

Did You Know?

Jean Shepherd, who wrote “A *Christmas Story*” and coined the phrase “*In God we trust, all others pay cash*” didn’t shoot his eye out. Instead, he turned on his radio, keyed his microphone, and said “QST, QST, QST, *is this frequency in use? This is K2ORS calling ...*”

WA2JXX invented something which used to be a pretty standard piece of equipment sported by most every engineer, mathematician, and other geeky type. It has long since lost favor, but yes, **Gerson Strassberg** invented the original *plastic pocket protector*. (We know many of you were guilty ,,,).

Once you talk into a microphone for a living, talking into another to communicate on your sailboat is an easy segway. Surprisingly though, **Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD**, didn’t get his license until *after* he retired from the CBS news.

There could have been an antenna topping the White House if only the election results had been different. Whatever, Senator **Barry Goldwater, K7UGA**, was active on the waves throughout his Congressional tenure. During the Vietnam war he ran phone patches through his own HAM station, allowing soldiers to communicate with their stateside families.



This Issue

Did You Know?

2024 Board of Directors

Those Who Serve

Keep Your Brain Young

Member Spotlight

Important Announcements

Introducing SARECC Officers, 2024

The new slate of Board of Directors who will lead the Club operations effective 01-01-24 are:

President:	Laura Herman, KJ7CMU
Vice President:	Raffi Manion, KK7ITX
Secretary:	Shelley Johnston, KE0TUG
Treasurer:	AnnMarie Humphries, KF7WMN
Immediate Past President	Jay Ham, KI7LDQ
1 st Director @ Large	Ron Johnston, K7PAA
2 nd Director @ Large	TBD POSITION OPEN
3 rd Director @ Large	TBD POSITION OPEN

SPECIAL NOTE:

In 2023 the incoming Board of Directors appointed a Leadership Team to rotate as President, hoping to make the role of “President” more manageable with member’s personal lives and commitments. While all duties of the BOD were performed admirably, the officers inadvertently appointed four Directors at Large (two of which rotated as President as part of the Leadership Team) and did not recognize the role of the Past President as a member of the BOD. In fact, there should have been a Past President and *three* directors at large. This will be corrected moving forward in 2024.

THOSE WHO SERVE

When we hear the phrase “*those who serve*,” we often think about folks who have been in the military, those who have given their lives to service in a ministry, or perhaps worked in one of the many emergency responder occupations. But what about those who tirelessly serve their community, working in the background, often without accolades or recognition? People like Dean Becker, Brock Ward, Laura Herman, Jay Ham, AnnMarie Humphreys, Fred Mann, Jim Irving, Richard Rodriguez and a host of others who have given their time and energy to ensure that our amateur radio emergency communications club runs smoothly and without a hitch. These individuals do not call attention to themselves for what they do but are relentless in the pursuit of ensuring member skills are up to speed so that *when* the time comes, we can seamlessly deploy throughout the community to *save lives and help people*.

Is it hard? Well, yes and no. **YES** in that when just a few people are carrying the load it can become overwhelming. People tend to get tired after years of service and cannot understand why others do not participate more. This sometimes results in frustration, anger, apathy, and plain old “burn-out.” You can understand that, right? Perhaps some of you have experienced such feelings before – at work, home, or on one of those infamous “team” projects in High School or College (there is always “one” who doesn’t pull their weight and **you** end up picking up the slack).

Is it hard to be involved with SARECC? **NO** when many hands and ideas lighten the load of what otherwise might be a burden. In fact, it can bring joy, a feeling of accomplishment, confidence, and satisfaction in knowing that you are contributing to *your* community by building skills. So first, a **BIG shout out** to those who have been bearing the weight of Club activities. **You ROCK! THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE TO SARECC. Those** who wish it *deserve a rest*. So now it is up to the rest of us. As you can see, we are a couple of folks short for a full board. (*Hmmm... is that like one taco short of a combination plate?? Oh, never mind...*). There are a few people that are willing to help but they have assisted many times before and would prefer to take a break. **SO??** How about it? We need two Director’s at Large, one of which will rotate in one of the Leadership positions to run meetings for a quarter of the year. Our President (Laura Herman) will take her turn on leading this first quarter’s meetings and will sign all official documents on behalf of SARECC. The second quarter’s meetings will be run by Ron Johnston, Director at Large, while third quarter will be run by Raffi Manion, our Vice President. That means the candidate for the Director at Large who will be part of the Leadership Team and help run meetings will cover the fourth quarter, which is the lightest duty quarter of all. The third Director at Large (if that position is filled), will collaborate with the Board to administer Club operations, as do all of the other officers and leadership team. So there you have it – **can you help out? We could sure use your participation!** Please email your interest for these two open positions **immediately** to Ron Johnston, rjohnston98273@yahoo.com.

