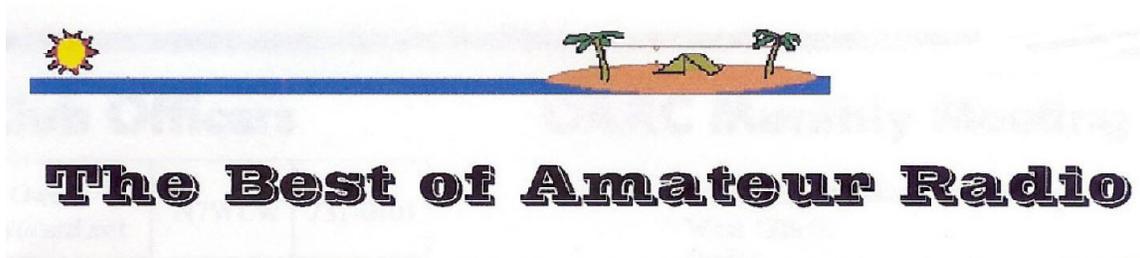




# WATTS NEWS



*Welcome to the OARC e-Magazine*

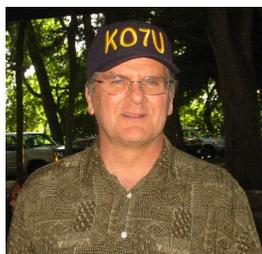
[www.OgdenArc.org](http://www.OgdenArc.org)

**MAY 2012**

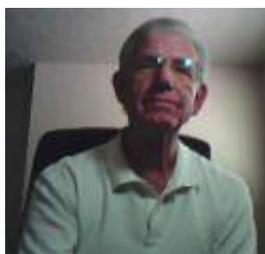
Next Club Meeting/Activity

**3rd Saturday 19 May 2012**

**Topic:** (1) Golden Spike special event station W7G 2012 experiences  
(2) Field Day activity planning



Kim Owen K07U  
President



Larry Griffin AD7GL  
Vice President



Gary Hudman KB7FMS  
Secretary



John Shupe K7DJO  
Treasurer



Gil Leonard NG7IL  
Program Director



Dave Woodcock WY7P  
Activity Director



Val Campbell K7HCP  
Webmaster/NL Editor

# PREVIOUS CLUB MEETINGS

3rd Saturday 21 April 2012

- (1) Inside VE Test Sessions by Rick Morrison W7RIK
- (2) Golden Spike Special Event Station W7G - Past and Future



VE Liaison: Richard Morrison W7RIK

Next VE Test Session in Weber County ... **NEW Test Location** NEW!

VE Test Session >>> Wednesday 06 June 2012 @ 5:00 PM

**NEW LOCATION...for June and October 2012**

**Ogden Public Safety Building  
2186 Lincoln Ave Ogden Utah**

## OARC VE Team Contact Information

Mary Hazard W7UE Extra (VE Liaison)  
Richard Morrison W7RIK Extra (VE Liaison)

Brad Bate N7SWW	Extra
David Black AC7QO	Extra
Alan Bryner KK7UD	Extra
Shon Edwards K6QT	Extra
Mike Fullmer KZ7O	Extra
Larry Griffin AD7GL	Extra
Charles Horn KD7SST	Extra
Gary Liptrot N7ZI	Extra
Fred Mabrey KJ7RH	Extra
Greg Moore KD7BPQ	Extra
Kim Owen KO7U	Extra
Mel Parks NM7P	Extra
Richard Rohde W7DAX	Extra
Mike Stanford WB7TSQ	Extra
Ray White K7RFW	Extra
Ken Wilson N7OG	Extra
Cliff Jenkins N7ZTY	General
Mike Young KK7VZ	Extra

# NEXT CLUB MEETING

**When:** 3rd Saturday 19 May 2012

**Time:** 9:00 AM

**Location:** Riverdale Fire Station

**Topic:** (1) Golden Spike special event station W7G 2012 experiences  
(2) Field Day activity planning

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## JOIN OARC

### Renew your membership now!

Membership in the Ogden Amateur Radio Club is open to anyone interested in Amateur Radio. You do not need an amateur license to join us. You do not need to join the club to participate with us. Dues are used to operate the club, field day activities, and repeater equipment maintenance.

