

May 2024

Radio Club of Redmond



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President's Message



The end of another month. We've had some nice warm spring days in April that get the juices flowing for antenna work. At least for me.

I want to first congratulate Brenda Galbraith, wife of Mark N7YD, on getting her technicians ham license, KK7STN. Congratulations to Brenda on that great achievement. I hope to see her operating the Digital and SSB stations this year at Field Day.

As you read this, folks entering the 7QP contest (<http://7qp.org/new/page.asp?content=start>) on May 4th will be making final preparations to make sure all parts of their ham stations are functioning properly and consistently. Propagation has been up and down the last few weeks so who knows what the rf gods will bring to the table on that Saturday morning. The function starts at 0600 PST and goes till midnight PST. We are down two people who have contributed to the overall club score in the past. That means we'll need as many people as possible to join in and add to the club collective score. Any score is greatly appreciated, no matter how large or small your contribution is. A lot of smaller scores can offset the absence of a larger score so take some time out and help N7KE.

I'm sure by now you've heard this past week about the upcoming closing of MFJ Manufacturing of Starkville, MS in mid May. I'd be interested in hearing people's experiences with the company, both good or bad. There are a lot of interesting perspectives if you read the messages on QRZ and other places.

Remember that there is a very nice hamfest in Stanwood, WA on the 11th of May. It's not huge but well worth the effort and relative short drive up to Stanwood, just south of Mount Vernon. I've pulled some nice things out of there in

past years. Just do a search for SCARC Hamfest for details. And by all means, **don't forget Mother's Day which is the next day, May 12th.**

We now are fully prepared to resume antenna installations. We've got the tennis ball launcher needed for the high wire placement so let us know if you are ready or want to start the process of figuring out what will or won't work in your particular situation.

Don't forget SeaPac regional convention being held in Seaside, OR the last weekend in May. Check online for details. By now many of the local hotels are booked but there are other closeby towns that may have rooms. Let your browser do the walking.

Cy Humphreys has been busy getting things arranged for ARRL Field Day the 22nd and 23rd of June. I'm sure he'll be updating much more frequently as time grows near but I know he's got a lot of bases covered already. Please sign up for volunteering, either setup or take down on Sunday as well as participating in the BBQ Saturday night. Also, if you'd like to operate any of the 3 stations, just let Cy know and we'll fix you up with a time slot or if you'd just like to observe, by all means just pull up a chair and watch how it's done. There is no better way to learn.

Best to all for the month of May.

73's John / K7RLD – club president

About RCR

Our Club

Our club meets each month and has a wide variety of Amateur Radio activities including but not limited to HF, VHF, UHF and Microwave operation, SDR, uWave and Kit building groups, active testers and DX Expedition operators and chasers. We share ideas and interests and most months we have a formal presentation/s of interest to the club membership. Our active Elmer Mentor program helps assist new and experienced amateurs expand their knowledge in a friendly and easy going atmosphere. We also have our own wire antenna installation/launcher equipment with experienced operators to help those installing or repairing damaged wire antennas.



Club Callsign

Our club call is N7KE and the trustee for the club license is Brien McCrea KE7WB. Please contact Brien (KE7WB@frontier.com) if you wish to schedule use of the club's callsign.

RCR on the Web

A new RCR website is currently in development and should be opened soon. Be on the lookout for a formal announcement of its opening.

Further information about the RCR and an opportunity to become a part of the RCR family can be found at <http://groups.io/g/RCR>.

Club Officers and Administration

President	John Morris	K7RLD
	k7rld@comcast.net	
Vice President	Howard Burns	W1HMB
	howard@iburns.com	
Secretary	John Petrich	W7FU
	W7FU@icloud.com	
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Director	Cy Humphreys	N7PV
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Programs	Paul Lemson	W9PL
	paul@lemson.com	
Newsletter	Alan Gordon	N7AKG
	n7akg@arrl.net	
Club Call Trustee	Brien McCrea	KE7WB
	Ke7wb@frontier.com	

From the editor

Wow, it is either feast or famine here at the RCR Newsletter desk, and this month was definitely feast!! Thanks! This issue is just packed to the brim with really good stuff. Enjoy!

Remember that Sea-Pac registration is now open (seapac.org). AND, I have been selected to be a presenter this year. My talk is "DX 101 – a DX Primer for the Casual Operator."

Thanks to all our contributors!!

