Area POTA US-9527

me to put up the antenna. The view of the storm was very impressive (see attached photo). After I completed that activation, I headed back around the river to the park on the north side. It’s a very large park with many different areas and facilities. I drove clear to the end where the original lighthouse is situated and walked around the area, but it was still very windy. I drove back to the center of the park, about 3 miles (I said it was big!) and felt a nice picnic shelter in a small meadow that was sheltered from the wind by a lake stand of trees. Perfect place to set up and enjoy lunch. The temperature was in the 60’s and within very little wind it was quite pleasant. The southern coast of Oregon can be very nice in the winter months between storms. I’m also an avid golfer and Bullards State Park borders on the southern edge of the world class Bandon Golf facility, which I’ve had the privilege to play numerous times. And I know firsthand it can be 65 and sunny and the next day 40 degrees with torrential rains and 30 MPH wind!

Fortunately for this activation the weather was great and I set up my KX2 and the Chelegance MC-750 vertical. I had cell phone reception and posted my spot on 20M, and my first two contacts were with Swedish hams, which was a long haul from Oregon to Sweden at 5W! After having a great experience at Bandon I headed north to finish the trip in Newport, where I stayed 2 nights and activated a number of spots around the area. I must give recognition to AL7KC, who worked me for all 19 activations. Thank you for your support!

And of course, I’d be remiss if I didn’t mention that I indulged myself in as much fresh seafood and local beer as possible in the towns I stayed in. Activation is hungry and thirsty work! Fresh crab, salmon, halibut, oysters, shrimp and clams are all readily available up and down the coast and are not to be missed. I had a great time, and I highly encourage you to make your way to the coast for some serious radio fun if the opportunity presents itself.

### PARC Repeater News - A Bit of W7LT Repeater History and General Information

PARC’s repeaters, operating under the call sign W7LT, have a long history of supporting public service and emergency communications. Below are several examples of more recent disasters, incidents, and events where the repeaters played an important role:

- Mt. St. Helens eruption (1980): Used extensively for scientific reporting before, during, and after the eruption. Thousands of hours of repeater time supported scientific investigations
- Metropolitan flooding (1996)
- Great Coastal Gale (2007): Caused widespread communications outages to several communities
  - Emergency message handling and 911 coordination for isolated coastal towns in WA and OR
  - Emergency message handling for the town of Vernonia (1996 and 2007)
- Remote-area helicopter evacuation (2005): Assisted in the rescue of an injured hiker

The repeaters have also been used for search and rescue operations of lost hikers and downed aircraft, during wildfires in Oregon and Washington, and communications for the Portland Marathon every year from 1975 to 2018.

The Larch Mountain repeater, located in Washington, is a high-level, wide-area open repeater operating on 146.84 MHz (no CTCSS tone required). With a site elevation of 3,480 feet, it’s often inaccessible by vehicle due to snow for three to six months each year. Despite these challenges, the repeater has been in continuous operation for 50 years (1975–2025) and has undergone multiple upgrades over time. - See inset picture of Pete W7PR working on the Larch Mtn repeater



PARC lost its long-standing Mount Scott site in late 2021 when Crawford Broadcasting ceased operations and sold radio station KKPZ AM. The Mt. Scott repeaters were off the air until 2023, when the club successfully negotiated a new 10-year lease at the top of Mt. Scott. Although the site currently lacks a tower, antennas are temporarily supported by 3-inch diameter masts approximately 25 feet high. The Repeater Committee is actively exploring the possibility of installing a permanent tower.

The Mt. Scott site, located in the greater Portland metropolitan area at 1,091 feet elevation, is accessible year-round. It hosts:

- A main repeater on 147.18 MHz with a 103.5 Hz tone, operating in both FM analog and C4FM digital modes
- A secondary FM analog repeater on 146.94 MHz with a 192.8 Hz tone. Unfortunately, this repeater is occasionally affected by RF mixing with a nearby digital station. The club is evaluating options to repurpose it.

PARC also operates a Winlink RMS gateway on 144.91 MHz, located at Mt. Scott. This station can operate using a TNC with the AX.25 protocol or equipment that supports VARA-FM. PARC has maintained a presence on 144.91 MHz for over 35 years—originally as a packet BBS and email system.

Additionally, an APRS digipeater is located on Mt. Scott to provide improved coverage within the metropolitan area.

Notably, PARC’s repeaters at both Larch Mountain and Mt. Scott are included in Oregon’s Tactical Interoperable Communications Field Operations Guide (TICFOG). See: *Enterprise Information Services – Tactical Interoperable Communications Field Operations Guide – State Interoperability Executive Council – State of Oregon* (<https://www.oregon.gov/eis/siec/pages/ticfog.aspx>).