Joining is easy. Come to a club meeting or [fill out an application form from the club website](#). Instructions for mailing it are on the form.

**DUES:** Dues are \$15.00 per person and runs September - August.  
Additional family members are \$8.00 each.

**NOTE: New Hams** >>> Membership in OARC is complimentary for remainder of 1st year licensed.

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## FROM KIM'S SHACK



Kim Owen K07U - President

### CQ ALL Members and Friends of OARC

It's May and our fun summer activities start with Golden Spike. I have been trying to contact our Special Event station and monitored when I can. I was able to hear Larry/AD7GL Friday, but he could not hear me. The comments that I've heard on the air from those talking to the W7G station at Promontory has always been positive and fun for our club operators.

A special thanks to Dave/WY7P (formally KF7PAV – congratulations on your Extra license) for the coordination, work and time that he has put in for this event. Another gem in the club that made this year's Special Event a success again is Kent/WA7AHY. Kent has been a keystone to this event every year.

The remainder of the summer events will be Field-day in June. Field-day will be our club meeting in June. Field-day is always the last full weekend in June. The year Field-day will be June 23– 24. The contest starts at noon Saturday and ends noon Sunday, but we will need help with setup and clean-up. If you never setup a station before, come out had help or just watch. And of course, the highlight will be our dinner at the Field-day site Saturday night.

There are also radio activities providing public support for parades and races throughout the summer months. I encourage everyone to consider supporting a couple of these events. Most events are tied to a charity fundraiser. They are fun and provide a sense of accomplishment for that service to the community.

The meeting in July we will have our Fox Hunt Breakfast and then in August our meeting will be our summer steak fry and club elections. I want to encourage any club member interested club leadership to contact our club secretary Gary/KB7FMS for information.

Our club meeting this month will be Field-day Planning and Golden Spike Review. See you Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>.

For now,  
73 de Kim/Ko7U

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## **CLUB NEWS**

**Utah Hamfest July 2012 (bryce Canyon - Ruby Inn)**

[www.UtahHamfest.org](http://www.UtahHamfest.org)

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## Club Badges

OARC Club badges are still available for all club members and non-members. The cost is \$8.00 each. You can order the badge with either a "PIN" clip or a "MAGNETIC" clip. Badge includes your Call Sign in large letters and your First Name in a somewhat smaller font in white lettering on a pitch black background. See example below.



Place your order along with \$8.00 in advance for each badge ordered and specify Pin or Magnet style fastener, Call Sign and First Name.

Contact any club officer via email or see them at the next club meeting. See web site [www.ogdenarc.org](http://www.ogdenarc.org) "Club Officers" page.

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## Club Swapmeet

### "SALE" or "WANTED" ITEMS NEEDED

OARC's *O-bay (On-Line Swap-Meet)* items needed for the web site...

Visit <http://www.ogdenarc.org/> then click on **Obay-Swap**.

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# HOBBY NEWS

Submitted by John Shupe K7DJO



## QCWA 2012 Convention Reno, Nevada

### September 24 - 27, 2012



A great deal of the growth and dynamic character of QCWA, since it was founded in 1947, is a direct result of the Chapters chartered across the continent and around the world; there are 220 Chapters with members in over 60 countries. In 2012, we are bringing together amateurs from all over to share in our rich history. Bring friends, relatives and other fellow hams to the event.

The QCWA is for all amateurs that truly enjoy the hobby, appreciate the effect it has had on their lives, want to share their experiences, and preserve the amateur traditions.

We will showcase some of the rich history of amateur radio from the days of the spark gap transmitter to the present. It will also highlight a look at the future amateur radio as a technical, social, and emergency media.

This convention is not just for QCWA members but for all amateurs and individuals interested in amateur radio communication.



Harrah's Reno is the site for the 2012 convention. In addition to the excellent facilities, they are providing us with special room convention rates (\$59/night single or double occupancy) and packages in their West Tower. The amenities include free wi-fi access, free use of their spa, show discounts, and a special coupon package. The hotel is located one block away from the train station and bus station, has a free shuttle to/from the international airport, and ample free parking for guests and convention attendees.

