



# Congratulations on your Upgrade!

## Some ideas for making the most of your new HF privileges

Valley Radio Club, W7PXL, valleyradioclub.org, rev. 7/6/2024



- **Start or update your qrz.com bio**; also consider qrzcq.com
- **Prepare your paper and/or electronic QSL cards**; even if you won't routinely send them out, there will be someone who wants yours
- **Start your Logbook of the World (LoTW) account**; also consider eQSL
- **Get a logging software** capable of uploading to LoTW and eQSL; also look at contesting support, digital mode integration, QRZ XML integration, recorded transmit...
- **Learn about propagation prediction tools and spotting networks**: hamqsl.com, DX clusters, reversebeacon.net, NCDXF beacons, VOACAP, MUF maps, D-RAP maps, WSPR...
- **Check out Parks on the Air, Summits on the Air, Islands on the Air, Volunteers on the Air...** Be a hunter or an activator or both! Great way to learn pile-up management.
- **Participate in a special event**; collect QSLs from special event stations, or, better yet, be one of them. Great way to learn pile-up management.
- **Participate in contests and QSO parties**; see contestcalendar.com for schedule and rules
- **Learn the International Morse Code** with help from LICW, SKCC, CWOps, K1USN, LCWO, morsecode.world, various apps...
- **Integrate your rig with your computer**, and try digital modes, recorded CQs, rig control...
- **Try challenging operations**, such as QRP, "classic" antennas, portable, mobile...
- **Become a Volunteer Examiner**; ask your local VEs how to qualify
- **Volunteer at local events**: Field Day, Eugene Science Center, Eugene Family YMCA, Ducks on the Air, Beavers on the Air, race support, emergency communications, net control...
- **Put together a mobile or travel "go box"**, so you can operate anywhere, especially if you are lucky enough to go to far-away places!
- **Aim to join a DXpedition team**, which will entail really sharpening your skills, such as pile-up management, split operation, high-speed CW... and, at times, rock climbing!
- **Create new challenges for yourself**, like CQing every day all month, going on 10 meters in winter, CQing when the K-index is super high, QRPP DXCC with cheapo rigs...
- **Learn to hunt down RFI sources**; start with your home, then clean up your neighborhood!
- **Learn to use antenna modeling software**, such as Numerical Electromagnetics Code (NEC)
- **Build your own rig**: everything from easy-assemble kits to circuits you designed in SPICE!
- **Invent new ham things**: a new mode, a new challenge or contest, a way to connect radio to yet another thing, a new computerized tool, new ways to get more people sign up to be a ham...

**The whole world is within your reach!** (Ionosphere permitting, that is.)



# What's Happening in Amateur Radio?

Some upcoming and regular events for you!

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- **Topic-Oriented Nets and Meetings**; see club calendar for complete list
  - Lane Medical Amateur Radio Group, Tuesdays, 1:30 pm, 147.08 FM, +600kHz, 100Hz (OHCC net)
    - volunteer to provide emergency communication support to Lane County health care agencies
    - after the OHCC net, local debrief net follows at 1:50 pm, 145.15MHz, -600kHz, 146.2Hz
  - Eugene EmComm Net, Wednesdays, 7pm, 146.88 FM, -600kHz, 100Hz
    - for anyone interested in providing emergency communication support
  - Digital Radio Net, Wednesdays, 8pm, 146.72 FM, -600kHz, 100Hz, and in-person events TBA
    - for anyone interested in digital voice modes, APRS, mesh networking...
  - Ducks on the Air, Thursdays, 7pm, 145.45 FM, -600kHz, 123Hz
  - Beavers on the Air, Fridays at 7pm, 147.16 FM, +600kHz, 100Hz
    - university radio club nets; all are welcome!
  - Slow Code Net, Thursdays, 8:30pm, 28.450 USB then CW
    - send and copy CW at the speed of your choice; practice, practice, practice!
- **In-person Events and Meetings**; check club calendar for details
  - VRC DQ Lunch, Fridays, noon - 1pm, River Road Dairy Queen, Eugene
  - EARS Breakfast, first Mondays, 10am - 11:30am, Prime Time, Springfield (email club VP in advance)
  - SLARA Masonic Breakfast, third Mondays 8am - 11am, Masonic Center, Cottage Grove
    - Eat food... and maybe meet people
  - Eugene Science Center, Fridays, 10am - noon and other times
    - Demonstrate radio to museum attendees; also, drop in to get help from an experienced ham
  - VRC-EARS Swap Meet; see club calendar and newsletters for schedule and location
    - Buy, sell, window-shop, and hang out!
  - SEA-PAC Convention, in May-June in Seaside, Oregon; see seapac.org for schedule and location
    - Everything you'd expect at a hamfest: exhibits, food, flea market, workshops, testing, food...
  - ARRL Field Day, fourth Saturday-Sunday in June; see club calendar for exciting happenings
    - An annual event on the air and in-person for all things radio, with community engagement
- **Community Service Events**; announced at club meetings and in newsletters
  - Provide radio support at long-distance races, demonstrate radio operation at community centers, educate the community on emergency preparedness...
- **Popular Contests to Try**; see contestcalendar.com for schedule, exchange format, and rules
  - ARRL VHF Contest, in January, June, and September
    - Contact everyone within your line of sight! Go mobile! Use every simplex mode you can!
  - 7th Call Area QSO Party, first Saturday in May; same day as New England QSO Party
    - Everyone, everywhere will try to contact as many 7-land stations as possible
    - If you like getting attention, activate rare counties, or try county-line operations
  - North American QSO Party, twice a year each for CW, SSB, and RTTY
  - ARRL Sweepstakes, CW first Saturday in November, SSB third Saturday in November
    - Popular US-focused contests; you can work everyone, everywhere
    - NAQP is super easy and good for low-power stations; Sweepstakes is more challenging