For questions, contact Wayne, WA7NE at [wa7ne@w7lt.org](mailto:wa7ne@w7lt.org)

### New FM ‘Easy’ Radio Satellites Are in Orbit

The amateur radio satellite community is excited about the addition of nine new Tevel satellites and the new Hades-ICM satellite. They all launched successfully to low earth orbit on March 15, 2025, on SpaceX’s Falcon 9 rocket from the US Space Force Base in California. This new generation of Tevel satellites follows the success of the original Tevel series, which de-orbited in 2024. Developed by the Herzliya Science Center in Israel, these satellites are designed with a science focus to measure cosmic radiation in orbit and will also continue the legacy of providing excellent FM amateur radio capabilities.

The original Tevel satellites, launched in January 2022, were a collaborative effort involving eight schools across Israel. Each satellite carried an FM transponder, allowing amateur radio operators worldwide to communicate via these orbiting platforms. The new Tevel satellites are expected to build on this foundation, offering enhanced features and improved performance for the amateur radio community. The satellites are expected to remain operational for approximately three years.

Hades-ICM is a 1.5P PocketQube satellite, measuring 5 × 5 × 8 cm. Engineering and manufacturing support for this satellite was carried out with the help of private sector companies and universities, but AMSAT-EA is the operating organization. Maximum transmission power is 0.25W.

The FM repeaters will not be active until all the checks have been performed on the satellites in orbit. This can take several weeks after launch. The new Tevel satellites will all operate with an uplink of 145.970 MHz and downlink of 436.400 MHz. Hades-ICM will operate with an uplink of 145.875 MHz and downlink of 436.666 MHz.

The Hades-R satellite launched in January of this year. It is fully operational and has received the official designation SO-124 and Norad ID 62690. These designations can be used to locate this satellite in your favorite satellite tracking app or program. It has been a strong performer so far for FM operation with an uplink of 145.925 MHz and downlink of 436.885 MHz. A distance record for this satellite was submitted to AMSAT on March 18<sup>th</sup> by AL9D in Alaska and KE9AJ in Illinois for 4583km.

| Upcoming Club and Regional Calendar                            |   |
|--|---|
| PARC Club Net Tuesdays at 7:00 PM on 146.84 club repeater W7LT |   |
| Dates  | Event   |
| April 7  | Board Meeting   |
| April 12, 13   | Olympus Rally Race Support - <a href="https://www.olympusrally.com/volunteers">https://www.olympusrally.com/volunteers</a>      |
| April 14   | Club Meeting  |
| April 19   | PARC POTA Party and BBQ – L.L. Stub Stewart State Park  |
| May 3, 4   | 7th Call Area QSO Party – <a href="http://7qp.org">http://7qp.org</a>   |
| May 5  | Board Meeting   |
| May 10, 11   | Tillamook Burn Trail Run - Radio Communications & Support – <a href="https://w7lt.org/tillamook">https://w7lt.org/tillamook</a> |
| May 12   | Club Meeting  |

| Upcoming Club and Regional Calendar - continued |   |
|---|---|
| May 17  | East County Fox Hunt ( <i>see newsletter article for details</i> )  |
| May 30 - June 1                                 | Sea-Pac Ham Convention & ARRL NW Division Convention - Seaside, OR<br><a href="https://seapac.org">https://seapac.org</a> |
| May 31 – June 8                                 | PARC’s Portland Rose Festival special event station – call sign “W7R”   |
| June 2  | Board Meeting   |
| June 9  | Club Meeting  |
| June 14, 15                                     | ARRL June VHF Contest - <a href="https://www.arrl.org/june-vhf">https://www.arrl.org/june-vhf</a>                         |
| June 28, 29                                     | Field Day   |
| July 26, 27                                     | Hood Hundred race support – Mt. Hood Meadows area   |

## WORD SEARCH

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### Word List:

FIELD DAY  
 FOXHUNT  
 GOBOX  
 POTA  
 SATELLITE  
 SSTV  
 MESHNETWORK  
 WINLINK  
 PUBLICSERVICE  
 MOUNTSCOTT  
 LARCHMOUNTAIN  
 NEWPORT  
 BANDON  
 COOSBAY  
 YACHATS  
 OREGONCOAST  
 YAESU  
 KENWOOD  
 QRP  
 EFHW  
 ANTENNA  
 REPEATER  
 CALLSIGN  
 PROPAGATION

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this quarter’s newsletter – Dan N7CQR, Ken AI7LF, Wayne WA7NE, Pete W7PR, Denny WB7UFJ, Dan KK7VYJ, Steve KK7GFI, Lauren KK7PBA, Etienne K7ATN, Raoul W7RPS, Kathleen K7KER, and Sean KK7OVF. Thank you to Dana K6BRR and Gary K7VBY for sharing their stories with us.

Your PARC member articles and contributions are welcome and encouraged!