

PCEMA

Pacific County Emergency Management Agency

Preparedness Post

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Amateur Radio Field Day on the Shores of the Willapa Bay

Local Hams Set Up Stations and Antennas at the Port of
Peninsula in June to Practice Their Communications Skills

2035 Contacts Made During Amateur Radio Field Day

On June 28th and 29th local amateur radio operators gathered at the Port of Peninsula in Nahcotta for the 2014 Amateur Radio Field Day. The Pacific County Amateur Radio Club (PCARC) set up temporary antennas on the mudflats and assembled stations before the main operating activities, which ran for 24 continuous hours. The stations included a "Get On The Air" (GOTA) Station, a Voice Station, a VHF station, and a Morse Code Station. Participants had the opportunity to make contact with other Amateur Radio operators enjoying field day from across the world.

Amateur Radio Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June each year, more than 35,000 radio amateurs participate in the event. According to the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) the goal of the event is "to work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur radio bands, and to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions."

This year the Morse Code station made 1326 contacts, the Voice Station made 649 contacts, the GOTA station made 56 contacts, and the VHF station made 4 contacts including one made via Amateur Radio Satellite. The total number of contacts made was 2035. Rankings for the event are released in November.

In 2013, the event total was 2791. This was the highest total that the group has ever attained, placing them at 7th in their category, which was a huge accomplishment, especially considering much of the competition comes from larger cities!

The Pacific County Amateur Radio Club reports that for 2014 there were some issues with the phone station, as well as complications with reception due to weather. According to volunteer Dick Lemke, "radio signal propagation conditions were not as good as in 2014 for the voice mode. If everyone in the contest had a hard time too, then our ranking might not be effected too much."



Pacific County Amateur Radio Club volunteers fought mud and tides to set up antennas in the Port of Peninsula prior to the 2014 Amateur Radio Field Day.



PCEMA Director Stephanie Fritts (right) says "bravo romeo delta comeback please, this is whiskey seven romeo" as she works to establish contacts with Bob Cline (left).



PCARC volunteers man the main event booth, where information was available to visitors and participants. From left to right: John Costanza, Frank Wolfe, Bob Frink, Michael Phelps, Robert Frost, and Ed Archer.



Volunteers and participants get out of the weather in the GOTA (Get on the Air) station where newly licensed and even unlicensed participants had the opportunity try operating a radio.



Visit www.facebook.com/groups/316102445042/ to learn more about PCARC!
Or attend a meeting: 2nd Saturdays at 9:00 a.m. at Hunter's Inn, Naselle.

“No Call” Option for PCEMA’s Emergency Notification System

PCEMA utilizes a phone-based emergency notification service to contact people and businesses when an urgent message needs to be shared with the community. The service PCEMA uses makes automated calls to every number in the Pacific County 911 database. As a result, businesses with multiple phone lines may receive these messages repeatedly, which could distract from important emergency preparations. If you wish to have the message limited to one or two phone lines in your business, contact PCEMA Deputy Director Scott McDougall to have your extra lines removed from the call list.

For those who do not use a landline within Pacific County who would like to be added to the list, please visit <http://www.hyper-reach.com/wapacificsignup.html> to register. Mobile phones and VoIP phones are not automatically included in the call list. Visit the site and enter your VoIP phone (if you use Comcast - you're using VoIP!), mobile phone number, or even update your landline information.



Those with smartphones can use the QRL code above to register! Please contact PCEMA Deputy Director Scott McDougall if you have questions about the system or need assistance with registration.

Citizen Corps Expo August 9th and 10th!

Join Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members from across the northwest for the 2014 Citizen Corps Expo at the South Seattle College on August 9th and 10th!



Classes for this year’s expo will include: CERT Traffic and Crowd Management, CERT Leadership, Firefighter Rehab, First Aid/CPR/AED, Pet Sheltering, CERT Documentation, Social Media-Beginners, Social Media-Advanced, Moulage, Pet First Aid, Map Your Neighborhood, Psychological First Aid, Ham-Tech License Class, Comm Center Set-Up, Basic Disaster Life-support, CERT Animal-1 and 2, Cultural Competency, Red Cross Sheltering, CERT Communications, and CERT Olympics.

This is a great opportunity for our local CERTs and other “preppers” to gain valuable knowledge about disaster response!

For more information please visit <http://www.nwcitizencorps-expo.org>.



The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program teaches disaster preparedness for localized hazards and trains participants in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.

CERT members can assist others following a disaster when professional responders are not immediately available to help.

Weather Ready Nation!

