



Radio Class II Grebe CR-12 – early wireless

One of my long-term projects has been to restore my Grandfather's Grebe CR-12 radio. Captain Arthur Jensen was the Lighthouse Keeper at Eaton's Neck Light on Long Island in the beginning of the last century. Radios were still quite new – but after the sinking of the Titanic in 1914, marine wireless communication became more important. The Grebe Company made radios for "Experimental and Amateur purposes" and apparently the Grebe CR-12 was used to receive emergency communication from ships and early AM broadcasts from New York City. The radio was advertised for \$175 in the 1920s, about half the price of a Model-T – or about \$2,000 in 2007 currency. The Grebe CR-12 was also used on boats and one picture shows two gentlemen listening with a horn speaker on a yacht. Another application was a mobile radio outfitted in a car with antennas that looked like an old fashion clothesline draped between the bow and stern.

We happen to have a great radio resource in our Puget Sound backyard. In Bellingham is the American Radio and Electricity Museum. I packed up my Grandfather's CR-12 and made an appointment to visit with the curator. He was quite interested in the radio and was able to locate a proper speaker, a Rola horn speaker made in Seattle in the early 1900s, and locate a source for a battery replacement power supply. These early radios consumed an odd assortment of voltages, 6 volts, 22.5 volts, and 90 volts – all direct current. We were able to locate and test the correct tubes and sometime this fall I hope to get the power supply assembled and revisit what it was like to listen to radios about a hundred years ago.

The Amateur Radio Committee Membership

Total membership in the Amateur Radio Committee is now up to 155 licensed radio operators. There are 16 Extra Class Licenses (the highest level), 8 Advanced Class members, 52 General Licensees, and 79 Technician Licensees. The Tech is the beginning license and allows operation on VHF – so new members can join the popular VHF boater nets right away. The next level is the General level that provides SSB (Single Side Band) use on HF bands – very useful if going offshore. In the Committee we also have 11 Volunteer Examiners. A Volunteer Examiner holds a General, Advanced, or Extra license and is licensed by the ARRL Volunteer Examiners Coordinators Program under authority of the FCC. This allows us to not only teach classes but also to give all examination levels. Efforts by the Committee and VE

Team have resulted in more than one hundred new licensees or upgrades in the past three years.

Radio Rendezvous IV

It is not too late (assuming you are reading this in the beginning of September) to sign up for the fourth Radio Rendezvous at Port Madison. This is a great event to test your radios and skill. If you are going over by boat, we'll have a radio check-in and contest on Saturday morning. When you leave from your regular slip to the dock at Port Madison. We'll do a radio "open house" about 3 p.m., followed by Green Box, potluck, and then a technical program. We also may try the "around the bands" exercise some of us tried at the previous rendezvous – how many HF bands can be utilized to contact remote stations. In addition, we'll try to extend your VHF knowledge with a similar event for VHF contacts.

Local Practice Net

For practice – don't forget the 146.88 repeater. If you have a 2m radio, you are welcome to join our "practice" net – the "Puget Sound Boaters Net." We meet at 7:47 a.m. every morning on the 146.88 MHz repeater. Our Committee also has in-person meetings on the second Wednesday of the month, 1800 hours at Portage Bay which is open to all SYC members and guests. The meeting schedule for the next few months: September 12th, October 10th, November 14th, and December 12th. More information about the net and Committee activities are available on the w7syc yahoo site: [HYPERLINK http://groups.yahoo.com/group/W7SYC/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/W7SYC/) (the site is open only to Club members and guests – it requires a verification process to join).

Emergency Communications

As you know Amateur Radio can make boating more fun by providing an easy to use communications medium that can span hundreds of miles and easily network with other boaters. Another application is emergency communications. Many local (Puget Sound) emergency officials have been re-examining their communications plans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. There is a high probability that the next earthquake will disable the existing communications infrastructure – much like what happened in the South East. A good summary of the value and reason to get a license was offered by Harold Kramer (WJ1B, from the ARRL) during his testimony to congress on September 29, 2005. "The principal reason why Amateur Radio works when other communications systems fail during natural disasters is that Amateur Radio is not infrastructure-dependent, and is decentralized. Amateurs are trained in emergency communications. They are disciplined operators, and their