Stay Safe.....73s!.....Alan N7AKG

RCR Calendar

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Notes
May 2024								
				1	2	3	4	Saturday May 4th @ 8:30AM – Informal RCR social get-together on Zoom (only). Chat about ham radio equipment and your recent operating activities with fellow club members. 7QP Contest-6AM to 12M . Popular HF contest activity. CW, Phone & Digital (no FT-8). Being in the 7th call area we become the called stations!
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Saturday May 11th 9AM TO 1PM -Stanwood-Camano Swapmeet in Stanwood, WA. A popular local ham gathering usually with many good bargains on used gear.
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Saturday May 18th @ 8:30AM – RCR monthly club meeting (Live and Zoom) @ LWSD Resource Center in Redmond. Presentation TBA. Initial discussions of upcoming Field Day plans.
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
June 2024	26	27	28	29	30	31		Friday May 31st thru Sunday June 2nd - SEA-PAC Hamfest in Seaside, OR. The major Pacific Northwest ham gathering and ARRL NW convention. Flea market, technical and operating presentations, and vendor displays. (Seapac.org)
							1	Saturday June 1st @ 8:30AM – Informal RCR social get-together on Zoom (only). Chat about ham radio equipment and your recent operating activities with fellow club members.
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Saturday June 15th @ 8:30AM – RCR monthly club meeting (Live and Zoom) @ LWSD Resource Center in Redmond. Presentation TBA. Discussion of final preparations for Field Day.
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	Friday June 21st - Field Day site preparations including antenna installations. Saturday June 22nd - Field Day station setups (7:30am) and on-air operations commence (11:00am).
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	Sunday June 23rd - Field Day operations conclude (11:00am) and site tear-down.
	30							
July 2024								Saturday July 6th @ 8:30AM – Informal RCR social get-together on Zoom (only). Chat about ham radio equipment and your recent operating activities with fellow club members.
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Saturday July 20th - Special RCR activity in the planning. Watch for details. (Date may change.) Chehalis Hamfest 9AM to 2PM
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
	28	29	30					

2024 RCR Field Day Announcement



ARRL Field Day 2024 is scheduled for Saturday June 22nd and Sunday June 23rd which is only seven weeks away. RCR field day activities are being planned to be similar to those of the past two years. Current planning includes three active HF stations; one for CW, one for SSB and the third for digital modes. Equipment and station coordinators for each station have already been established. The anticipated antenna complement includes coverage of 80 – 10M. It is expected that 10, 15 & 20 meters will be the daytime “money” bands with 80 and 40 meters active in the evening hours.

Field Day activities this year will return us again to a wonderful, private site in Woodinville (just north of the Trilogy community in Redmond). Provided courtesy of WC7Q’s daughter, Gail, and her husband, Jeff, this site with large open and wooded areas up on a bluff overlooking the Snoqualmie River and Duvall to the east has proven an ideal location for field day operations. With the predicted excellent HF propagation and this ideal venue, we should be easily able to make contacts at rates exceeding last year’s. The address and directions will be posted on the RCR groups.io reflector.

Via the RCR reflector, all RCR members will shortly be receiving forms requesting sign up of station operators, their operating preference and times; the remaining equipment needs; and volunteers to assist with antenna erection (which is planned for Friday June 21st), and station setup and testing. Please respond with your completed forms by email to Cy, N7PV (n7pv@arrl.net) by May 31st so the event planning details can be finalized. Please address any questions or comments to Cy as well.

The club will be providing bottled water, soft drinks and coffee. Given last year’s success we plan to again have a Saturday evening BBQ. We’ll break out the grills and cook up the meat and poultry brought by the participants to go with side dishes provided by the club.

I’ve always felt that Field Day is the highlight of the ham radio year. Hopefully, this year the club will experience successful and enjoyable Field Day operations as in the past. Participation will provide an opportunity to polish up your operating skills, help some of our newer members gain operating experience, and enjoy some leisure time with your RCR friends.

Also, announce that Brenda Galbraith, Mark N7YD’s XYL is now KK7STN. Congratulations to her. She will be serving as the hospitality lead for the RCR field day activities in June.

73 Cy Humphreys N7PV
RCR Field Day Coordinator

POTA on a Budget

Alan Gordon N7AKG

I have been a HAM since the late 1960s but never done any mobile or portable operating. This past year I have gotten the POTA bug, mostly as a hunter, but also wanting to try my hand at 'activating' some local parks. I have talked to a number of POTA operators both in person and on the air, and watched a good number of videos on the subject, and am now ready to dip my toe into this new radio experience. But I needed a POTA kit! So I assembled this one.

My first step was to define the criteria for my kit:

- It needed to be portable but it did not need to be ultra light because I am not going to be hiking with this kit. This is for drive up to a park and deploy operations.
- It did need to be self contained, only require one trip from my car to the operating area, easily stored at home, and be packaged with ALL components and parts so I don't forget anything when I load up the car.
- The antenna system needed to be easy setup and take-down, and not be intrusive to other folks at the park.
- It needed to be able to operate on all modes; CW, SSB, and digi.
- It needed to be at least 10W or more
- It needed to have an antenna tuner

AND I set my budget at maximum of \$1000 for everything!

