



The Pacific Northwest's Largest Amateur Radio Convention

“Magic on the Air”

SEA-PAC June 5 – June 7, 2026

Notes from the Chair

Welcome to the February edition of Waves. We are just at four months until June 5 – 7, when *SEA-PAC* 2026 will begin. I'm looking forward to all the Magic that will be in the air that weekend. Committee members are working to put together a fun convention that will inspire, inform, and excite everyone who attends.

The *SEA-PAC* 2026 Pin Contest is in full swing; the deadline for submissions is midnight March 1. See the Pin Contest article for details.

Online registration is less than a month away. It begins on March 1 at 6 p.m. Check out the details in this issue.

I'm happy to announce the YL Luncheon speaker is Carla Heman KJ7ZZG who will talk on Chasing QSO's—Special Events, QSL cards, and more. I'm excited to hear her presentation and see some of her QSL cards. She and her OM do POTA activations, and she enjoys working Route 66. It is always fun to get together with the SEA-PAC YLs for the Luncheon.

Scott N7JI and Hannah W7HER/FW7H Rosenfeld will present on their Wallis and Fortuna Islands DXpedition. Look for details about the DX Luncheon in this issue. There are also details about the Saturday evening Banquet in this issue.

Look for this month's updates on Workshops, Seminars, the Flea Market, and a new event.

Relax and enjoy the February Waves.

Barb Yasson, AC7UH

SEA-PAC 2026 Convention Chair

Theme: Magic on the Air

Our 2026 theme encourages you (and us) to experience the magic on the airwaves (or ether if you prefer) between now and June. A radio can look nice on the shelf when collecting dust but offer so much more enjoyment when the tubes or chips are heated and the antenna sends forth waves. Experience the thrill talking with someone on a far-away island or the next state whose life is different than your own. We hope you find some magic in Seaside in June, too.

Thank you for your time and patience while we work through the challenges. Please feel free to distribute the Waves to your friends.

SEA-PAC Pin Design Contest

Go to www.seapac.org to see past winning pin designs, and get your creative thoughts working. If not for 2026, then get started on a design for 2027!

Each year *SEA-PAC* holds a Souvenir Pin Design contest. We limit each entrant to 1 design submission, preferably done on a computer so that it can be emailed to the company that makes the pins for *SEA-PAC* each year. Entries are due by midnight on March 1st, with the *SEA-PAC* committee choosing the winner. The winner will receive 2 free Banquet meals of their choosing from the options posted on the Registration page. Start working on the winning design now! The winner will be notified in April.



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SEA-PAC

Silent Key Recognition Project

The SEA-PAC committee continues the recognition of attendees who became a Silent Key. The Silent Key names will be listed on the rotating screens around the convention center that provide SEA-PAC convention information. We ask that you send us the Silent Key's name, call sign, and year they passed away. We are asking for Silent Keys who attended SEA-PAC and who passed away in the period May 19, 2025 – May 18, 2026. Please send your SK information to: vice-chair@seapac.org. Thank you for helping us to remember the Silent Keys.

SEA-PAC Prizes

Prizes! Prizes! Prizes!

The prize committee has been busy acquiring prizes for SEA-PAC 26.

To simplify the prize categories, we have eliminated the Early Bird prizes.

There will be a major prize drawing on Saturday and Sunday. \$5 per ticket. No limit to the number you can purchase.

There will also be the minor prizes drawn periodically on Saturday and Sunday. One \$2 ticket is available for purchase per admission.

These are the Major prizes we have so far:



Icom IC-7100 HF/VHF/UHF All mode Transceiver

Icom IC-705 HF/VHF/USF All mode QRP portable Transceiver
Yaesu FT-710 Field All Mode HF/6m Transceiver
Yaesu FTX-1 Field HF/VHF/USF All mode QRP portable Transceiver
Yaesu FX-6R 144/220/430 FM HT
Yaesu FT-60R Dual band FM HT
More to follow...:

Registration

Online Registration Opens March 1, 2026, at 6 pm Pacific Time.

