

International Lighthouse Weekend

Every year, on an August weekend, Amateur Radio "Ham" operators get on the air to contact as many Lighthouse and Lightship radio stations as possible. Over the past 10 years this event has grown to over 380 lighthouses in some 51 countries around the world.

The objective of the event is to promote public awareness of lighthouses and lightships, and their need for preservation and restoration, to promote amateur radio and to foster International goodwill.

These temporary radio stations are put on the air by dedicated Radio "Hams", commemorating the important role played by those who manned these beacons in years gone by, saving countless lives and ensuring safe passage of ships.

Radio played an important part in these matters, so this International Lighthouse Weekend also celebrates the vital part played by Radio Operators both on ships and shore stations, who's efforts were always directed toward providing vital information to protect life and property.

Pacific County Amateur Radio Club

members have set up their station this year in the WWII-era Triangulation Station bunker adjacent to the North Head Lighthouse. This bunker is part of a network of WWI and WWII defenses set up to guard the mouth of the Columbia River - just as the Lighthouse can be seen by ships at sea, those same ships can be seen from the bunker.

N7H

Every Amateur Radio operator, when licensed, is issued his or her own callsign, unique in all the world, with no two being the same. Our Club's callsign is **W7RDR**, but as part of this special Lighthouse Weekend event, we have been issued the callsign **N7H** to use from this **North Head** Lighthouse station.

The radio equipment used for this event operates on High Frequency radio wavelengths, also referred to as "Short Wave". These frequencies have the capability to travel thousands of miles. Under the right conditions, contacts can be made worldwide.

<http://www.qsl.net/w7rdr>



-or-

***What are these
crazy people
doing, anyway?***



Amateur "Ham" Radio

Amateur Radio is as old as Radio itself, and as new as tomorrow's technology. Amateur Radio brings a whole new dimension to "Wireless Connectivity", allowing personal communications locally, or over vast distances, independent of commercial infrastructure.

Every day, Radio Amateurs use their hand-held radios to keep in touch around town. Other "Hams" use their equipment to chat or check email while camping or RV-ing in the middle of nowhere. Still others use their radio to text or talk from boats, even in the middle of the ocean.

A cornerstone of Amateur Radio is Emergency Communication. Radio Amateurs step in when disaster strikes to get the message through, **when all else fails**, providing reliable basic communications for their families and communities.

Amateur Radio Licensing

Because of the privileges available, in order to use Amateur Radio, you are required to earn an FCC license by passing a multiple-choice written test. **There is no longer a Morse code test for any class of Amateur license.** Once you pass the test, you'll receive an official callsign and be ready to get on the air.

Amateur Radio equipment is not necessarily expensive, and the investment is similar to any serious hobby. The gear can last decades.

If you happen to be electronically inclined, Radio Amateurs are allowed to build or modify their own equipment. Kit projects are popular, as well as conversion of older, cast-off commercial gear.

Pacific County Amateur Radio Club has an on-going program of classes and tutoring to help you get started in Amateur Radio. We also have a Volunteer Exam Team, authorized to give the license tests. Interested in Amateur Radio? We can help. Contact one of the Hams here at the **N7H** station, or visit our website and go to the "Training/Classes" page.

Or go to the ARRL website and let them help you find an Amateur Radio Club near you.

<http://www.gsl.net/w7rdr>

<http://www.arrl.org>

<http://illw.net>