This summer, NOAA asks you to Be A Force of Nature by becoming Summer Weather-Ready. Summer in the northern hemisphere begins June 21 and lasts until September 23. It's an active season for people, the atmosphere, and the oceans. People stay out later and longer, and more storms spin up. This combination provides us the opportunity for lots of fun, outdoor activities, but it also increases our risk to certain environmental hazards. NOAA wants to raise the nation's awareness to be Summer Weather-Ready!

So when you are walking or playing sports, attending summer camps, vacationing, or having general fun with friends and family, make sure you know your risks and are prepared to take action against heat distress, poor air quality, lightning strikes, wildfires, floods, rip currents, hurricanes and tornadoes... just to name a few.

Considering this list, can you say already that you and those in your care (including pets) are Summer Weather-Ready? Spread the word with #BeAForce on Twitter. Use the Summer Weather-Ready Social Media Plan for preparedness suggestions to promote safety during severe weather and at the beach. Share the knowledge and Be A Force of Nature! Be Summer Weather-Ready! Visit www.ready.gov!



WRN Ambassadors

One of NOAA’s missions is to save lives and property by providing critical environmental intelligence, including weather forecasts and warnings, to our partners and the general public. NOAA wants everyone to be ready, responsive, and resilient to extreme weather, water, and climate events. Government cannot achieve success without the support and contributions from partners. Weather Ready Nation (WRN) Ambassadors are formally recognized by NOAA as organizations committed to collaborating with NOAA, sharing preparedness messaging in outreach to the public.

Any organization across all levels of government, businesses large and small, non-profit and non-governmental organizations, and academia can become WRN Ambassadors. WRN Ambassadors are expected to maintain active dialog with NOAA (e.g., maintain current point-of-contact and contact information), use where appropriate NOAA-generated information such as preparedness messages, and identify opportunities for collaboration including research initiatives and outreach events. If your organization is interested in the initiative, visit http://www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation/amb_tou.html#_U9fMSvldXw8.



Burn Bans in Effect for Pacific County!

On July 11th the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) expanded their current burn ban to areas west of the Cascades due to increased fire danger caused by rising temperatures. This burn ban applies to all forest lands under DNR protection, and will run through September 30th. According to a DNR press release, "All outdoor burning on DNR-protected forestlands is prohibited during the ban, with two exceptions. Recreational fires in approved fire pits within designated state, county, municipal or other campgrounds, and gas or propane stoves/barbeque grills are allowed." As of July 11th, there have already been 265 fires on DNR protected lands, a majority of which were caused by humans.

Current Burn Bans:

All of Pacific County -

All outdoor burning banned with the exception of recreational cooking fires in approved fire pits less than 3' diameter and 2' high.

DNR Protected Lands -

All outdoor burning banned with the exception of recreational fires in approved fire pits within designated state, county, or municipal campgrounds.

As of July 16th, Pacific County Department of Community Development issued a burn ban which will be effective until further notice is given. The burn ban applies to all outdoor burning except recreational cooking fires in approved fire pits that are limited to 3-feet in diameter and 2-feet in height. Fires for debris disposal are not considered recreational and are not allowed under any circumstances.

The 2014 fire season began early for Pacific County with two major wildfires in January. First a fifty acre fire erupted in heavy slash above the Nemah Fish Hatchery on January 24th, and a ten acre dune fire followed on January 25th in Long Beach. With the heat and subsequent dry conditions prevalent in Pacific County this summer, fire danger continues to be high. Residents and visitors are encouraged to take time to learn about and prepare for wildfires. Fires can and do break out in forested areas, beach grass, and even neighborhoods

when it is dry. Visit <http://www.ready.gov/wildfires> to learn about what to do before, during, and after a wildfire!

Dick Lemke Awarded DXCC Certificate for Long Distance Radio Contacts on DXpedition to Belize

Pacific County Amateur Radio Volunteer Dick Lemke recently received a certificate from the DXCC for contacting over 100 different countries from a temporary radio station he set up while visiting Belize. This is his second certificate, his first was earned from his home station in Pacific County. For those readers not fluent in "HAM" speak, Dick was kind enough to explain what this award entails.

What is the DXCC?

The DX Century Club. DX is the symbol used in Morse Code for "Distance". It is now part of the amateur radio verbal vocabulary and means a station or stations a long way away from where you are. For us, Europe is DX, Japan is DX, India is rare DX, even South America is DX.

How are DXCC give out awards?