First I needed to specify the radio, and after a lot of discussion, reading, and working other hams on the air, I decided on the Xiegu G90. This rig checked off all the important boxes:

- This is a popular low cost rig and there are many used one on the market for much less than list price.
- 20W
- A phenomenal built-in tuner
- CAT control and audio out for digi
- Color panadapter display

So I kept an eye out on the QRZ market and the G90 Facebook group and got an almost new one for \$350.

Another reason I selected the G90 is that it is a well established rig with an active user groups. The G90 FB group is very active and has lots of helpful folks and is a good place to pick up a used G90 because someone is always upgrading.

The next big decision was the antenna. I wanted something that would be quick to setup, give me reasonable performance, and not get fellow park users or the park ranger upset. The Buddipole solution looked very attractive and I might upgrade to that, but I was thinking cheap since I needed to keep the entire kit under \$1000. A wire is cheap but is involved to setup and is intrusive. My solution was a ground-spike vertical whip. For \$71 I got: 25 feet of RG8x coax, a ground spike adapter, and the 220" telescoping whip that collapses down to 20". (Watch this YouTube video to see how to make the ground spike whip adapter - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJ3FfJe9XI8>)

The battery I chose was a 12V 10Ah Lithium LiFePO4 battery. A bit of an over kill for this rig but it gives me the power to expand and add more peripherals later on. This battery will run the rig for hours, which is much longer than I expect to be at a park in one sitting.

To do Digi I needed a tablet PC. I repurposed an old Surface Pro3 I had in the closet. Not a very powerful PC, but you don't need much and this PC runs my logger as well as all my digi software: WSJT-X, JS8Call, VarAC, and HRD. A used tablet should not cost over \$100 which still keeps this entire kit cost under \$1000.

Packaging was a bit of a challenge but settled on:

- A Harbor Freight Utility case, the Apache 4800, for the radio and electronics
- A backpack for the antenna, wires, chargers, and other connectors
- A fold-up table with built-in seating

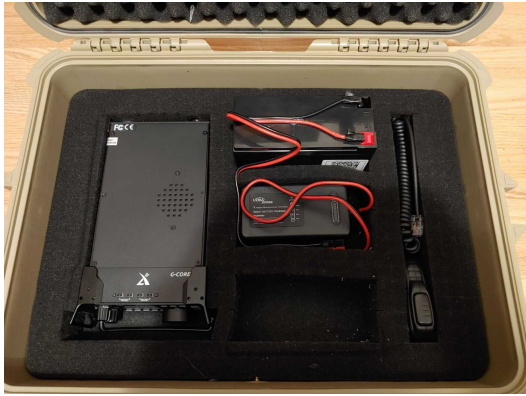
With backpack on back, Apache case in one hand, and table in the other hand, I can easily carry all from car to operating location in a single trip.

The BOM:

Hardware	Cost	Notes / web sites
Xeigu G90	\$350	Used
5.6M Vertical whip (220")	\$19	https://www.aliexpress.us/item/3256803953640790.html
M10 Female To 3/8 24 Adapter	\$9	https://www.aliexpress.us/item/3256804850719409.html
Audio cable for Digi	\$16	https://ebay.us/MmdA5m
5" Mag mount for car	\$33	https://www.amazon.com/dp/B013HHINDS?psc=1&ref=ppx_yo2ov_dt_b_product_details
10Ah Battery	\$35	https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0C3KXNJ4D?ref=ppx_yo2ov_dt_b_product_details&th=1
Battery charger	\$29	https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08MPX414R?psc=1&ref=ppx_yo2ov_dt_b_product_details
Mounting angle for ground spike	\$11	https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07GDGVSQ7?psc=1&ref=ppx_yo2ov_dt_b_product_details
10" Spikes	\$10	https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07B8N1423?ref=ppx_yo2ov_dt_b_product_details&th=1
25 feet RG8x coax	\$23	https://www.amazon.com/dp/B09ZHQZ4X4?ref=ppx_yo2ov_dt_b_product_details&th=1
Mini CW Paddle	\$59	https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0CRJW9HCB?psc=1&ref=ppx_yo2ov_dt_b_product_details
Utility case	\$60	Harbor Freight
Backpack	\$10	FredMeyer
Mouse	\$9	https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08SMQB6TF?psc=1&ref=ppx_yo2ov_dt_b_product_details
USB Audio adapter	\$14	https://www.amazon.com/dp/B01N905VOY?psc=1&ref=ppx_yo2ov_dt_b_product_details
USB Extender for laptop (had only 1 USB port)	\$8	https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0BWH9DZRV?ref=ppx_yo2ov_dt_b_product_details&th=1
Folding Table with bench	\$67	https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0BK6ZGVX?psc=1&ref=ppx_yo2ov_dt_b_product_details
PC Tablet	\$100	Estimate cost for a used PC tablet.
Total:	\$861	

I included a 5" car mag-mount for the whip so I could quickly deploy on my car when parked.





