

W7SYC

Big news! The Federal Communications Commission granted an Amateur Radio Station License to the Seattle Yacht Club with the call sign W7SYC. The call sign means that when licensed operators are on the air others will hear the distinctive call sign. The club station can operate on 80 to 10 meters and is located in the office downstairs at the club.

Interested in Becoming a Ham Radio Operator?

Having gone through the process only a year ago, I can assure you that it is really not that hard. Gone are the days of having to pass Morse code at thirteen words per minute. From what I have been told, even the initial exam is easier and you can get on the air without knowing any code.

The first level of licensing is the Technician class license. It combines operating procedures with some theory and a lot of common sense rules. You can buy a book published by the Amateur Radio Relay League that has all the questions (and answers) in the one hundred-question pool – from which the examiner selects only thirty-five. Study the material and questions until you are thoroughly familiar with them. The exam is made up of only multiple-choice questions. There are also courses you can take. Finally, there are Internet sites

that offer sample tests with the questions taken from the pool. Go to www.arrl.org to learn more. Practice on these sample tests a number of times - then take the exam confident that you will pass.

Once you get your Technician license you may want to go for a General class license, since it allows you to operate on a greater range of frequencies. Before doing so, however, you will have to take the Morse code test. The good news is that the speed requirement has been reduced to five words per minute. Once you have memorized the code equivalent of letters, numbers and some punctuation you can again go back to the Internet and take sample exams. The format of the code exam is five minutes of text consisting of a simple conversation between two hams. You will be given ten questions and all you have to do is get seven right to pass. The General written exam is structured much like the Technician class exam. The primary difference is that there is more theory. Good luck! - Frank Dean, KD7RAB

Installing a SSB Radio Transceiver in your Boat???

If so, you are probably a HAM/Radio Amateur and want to have some fun communicating over long distances from your boat. I have had this dream ever since I purchased “CASSIS” four years ago. The previous owner had taken his Single Side Band (SSB) Transceiver with him, but left the ground strap wiring and the insulated backstay. By talking with our SYC Amateur Radio Group, I found a used replacement transceiver and lots of knowledge about what to do. An interesting part was the possibility of using the whole mast as the antenna or using just the insulated part of the backstay. The other important part of the antenna system is the ground plane. Since the boat usually sits in a good conductor, like salt water, it becomes a major part of the ground plane and the metal keel is a good way to get connected to the salt water.

From a member of the SYC Amateur Radio Group, I found that almost most all of the metal in the boat, including the lifelines and stanchions topside, can be connected together to form an even a better ground plane. I added an automatic antenna tuner at the base of the backstay and am now ready to talk to the world. - Dwight Shaw, KC7ACP

Join us at the next meeting: January 27th, 4pm, Commodores Room. Mark your calendar for the “Radios & Boats” event on March 31. For more information: send an email to radio@seattleyachtclub.org or tune into the Amateur Radio Committee web page in the SYC website members area.



CQ CQ CQ – Calling all those interested in Radios,
Electronics, and Boats

Announcing a NEW SYC event (mark your calendar)

Radios & Boats

Wireless Communications Options for Mariners

March 31, 2005, Thursday, 7pm, Fireside Lounge

Also, if you are interested in radios, getting your radio license, or would like to know more about the Committee activities, you are invited to attend one of the quarterly scheduled meetings

- January 27, 2005, Thursday, 4:00 pm
- April 28, 2005, Thursday, 7:30 pm
- July 28, 2005, Thursday, 7:30 pm

For more information – log onto the Amateur Radio Committee’s web page on the SYC site and/or – send an email to: radio@seattleyachtclub.org