



# Waved Newsletter

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

## Club Officers:

President:

Dave Carleton, K7DSR

Vice President:

Jerry Bosch, KG7RRG

Secretary:

Lynn Lambert, N7JVQ

Treasurer:

Jake McCarty, KI7QPJ

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 Meet-

**ings** are held the **2nd Thursday** of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Spokane Community College, the LAIR, Building 6, Room 004. Park in the P1 area; there are handicap spots near the LAIR. 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. Please join us.

## What's Up in This New Year?

**D**uring our meetings in November and January VHF Club folks first talked about topics they would like to see covered during the coming year, and then voted on the most important ones to be put on the schedule.

On February 14th, Jack Tiley will cover one of the topics in our general meeting -- doing a presentation on *The Amazing MFJ 269 Antenna Analyzer*. Learn all the things you can use your MFJ antenna analyzer for in addition to measuring antenna VSWR (voltage standing wave resistance) and impedance. If you have an MFJ 269 or a newer MFJ 259 antenna analyzer there are many additional measurements that can be made. These include frequency, distance to a cable fault, coaxial cable impedance, capacitance and inductance, and much more. This will be a slide presentation with demonstrations.

Other meeting dates throughout the year include March 14, April 11 when a committee will take recommendations for the elections which will be held at our May 9 meeting, June 13, September 12, October 10 and November 14. On July 11, we will have a picnic/barbecue at Mission Park on our normal meeting night. In December, there will be no meeting but we can join KBARA for a no-host luncheon usually held on the third Saturday of December.

One of the topics people expressed interest in was Winlink/RMS Express. President Dave Carleton said that the ARES-RACES group already often covers Winlink in its 2nd Saturday workshop from 9-12 noon at the DEM Building at 1121 W. Gardner Ave. In addition, Mike Uber and now Asa Laughton while Mike is recuperating, holds a Winlink Practice Session Monday nights at 7 p.m. on the ARES repeater except for the first Mon-

day of the month. They send information on Winlink, fill out forms and work through troubles with TNCs. Even if you just listen, you learn a lot. See the group's website at <https://spokares.org> for more information about their activities.

We discussed Field Day and talked about getting people out to available sites, such as KBARA, ARES in Liberty Lake, the DX Club, and KARS in Rathdrum. Information on Field Day will be available on those club websites.

We talked about scheduling topics such as Space comms with an HT, how to do HF and other modes of SSTV (slow scan television), Raspberry Pi, a meatier version of Dave's new ham class on how to operate a radio including an HF radio, remote operating by way of the web, as well as solar activity, off grid power generation, go boxes and go kits, SDR radios, Echolink/IRLP/All Star, and FT8.

The Spokane DX Club will have a couple of good presentations this year. See their website for details at [SDXA.org](http://SDXA.org). Bob Zavrel (W7SX) who wrote *Antenna Physics* will talk about *Antenna Modeling* and the most used program tool for amateurs, EZNEC, at their February 7th meeting at 7 p.m. at the North Spokane County Library above the Y. There will be a followup workshop on using the program February 9th at the Deer Park Library at 1 p.m. Sign up for the workshop at the DX club meeting.



**VHF Club Meeting  
February 14  
at SCC  
Jack Tiley  
Antenna Analyzers**

## Mike & Key Hamfest in Puyallup on March 9th, Others Follow



The Puyallup Hamfest is the largest in the Pacific Northwest. It takes place in early

March on the first or second Saturday. This year the **38th Amateur Radio Club Electronics Show and Swap Meet** will be held on Saturday, March 9th. It is sponsored by the Mike and Key (M&K) Amateur Radio Club.

The event occupies two floors of the The Pavilion Exhibition Hall at the Puyallup Fair and Events Center, 110 9th Avenue S.W., Puyallup, WA 98371. The hamfest is open to the general public from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Up to 3,000 hams and non-hams attend. Admission is \$10 (under 16, are free with an adult).

