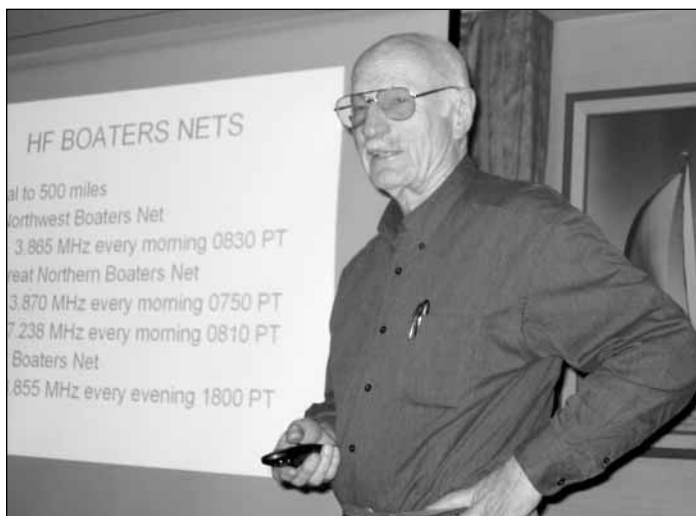




## Education

On Saturday, January 7th, we conducted our second educational program. Last year we introduced an evening seminar called "Radio & Boats – Communications 101." We covered what you needed to know to equip your boat with Amateur & Marine Radio gear and what are some of the changes that are taking place in technology. This year we offered the Technician Class and Exam. We had over 30 members signed up to take the first Amateur Radio exam. In addition we had three Technician Class SYC Hams that formed a study group to pass the General Class test. They met just after Thursday lunches and divided the test questions into four parts for the four study meetings. Progress was good with lots of synergy and they reached their peak just in time for the test. The trio consisted of Frank Dean, Dr. Ed Joneschild, and Dwight Shaw. Bill Whitney, WO7O, led the Class and examination sessions. Bill is not only an accomplished Amateur Radio operator, CCA & SYC member, but also has sailed (and continues to sail) to places that I have only read about. Bill is also the founder of the Northwest Boaters Net from Port Ludlow - the net meets every morning at 0830 on 3.865 kHz. We'll have more information on how the class went in next months Binnacle. We are also planning another class and exam – for more information contact the Front Desk or send an email to Bill or myself.



*Bill Whitney, WO7O*

## 2m Repeater, Sunday Evenings

There is a local repeater set up by K7PF on Green Mountain southwest of Bremerton - that is fairly accessible to Puget Sound members. We have been meeting informally at 1930 on Sunday evenings. The frequency is 146.88 MHz

(146.28 receive) with no sub-tones. The repeater has some very useful commands for users, i.e., the "test functions of the Seattle Repeater Group's repeater are initiated with a DTMF (Touchtone ®) "\*" (Star) key. The second key struck determines the test from the list, e.g., \*1 - DTMF Buddy Test, \*2 - Deviation Test, \*3 - Frequency Test, \*7 - Amplitude Test, \*8 - Pacific Time (hours. minutes) in 24 hr WWV format, \*0 - Buddy Test, \*# - Overall Test for your radio. In order to use the primary test functions, the DTMF (Touchtone ®) of the radio must be working. This is sometimes problematic since many radios have the DTMF deviation set too high to properly decode on the repeater. The data used in these test functions (audio deviation, DTMF deviation, frequency, and amplitude) are also recorded for each regular transmission and reported back in the data burst (courtesy tone). If someone is on-line with the data burst decoding capability, they may be able (and willing) to give that data for some users.

## Radio Permits Required for VHF and SSB for Recreational Boaters

*by Chuck Steward, KE7FZU*

Do you have the right permits to operate your VHF or SSB radio? Most recreational boaters are not "Ham" or amateur radio operators. But almost all have a VHF marine radio and others also have a SSB marine band radio for offshore communication. Even if you are a licensed amateur radio operator you must also observe the marine band permit requirements if you use marine radios and their assigned frequencies. Check the United States Coast Guard site under FCC licensing for exact information on licensing to use VHF and SSB marine radios: [www.navcen.uscg.gov/marcomms/othrcoms/fcc.htm](http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/marcomms/othrcoms/fcc.htm). In addition you can get the forms and other detailed information from the FCC. The form page is as follows: [www.fcc.gov/formpage.html](http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html)

A quick summary for SYC members is you need a "Restricted Radiotelephone Operators Permit" (RP) to operate your marine VHF radio anywhere out of the USA. So if you use it while cruising to Canada you need the permit. A permit is not required if you just cruise domestically and operate a VHF. Check the site above for other requirements. If you do need a license you apply to the FCC on Forms 605 and 159 and no test is required. The license costs \$55 and is good for your lifetime. [Note: Canada still requires US (and Canadian) boats have a marine VHF license although the RCMP does not have a policy of boarding US boats to check on this. Clearly, if they board for any other reason they would probably include a VHF license check in the inspection.]

For SSB (high frequency) marine radios in addition to an RP you also need a "Ship Station License." You apply on the same forms as above. This cost changes every year but is