



# YELM AMATEUR RADIO GROUP

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NOVEMBER 2024

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WEBPAGE: [HTTPS://YELMAMATEURRADIOGROUP.ORG/](https://YELMAMATEURRADIOGROUP.ORG/)

K7YLM REPEATER: 440.200 (+5) PL: 100 Hz.

CLUB NET: MONDAY @ 1930 (LOCAL) ON THE K7YLM REPEATER

FUTURE NET: MONDAY @ 2000 (LOCAL) 147.470 MHZ (SIMPLEX)

ARES NET: SATURDAY @ 1900 (LOCAL) 146.550 MHZ (SIMPLEX)



## IN PERSON MEETINGS

FIRST AND THIRD SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 9:30 AM

EMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH,  
206 3RD ST SE, YELM, WA 98597.

**VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.**

# OFFICER ELECTIONS

**NOVEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup> 2024**

**ELECTIONS FOR PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, TREASURER,  
SECRETARY, AND BOARD POSITION # 1 WILL BE HELD.**

**REMEMBER, NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICE WILL BE ACCEPTED  
RIGHT UP UNTIL THE ELECTION ON 2 NOVEMBER 2024.**

**NOMINATIONS CAN BE SENT VIA E-MAIL TO THE CLUB E-MAIL  
ADDRESS [YELMRADIO@GMAIL.COM](mailto:YELMRADIO@GMAIL.COM)**



The YARG K7YLM Club Repeater is installed in its new location.  
The repeater is back on-the-air and is available for regular use.

<https://www.qrz.com/db/K7YLM>

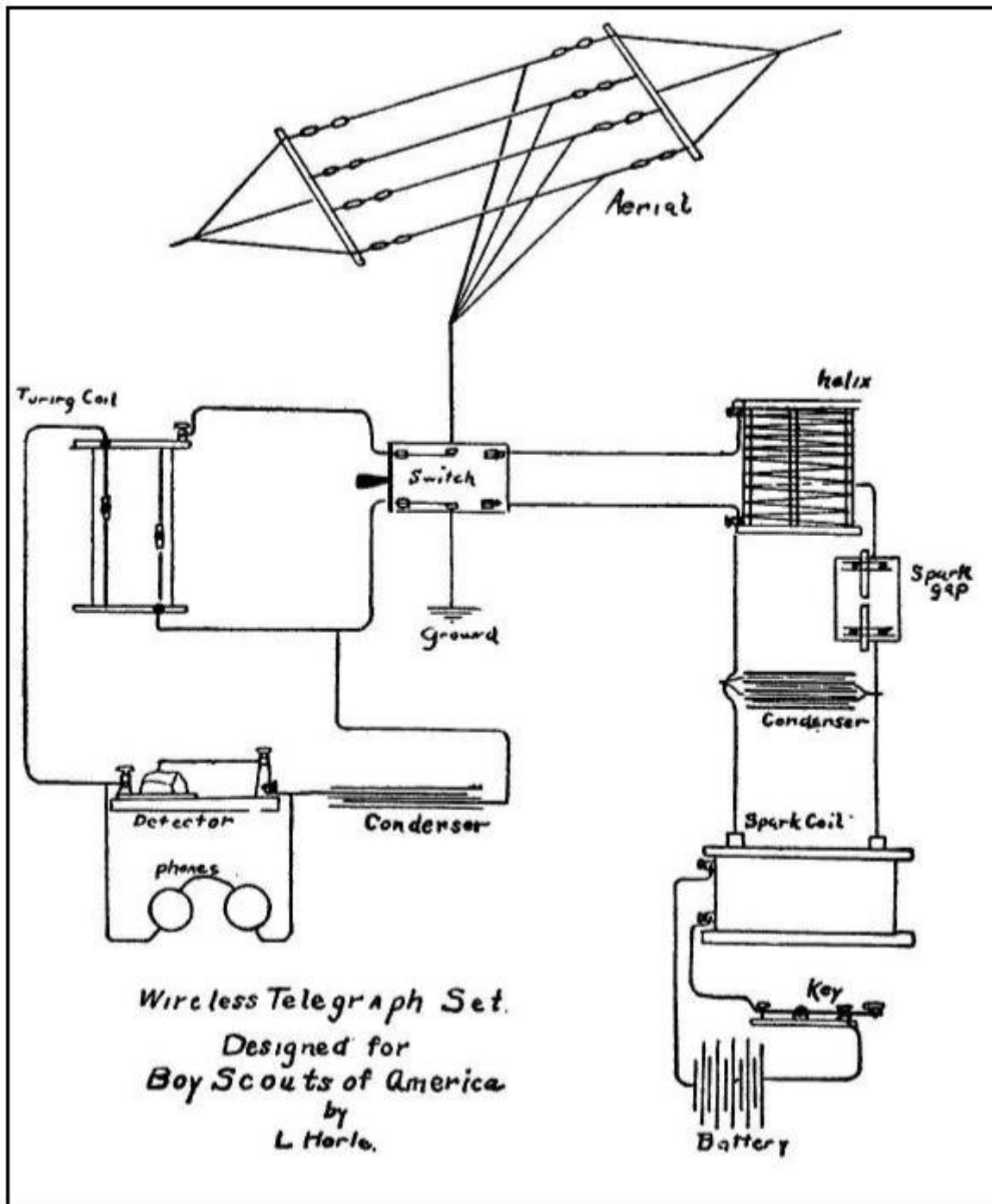
Please make regular use of the repeater and note any areas with poor signals, and any areas with very strong signals. This helps create a coverage map for the repeater.