It is our goal to be available to you should you need registration assistance. Everyone on the Registration team works full-time and we are generally available in the evenings. We watch the process closely to be sure that there are no glitches, unexpected downtimes, and other things.

Please know that we will contact you via email if we see that you have attempted to register multiple times or have other issues. We are known to schedule zoom sessions and walk folks through registration. We are here to help you!

For the fastest response, please email us at registration@seapac.org if you have any questions or issues with the registration process.

Key things to know:

1. Do give us a valid phone number and email in case we need to contact you.
2. Have your credit card ready – the payment process system will time out in 10 minutes.
3. We do not store or have access to your credit card information. All payments are made with US Bank's merchant Elavon/Converge and are secured.
4. Use the Comment field to send us information like Flea Market table locations, Volunteering, etc. We do read the comments.
5. When you have filled out the registration form, click on the "Calculate and Refresh" button at the bottom of the screen to update the information.
6. All tickets are held at Will-Call. We do not mail any tickets.



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7. Exhibitors check in for arrival at the NE large glass door. Flea Market registrants check in at the West glass doors near the NW corner. Regular registrants check in via the Lobby in the NE corner.

Lodging at SEA-PAC

Visit our lodging page on our website, seapac.org. While we list multiple hotels at the top, scroll down to the bottom of this page for additional resources. Seaside is basically a resort town but there are affordable options. Sharing with friends is also another great option and while you rent a larger space, the cost per person generally drops.

If you like camping, RV's and there are a few RV parks as well as a handful of Oregon State parks within a short driving distance. Adjacent or "next over" towns, such as Cannon Beach, or Gearhart, or further out towns such as Warrenton and Astoria also have lodging. If you are Military, Camp Rilea could be another resource – however, they won't accept requests further than 90 days out.

Driving to Seaside, Oregon

For those driving to Seaside, Oregon and are planning to take highway US 26 there are multiple areas that have buckled the highway due to the heavy rains that have built up pressure under the roads. These "bumps" have sent cars flying off the road. It is our understanding that the Oregon Department of Transportation has reduced the speed to 5mph throughout these areas. Pay attention to posted speeds and recommended speeds. Please drive safely.

Parking in Seaside

Please note that Seaside has some unique rules regarding parking.

There is parking adjacent to the Convention Center. On the Northeast side, on Necanicum Dr and directly to the West in the public parking lot, however, overnight parking is not allowed. We hear reports of hams who have been awoken by the local police only to be told they have to move their RV, Truck/camper combo, car, etc. in the middle of the night.

Per the Seaside OR website, there is a limited number of overnight parking permits available for extra/overflow vehicles that cannot be accommodated onsite at vacation rentals or hotel properties in the City of Seaside. Permits available at the Seaside Welcome Center during normal business hours for qualifying use. This program is a collaboration between the Seaside Police Department, Seaside Visitors Bureau, and SEPRD. Note that overnight lodging must already be arranged at time of permit, vehicle make/model and license plate are shared with police, and there is **NO sleeping allowed in vehicles** with overnight parking permits. Permitted parking is at the Welcome Center lot. Visit <https://www.seasideor.com/parking/> for more information.

Marketing

The SEA-PAC Committee seeks one or more individuals who undertake marketing the SEA-PAC Convention to new and experienced hams and others who enjoy wireless communication activities. Our current reach is less than we desire, and we seek help in this area. If interested, please send an email to chair@seapac.org with some thoughts on how you would approach the opportunity. Since SEA-PAC is the Northwestern Division Convention, any respondents need not reside in the Portland/Vancouver area.

Volunteer with SEA-PAC!

SEA-PAC is powered by its incredible volunteers— from committee members who plan the convention throughout the year to those who step in during key registration periods and on-site event hours.

If you've volunteered in any role in the past, you played a vital part in making SEA-PAC happen, and we are deeply grateful for your time, energy, and commitment.