Keep Your Brain YOUNG!

(Reprinted from Games, Puzzles, & Trivia Challenges by Nancy Linde)

All of the answers in this game start with a letter, as in X-Ray, I Beam, or V Chip.

1. Discount store chain formerly known as S.S. Kresge Company.
2. A brand of cotton swab.
3. Surgical baby delivery.
4. Cut of steak also called “Porterhouse.”
5. June 6, 1944.
6. U.S. clothing retailer with a popular catalog.
7. Well-known joint or gasket that caused the space shuttle *Challenger* disaster.
8. Do-it-yourself moving equipment company.
9. Some strains of this bacterium can cause serious food poisoning.
10. The group of Hollywood actors who get the best parts, the most money, and often the most attention.
11. Nuclear weapon that gets its explosive energy from hydrogen fusion.
12. Genetically, this separates the men from the women.

Oh yes they will get harder! Answers next week in R. Johnstons Weekly reminders.

Spotlight on Members

Normally this section is devoted to featuring *one member* of the Club, geared at giving you some insights to individual members as *people*, not just fellow amateur radio aficionados. But in this issue we have to make an exception! *Connections* was not issued in December due to the holidays and illness, but that does not mean that we did not have something to showcase! In fact, this month's Spotlight is on MANY members – those who showed up for our December 2023 Meeting and Potluck and had a WONDERFUL time! There were around 30 people in attendance and we had plenty of food – including tri-tip, a mediterranean chicken stew, cheese and meats, yummy salads, and a host of glorious desserts! Our tummies filled with food and sparkling cider in a variety of flavors, we quickly moved on to MORE fun! The hilarity started with a game called Saran Wrapped Ball, where two different balls were passed around in different directions with one person frantically unwrapping the ball to get at gift prizes while the person immediately to the right threw two dice repeatedly, hoping to score doubles and receive the ball next. There were yummy, funny and a few impressive prizes (including gift cards, lottery tickets and actual cash). Many shrieks and giggles accompanied the balls as they “rolled” around the room. (And don't even get me started on “Rapid Ruby” who became the “Game Meister” showing how fast she could throw and unroll!). Ultimately, the “big” winners were Polly and Lyle, who each scored a \$20 bill. Everyone agreed it was good fun, no matter what the prize!

We then moved on to the White Elephant gift exchange – what a HOOT! Using the rule that you can choose a gift from under the tree or steal a gift that someone before you has chosen, gifts were selected, snatched, and then confiscated again! The most popular gift turned out to be not a Ming Dynasty vase from Granny Sue, or a 1925 Bordeaux Chateau from Paris. NO! We are HAM radio operators after all – the most oft stolen gift was *Fast Track to Your Extra Class Ham Radio License*. First Raffi chose it, but since he already has his Extra, Dean relieved him from that burden by stealing it from him only to discover Yoli wanted it, too! Ron got a beautiful tape measure antenna which was promptly confiscated by wife Shelley who gave him the toolbag and flash light she got in trade. Bob scored a software defined radio, while Jay received an awesome long wire antenna kit. Patt was delighted with an array of Foxy Lady-themed accessories, Richard and the rest of us laughed at his gift, an “original communication system”, and Jim Irving got a roll-out scroll featuring the Phoenetic communications alphabet and Morse Code, plus a bracelet with a phrase spelled out in dot and dash beads. (Said bracelet last seen disappearing in to Polly's outstretched hand.) He also received a practice Morse Code unit. Don Campbell, one of our most senior members, should have gotten the “White Elephant Award,” since the gift he received turned out to be a box of “vintage” radio “stuff” that included wires, connectors, and an old “Realistic” radio, a real collector's item. After Raffi's gifts got stolen twice, he finally got a keeper! For those of you who missed it, do not miss it again – #causetoomuchfun!



**Can you hear Jay saying:
Oh, WOW ...**



**Richard et al realize this is the first “radio”
communication – two cups and a string!**



**Bob is saying: this is a
REALLY nice gift!**



White Elephant Radio Parts ... perfect!



Don: I thought I was gonna get Donuts!!



Jimmy LIKES it!



Foxy Lady Patt gets some foxy stuff!



Good gift – but Raffi is already an Extra ...