Replacing a Bad Balun

Bill Trippett W7VP

My 6 meter antenna has seen a lot of service. Dick Bingham, W7WKR, picked it up in the 60's from another ham. It was a 10 element unit with even element spacing. After taking it everywhere he moved during his career, starting in Seattle, then Sebastopol, CA, Idaho and Seattle again, he gave it to me in 1991 when he retired to Stehekin.

I revised the design using EZNEC , reducing the number of elements to 6 and staggering them. The revised design was an OWA (Optimized Wideband Array) that has a 50 ohm feed point impedance on a driven element insulated at the center.

It took some doing to get it over the 20 meter beam but somehow I managed. It worked magnificently, including picking up openings to Europe and New Zealand.

Suddenly last December or January it quit loading altogether. I suspected water in the feedline because at least one of the connectors could be seen without tape. I had installed a coiled coax filter between the feedline and the balun and concluded that if it had gotten waterlogged, but it was not necessary anyway since a balun was used to feed the driven element.

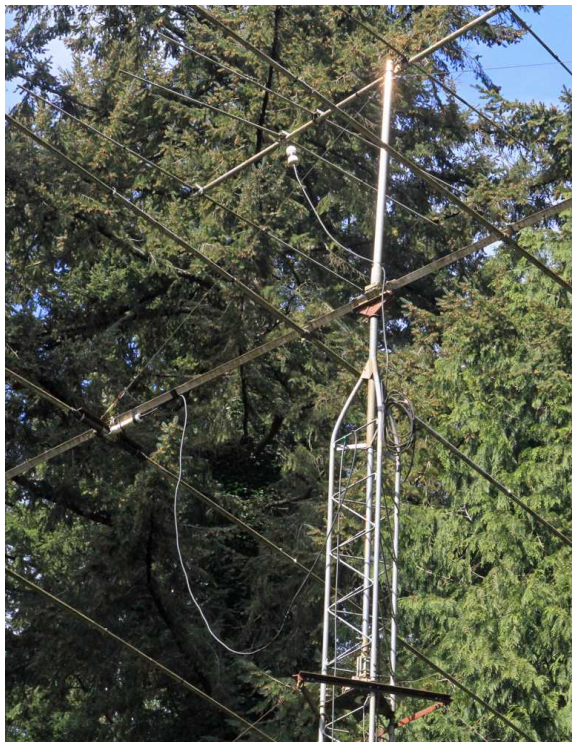
Initially our tower climber, Gary, went up the tower to remove the loop and reattach the balun cable to the feedline to see if that fixed the problem. No such luck. So we decided to bring in a gin pole to get the mast holding the 6 meter beam down to where we could work in it.

The mast holding the 6 meter beam also holds the guys for the boom on the 20 meter beam.

So Gary came back a couple days later with a gin pole and attached it to the tower. On climbing the tower Gary could see that one of the wires connecting the balun to the driven element had broken. But due to the force of the 20 meter boom guys the mast could not be lifted out of its fitting.

Fortunately, the 20 meter beam design uses a clevis at the top of its mast that permitted the 20 meter beam to be tilted down the tower. By doing that Gary was able to get to the old balun and replace it with the new one.

Testing the installation with the new balun confirmed that the new balun was working properly, and the installation was completed by sealing and wrapping all connections.



Initial Configuration



*Gary on tower
Boom Tilted Over*



Old Balun on Antenna



Old Balun



New Balun

Shack Upgrade

Chris Heavens W7AMD

W7AMD has upgraded the shack recently with the addition of an ICOM 7610 transceiver. This replaces a 12-year-old TS 590S that has been my main HF radio at home. The 7610 using its dual receivers and waterfall displays has helped me locate good "split frequencies" to call DX expedition stations in both CW and SSB and the use of the CW Macro recording allows me to call these "fast fisted" operators at 30WPM which is something that I don't do well manually, and so far that's been quite successful! The 7610 feeds 30W or so to the old SB 221 and I use about 400-500W output on all bands to feed my new Hexbeam up at 30ft or a pair of phased 14AVQ verticals on bands 40 thru 10m.

Also, as part of my volunteer activity with the W7ASC, Arizona Science Center radio station, I instigated the ISS contact application process with the ARISS folk, for which we have just been approved to have a direct ISS Astronaut contact sometime later this year. So that's going to be an exciting day for us all!