On 26 October 2024, **Justin / W9JWR** demonstrated his POTA set-up and operation to other members of YARG at Millersylvania State Park. It was a great presentation and an opportunity for members of the club to come together and enjoy amateur radio in the field.





The first edition of the Boy Scout Handbook, published in 1911, contained plans "for an up-to-date wireless apparatus for stationary use in the home or at the meeting place of each patrol."

Scouts could build their own radio transmitters and receivers and use them to communicate with other Scouts via "Wireless Telegraphy" using Morse Code.

While we won't be building radios (at least not during the class) – **YARG will be teaching an amateur radio licensing class to the Boy Scouts in November 2024.**

**TESTING November 12<sup>th</sup> at the Lion's Club in Yelm.**





**Hamshack Hotline (HH)** (<https://hamshackhotline.com/>) is a free dedicated VOIP telecom service for the Ham Radio community. Typically, phones are established in hamshacks, EOCs, Clubs & club members, ARES, and other Ham related areas and functions. It is not the intention of HH to replace traffic carried over radio in an emergency or other tactical operation, but rather to augment it, by offloading managerial tactical operations and providing a full duplex path for such communications when spectrum is occupied, conditions diminished, or otherwise unavailable. HH also supports FAXing of information (with appropriate equipment) which allows tactical offices to share documents & data between tactical locations. In a non-tactical use, HH is an effective resource for off-air troubleshooting when you need to coordinate a troubleshoot of a radio circuit off-air and between multiple SMEs. In addition to all this, conference bridges on the HH network allow large groups of Hams to coordinate & meet in real time anywhere in the world.



Some members of YARG have HH installed in their ham shacks. If you have an Internet connection in your shack, or anywhere else in your home, consider adding HH to your communications capabilities.



### The Ham Spirit and the Art of Radio

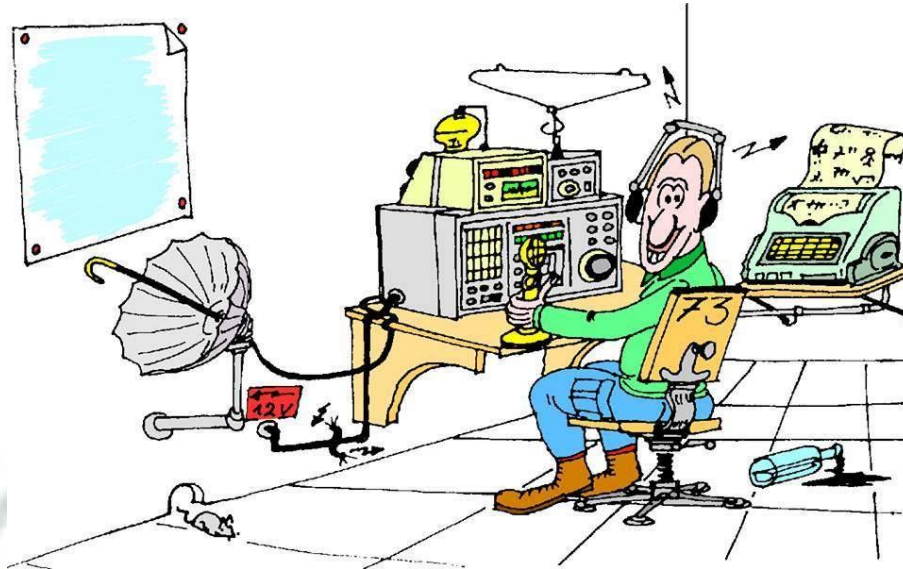
In 1928 Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, suggested a code of ethics that the amateur radio operator should respect. His Ham Spirit was soon printed on the introduction page of the "ARRL Handbook for the Radio Amateur", and states that an amateur radio operator is:

