



During our last meeting, thirty-six members enjoyed the feature program on repeater operations by Mark McKibbin, WR7V. Mark is the Past President of the Western Washington Amateur Repeater Association and has

been the operator of a repeater for many years. Mark was able to share his experience to give the members insight into what it takes to gain approval to establish and operate a repeater. This has been a much-discussed topic of consideration as a SYC project for many months.

Mark explained that the recent natural disaster experiences in our southern states has created a demand for more repeaters being set-up for local, county, and state emergency services. This is due to cell and other communications going out of service during a large-scale natural disaster. Even the recent flooding in the southwestern Washington counties found the amateur radio frequencies and local hams being needed. This means that currently no open two-meter frequencies are available to start a new repeater. We will be able to continue using the current established repeaters, and we are encouraged to be available and trained to help coordinate emergency communications in our local communities.

Mark also gave us another reminder on how leading edge the amateur radio community continues to be, with his overview on how the repeater auto-patch development turned into today's cell phone functionality – enjoyed by everyone.

Bill Whitney brings us the news from our world cruising members Chuck and Peggy Steward, with frequent morning radio contacts. *Alert* has made the trip to Cabo. They had very good weather and were able to stay in HF radio contact with other boats for safety, water condition updates, and weather reports.

All meetings are open to all SYC members and guests interested in joining the fun. Those members wishing to become licensed will be matched with a study tutor and can take the exam at the Spring Radio Rendezvous. Please contact Chair Chuck Lowry or Day Chapin to get matched.



*Bill Whitney introducing the ARC Speaker*

## Barnacle Bill



*Many friends and family joined together at the SYC Mainstation to celebrate and commiserate with our latest Barnacle Bill: Rob Rothe.*

**W7SYC** – For more information about the Seattle Yacht Club Amateur Radio Committee: send an email to Chuck Lowry, beauxarts1@comcast.net

