



Waved Newsletter

Inland Empire **VHF** Radio Amateurs, Inc.

Club Officers:

President:

Dave Carleton, K7DSR

Vice President:

Jerry Bosch, KG7RRG

Secretary:

Rick Nungester, WA6NDR

Treasurer:

Jake McCarty, N7GEG

Director (2019):

Karl Shoemaker, AK2O

Director (2020):

Harold Hepner, AD7QJ

Director (2021):

Jonas Hiner, K7RTA

Trustee: Harold Hepner,
AD7QJ

Technician:

Karl Shoemaker, AK2O

Webmaster:

Harold Hepner, AD7QJ

Net Manager:

Bob Peterson, KE7RAP

An **ARRL** affiliated club

Monthly Club Meetings

are held the 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Spokane Community College, the Lair, Building 6, Room 004. The meeting is in Room 004 which is downstairs; an elevator is available.

Club Net, Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., on the 146.880 repeater, tone of 123.0, minus, .6 offset. Please join us.

Our VHF Club Picnic Sizzled



Jerry Bosch (left) and Bob Peterson (right) at the picnic

Our Club Picnic in July was a great success! Jerry Bosch, KG7RRG, fired up the barbecue which sizzled with hamburgers and bratwurst in a shaded area of Mission Park. People brought salads, chips, cookies galore, and a Texas sheet cake (Thank you Julie Carleton, KD7JUL, for that chocolate cake treat!). A good time was had by all.

There will be no VHF Club meeting in August but we will resume meetings at SCC in September on the 12th.

Spokane Hamfest will be held on September 28th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at University High School which is located at 12420 East 32nd Avenue in the Spokane Valley. Admission for adults is \$5; ages 18 and under are free. There will be a fox hunt for adults with the prize of an *ARRL Antenna Book* as well as a fox hunt for children with the prize of an *ARRL Operator's Manual*.

There will be a raffle and doorprizes including a \$750 gift certificate at DX Engineering, a \$500 gift certificate at

DX Engineering, a \$250 gift certificate at DX Engineering, and a Raspberry Pi Kit. Have you purchased your raffle ticket yet?

In addition to swap and commercial tables of ham items, there will be demonstrations, displays, license exams, refreshments and food.

Seminars for Hamfest are scheduled to cover satellite work, using HF, emergency communications, MJF 269 Analyzers, ARRL, and ARES among others.

No VHF Club Meeting in August.

The next VHF Club Meeting will be September 12 at SCC

Spokane Hamfest will be September 28 at University High School

Antennas for Your Go Bag

Mel Ming, N7GCO, recently talked about personal and family emergency planning to the club. He told us how he organizes his modular emergency system.

Here we are focusing on what he said about antennas for his radios ... not only for use with his equipment, but also for the use of others. So, in his antenna bag he carries multiple antennas and adapters. He said, "We might be out and all of a sudden you lose your antenna." Because he carries multiple antennas, he could hook anyone up with any radio you could have, whether a Baofeng or Kenwood. It doesn't matter. So he keeps adapters for other people, too. But he makes sure all of his own adapters use the same connector. And he keeps additional connectors for other people. He said, "Again, if you are doing a public service event, and you are

out at a station and your partner all of a sudden loses his antenna, he probably don't have adapters. So the adapters are kept on the end of his Cabela's pack because he doesn't need them very often. In the top of his VHF/UHF radio bag there is a compartment where keeps a list of what is in the bag. He does this for all the bags. At the bottom of the list, he records what date they were revised. He always includes a revision date because, except to charge his batteries, he doesn't use the bag very often, so he tends to forget where things are.

Mel showed us the antennas in his pack. One was a flexible handheld antenna that he thinks is fantastic. He has checked it against about every antenna. But you can turn it into a knot and this is an extra for him. He keeps it in his pack, so if he were helping someone else out, it would be there. He

again encouraged people to use the same antenna jack for all their radios. Personally, he has everything converted to a BNC connection. Regarding the HT antenna, he said that generally speaking he thinks you are always better off to get dual band. Usually it's something like \$2 difference.



He also uses a Slim Jim. He said there are two or three major versions. One is a Fong or an N9 (see above). If you don't know anything about these, you can unroll them and then hang them in a tree. The higher you get it, the better: the more you hear. It has good gain (6 dB). Different antennas offer different gain. He said that if he was at a road rally, and others couldn't hear him very well on the HT antenna, then, he would step it up to a Slim Jim or an even stronger antenna.