The 2026 Volunteer Intake Form is now LIVE in the Volunteer Portal on our website. Please take a few minutes to complete this form whether you're a returning or new volunteer. This allows us to better



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understand your interests, availability, and any details that help our committee leads support you effectively.

If you have any questions, please contact us at volunteers@seapac.org.

Radios on the Beach

Friday evening after dinner, all who enjoy a walk on the beach meet up at the south side of the Seaside Promenade on the beach at 7:00 pm. If you have a portable radio and antenna, come have fun and help promote our hobby while transmitting from the beach. If you don't have a portable radio setup, come on down anyway to see how many varieties of portable radio rigs there can be. If you are on wheels, the walkway along the beach is quite accessible to transmit from as well. As always, if it rains, the event is canceled.

I get asked whether this is HF or VHF, operate on any band your license allows. Be prepared for fun; we usually have around 30-50 people in attendance, sometimes more.

Friday Reception

Friday evening from 6:30 to 8 PM we will hold a reception upstairs in the Convention Center so you can meet and greet friends (old and new), ARRL guests (Rick and Holly Roderick, Bob Inderbitzen, and probably Kristen McIntyre) plus the ARRL Northwestern Director and Vice Director, section managers, and SEA-PAC Committee members. The food is plentiful and great conversations await. This is a fee event.

Saturday Luncheons

The DX and YL Luncheons are both scheduled for 11:55 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. The menu for both will be Roast Beef, Potatoes, Salad, and Dessert. Both are fee events; be sure to sign up for them when you register. The DX Luncheon is limited to 45 attendees and the YL luncheon is limited to 21 attendees. A description of each luncheon follows.

DX Luncheon

Scott Rosenfeld, N7JI, and Hannah Rosenfeld, W7HER/FW7H, will present their experiences at

their recent DXpedition to Wallis and Futuna Islands. Wallis & Futuna Islands are currently #204 on the Club Log most wanted list for the western US and is #96 globally.

YL Luncheon

Carla Herman KJ7ZZG will be the YL Luncheon speaker for SEA-PAC 2026. Her topic will be Chasing QSO's--Special Events, QSL cards, and more. Carla enjoys collecting QSL cards, working special events, and activating parks with her OM, Jack KF7UGV. Carla is a history enthusiast and enjoys combining that with ham radio. We look forward to meeting Carla and all the attendees at the YL Luncheon on Saturday.

ARRL guests

This year we expect Rick Roderick, K5UR, ARRL President and his wife Holly; Bob Inderbitzen, N1QR, Innovation Director; Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, First Vice President; Mark Tharp, KB7HDX, Northwestern Director; Michael Sterba, KG7HQ, Vice Director; and several section managers from the six sections in the Northwestern Division.

Youth activities

A few activities that we hope will interest young hams include:

- Build workshop on Friday that includes some soldering and kit construction that will yield a Morse Code Tutor built around an Arduino board with an add-on board for power and connections. See the description in the Workshop section for more details.
- We anticipate several seminars aimed at new hams including operating portable (such as Parks on the Air) that will discuss ways to get out of the house and operate.
- Fox hunts that will occur on Friday and Saturday during convention hours. Bring a two-meter handheld radio to participate. The activity will involve some walking to find the QR code near the four transmitters.
- Radios at the Beach Friday evening will display multiple stations operating portable on the beach west of the convention center.



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- Soldering activity Saturday on the convention floor towards the west end with a simple kit (purchase during registration or at the registration desk).

ARRL Forum

The ARRL Forum will occur in the early afternoon on Saturday. Learn what ARRL is doing during the “Year of the Club” and America’s 250th Anniversary.

Banquet

Our Saturday Banquet will include good company, food prepared by Oregon Fine Foods, and some talks we hope you find interesting. Our MC, Arnie Kline, is already preparing his intros. We will hear short talks from one or more ARRL dignitaries including Mark Tharp, KB7HDX, and possibly another guest. Our keynote speaker will be Neil Rapp, WB9VPG. Neil was honored as the 2025 Hamvention Amateur of the Year and has received numerous other awards. He is a long-time teacher and keen to introduce amateur radio to as many youths as possible. Enjoy dinner and good talks with us.

