



CHECK YOUR SWR

Western Washington Repeater Association

PO BOX 1001, Silverdale, WA 98383-1001

VHF 146.620 MHz & UHF 442.650 MHz Repeaters (tone 103.5 Hz)

2007 NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is designed to provide the Membership with information in addition to functionally support and provide details on the administrative and technical aspects of our repeater system. We do not fill it up space with articles that can be found in other journals. If open space is available Members who desire to contribute articles that are on your favorite amateur radio related subject matter, such as your field day experience, must contact **Terry, N7YZX** email wwra@telebyte.com no later than June 30th annually.

Your WWRA Working Staff

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Drake, KD7GAR PRESIDENT'S CORNER

OUR NEXT GENERAL MEETING: 12:30pm, January 26, 2008 at the EAGLES NEST, Kitsap County Fairgrounds, Silverdale, WA.
<http://ww7ra.org/Minutes/00NextWWRAGeneralMeeting.pdf>

President's Report: I am happy to say that the state of the WWRA is "fine business". Our membership roster has increased over the years and is now remaining steady from year to year as our system has become consistently dependable. One of the goals we had some years ago was to reduce the dues however it is difficult to get some users to become supporting members. Must be a feeling of entitlement. If all random routine users were to chip in we could drastically cut back. I assume that is a reflection of society as a whole; some recognize the hard work in keeping an organization solvent and others just leach! As supporting members we owe much to our secretary for being persistent throughout the year in his efforts to recruit many users who avail themselves of the VHF repeaters wide coverage area. He does a thankless job by listening, keeping track of users and soliciting off of the air. The VHF repeater is our mainstay and in addition to our local users we have over two hundred out of area visitors who stop by annually. We owe much of this success to ourselves as supporting members. Over the last five years we minimized much of the unnecessary administrative workload and have focused our efforts where they should be on the technical side of the repeaters. In addition to the \$2,000 it costs annually for operations and maintenance and because of your generous support we have been able to replace and upgrade around \$10K worth of equipment for our repeater system. Because of planning and dedication to long-term goals we now have built in redundancy at just about every level of our system. Our lightning protection is second to none and we have replaced or repaired many features that have been out of commission. We continue to groom and refine different elements of the equipment. The ops committee never seems to run out of ideas to make things better. Just as we owe our thanks to one another and the operations committee for their volunteer hours we also want to especially thank many of you out there who have encourage the new users that are coming onboard to become supporting members.

PLEASE PAY DUES ON TIME. It really helps our administrative hours if we can get all members to send in their dues on time. It is much easier on the treasurer and secretary to process the membership registry. The amount of work that goes into making sure each membership is accounted for takes time. Last year we reduced our administrative hours from 600 down to 500 mostly due to not having to deal with a paper newsletter. If everyone cooperates we can achieve our goal of 300 hours, which is really high but necessary to do a proper job. Thanks for your help on this one. Those who pay dues on time by 31 December 2007 due date will receive THREE DOOR PRIZE TICKETS at the door at the next meeting. You must be present to win. This eligibility includes many of you primary members who have PAID for MULTIPLE YEARS ahead! Check Roster. <http://www.ww7ra.org/Newsletters/2007%20WWRA%20Roster.pdf>

CORRESPONDENCE to the WWRA: We have a policy of 100% response to all Members and users. We feel obliged to answer questions and note criticisms for review at our board meeting. We most likely will not respond to emails or letters that are accusatory on uncivil.

DONATORS: We have many "donators" who have supported the repeaters as members but who have also contributed additional monies to the association work. In the future and currently they are and will be recognized on the ROSTER.

2007 GENERAL MEETING: We had 58 members and guests at our January General Membership Meeting. Most successful ever.



SILENT AUCTION: At our 2007 meeting we had a silent auction and made over \$800 from the raffle and the auction. We thank the widow of our late president, Bob, KC7DRQ [SK] for this very gracious contribution. This was only a one time good deal.

We have been approached by some members about bringing their gear to the meeting and auctioning it off. That is what hamfests are for.

Right now we don't plan on running a swap meet at the WWRA meetings but will accept donations with no strings for the benefit of the repeater system.

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VICE PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

SPECIAL Thank You to Curt, W7CLL for providing us all with donuts and coffee at our last general meeting. Thank you Curt.

SLATE of OFFICERS: It is always problematic to get volunteers to do anything let alone a whole slate of volunteers to fill the different board of director's slots. We have shifted to getting volunteers from the floor. If you think you would be interested in helping out the work on the repeater then contact me or any of the board members before the meeting so we can discuss it. We always need some help.