The DXCC award was created in the late 30's, and is the most coveted award in amateur radio. The award is earned by contacting at least 100 different countries and having those contacts confirmed. Confirmation can be obtained by exchanging "QSL" cards with the station, or now via a very secure online "Log Book of the World". "QSL" is a very old Morse Code symbol that stands for, "I acknowledge receipt of your message". Once you have the 100+ confirmations, they are submitted to the Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) where they are checked and if all is well, the DXCC certificate is awarded.

How long have you been a member of the DXCC?

For quite a while now I have had the DXCC certificate for my own home station with the call sign, AD7AF. But, part of my amateur radio kicks come from taking a trip to a DX location like Micronesia, the Cook Islands, and most recently, Belize. I take radio equipment with me in the suitcase and apply for an amateur radio license in the country so I can set up a station and operate. This is called a DXpedition. If the DX country does not normally have an active amateur radio station on the air, then there will be a whole lot of amateurs world-wide who want to make contact. Once I am on the air there will be stations clamoring to contact me. It gets the adrenaline flowing. Last October I spent three weeks in Belize on a DXpedition, making almost 8,000 contacts in well over 100 countries. I decided to get at least 100 of these countries confirmed and apply for another piece of paper to put on my wall. For me, this was a first, to qualify for DXCC on one of my DXpeditions. My call sign in Belize is V31RL.



Ed Archer Photo

PCEMA Thanks Volunteers at Luncheon on June 12th



Volunteers Howard Auble, Dick Lemke, and Katie Auble (front left to right) and South Bend Major Julie Struck, Undersheriff Todd Fosse, PCEMA Director Stephanie Fritts, and Volunteer Bob Cline (back left to right) greet one another.



Volunteers and local government officials say their hellos as the event begins. County Commissioners Frank Wolfe and Steve Rogers attended, as well as Sheriff Scott Johnson and other members of his office.



As the lunch buffet is set up, conversations abound. Many of PCEMA's volunteers are also actively involved in other aspects of the community, including local schools, city councils, private businesses, and non-profit organizations.



County Commissioner Frank Wolfe spoke about RACES Volunteers and the communications work they have recently done for the Oso Mudslide response.



PCEMA Director Stephanie Fritts addressed the group saying, "We appreciate your willingness to serve, and we appreciate in particular your adaptability."



PCEMA Volunteer Public Education Coordinator Mary Atherton discussed plans to expand the CERT program in north Pacific County.



Sheriff Scott Johnson recognizes Howard and Katie Auble, recipients of the 2014 Governor's Volunteer Service Award.



PCEMA Deputy Director Scott McDougall thanks Ilwaco students for their work teaching about tsunami preparedness.



Volunteer Bob Cline speaks about the work done by RACES volunteers and awards a certificate to volunteer Dick Lemke.



From left to right: Ilwaco teacher Charlotte Kelly and students Tori Beatty, Adriana Arauyo, McKenzie Mulinix, Stephanie Kelly, and Maddie Chablet were thanked for presenting information about tsunami preparedness to elementary school students in the Ocean Beach School District.



Howard and Katie Auble, recipients of the 2014 Governor's Volunteer Service Award.



Waterproof cell phone pouches were given to volunteers as a small token of gratitude for all of their hard work in Pacific County.

PCEMA

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Contacts & Info.

The Pacific County Amateur Radio Club meets every second Saturday of the month at Hunter's Inn, Naselle - 9:00 a.m.
All Hazards Alert Broadcast (AHAB) Sirens occur the first Monday of every month at noon.

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LIKE the PCEMA Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pcema to follow frequent emergency management and preparedness dialogue.

FOLLOW @PCEOCNews on Twitter to get updates from the Pacific County EOC when it is activated. If you are not signed up for Twitter, you can receive the same information via text message. Just text "follow PCEOCNews" to 40404.

RECEIVE the latest emergency management information, hazardous weather notices, and monthly newsletter by signing up for the PCEMA email list. Provide your name via email to PCEMA staff and include the word "Subscribe" in the subject line.

READ the latest emergency management information on the PCEMA blog at www.pcema.blogspot.com.

VISIT the PCEMA website at www.co.pacific.wa.us/pcema for valuable preparedness materials and to learn about hazards prone to Pacific County.

Emergency Notification

Sign Up for the Emergency Notification System!

Residents can register cellphones on the PCEMA website. Use the QRL code below to sign up using your smart phone!

In the event of an emergency, this system may be used by emergency response personnel to notify specific homes and businesses at risk.



Useful Resources

www.ready.gov

www.nws.noaa.gov

www.emd.wa.gov

www.fema.gov