Cheers for now,
Chris W7AMD



Pacific Northwest DX Convention

Robin Amundson WA7CPA

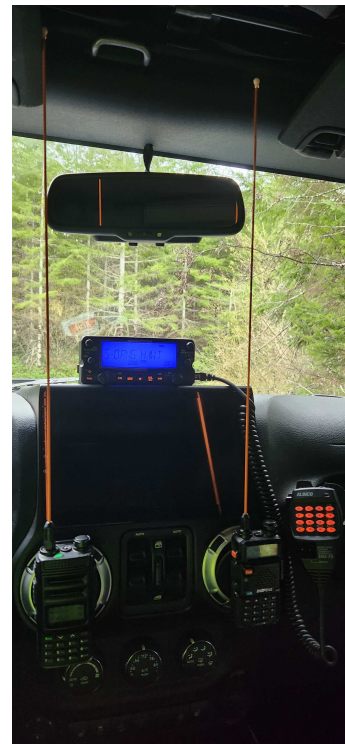


The Western Washington DX Club is the 2024 host of the Pacific Northwest DX Convention August 9-11, 2024 at the Delta Hotel by Marriott in Everett, WA. Hotel reservations sooner rather than later at the Convention pricing are recommended. Make hotel reservations through the website. The Convention Registration page is now functional. Please register now and make your hotel reservations. Staying over is worth it to enjoy the full convention offerings. Soon the speaker slate and schedule will be added to the website. It's gonna be good, including a LIVE presentation from Jarvis by Don Greenbaum, N1DG. Rob Fanfant, N7QT will be the banquet speaker, telling the recent TX5S Clipperton tale. Robin Amundson, WA7CPA will present on the Business End of DXpeditions--It's Only a Hobby! Brian Moran, N9ADG, will give an amusing presentation on How *Not* to Get in the Dxpedition Log. Mitch Mason, K7RL and Tony Garland, N7DX, will present a contesting topic. Ara Kourchians, N6ARA, will present From SOTA to DX: Working the world from JA. And more! Hope to see you there!

Olympus Rally

Andy Markert KK7PMI

I volunteered at the Olympus Rally over the weekend on 4/20 and 4/21 as a ham radio operator for a mid stage ham position which includes being a stage marshal and kept track of media and spectators on the course as well as the race cars. We made sure the event went smoothly and safe. I had a great time!



Rover Time-Saving Tips

Barry Hansen K7BWH

Here are a few things I'm doing to prepare a large 6-meter antenna for roving on grid expeditions. My goal this summer is to activate a very rare grid square with EME on 50 MHz.

Usually, for most people, a Yagi will be assembled and installed at the top of a mast. That's it. Once it's working well, it won't be touched for years. Raising the antenna is a one-time job for most hams. However, a rover needs to set up and take down several times and ensure everything will survive the Cuisinart of packing and travel. Once it reaches a destination, it has to be reassembled correctly and reasonably efficiently in the field. Here are some things I'm doing.

Antenna

I have a Force12 LFA-706 7 element 50 MHz Loop Fed Array (GOKSC design) with a 32' boom and weighs about 40 lbs. The LFA designs are favored for EME as it receives less terrestrial noise and has better G/T. Many thanks to AD7TS for recently providing this antenna to me.



In years past, I've used an M² 6m5 antenna. On the air, it feels nearly magical for FT8 and meteor scatter. I've tried EME but it doesn't quite have enough gain. Although I've

heard a few really big stations off the moon, and have been heard, I have not completed any EME contacts. The 6m5 is known to be just barely capable of working the biggest EME stations under ideal conditions. Here's a picture from Eastern Oregon on the DN02-03 grid line in summer 2023. I worked Japan from there but it was via skip not EME.



A bigger, better, longer, quieter LFA antenna is a welcome upgrade. The 7-el LFA has been proven to be capable of working both big and medium-sized EME stations.

Now "all I have to do" is figure out how to prepare this big thing for roving.

Color coded boom sections

Color-coding the boom sections has been my single biggest time-saver in the field. The old 6m5 boom has four sections and the new 7-el LFA boom has five sections. This is far too much of an opportunity to mess up assembly. Colored tape makes it easy to lay out the pieces and match the end colors together.

Replacing nuts and bolts with snap pins has been my second biggest time-saver. These are clevis pins with a snap retainer that are quick, secure, need no tools, and don't get lost in grass or dirt or snow when your cold frozen hands drop them. There are a large variety of sizes on Amazon and you can always find an exact fit replacement.

