



Welcome to the SYC Amateur Radio Committee monthly commentary. Commodore McCarthy has tapped me as the new committee chair for this group. I hope we have great events and create some public service projects that will allow us to use Amateur Radio to make an event more efficient and fun for all of us involved.

I have been an active amateur operator for 50 years and have tried most all modes of operation. I am one of a dozen VEC's (volunteer examiners) at SYC who can administer amateur exams. I am a member of the Port Ludlow Amateur Radio Club as well. My employment the last 40 years has been in digital and wireless technologies.

I just opened up a 1941 **Radio Amateurs Handbook** and at the front is "**The Amateur's Code.**" There are five items that are still important today. Keep in mind they were written in 1941, and my! – how the world has changed since then. Here is a summary of that code of ethics:

1. "The **Amateur is Gentlemanly**. He never knowingly uses the air for his own amusement in such a way to lessen the pleasure of others."
2. "The **Amateur is Progressive**. He keeps his station abreast of science. It is built well and efficiently. His operating practice is clean and regular."
3. "The **Amateur is Friendly**. Slow and patient sending (*Morse code*) when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance and cooperation for the broadcast listener: these are marks of the amateur spirit."
4. "The **Amateur is Balanced**. Radio is his hobby. He never allows it to interfere with any of the duties he owes to his home, his job, his school or his community."
5. "The **Amateur is Patriotic**. His knowledge and his station are always ready for the services of his country and his community."

That handbook is filled with schematics, build instruction, theory and formulas, for transmitters, receivers and antennas. The only difference today is the component size. Most all of the principles of operation are the same as in the tiny solid state handheld transceiver.

This summer there was some discussion about APRS, or the *Amateur Position Reporting System*. APRS is a merge of packet data with a GPS receiver and a two-meter transmitter. The Northwest Regional VHF frequency is 144.39 MHz. Worldwide HF uses 10.151 MHz LSB (lower side band) and 28.350 USB (upper side band).

There are a number of ways to get aboard this mode. One off-the-shelf way is to acquire a Kenwood TM-D700 mobile

transceiver. It has everything but the GPS built in, ready to go. There are several more small modules, such as the Tiny Trak III, that requires some technical capability to interface the GPS, module, and the two-meter radio together. There are versions with a low power transmitter built onboard. Just add a GPS, battery and antenna, and you're running.

Position reporting has dramatically changed the past few years as more web-based mapping sources are available and more desirable. In the past, you ran a mapping program on your PC and watched the data traffic show up as icons on that map.



This would look nice on the bridge. It is a 1941 Hallicrafters HT-11 Marine Radiophone Unit.

Several good websites that will help are www.nwapsr.org (find the table of contents) and <http://wa8lmf.net/APRSMaps/PacificNorthWest.htm> to see where the APRS (here is a new word) digipeaters are in the Pacific Northwest. To watch a real mobile in action, follow a buddy of mine (K7WWA) with his fifth wheel move across the U.S. He left Northern California about six weeks ago and went to Virginia, then Massachusetts and is heading for Portland, Oregon now. <http://www.findu.com/cgi-bin/find.cgi?call=k7wwa-8&terra=4>

W7SYC – For more information about the Seattle Yacht Club Amateur Radio Committee: send an email to Dan Withers, dwithers@rodaxwireless.com or call (206) 947-2303.