Eric, KE7EDW, WWRA Vice President

TERRY, N7YZX - SECRETARY'S MINUTES

PRIVACY CORRESPONDENCE: We hear a lot of personal and questionable information aired on the repeater ranging from an individual's sex life to family feuds. That is your individual choice. As managers of the WWRA we do not engage in this activity. Occasionally we have had to send letters to users and members addressing different issues. We do this for very important reason. We respect your privacy and do not want to air any issues in open forum. This administration tries not to solicit memberships nor talk about sensitive or private information on the radio. We do not send solicitations or sensitive private communications via electronic mail. All types of solicitations and private discussions are done via U.S. Mail. We respect your privacy. If you receive such correspondence we would appreciate your cooperation in the protecting the privacy of others and not discuss this in the open forum of the repeater. Thank you.

EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGES: If your email bounces we take it off our list. It is much too time consuming and difficult to keep track of bouncing email addresses. Please keep us informed of your email address changes and change it on QRZ.

WEBSITE: <http://www.wv7ra.org> Make sure you have a copy of Acrobat reader program to read the attached files. Free download at the WWRA website. The maintenance of our website is labor intensive and is done for you, the WWRA Membership. All information is dated so that you can easily tell what is new and how long it has been on there.

QRZ: <http://www.qrz.com/callsign/WW7RA?>

Money Makers for the repeater system: WWRA SOUVENIERS, MEMORABILIA & GIFTS are just another way for us to raise funds to help support the WWRA. A few trinkets will be for sale at the general meetings but a larger variety are for sale on our website at <http://www.cafepress.com/wwra>.

BoD & Secretary's RECRUITMENT POLICY 101: **WWRA is a EQUAL OPPORTUNITY REPEATER SYSTEM. All USERS of the repeaters are treated equally.** As trusted managers of your repeater system we would be remiss in our duties if we did not treat everyone equally in supporting membership recruitment. No "calling station" goes unnoticed and if they use the repeaters enough will they go unsolicited. Even in the wee hours of the morning! In 2006 we kept records on one station who claims to be a random user and he clocked 310 minutes with a total of 34 QSO's over a 12 month period and then arrogantly declared he was an occasional user. He even got upset that we invited him to become a supporting member. He has a clear feeling of entitlement. His buddy of course blamed us for being too harsh. If we did not request everyone it would not be fair to the supporting membership who have to carry all the financial support. There are two ways to avoid a always friendly request via mail to become a supporting member of the WWRA.

1. First one is to financially support the WWRA by sending in a nominal \$20 for a years membership
2. Second one is to NOT seldomly randomly routinely regularly use the system.

REPEATER RECRUITMENT ANNOUNCEMENT: When you hear the automatic announcement requesting financial support on the VHF repeater this is addressed to a station who has used our repeater, has been invited via U.S. Mail to join, continues to avail themselves of the VHF repeater and has not made an effort to support us. Please do your part to welcome them to become supporters. Thanks.

CORRESPONDENCE from the WWRA: We have worked real hard over the last several years to correspond with the membership and it can be shattered within one afternoon with the wrong message on the VHF repeater. Within about 10 days or less you should receive correspondence from me. If you don't hear from me within this time frame send an email to wwra@telebyte.com and let me know. We pride ourselves on being responsive to the membership.

CODE CARDS: We go through much effort to provide the members with echolink and autopatch procedures including code cards. Please carry them with you and practice your ability to bring up the phone patch when you are not faced with an emergency. And the code cards are just that, code cards, not membership cards. They are a convenient way for you to carry around the repeater access. Don't forget to identify.

WWRA NEWSLETTER: We asked at the 2007 gneral meeting if everyone was okay with receiving the newsletter via the website. Overwhelmingly it was okayed. It saves the organization money and labor hours. Many users who do have computers or have trouble downloading and printing can send the WWRA a SASE [self-addressed stamp envelope] and we will print you out a copy.

2007 LAST NEWSLETTER: This newsletter will be most likely our last edition. It will be decided by the board at the next meeting at the end of the year. With increasing availability of information on the WWRA website the newsletter has become redundant as so much informaiton is available via the internet. Members who don't have internet acces can still request information via mail with a SASE for specific requests.

Terry, N7YZX, WWRA Secretary

BILL, N7YT – TREASURERS REPORT

ADDRESS CHANGES: When you send in your dues and you live at a new address please tell us since we do not check addresses each and every time we receive correspondence from you. You need to point it out to us. Also, please keep us informed of your postal address change and remember the FCC only gives you 10-days to notify them of your address change. Email addresses are difficult to manage.

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DUES: WWRA dues are \$20 and are due on 1 January annually. If you use the repeater please become a Member. The WWRA repeater is open to all. Member owned and with your financial support we are able to maintain a working repeater system. A complete financial report is made the general membership at the annual meeting. Thank you very much for your support.

MEMBERSHIP “CALL SIGN” IDENTIFICATION: In all correspondence we identify users and members by their call signs. Unfortunately we receive checks, letters and emails from users or members without this all-important piece of information. Always include your call sign on any correspondence you send us otherwise you may not receive membership recognition, your address or email changed recorded properly and the association will have an anonymous donation.