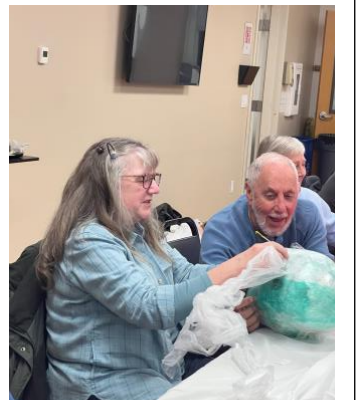
Gift #2 – a sparkly Christmas hat!



Brock stole the hat – but this is a keeper!



She is trying to figure out what is in this!



Let the games begin! Oh the squeals!

ANNOUNCEMENTS, EVENTS, & EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Affiliated Organizations

- **CERT:** Training available in hybrid format; preparatory on-line training with practical on February 10th and 11th, 2024. CLICK ON LINK FOR FLYER! <https://sarecc.org/>
- **ARES:** Skagit County ARES/RACES meeting Friday, January 19, 2024, 6:00 p.m. at Skagit County Department of Emergency Management, 2911 E. College Way, Mount Vernon.
- **RASC:** RASC/SAREC luncheon Thursday, January 18 at Bobs Burgers and Brew, 9394 Old HWY 99 N Rd., Burlington. Starts at 11:30; note date of Tuesday, January 16 on ARES/RASC Website and previously published was incorrect.

Other Training Opportunities

- **ICS Forms:** Free *in-person* ICS form class at the Snohomish DEM, 720 80th St SW, Bldg. A, Everett, WA, on January 23, 2024 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Follow link for more information; sign up ASAP. Prerequisites required. https://reg.learningstream.com/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0038-0021-ee8f89e19b3949208504d2ccaa99f14f
- **ACES Basic:** Saturday and Sunday, February 3-4, 2024 from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. each day at the Snohomish DEM, 720 80th St SW, Bldg. A, Everett, WA. Cost is \$35 and prerequisites are required. Follow link for more information. [ACES Basic \(Everett, WA\)](#)

Testing

- Third Tuesday of even months at Anacortes Fire Department, 1016 13th St., Anacortes, at 6:30 p.m. Contact Whit, NX7Q, NX7Q@arrl.net. Next exam is **Tuesday, February 16, 2024**.
- Third Monday of odd months at the Cedarhome Baptist Church, 29000 68th Ave NW, Stanwood, at 7:00. Contact Fred Laun, N7KRN, W7pig@arrl.net. Next exam is **March 18, 2024**.

SARECC Administration

- **TEN:** 1) Dean Becker and Fred Mann will assign NET Operators and maintain list. 2) Laura Herman will maintain updated TEN Call Roster. 3) Net Operator list and TEN Call Roster should be submitted to Ron Johnston who will distribute with NET weekly reminders to general membership through SARECC COMMS each **Wednesday**.
- **Dues:** Last reminder issued; unpaid members will be removed from Active Roster by month end.
- **Vests and Caps:** Submit new and replacement SARECC vest and ball cap orders to AnnMarie at ash439@hotmail.com. Vests are \$25 and come in S, M, L, XL, XXL, and XXXL. Provide your Call Sign. Ball Caps are \$27; provide Call Sign and first name you wish on the cap. All orders are cash or check only.
- **Monthly General Membership Meeting:** February 5, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at Salvation Army, 3001 R. Ave, Ste 100, Anacortes. **Front door closes at 6:00 p.m., come early.** Zoom participants should tap on the link to join meeting; if you need a telephone call in please contact Shelley Johnston at 310-849-8453 or s17aurora@yahoo.com **prior to the meeting** for assistance. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84370128804?pwd=N0lma1JYeXVYMk1ESnU2RzcyTHYxUT09>. Meeting ID: 843 7012 8804; Passcode: 638291

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Continued)

- **Open Director At large Position:** No one has yet come forth as interested candidate. Several parties were contacted but have cited conflicts. A couple of those are willing to participate on Committees. PLEASE contact Ron Johnston at rjohnston98273@yahoo.com if you are interested in helping!
- **Just For Fun: You Tube Video:** ARRL posted this video from a recent episode of *The Today Show* on NBC. Watch teenage HAM operators contact the International Space Station after working tirelessly with school faculty building their own equipment to make their first space contact! Use the link below to view. Pretty cool! https://youtu.be/w2s_C4o7dfk?si=x5A_OO4wzeOsxCLF
- **Mentorship Program:** New to HAM Radio? Need some advice to get started? Join SARECC and take advantage of our Mentorship volunteers – radio specialists who can help you advance your skills!