

Kittitas County Ham News

October 2021

Okay, here we go. Another meeting of the Kittitas County Amateur Radio Communication Service. Or KCARCS (which can be pronounced Kay Carcs or KC Arcs. And the “arcs” part is pronounced as if the second c is a k and the whole thing is a boat. You know – an ark.) The meeting will be **this Saturday October 2, 8 AM at the Buzz Inn restaurant on Canyon Road.**

October 30th is a fifth Saturday. Maybe you remember that there is usually a drill (or emergency practice event) scheduled for the fifth Saturday. Come to the meeting on Oct. 2 or listen to the Sunday night net for more information.

Currently there is no VE testing scheduled. Please contact Gloria WA7GYD (wa7gyd@arrl.net or 509-962-3820) if you are interested in taking a test. If you are a VE – please contact Gloria with info about when you might be available. Thank you.

Also, please contact Gloria if you are interested in becoming a VE. VE stands for Volunteer Examiner. VE's are the people who do license testing. A minimum of 3 VE's are required at each testing session. In order to be a VE – you must be at least 18 years old, have a General class or higher license, have never had a station or operator license suspended or revoked, and there is a test that you must pass. The test is based on a manual that is available from the ARRL. Check their website. Also, a VE needs to be available for testing sessions. VE's are not expected to always be available, but they do need to be available some of the time. Thank you.

Beginning in May 2021 – all ham radio test takers are required to have (and use) an FRN (FCC Registration Number). If a test taker already has an FRN because of another FCC license, they should use that same number for the ham test. Also, all test applications after June 29 are required to include an email address. Test takers who pass their test will receive an email from the FCC with a link to their new or upgraded license. No paper copy will be issued. If you do not have an email address – the FCC suggests that you use the email address of a friend or family member.

If you have been a ham for several years or more and haven't upgraded recently, you probably do not have an FRN. You can get one if you want – the instructions to do so have recently been posted on our web page (thanks Bob). It is not hard to do. As I'm writing this, I realize I may not have one yet. I'll have to check on that. Okay, I was curious and I just went to check my FRN status – and I have one. How exciting.

Mike KJ7ISM, our Activities and Membership Committee chairman, has some

interesting ideas he would like to discuss with us at the meeting. Also, he may be bringing some “newcomers” to the meeting. Thank you, Mike, for working on both the activities and membership parts of your committee.

Bob AI7CS reports that he has made some changes and updates to the website, <https://www.qsl.net/kcarcs>. Our Constitution and By-laws are now posted, the ARES portion has been reorganized around training and activities, there are links to Winlink training videos and emergency Services links on the resources tab. There are pictures and articles from both recent 100-mile races, Cascade Crest and Teanaway Country. And, he has added a “What's New” article at the top of the front page which will show additions over the last two weeks. He suggests that we be sure to refresh our browsers if we have visited the site recently. If you have something you would like Bob to post, please send it to ai7cs@arrl.net.

From the Tech group, Randy K7RHT reports that the repeater name transfer has not yet happened. Apparently, we are waiting on the FCC for some piece of information. All of our repeaters are working well. There is an issue with some voices fading as people talk – however this seems to be a voice issue not an equipment problem. Suggestions are that people remember that they need to speak up all the way through their conversation. All of the equipment worked well during the 100-mile races.

Contact info for club officers:

President: Linda KJ7JVB – lindawaters@disputeoptions.com

Vice Pres: Steve B W7DXP – sbusick@gmail.com

Sec/Treasurer: Gloria WA7GYD – wa7gyd@arrl.net

Activities & Membership Committee: Mike KJ7ISM michael.e.schantz@gmail.com

Technology Advisory Committee: Steve S W7UDI – szombas@fairpoint.net

Emergency Preparedness Committee: Steve D W7JAA – dougsr@reagan.com

Don't forget the meeting – Saturday October 2, 8AM, Buzz Inn on Canyon Rd, Eburg