ACCESS TO WWRA ECHOLINK NODE 121776 **FYI:** *This is an email I sent to a visiting station who was getting ACCESS DENIED each time he tried to connect to the WWRA Echolink Node.* David, Last night I changed our configuration from “disallow connects from conferences” to “allow connects from conferences”. You have been unable to connect because you were also connected to a conference (at least you were last night when I checked out the configuration). We have had a lot of connects from conferences that then remained connected for long periods after the person who did the connecting departed. I will leave the configuration so that you can be connected to a conference and also connect to this node. If it becomes a problem, I will restore the restriction on connects from conferences and you will have to disconnect from the conference before connecting to the WW7RA repeater. Thanks Bill N7YT ***If you use Echolink and experience problems please feel free to contact me or George, N7GME.***

WWRA INCOME: Prices have been going up for all our repairs and routine maintenance. Our only defense against rising prices is keeping the membership support high enough to meet and offset rising costs. One trip to the hill costs \$14 and two weeks later it cost nearly \$17 in fuel. The last resort would be to raise the dues. We really do not want to do that. The only way we keep from raising the dues is for you and us to keep the membership rolls full. Please urge your buddies to support the WWRA so we can keep the repeaters in good maintenance condition.

Bill, N7YT, WWRA Treasurer

GEORGE, N7GME - OPERATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE

CONTROL OPERATORS: Bill, N7YT - George, N7GME - Eric, KE7EDW – Jim, N6ECV These CO’s can answer any of your questions on the operations of the repeater system. If they don’t know immediately they will be happy to find out. If you think your having a problem with the repeater contact an ops committee member via telephone. Thank you.

NETS: The VHF repeater is primarily a rag chew repeater. If no one is using it users find it convenient and fun to jaw bone about the topic of choice. We do have a few nets including a local club in addition to some stations that like to get together on a regular basis and have a personal rag chew with their long-time friends. We always try to accommodate these ‘nets’ as they don’t take up much time and are respectful of others using the repeater. Listen for these routine nets, try to remember to give them the repeater and also leave breaks so that if you happen to be on when these nets take place you can let them have the frequency.



Hitting me 10 by 4 good buddy!!! 😊 The WWRA operations committee is always amused by comments from repeater users who congratulate themselves on their new innovative antennae creations while using a hand-held in a mobile with an external welding rod antennae east of Auburn. The photo to the left is a repeater’s Gold Mountain dual band tower mounted antenna. These antennae are connected to fine tuned receivers, which is the real answer as to why repeater users hand-helds do so well! Also the “repeaters” are called repeaters for a reason, they repeat what they hear. So comments “that it must be the repeater, or they were up there working on it and then we started having these problems” are not a good way to thank people for working on your behalf but are also inaccurate unless the repeater is down. If the repeater were not working properly the problem you hear would not be random!

SIMPLEX USE ON REPEATER INPUT and/or OUTPUT FREQUENCY: It is illegal to transmit and utilize the input or output frequency of any repeater. Simplex frequencies are specifically set-aside for that purpose. Stations turning off the TONE and transmitting on the INPUT frequency using it for testing creates QRM. There are plenty of designated simplex frequencies to do this testing on.

SIGNAL QUALITY: There are a few transmitters belonging to users on the VHF repeater who have consistently noisy signals. They have been told about this but continue to carry on QSO’s with this background noise blaring into their transmissions. In addition some mobile stations turn on their entertainment radios to add additional noise to the mix for good measure. The stations they are talking to politely ignore this noise in an attempt to carry on the QSO for their friend. Unfortunately the rest of the listeners have to listen to this noise and consequently the person with the noisy transmitter end up with very few stations who will answer their station ID’s when their good buddy is not around. Some shoot the messenger and get mad at the person who tells them they have a low quality signal. If you have been made aware you have a noisy signal don’t be a lid. Fix your station.

TESTING PROCEDURES on WWRA REPEATERS: Anytime you key up your transmitter you are required to IDENTIFY YOUR STATION CALLSIGN. This applies to ALL features including the auto-patch, weather vox [voice weather report] or testing out your keypad tones. **PLEASE ID APPROPRIATELY.** Thank you.