There are a few commercial vendors like Ham Radio Outlet, ICOM, and DC Power (a power pole vendor). Most of the 300 tables, however, are flea market tables with just about anything you could want related to ham radio or electronics. Jack Tiley says that this is a must see for all hams at least once, but he

also says to be careful. Once you go you may get hooked and go back every year. He should know. He has been attending since the early 1990s. For more information, go to <http://www.mikeandkey.org/flea.php>.

Other hamfests are on the horizon as well.

- The **Yakima Amateur Radio Club Hamfair** is scheduled for Saturday, April 13th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the State Fair Park, Modern Living Building, 1301 South Fair Avenue, Yakima, Washington 98901. Admission is \$7 (12 and under are free). For more information, go to <http://yakimaamateur-radioclub.com/hamfest-2019.pdf>.



- **SEA-PAC 2019 -- Solar Cycle 25 and the Year of the Tech** will include workshops May 31, 2019 and exhibits and seminars June 1-2, 2019 at the Seaside Convention Center, 415 First Avenue, Seaside Oregon 97138.

**Online registrations open February 15, 2019** at [www.seapac.org](http://www.seapac.org). Hotels offer special SEA-PAC rates and many fill up quickly, so book rooms early. To receive updates about the event, send an email request to [info@seapac.org](mailto:info@seapac.org).

Jeri Ellsworth, AI6TK will be the keynote speaker at the Saturday evening banquet and also at the Saturday YL lunch. The Saturday DX lunch presentation will be about the 2018 Norfolk Island DXpedition.

ARRL CEO Howard Michel, WB2ITX; Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R; and ARRL Northwest Division Director Mike Ritz, W7VO; and Vice-Director Mark Tharp, KB7HDX will be attending so this will be an opportunity to visit with them one on one.

- The **Spokane Tailgate Hamfest** will be held July 15th at St. Paschal Church at 2523 North Park Road in Spokane from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. To sell, just bring your goodies and pick a spot. There will be some tables available. There is no fee to sellers. For more information, contact Duane, KE7NUB at 509/435-7718.

### VHF Club Recent Meetings

In November and January, the group discussed potential meeting topics for the coming year.

In December, the group attended KBARA's Christmas luncheon at the Longhorn Barbecue in the Valley.

### ARES-RACES

As an ARRL affiliated club, the VHF Club has an interest in the ARRL initiated Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) which provides communication support during natural and manmade disasters as well as at local events. If you want to get involved with the Spokane County ARES-RACES group, it meets the **third Thursday** of the month at 7 p.m. at **GSEM** at the **DEM Building** on the north side of the Spokane

County campus at **1121 W. Gardner Ave.**, Spokane, WA 99260 unless otherwise directed.

ARES-RACES amateur radio operators help with such activities as St. Paddy's 5, Bloomsday and the Lilac Torchlight Parade in Spokane as well as the Eight Lakes bicycle race and Valleyfest. The group also provides training and exercises (Second Saturday, Fifth Saturday) for members to develop and practice their radio skills.

# Calendar 2019

## January

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

## February

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

## March

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

## Activities

**February 9, and March 9— ARES/RACES 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays** from 9 a.m. to noon at the DEM Building, 1121 W. Gardner Ave., Spokane, WA 99260 or as announced.

**February 14, March 14 — VHF Club Meetings** – at 6:30 p.m. at SCC, LAIR, Room 004 in the basement.

**March 9, Mike and Key Hamfest** in Puyallup, Washington. See <http://www.mikeandkey.org/index.php>.

## IEVHF/ARES-RACES

### Sponsored Classes, Tests

✓ A **technician class** and **testing** session will be held by Jack Tiley, AD7FO, an ARRL TC, TS, and VE instructor, as follows:

**Date:**

• February 23 - the class will be held at the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church at 2511 S. Pines Road, Spokane Valley, WA 99206.

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Testing:** Optional **technician, general and extra license** testing will start at the end of the class (approximately 3:30 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](mailto:ad7fo@arrl.net).

✓ **New Ham classes** will be held 3-4 weeks after the technician classes/exams by Dave Carleton on behalf of Greater Spokane Emergency Management. Classes will cover radio programming, nets, repeaters, and etiquette. Dates TBA.