Bolts are *bad*. If they're over-tightened they squeeze like a vise – they deform the soft aluminum and make it very difficult to insert or remove boom sections. Note the *strength* of a boom connection doesn't depend on tight

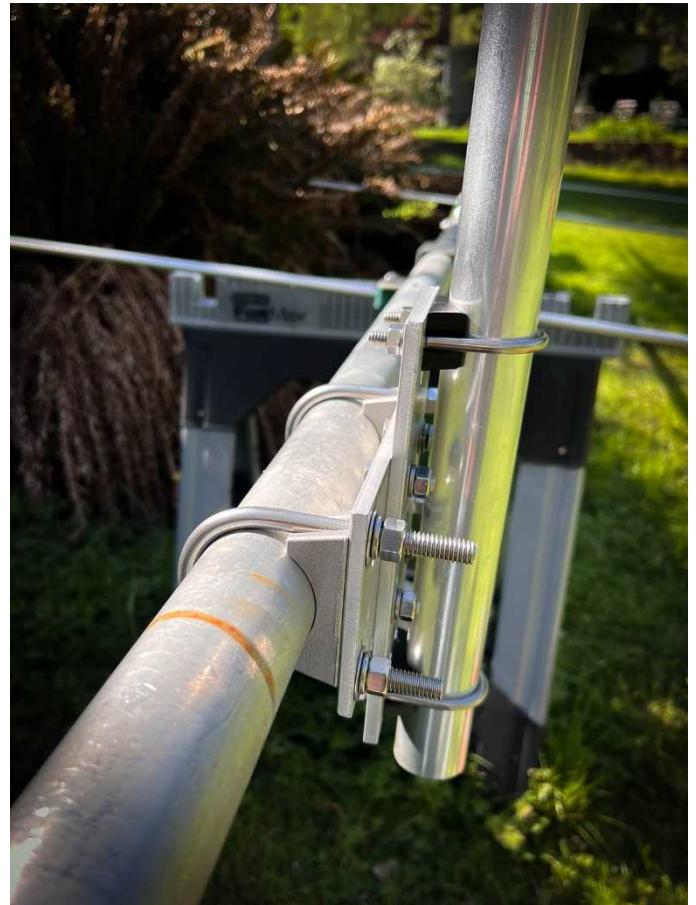
bolts; the strength comes from a good fit between boom sections. All it needs is the proper bolt or pin diameter to keep elements in the same plane.



Dedicated tool belt for assembly

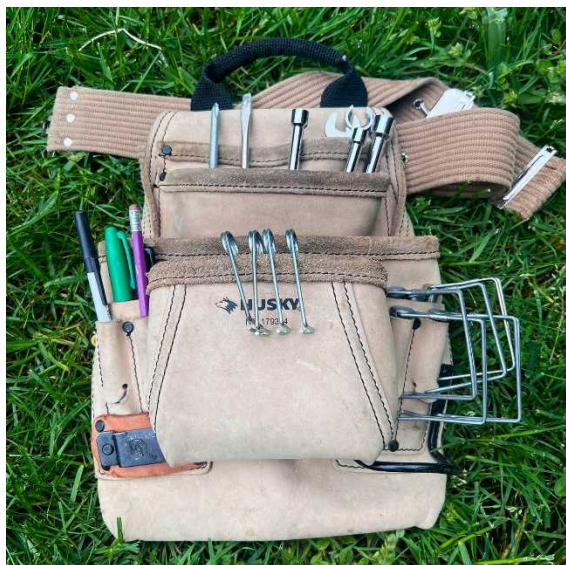
Tools are bad. At least for rovers. Every operation that requires a tool will slow down assembly. We are working alone on the ground in sand/dirt/snow without a workbench or tool organizer and possibly in cold/windy/dark conditions. Bad, bad, tools. My 6m5 rover setup is completely toolless.

However, the 7-el LFA antenna is bigger and heavier and does require bolts for the elements, boom-to-mast plates and eye bolts. Maybe I can improve that later but for my trips this summer it needs screws, bolts and tools. Here is a picture of one of the two boom-to-mast plates.



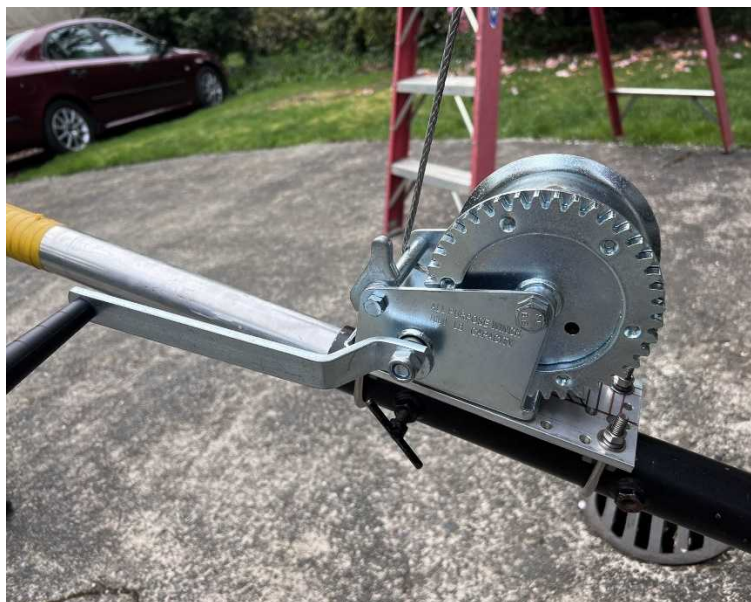
The best we can do is dedicate a small toolkit with just only the exact wrenches and hex keys required and carry them in a dedicated tool belt. We use battery powered drivers whenever possible. When I'm working alone with a 32' boom that's at least 20' from the van, it's a long walk to make extra trips for just one more thing.