- **Considerate**... never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.
- **Loyal**... offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and his or her national radio amateur association.
- **Progressive**... with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.
- **Friendly**... slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interest of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.
- **Balanced**... radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school, or community.
- **Patriotic**... station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

In 2008 John Devoldere, ON4UN, and Mark Demeuleneere, ON4WW, wrote a comprehensive document entitled "**Ethics and Operating Procedures for the Radio Amateur.**" (<https://www.arrl.org/operating-ethics>). The purpose of this document was for it to become a universal guide on operating ethics and procedures.



## You've Earned Your Amateur Radio Technician License – Now What?



You studied, passed the exam, and the FCC has assigned you a callsign. It's official you're a Ham Radio Operator! Congratulations, but now what? Now that you have your license, what can you do?

Your Technician license grants you operating privileges on the UHF / VHF bands (such as the 2-meter and 70-centimeter bands), as well as limited privileges on small sections of the HF bands. So, let's get involved in the amateur radio hobby.

You may already own an amateur radio. Many people buy an inexpensive radio just to listen while they study for their license exam. If not, you will need to choose your first radio. The ARRL offers advice on buying your first radio (<https://www.arrl.org/buying-your-first-radio>), as do many other organizations and amateur radio clubs. Maybe call your nearest Ham Radio Outlet (<https://www.hamradio.com/>) and ask for a recommendation. You don't need to spend hundreds of dollars on your first radio, but to some extent when buying a radio, you get what you pay for, so balance cost against quality.

Now that you have a radio, it's time to make your first contact. If you studied with another Ham, that person will be proud to be your first on-the-air contact. He or she may even put you in for a **First Contact Award** from the ARRL (<https://www.arrl.org/first-contact>).

Go to the QRZ web-page and look up your callsign. QRZ lets you create an on-line log to keep track of your contacts. You can even make a small web-page on the QRZ site to highlight your amateur radio activities. Add your first contact to your log on QRZ and ask the person you made contact with to confirm that contact in QRZ. Once you have a total of 25 confirmed contacts in your log on QRZ you are eligible for the **World Radio Friendship Award**.



Now that you're talking on-the-air, check out the repeaters in your area. Visit the Repeater Book web-site (<https://www.repeaterbook.com/>) and make a list of all of your local repeaters. Try to make a contact through each of these repeaters that you can reach from your home. Don't just key (kerchunk) the repeater, but put your callsign out there and make a contact. Ask for a radio check, have a QSO with another operator, check-in to a net. How many repeaters can you reach from your home? Do you have a friend in the Ham radio community? Schedule a QSO with them on each repeater, that you can both reach.

But don't just sit at home with your radio, take it with you whenever you are out and about. Participate in Parks on the Air (POTA) (<https://parksontheair.com/>) or climb a mountain and participate in Summits on the Air (SOTA) (<https://www.sota.org.uk/>). If you enjoy operating in the outdoors, plan to participate in Field Day (<https://www.arrl.org/field-day>) and Winter Field Day (<https://winterfieldday.com/>). Amateur radio is a great hobby with many fun activities, just find those that you enjoy and start to participate.

Would you like to make some contacts in other states or other countries? Register with Echolink (<https://echolink.org/>) and download the app to your smartphone. Echolink lets you use the app to connect to repeaters around the world. But you don't need the app to make contacts using the Echolink system if one of the repeaters you can reach with your radio has Echolink installed. If this is the case, use your radio to connect to Echolink through the repeater (usually by entering DTMF tones to activate Echolink and then entering the node number of the distant repeater you want to connect to). Make some contacts with Hams in other states and in other countries.

