



The Committee has been assembling radio frequencies and net information for summer cruising and we thought we should share this information with the general membership early in the year since a) some readers may find this information interesting enough to obtain an Amateur Radio license, b) some boaters may leave in the next few months to go to Alaska, and c) you may want to cruise the web and explore additional information on the nets if you intend to travel north. Bill Whitney, WO7O, (Wojo), one of the founders of the NW Boaters Net, has provided information for this article.

Cruising to Alaska?

There are a number of Amateur Radio nets available to boaters. If you have High Frequency SSB gear (generally 75, 40, 20 meters) and you are going north – you can take advantage of The Great Northern Boaters Net which offers excellent communication for northwest cruising boaters during the summer months, especially for those in southeastern Alaska waters. Net operations begin on April 15. The net initially meets on 3.870 MHz at 0630 Alaska time (0730 PDT) with KL0YC, Darlene Minor (and OM Floyd, WL7CUO) as net control station. They are located in Dora Bay, 55 14.069 North, 132 14.279 West; 28 miles west of Ketchikan. The purpose of the net is to assist boaters cruising the inside passage of BC and Alaska. Information can be shared between boaters as to anchorages, fishing activities, weather information and general conversation as to location and cruising plans. Although the northern contacts are mostly informal, Darlene and Floyd offer relay of e-mail messages and handle health and welfare traffic on a priority basis. Their e-mail address is wlcuo@winlink.org. They operate their station every morning. Boaters are welcome to stop by their home. There is no dock but they offer a good mooring buoy and there is a very good anchorage not far away.

At 0700 hours Alaska time (0800 PDT), VE7KLU, Barbara Hodgson, assumes net control with a somewhat more formal roll call and provides an efficient link for the southern area boats, which may be remote to KL0YC. Barbara has been very active with the British Columbia Boaters Net and the Great Northern Boaters Net for several years. She is also an active member of the Northwest Boaters Net. Barbara and husband, Gerry Hodgson (VE7PGT), are well known boaters, having sailed with their sailboat “S.V.Kluane” for over 20 years and now

cruise their powerboat “M.V.Kluane.” Their home station is located near Sidney.

At 0715 hours Alaska time (0815 PDT) the net moves to 7.285 in the 40-meter band. If that frequency is busy, they will move somewhere in the 7.280 - 7.285 sector. Between the two net control stations, and operation on both 75 and 40 meters, excellent coverage is obtained from central California to western Alaska.

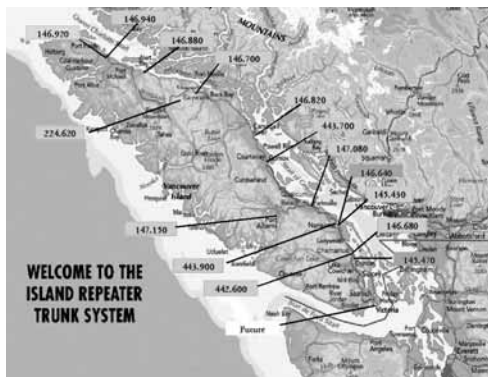
At 0830 hours PDT the Northwest Boaters Net meets on 3.865 MHz. This net is run out of Port Ludlow (Port Ludlow Yacht Club) and is operational all year. On Wednesday you can join the group for lunch in Port Ludlow – just check in on the net and say you want to attend lunch. Coverage ranges from the California northern border to Prince Rupert, BC. The net has a webpage at: <http://www.toandos.com/nwbn.html>.

Cruising South of Port Hardy?

For VHF (Two Meters) the most popular net is the British Columbia Boaters’ Net, which operates at 1700 PDT – this net uses several linked repeaters for more extensive coverage (see map). The main repeater frequencies are 146.68 MHz (Chemainus); 146.82 (Campbell River); 146.70 (Sayward); 146.88 (Woss Lake); and 146.94 (Port McNeil). An HF net follows the VHF net on 3.855 MHz at 1800 PDT. The North Island Amateur Radio Society is testing a new repeater link for the greater Victoria area. This will give the system the much-needed coverage on the south island, and into the Olympic Peninsula. The new repeater is VE7RFR at a frequency of 147.240. The owner operator of this repeater is Chris VE7DAT. A 141.3 PL tone is required at Courtenay 443.700 MHz and Parksville 147.080. Additional information about the BC nets and

repeaters can be obtained from: <http://www.qsl.net/bc/bcnet/> and <http://www.islandtrunksystem.org/index.htm>.

The SYC Amateur Radio Committee will hold its last meeting before cruising season on April 26th at the Mainstation. We will be discussing the summer nets and equipment (radios, antennas, etc.) for summer cruising. In the fall our meeting dates change to the 2nd Wednesday of the month, i.e., the first meeting after August will be on September 13th.



This Island Trunk System Map shows the approximate location of the trunk system repeaters. North Island Amateur Radio Society Repeater on ITS. Frequencies in colored boxes show linked (Green), stand alone (Blue), and on test (Yellow) system repeaters.

W7SYC - For more information about the Seattle Yacht Club Amateur Radio Committee: send an email to chapin@activesoft.net, 73s – Day Chapin, Chair.