Here's a picture of my tool belt for previous grid expeditions. Although the 6m5 assembly is toolless – the only thing needed are the snap clips – these wrenches and drivers can handle all possible repairs to my antenna and roof rack. I bring a separate and bigger tool bag for possible vehicle repairs, even though it duplicates all these tools. The tool belt shown here will be updated for trips with the 7el LFA antenna.



Winch system

It turns out that something much better is needed to raise a much bigger and heavier antenna. I use a telescoping mast attached to my trailer hitch, with a pivot point to tip it up. For comparison, the 6m5 antenna can be raised working alone by lifting it by hand and walking it up. This would be impossible for the 7-el LFA, so I built a lift system based on a cheap-ass Harbor Freight trailer winch. By the way, I hate steel cables, so I replaced it with their strong woven winch rope (which cost as much as the winch itself, go figure).



img4716

One challenge in this winch design is connecting the lifting rope to the smooth telescoping mast. Almost any connection works great for lifting, even a simple granny knot, but we discovered most connections are at risk of loosening themselves when held vertically without rope tension. It would be a disaster if we could not safely lower the mast after a few days on site. So, in the best MacGyver tradition, we pieced together hardware from: (1) a C-clamp for holding stage lights on an overhead truss, and (2) a Tacoma pickup truck bed rail clip ring.



I hope all this gives you some ideas for your own antenna systems. See you on the air!

Club Elmers

Antenna Selection and Installation

W7AMD Chris cgheavens@comcast.net

KZ1W Grant grants2@pacbell.net

K7RLD John k7rld@comcast.net

K7PEC Phil phillipcassady@centurytel.net

N7PV Cy cyh3@comcast.net

Bench/Field Test Equipment **W7AMD Chris**
cgheavens@comcast.net

Boat Anchor Advice/Refurbishing **K7RLD John**
k7rld@comcast.net

DXpeditions **KZ1W Grant** grants2@pacbell.net

Equipment Selection **W7AMD Chris**
cgheavens@comcast.net

EZNEC Modeling **KZ1W Grant** grants2@pacbell.net

Feedlines & Grounding **KZ1W Grant** grants2@pacbell.net

Home Brewing **W7AMD Chris** cgheavens@comcast.net

Icom7300 **N7AKG** Alan_N7AKG@ARRL.net

Ham Radio Deluxe **N7AKG** Alan_N7AKG@ARRL.net

Maritime Mobile Operation **KZ1W Grant**
grants2@pacbell.net

Mobile Contesting **WW7D Darryl**
djholman@u.washington.edu

Portable QRP **W7AMD Chris** cgheavens@comcast.net

Portable QRP

W7AMD Chris cgheavens@comcast.net

SSB & RTTY Contesting

KZ1W Grant grants2@pacbell.net

Summits on the Air (SOTA)

WW7D Darryl djholman@u.washington.edu

Software Defined Radio

W7FU John petrich@icloud.com

Station Setup (HF/VHF/UHF/Fixed/Mobile)

W7AMD Chris cgheavens@comcast.net

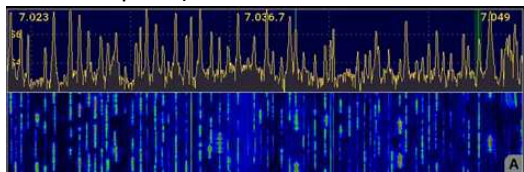
K7RLD John k7rld@comcast.net

Members Nets and Skeds

- **7155 group**, mornings 7am to 9am, I use WEBSDR.ORG , UTAH and KSF to fill in the propagation gaps and Net logger to track the net
- **7155 "happy hour"** 4pm-5pm
- **Noon time net** 7.283.5 every day early check in's from about 10.30am til 1.30pm or so.....a great propagation gauge, I often check in with only 5W!
- **PSRG Social Net** 9am, Noon, and 9pm net every day, 146.96Mhz, 103.5 tone
- **80m AM net** some mornings on 80m 3.885Mhz also some afternoons.....
- **Sked weekly** Wed 1.30pm local time, 14.183MHz with K7WYV John in Encinitas CA.....an old friend from my Bar Area days and the previous owner of my red 1961 MGA 1600 roadster.