✓ A **general class** and **testing** session will be held by Jack Tiley, AD7FO, an ARRL TC, TS, and VE instructor, as follows:

**Date:**

• March 23 - the class will be held at the DEM Building, 1121 W. Gardner Ave., Spokane WA 99260.

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Testing:** Optional **general and extra license** testing will start at the end of the class (approximately 3:30 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](mailto:ad7fo@arrl.net).

✓ An **extra class** and **testing** session will be held by Jack Tiley, AD7FO, an ARRL TC, TS, and VE instructor, as follows:

**Dates for this two session-class:**

• May 18, 25 - the class will be held at the DEM Building, 1121 W. Gardner Ave., Spokane WA 99260.

**Times:** 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the 18th; 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the 25th.

**Testing:** Testing will start at the end of the class (approximately 2 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](mailto:ad7fo@arrl.net).

For more information about Jack's classes, visit his website at [ad7fo.com](http://ad7fo.com).

## Upcoming Amateur Radio • Testing

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

Also, e-mail Glen Day, K7CPO, at [K7cpo@yahoo.com](mailto:K7cpo@yahoo.com) for information about testing via W5YI.





### 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 BBS and node North at 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 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. Park closest to the Lair in the northwest corner of the **P1 Parking Lot** using the entrance on Mission east of Greene. The club holds a BBQ in July and recesses in August.



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

## Upbeats & Updates

**B**oard meetings are open to all club members. On months they are held, board meetings occur at 5:30 p.m. at the same location as the general meeting. In 2019, the board will meet before our general meetings in April, May, June, September and November unless something comes up and we need to add a meeting. Highlights of our board and club activities follow.

Treasurer Jake McCarty, KI7QPJ, reported that at the end of the year our account had an \$8,981.39 total, including \$5,600 in CDs. We don't have any large expenses that we are anticipating at this time. We have done a couple of smaller repairs including TNCs.

We discussed membership renewal letters to active and inactive members at the November and January board meetings. Those will add to our income as well.

Jake said he is still working on getting information about moving the operating account from Horizon Credit Union to Washington Trust for reasons of convenience. The difficulty in completing banking tasks for Hamfest is one reason among others. Jake would continue to shop for the best CD rates when the current CDs mature.

Jake and Lynn are working with the new members to get them on the email list and let them know that they have been added with a quick note.

Secretary Lynn Lambert, N7JVQ, discussed the membership renewal letter emails. Some will receive letters by mail. We will call some. Jake said that he had added a link to to Paypal in the renewal letters themselves. People

can pay by check or by Paypal online. They should fill out the new membership form online, too. We will have a member information update form available online or at meetings.

President Dave Carleton, K7DSR, said that the north stack is still with Jeremiah and being worked on. It is still intermittent, sometimes working, sometimes not. The south stack was working when he checked it. The Valley UHF repeater seems to be okay.

Director Harold Hepner, AD7QJ, said that Yaesu had upgraded the software for the fusion unit and he will get this information to President Dave.

Meetings for Hamfest 2019 will begin next month. The initial seed money from our club of \$500 and \$200 for 3 radios to be donated as has been done for recent years was okayed by the board.

In November, Director and Technician Karl Shoemaker, AK2O, said he is looking at our packet equipment and the possibility of higher baud rates and higher technology. A discussion followed. Karl would like to hear from members what they would like to see.

**2019 Membership Dues** – Can be paid online at the club website using PayPal, or by mailing a check to the club (IEVHF Radio Amateurs Inc., 2910 E. 57th Ave., PMB 255, Spokane, WA 99223), or by giving payment to Jake McCarty KI7QPJ, at a club meeting. Yearly dues are \$15 per year for an individual or \$20 per year for a family at the same address. Contact Jake at [treasurer@vhfclub.org](mailto:treasurer@vhfclub.org) if you need to know your current dues status.

To receive monthly meeting announcements, send any e-mail address changes to Lynn Lambert, N7JVQ, at [secretary@vhfclub.org](mailto:secretary@vhfclub.org).