After an ARES 2nd Saturday-workshop, Mel sent out information about **antennas he would recommend** as listed below.

VHF Club Recent Meetings

In May, Randy Wilkinson, W4LKS, made a presentation on Amateur Radio with a Raspberry Pi. Club members also elected officers for this year. In June, Mel Ming, N7GCO, spoke to us about Personal and Family Emergency Planning.

ARES-RACES

As an ARRL affiliated club, the VHF Club has an interest in the ARRL initiated Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) which can be called on by various government and non-government agencies to provide communication support during natural and man-made disasters. The local ARES group in Spokane is often called to assist in local events such as Bloomsday, various fun runs and

the Spokane Lilac Torchlight Parade.

This Spokane County emergency communications group, meets the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) Building on the north side of the Spokane County campus at 1121 W. Gardner Ave., Spokane, WA 99260 unless otherwise directed. For more information, see <https://www.spokares.org>.

Be sure to attend the September 19th general training meeting to learn more about being a member of this group and what the requirements are. Also learn more about the extended training opportunities offered on the second Saturday of each month and other exercises throughout the year to develop and practice emergency communications skills.

HANDHELD VHF/UHF ANTENNA

Super-elastic Signal Sticks
VHF/UHF handheld antennas
<https://signalstuff.com/>

These are the most **flexible** VHF/UHF handheld antennas I have ever seen. They are just about indestructible. They have a lifetime guarantee. They cost \$20 and come with a variety of connectors. This is also a great place to buy high quality antenna connector adapters. They are the best quality I have seen.

Continued on page 4

Calendar 2019

August

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 2 nd Sat
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Tech
18	19	20	21	22 ARES-RACES	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Tech
8	9	10	11	12 VHF	13	14 2 nd Sat
15	16	17	18	19 ARES-RACES	20	21 Swap
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Spokane Hamfest
29	30					

October

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 VHF	11	12 2 nd Sat
13	14	15	16	17 ARES-RACES	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 General
27	28	29	30	31		

Activities

August 8 — There will be **no VHF Club Meeting in August.**

September 12 — **VHF Club Meeting** at 6:30 p.m. and **board meeting** at 5:30 p.m. at SCC, LAIR, Room 004 in the basement.

August 10, September 14, October 12 — **ARES/RACES 2nd Saturdays** from 9 a.m. to noon at the DEM Building, 1121 W. Gardner Ave., Spokane, WA 99260.

September 21 — **1st Annual N7YRC Tailgate Swapmeet** from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Yakima Office of Emergency Management parking lot, 2403 S. 18th Street in Union Gap, WA. No entry fee or seller fees. Just come have a good time and sell, buy or trade Amateur Radio equipment. For more information, contact Rod Rath at kc7vqr@arrl.net 509/952-6077.

September 28 — **Spokane Hamfest** ARRL Washington State Convention, workshops, vendors, raffle, and license exam at University High School, 12420 East 32nd Ave.,

Spokane Valley, WA 99216. Use the east entrance. Adult fox hunt and children's fox hunt for prizes. No-host dinner at 5 p.m. at the Timber Creek Grill Buffet.

IEVHF/ARES-RACES Sponsored Classes, Tests

✓ **Technician classes and a general class** and **testing sessions** will be held by Jack Tiley, AD7FO, an ARRL TC, TS, and VE instructor, as follows:

Dates: **Separate technician classes** will be held on three different dates:

- August 17th,
- September 7th and
- November 16th;

A **general class** will be held on

- October 26th.

Place: **All classes** will be held at the DEM Building, 1121 W. Gardner Ave., Spokane WA 99260.

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The door may be locked during the class, so please be there by 8:00 a.m. There will be a 45 minute lunch break.

Testing: Testing will start at the end of the class (approximately 3:00 p.m.)

Cost: No cost for the class, but

there is a cost of \$15 if you wish to take the exam.

Registration: Registration is required! For registration info, send an e-mail to ad7fo@arrl.net with your name, e-mail address and phone number.

For more information about Jack's classes, visit his website at ad7fo.com.

Upcoming Amateur Radio

• Testing

Please contact Mary, AA7RT, at (509) 991-2192 or e-mail her at AA7RT@me.com for test information.

Also, e-mail Glen Day, K7CPO, at K7cpo@yahoo.com for information about testing via W5YI.