If you enjoy making contacts through these networks, maybe you will want to get into digital voice with systems like D-STAR, DMR, and C4FM. You will need a radio capable of operating one of these modes, with DMR being the least expensive to get started with. If you choose to use DMR you will need to register for a DMR ID (<https://radioid.net/>) since you will need your own DMR ID when programming your radio. Programming a codeplug for your DMR radio can be a bit of an adventure in and of itself, but don't worry, you can always download one to get started. When you register for your DMR ID, use the site to locate DMR capable repeaters in your area. Connect to the DMR network through your local DMR repeater and make some contacts. Later you may want to buy a hotspot that allows you to connect to the network through your home Internet connection. Many hotspots convert between modes, so you can use your DMR radio to connect to D-STAR or C4FM networks. Visit PNW Digital (<https://pnwdigital.net/>) for more information about DMR in the Pacific Northwest.

Explore digital communications with programs like FLDigi (<https://sourceforge.net/projects/fldigi/>) and Ham Radio Deluxe (HRD) (<https://www.hamradiodeluxe.com/>).

Winlink Global Radio Email (<https://winlink.org/>) lets you send and receive email using your radio. If you are in an area with no Internet connection, you can use your radio to reach out to an area is still connected to the Internet and send and receive e-mail. Or, use Winlink to send 'Radio Only' and peer-to-peer email and bypass the Internet altogether. Register for a Winlink account to get started.

If you have an APRS capable radio, or connect your radio to your smartphone through an app like APRSdroid or MyAPRS you can use the Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS) to post your position on-line (to sites like APRS.FI), send and receive messages between your radio and the cellular network, get weather reports, and look up callsigns through the QRZ database. The International Space Station (ISS) even has a APRS digipeater onboard, so you can send a message through the space station.

Visit the AMSAT website (<https://www.amsat.org/>) to learn more about making contacts through amateur radio satellites and through the ISS.

Try the 6-meter band. Sometimes called the "magic band", you can do world-wide (DX) contacts on 6-meters when the band is open, and still have great local contacts at other times. Check out K5ND's 6-meter DX Guide (<https://k5nd.net/2020/11/guide-to-6-meter-dxing-getting-started-on-the-magic-band/>). As a Technician you have full privileges on 6-meters.

Don't forget that as a Technician you also have voice privileges on 10-meters (28.3 to 28.5 MHz). When sunspots cause the band to open (like it is now), you can talk around the world on 10-meters. And, if you have learned Morse Code (CW), you have privileges in small sections of other HF bands, as well. CW is a great way to make contacts around the world. Just learn to send and receive accurately, speed comes later, and almost every old-time CW operator is happy to slow down and have a QSO with those who are just learning Morse Code. If you enjoy HF, start maybe thinking about upgrading to your General license. The test is the same format as for Technician and it's really not much harder.

Join the ARRL (<https://www.arrl.org/membership>) and take advantage of the many things they have to offer. Take some of their free on-line classes. Check out your local amateur radio club to see what's happening in your community. You can use the ARRL website (<https://www.arrl.org/find-a-club>) to search for clubs in your area.



Listen to Amateur Radio Newsline (<https://www.arnewsline.org/>) to learn what's happening in the amateur broader amateur radio community.

These are just a few of the things that you can do as an Amateur Radio Technician. There are many, many other parts of the amateur radio hobby available to you as a Technician. You will never really be short of things to do. So, welcome to amateur radio, and I look forward to hearing you on-the-air.

Good luck and 73.



# Repeater Roundabout

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Get to know the local repeaters this November.

The Repeater Roundabout is a weekend-long event held on many of your local repeaters. The goal is to meet new people and work repeaters you might not usually key up. It's also a great way to get started with ham radio contests for folk who are primarily repeater users. Light up the airwaves and make some noise on the great repeaters in Washington State!

The Repeater Roundabout will be held during the weekend of **November 23rd and 24th**. (<https://www.repeaterroundabout.com/>)

Anyone with a ham radio license can participate! This is a friendly, collaborative event for all FM users on VHF and UHF.



# NIFOG

## National Interoperability Field Operations Guide

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Version 2.01

MARCH 2022

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Add a copy of the NIFOG to your preparedness communications planning references.

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B09ZCSPPTQ>

The National Interoperability Field Operations Guide (NIFOG) is a technical reference for emergency communications planning and for radio technicians responsible for radios that will be used in disaster response. The NIFOG includes rules and regulations for use of nationwide and other interoperability channels, tables of frequencies and standard channel names, and other reference material.





## YARG ANNUAL POTLUCK

YARG will have our annual potluck on 7 December 2024 (during our normal club meeting) at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church. Please bring a dish and join us as we close out 2024.



\* Note: There will be no YARG meeting on 21 December 2024 as many of us will be away, celebrating the holidays with other friends and family.

Mick/KD7KLA