Exhibitors

We plan to expand the booth count in the exhibit hall this year and fill some of the space left vacant last year.

Seminars

We plan to have about 40 free seminars on Saturday and Sunday. If you have a presentation you would like to give, send your proposal to seminars@seapac.org with a working title, brief description, and presenter name and call sign. Same for ideas on topics you would like to see presented. Presentation ideas include:

- How to do a balloon launch with tracking. We could even provide a place where you could launch a balloon if someone decides to do such.
- How to communicate through amateur satellites.

- Presenter experiences and how to conduct outdoor operations such as Parks on the Air, Summits on the Air, or operating outside for fun.
- Chasing paper, such as Route 66 on the Air, 13 Colonies on the Air, Lewis and Clark Trail on the Air, chasing special event stations, etc.
- Chasing DX and how to get confirmations for credit.
- Things to know when operating during an incident such as weather, fire, earthquake, etc. How to be ready when needed since that is what many amateurs do.
- Power for your station.
- What you need to succeed in building kits for your station
- Antennas are always a popular topic.
- Assembling your first station
- Why is HF operating so much fun?
- Your great ideas are welcome and solicited.

Workshops

At present we plan to conduct three workshops in June.

- An Emergency Communication workshop will include lectures and discussions in the morning followed by a sandbox exercise in the afternoon where you will use various stations and learn by doing. Fee: \$25.
- A build session where you will assemble an Arduino module with parts (with some soldering) to create a Morse Code Tutor. There will be two half-day workshops (one morning and one afternoon). The fee is not finalized but will likely be \$60-80. Participation is limited to 20 per session. The registration form and the SEA-PAC website will have the final price once we know the cost (likely a few days after you read this Waves issue).
- A half-day workshop presented by Yaesu representatives on their new repeaters and related radios. The session will include hands-on experiences. The workshop will be limited to 20 (current limit) with a \$12 fee.



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Fox Hunt

Dennis Doolittle, WB7UJF, plans to hide several low-powered fox hunt transmitters near the Convention Center on Friday, June 5, and Saturday, June 6. When you are close look for the QR code near the transmitter and enter your name, callsign, date and time found. More information will appear in the Convention booklet. Hunts will be set up on Friday afternoon and Saturday during convention hours. The hunt will use 2-meter frequencies, so bring a handheld and join the hunt on Friday or Saturday.

VE Testing

VE Testing will be conducted at *SEA-PAC* on June 6th, 2026.

Location:

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
320 1st Ave
Seaside, OR 97138

One Session only at 9:00 am

Seating is limited so reserve your place by registering now.

Pre-Registration preferred - Walk-in's allowed dependent on available seats!

Registration deadline: June 1st, 2026.

All we need to know is your Name, Call sign (if licensed), what license you will be testing for and your email/phone in case we need to contact you.

A form is available on the *SEA-PAC* website under VE Testing.

Mail the completed form to:

John Bucsek, KE7WNB
P.O. Box 220333
Milwaukie, OR 97269

Or email all information to: VE@seapac.org

Questions? Call John Bucsek at 1 (503) 803-6134 evenings, or email John at VE@seapac.org.

Please bring the following:

- a photo ID
- the original plus a photocopy of your current license
- the original plus a photocopy of any CSCE that will apply to the upgrade
- And a check for \$15.00 payable to *SEA-PAC*

Flea Market

We have a new flea market coordinator this year, and he plans to communicate with past flea market customers soon. If you have questions about flea market, send an email to fleamarket@seapac.org. Last month in the Waves we enumerated some policy changes that elicited some conversations. We prefer that flea market table renters not sell items before Saturday, but we also recognize the futility to enforce such a ban. We apologize for causing a bit of a ruckus. We also understand that flea market renters are a great community and enjoy socializing which we encourage.