VHF Club Regularly Meets

The VHF Club regularly meets from September through June except in December on the **second Thursday** of each month at **6:30 PM** – in Room 004 in the basement of the SCC student lounge, the Lair (Building 6) on the Spokane Community College campus. The club holds a BBQ in July and recesses in August.



VHF Club Repeaters

The VHF Club owns and operates a number of Amateur Radio Repeaters and Digital Packet Radio systems within the Inland Empire and Spokane area. Its call sign is **WR7VHF**. The Club operates the following:

- the **147.34** repeater in downtown Spokane,
- **146.88** in Spokane,
- the **444.900** repeater in the Spokane Valley,
- the **145.09** packet/Winlink digipeater on Mt. Spokane,
- 145.010 packet node South at Krell Hill,

All PL tones for the Club's repeaters are the 123.0 Hz tone, including the Chewelah repeater.

VHF Club Net

The **Club Net** is on Wednesdays at 7:30 PM, on the 146.880 repeater, tone of 123.0.

VHF Club Membership

Membership applications and payment are available online at the club web site, www.vhfclub.org. The cost to join is \$15 per year for an individual or \$20 per year for a family at the same address. Contact Jake at treasurer@vhfclub.org if you need to know your current dues status. You can submit your payment online or give it to Treasurer Jake McCarty at a club meeting.

Do you have a membership question? Call Harold Hepner at 509/385-2719.



Inland Empire VHF Radio Amateurs, Inc.
2910 E 57th Ave., PMB 255
Spokane, WA 99223

Upbeats & Updates

Board meetings are open to all club members. On months they are held, board meetings begin at 5:30 p.m. at the same location as the general meeting. The board is currently scheduled to meet before our general meetings in September and November but changes may occur. Highlights of our board and club activity follow.

Elections were held in May with the following results:

President – Dave Carleton – K7DSR

Vice President – Jerry Bosch – KG7RRG

Treasurer – Jake McCarty – N7GEG

Secretary – Rick Nungester – WA6NDR

Director – Karl Shoemaker – AK2O

President Dave said the flyer is done for Hamfest and would go out to people. He said that for all intents and purposes, the Hamfest is pretty much ready to go. There are still a couple of open spots for presentations, but we are already up to eight or nine of them and hope to add a couple more. Now it's a matter of getting people signed up and getting additional prizes.

Jack Tiley, AD7FO, as ARRL Section Manager, said that Spokane Hamfest was now an ARRL sanctioned hamfest.

Treasurer Jake McCarty, N7GEG, gave the treasurer's report for April. We have \$3,505.18 in our checking account. We paid \$114.42 for renewal of our website domain. We received \$30 in dues. Altogether we have \$9,215.64 between our checking account and other accounts.

He said that we did get the VHF Club checking account and the Spokane Hamfest checking account switched over to Washington Trust Bank but that he has not yet closed the accounts at the credit union.

Dave talked about the performance of the 147.34 repeater

at Bloomsday. During the race it was extremely difficult to work with because there was very low reception at net control. Others more distant said they had no problem hearing what was being said. Karl said that his first guess is that it might be an antenna or feed line problem. They discussed the location of the repeater and what might be done to access it to troubleshoot and fix the problem.

Director and Technician Karl mentioned an antenna that still needs attention. He usually checks coverage once or twice a month.

Karl reported that the north stack is pretty much up but it will be another month before he and Jeremiah can get back up there and move things around since it has been a bit intermittent.

Karl said that he thought that the noise on .88 may be because the link is going back to the voter and he will work on it.

Antennas continued from page 2

ROLL-UP J-POLE VHF/UHF HANDHELD ANTENNAS

Slim Jim portable 2 meter by N9TAX
<http://www.2wayelectronix.com/Dual-band-2m-70cm-Slim-Jim-Antenna-with-16-or-10-rg-58-DU-AL-16.htm>

This is the one I used and showed today. It is rated for 100 watts and I have used it with 100 watts, no problem. The above web link gives all the specs. 6db of gain.

Edison Fong roll-up 2m/440 J-Pole

<https://edsantennas.weebly.com/>

This is another highly rated roll-up J-pole antenna. *DBJ-2 (ham) dual band roll up antenna kit* - (144-148 MHz and 440-450 MHz) Includes adapters for BNC, SMA and SMA - female. Also includes a 6 ft. extension cable. Maximum power input 50 watts. - \$30