



# Connected



The Newsletter of the Multnomah County Amateur Radio Emergency Services

October, 2019

## Meetings

Multnomah County ARES  
Every 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday  
7:00 P.M.

Portland Fire & Rescue CTR  
4800 NE 122<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Portland  
<http://www.multnomahares.org/>

PARC Meeting  
Every 4<sup>th</sup> Friday  
7:30 P.M.

One Liberty Center  
650 NE Holladay Street, Portland  
<http://www.w7lt.org/>

HARC Meeting  
Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday

Mount Hood Comm. College  
Room 1001  
<http://www.wb7qiw.org/>

## Nets

Multnomah Co. ARES Net  
Wednesdays at 7:00 P.M.  
146.84 (no Tone)

District 1 ARES Net  
Daily at 7:30 P.M.  
147.320 (PL Tone 100.0)

Northwest Oregon Traffic  
and Training Net  
Daily 6:05 P.M.  
145.27, 145.43, 145.47, 146.84,  
443.150 & 442.275  
(All have a PL tone of 107.2)



## Quad Gateway

## Upcoming Events

**Thursday, October 24—General Meeting:** Split sessions “Winlink certification review” by Eli W7ELI and advanced session is “Soundcard Winlink” By Adam KF7LJH

**Saturday November 16: Winlink from home exercise-** details coming soon

**Thursday November 21 – General meeting:** One week earlier because of Thanksgiving holiday!

## News from Around the County

By Deb KK7DEB

Join me in welcoming our newest members! Gary KJ7EPQ joins the Bravo team, Angela KG7LPO joins the Delta team and Scott KJ7FRD, Bill KC6OXB and John KF7JLG all join the Charlie team. This brings our total active members to 112.

The 2019 Fall SET was a great success as we tested the quad gateway, practiced our simplex voice capabilities and continued to expand our Winlink knowledge. We were also successful using 6 meters as a back channel for coordinating various



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other communications. We had 48 members participate in the Saturday morning exercise from home, at the County EOC, the Gresham EOC and in the field. Thanks to everyone who made the effort to join in.

ARES leadership took the plunge and purchased a used 7' X 12' cargo trailer to rehab for our growing equipment storage needs. It is likely this trailer will be located in north Portland to house our alternate VHF to HF gateway forwarding equipment and give operating shelter to the Delta team who will be operating that equipment. You will be hearing more about this new asset as the plans come together. This was one of those quick decisions as the opportunity presented itself so plans are still being worked out.

### Member profile: By Dylan N4LYD

Dylan McNamee is both Bravo Team lead and the new member education coordinator. Dylan has been a licensed amateur radio operator since 2010. He received his General class license and current FCC callsign, N4LYD (makes sense backwards), in 2017. He is interested in learning more about low-power HF, especially digital modes.

In addition to his radio activities, Dylan has been a professor of computer science, has worked at a number of Portland-area software companies, and is currently writing a textbook for undergraduate computer science students. He is married to Heidi (KI7OMF, Kerns

NET team leader), his daughter Audra (KI7ZKE) is in her second year at UO, and son Colin (not yet FCC licensed) is a junior at Franklin high school.

### Antenna Journey By: Emily N7HA

Recently I moved and I love my new home and the lovely Daybreak Cohousing community where it is located. But for a ham radio operator it is complicated by the need to be respectful of the Homeowners Association (HOA) guidelines and agreements. Unlike my former home, there is not a landlord who can make the executive decision to poke a hole in the wall for my feed line to an outside antenna. During the summer I could sit on my second floor back porch and get into the repeater for our Wednesday nets easily. No way I was going to do that in the cold weather, so when Delta team's turn came up for net control duty I knew I had to do something.



I have a dual band J pole made of 300 Ohm twin lead that I entwined on a

.31" diameter pole and stuck into a paint roller handle for taking out into the field. It is held onto the pole with velcro strips. Outside my back door is a structure I thought was made of wood that supports a plastic rain shield. I found a piece of heavy duty covered copper wire, bent it into shape and hooked into the velcro at the top of the antenna pole. The rest of the wire I hooked over the support beam. The transmission line I put through a widow, and mostly closed it to keep out the rain.

I wasn't able to get into the repeater with a strong enough signal to act as net control and on further reflection decided there might be metal in the support structure that was causing a problem. I then removed the wire from the pole and put a plastic hanger in its place and connected the stiff wire to the top of the plastic hanger. When I put the wire back over the support structure I got into the MC-1 repeater easily with just my 5 watt handheld. Clearly the 3 Db gain of the J Pole overcomes the many losses in this system and I was able to act as net control on Sept. 18th with no difficulty. In the picture you can see the antenna hanging from the support, and the plastic hanger and stiff green wire.

I also made a sign I hung on a step ladder to put at the entrance to my back porch to keep others from wandering near my antenna while I was on the air. I live in a community, and it is possible for children at play to wander back there. I emailed the group and spoke at our previous plenary meeting to get Permission and buy-in, which I got with no trouble. Still, I sat where I



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could look out the window and make sure that no kids or cats were playing with the antenna. After the net, I thought that it would be nice to not worry about this problem, so I hooked the antenna over an old curtain rod in my living room. To my delight I was able to get into MC-1, MC-2, MC-3 and MC-6 easily. I have a 6 foot section of flexible coax between the handheld and the stiff coax from the antenna to keep the radio from being dragged to the floor.

My next medium term challenge is to try setting up my ICOM 2730A base station so I can send digital messages. One problem is that the wall outlets only have 15 amp circuit breakers. At 50 watts my transceiver draws 13 amps, so I will see if I can send digital images on the 15 watt level. The longer term challenge will be to see if I can work with our community emergency preparedness team and facilities team to get a more robust amateur radio station set up.

This is one of the fun challenges of amateur radio, to make things work under different conditions. If you are having difficulty getting into the repeaters don't give up, try something new.

## Additional Nets

Daily at 7:10 P.M.  
147.320 Mhz and 147.04  
Both with PL Ton 100

### NTTN:

Daily at 6:05 P.M.  
145.27, 145.43, 145.47  
146.80, 442.875 and 107.2

### Portland NET Net:

Sunday 8:00 P.M.  
147.040 PL tone 100.00

## Technician Classes

Hoodview ARC has scheduled classes for Nov. 2nd and 9th at Mt. Hood Community College. Visit [www.wb7qiw.org](http://www.wb7qiw.org) for details and to sign up.



### Fall Set Photo 1



### Fall Set Photo 2