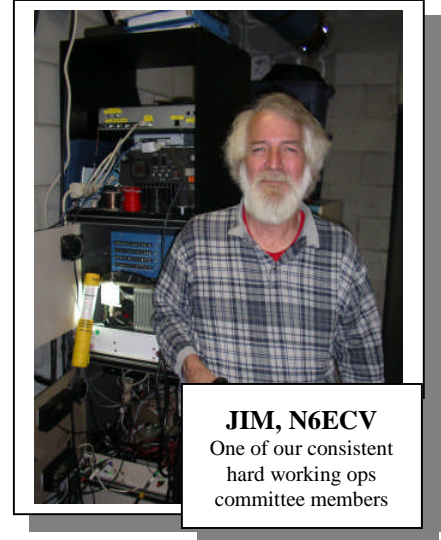
MORON CONTROL Occasionally we have a MORON show up on the repeater. He sometimes even has a call sign but not always. Don’t be an enabler for this character. We have put this information in past newsletters but apparently some have not understood it. Avoid any reference to these people. If they get real bad a **control operator** will shut down the repeater. What you should do when that idiot gets on.

1. **DO NOT** talk to them.
2. **DO NOT** acknowledge this type of behavior in any way.
3. **DO NOT** make comments to your ham buddies during your QSO about him/her or reference a hint of interference in any way.

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4. **DO NOT** acknowledge if he interferes with your QSO just sign off normally giving absolutely no recognition to him/her. Normally, his/her signal is down in the mud and most QSO's can continue without interruption. You will hear him/her when you unkey. Anything you do in the way of an acknowledgment will merely provide the perpetrator with encouragement.

UPGRADING THE WWRA SYSTEM: We have been fortunate the last 18-months as we have had no major casualties requiring lots of time and money. This has allowed us to pursue some of the projects that we have wanted to do since this group has taken responsibility for keeping the WWRA repeater system up and running. Some accomplishments have been; total lightning protection (holding our breath on this one but made it through one whole winter without any losses), more redundancy with the overhaul and installation of a second backup PA-100 amplifier and the installation of a new Variable Power Supply (VPS) that has allowed us to increase power to both repeaters. This VPS installation and subsequent power increases has taken the UHF repeater from 35 watts to 60 watts output power. We also had one of our VHF amplifiers overhauled by **Jim, N6ECV**, which saved us money, and tuned up and burned in by the manufacturer giving us an additional 10 watts on VHF. This in turn has filled in some weak coverage areas, boosted others and allowed more accessibility to Echolink. We always have ongoing plans that are too numerous to mention or explain in detail but we will gladly answer questions at the next meeting or you can visit Ops Committee work under Task Tracking listed below and on our website. <http://ww7ra.org/WWRA%202001%20Task%20Tracking%20Sheet.pdf>



DIALING 911 for REAL Emergencies: All of the Members have been provided with code cards and instructions on how to use the auto-patch. This editorial is directed at providing assistance to third party users. Periodically we need to dial 911. If you are assisting a user first ascertain whether he/she has a real emergency. We have had several requests from one out of state individual who frequents our repeater who seemingly has a real emergency but really don't. So, check first. The 911 operators telephone caller ID will show the WWRA, as the calling party so do not turn over the call completely to the user. It would be better if you made the call on your telephone and relayed. Also, there are plenty of cell phones out there and usually these accidents or emergencies have already been reported. Our Gold Mountain repeater telephone lines are located within Kitsap County so you will get the 911 Central located on the Kitsap peninsula. If you are in another county then the first thing you need to tell the 911 operators is your location. It will take time for them to shift you over and depending on the county it is a 50/50 chance that you will get a professional 911 first responder. The next item is be "brief". You have 3 minutes to conduct the call. You can extend the call by punching in **3 which gives you an additional 3 minutes. **DO NOT** tie up the line with all kinds of information about your ham radio career. First, ask them if they are aware of an accident on XYZ highway with cross street ABC and then un-key. Then respond to the 911 operators questions. Be prepared to give them your name, address and phone number for verification over the air. Handling a 911 situation can be difficult and is not for the faint of heart requiring good radio procedure. If a control operator announces you may consider letting them handle it. Over the years the VHF repeater has been a good contact point for responding to emergency situations if handled properly. Review your code card and practice making a couple of simple auto-patch calls so you know how to do it. Don't wait until you have a REAL Emergency.

BE PROUD of your CALL SIGN: Most repeater users are excellent in their proper use of call signs. They say them audibly and also identify the station they are having a QSO with. Others need to remember to press the PTT button and then talk. Please pronounce all the characters in your call. **Hams have the PHOENETIC alphabet which is intended to help us get through them tough sounding U's V's C's, etc.** You can also make up your own phonetic characters. By saying it too fast or slurring the characters in the call others cannot properly give you shout. We hear blah-blah-blah-mumble-hiss-hiss mobile monitoring. Then we wait for the operator to come back again after he finishes his slurpy so we can say hello but no transmission with an audible callsign is ever heard again. Articles in CQ and QRZ magazines list repeaters that have been ordered off the air for major violations of one type or another. In addition to being shut down for a major violation the FCC also lists most frequently the improper use of, no use of and unintelligible call signs they glean from their magna-sync tapes.

George, N7GME-WWRA Chief Operator