WT8P, Jim

- **K1USN slow speed CW contest (SST)** – 00z Monday and 20z Friday. This is intended to encourage CW Academy and other novice CW folks to get on the air in a simple contest format. All are welcome, please slow as necessary. Exchange is simply first name and state. More Info: www.k1usn.com/sst (N1MM users: it's a user-defined contest.)
- **CWT (13z, 19z, 03z, 07z) Wednesdays** for about an hour– this is CWOPS' practice test, typically 40M: 7.025-7.045, 20m: 14.025-14.050. Exchange is simply first name and state or CWOPS number. The band lights up for that hour. (N1MM users, use "CWOPS" template)



- **Eastside Fire and Rescue Fire Corps weekly net.** (440.250 PL123.0, Sunday 19:00 local) – Winlink packet check-ins appreciated, copy W7EFR, W1JDB and KG7IDS. Active WinLink nodes as of 2022-04-24:

- W7EFR-2 145.69 Station 82, Redmond
- W7EFR-4 144.95 Valley Camp
- W7EFR-10 144.95 Cougar Mountain
- W7EFR-12 145.63 Sammamish Plateau Water Tower
- W7EFR-14 145.63 Station 73, Issaquah Highlands

W7HLO, Dale

- **DMR Net.** There is a morning Coffee Net from 8am until about 9 every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday on Cascades 1 Talk Group on the Pacific Northwest Digital Network. This net typically draws 20-30 checkins from throughout Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana. If you were looking for a sense of community and welcoming operators this is the place to hang out. For more information about PNW Digital, its extensive network and other nets please visit
 - <http://www.pnwdigital.net>.

KL7DZQ, Kurt

- **The Louie Net (TLN).** Every Wednesday at 7:30pm Pacific on the LWHC repeaters. TLN is a social time and an opportunity to discuss reusing, repairing, and recycling materials and gear.

N7AKG, Alan

- **LWHC.** The daily 11:00am Lake Washington Ham Club "Health and Wellness Net." This net meets every day and until PSRG gets their 6M repeater working, this is the only net that has a 6M repeater, along with their 2M, 1.25M, and 70cm repeaters.
<http://www.lakewashingtonhamclub.org>

Area Repeaters and Nets

Repeaters

Woodinville

K6RFK 147.340 + (100.0)

Traditional “club repeater”

WWDXC

W7DX 147.000 + (103.5)

DX Spots, non-traditional

Cougar Mountain

W7WWI 147.080 + 103.5)

Net Monday-Friday, 8am

SnoVARC

KE7GFZ 441.825 + (103.5)

Multiple nets during week

Redmond

KC7IYE 145.310 + (103.5)

Linked to 6m & 70cm, E-Power

Snohomish

WA7DEM 442.975 + (103.5)

Good north coverage

PSRG Seattle

WW7PSR 146.960 - (103.5)

PSRG, nets 9am & pm & Noon

Everett

WA7LAW 147.180 + (103.5)

Snohomish Ham Club

Tiger Mt. D-Star

WA7HJR 444.6375 + (DV)

D-Star Repeater with great coverage

Seattle FUSION Wires-X C4FM

444.425 + C4FM

Cougar Mtn DMR

441.2875 + DMR CC1

National Simplex 146.520

Suggested Local Simplex 147.570

Simplex 927.500

Used by Darryl WW7D and Doug AC7T

Local Nets

GOTA and New Ham Tech Net

Tuesdays 7:00pm 441.825 (103.5)

Friday Tech Net

Fridays 7:00pm 441.825 (103.5)

9 o'clock PSRG Nets

Daily 9 am, Noon & 9:00pm 146.96 (103.5)

Mike and Key Club tech net

Wednesday 7.30pm 146.82 (103.5)

Links and Websites

Here is a list of web sites and links of general interest.
Please send me your contributions to this list.

General Interest

<https://coilgun.info/rover-wa/home-map.htm>

"Rover hilltops in Washington State

Band Conditions

<https://www.ham365.net>

This site has two nice graphics on home page for band usage by mode. FT8 is of course the dominate mode but it is a good indicator of general conditions.

<https://hamspots.net/>

This is a nice web site for spotting many of the different digital modes.

<https://www.voacap.com/hf/>

The classic band conditions web site.

<https://solar.w5mmw.net/>

A web site that presents solar information in a meaningful manner.

<https://www.pskreporter.info/pskmap.html>

A reverse beacon site of sorts that publishes reports from all stations that are reporting for digital modes. Most useful for FT8 and JS8.

Contesting

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/weeklycont.php>

A calendar that keeps track of most all radio contests. Great resource to use when you hear a contest and not sure what it is.