Besides the main tour and presentations during the convention, there are many other tours, shows, attractions, and dining facilities available for the convention attendees and their guests. An e-mail convention newsletter will be published to keep everyone informed on the latest shows and events in the Reno/Tahoe area around the time of our convention. The newsletter will list tour information, presentations, and acknowledge our corporate and individual supporters.



*For more information, contact:*

Al Montoya, WB6IMX  
2012 QCWA Convention Chairperson  
P O Box 4181  
Mountain View, CA 94040  
USA

**WWW.QCWA.ORG**  
**WWW.QSL.NET/QCWA-11**

*e-mail: ADNYP@ATT.NET*

# MORE HOBBY NEWS

## American Red Cross Education updates

I wanted to send you the upcoming Red Cross classes, just as I received them.

The ERV is the Red Cross vehicle that looks like an ambulance, but is used to carry food, water and clean-up supplies to the disaster site.

The Psychological First Aid class is one that all those who could respond to a disaster should take, its quite interesting and very applicable on a large or small disaster (if its your house, there is nothing small about it).

Upcoming classes:

4/25, Wed, 5-9, Ogden, Disaster Assessment Basics 5/5, Sat, 8-4, Ogden, ERV, Ready, Set, Roll 5/12, Sat, 9-2, Ogden, Shelter Ops/Sim 5/16, Wed, 5:30-7:15, Ogden, Safe and Well Linking 5/22, Tue, 5:30-9:30, Salt Lake, Psychological First Aid 5/24, Thu, 9-4, Ogden, Client Casework

If you have classes you would like to have offered at our chapter, contact Nancy - Chapter Phone 801-627-0000

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## Three Hams Venture to ISS Next Week

ARRL 05/09/2012

NASA will [televise](#) the launch and docking of the next mission to the International Space Station ([ISS](#)), scheduled for May 14. NASA Flight Engineer [Joseph Acaba, KE5DAR](#), and his two Russian crewmates, Soyuz Commander [Gennady Padalka, RN3DT](#), and Flight Engineer [Sergei Revin, RN3BS](#), are completing their training as they undergo Soyuz spacecraft fit.

[Live NASA TV coverage](#) of the Soyuz TMA-04M spacecraft launch from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan begins at 9 PM CDT on Monday, May 14 (0200 UTC May 15), with the launch scheduled for 10:01 PM CDT (0301 UTC).

The trio will arrive at the station May 16, joining [Expedition 31](#) Commander [Oleg Kononenko, RN3DX](#), of the Russian Federal Space Agency, Flight Engineer [Don Pettit, KD5MDT](#), of NASA and Flight Engineer [Andrei Kuipers, PI9ISS](#), of the European Space Agency, who have been aboard the ISS since December 2011. Padalka, Acaba and Revin will transition to the Expedition 32 crew in July and return to Earth in mid-September.

# GUEST ARTICLE

By Dan KB6NU

## Mailing lists, blogs, and podcasts are good sources of ham info

Whether you're a newcomer or an old-timer, the Internet is possibly the best way to learn as much as you can about amateur radio. On the Internet, you'll find many, many ham radio mailing lists, podcasts, and videos. In essence, these resources give you access to hundreds, if not thousands, of Elmers.

One mailing list that I always suggest to new hams is the HamRadioHelpGroup (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HamRadioHelpGroup>). The purpose of this group is to help "those who are interested in getting started in Amateur Radio or upgrading their license." This mailing list has a good mix of beginners and experts, and most questions are answered quickly and correctly. One thing that I really like about this group is that the moderators do a good job of keeping the discussions on track, and will squelch them when they stray off topic or threaten to turn into flame wars.

In addition to the HamRadioHelpGroup, you might also want to join a more targeted mailing list. For example, if you're interested in learning Morse Code (hint, hint), you might join the SolidCpyCW list (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SolidCpyCW/>). If you just bought a Yaesu FT-60 hand-held transceiver, you might want to join the FT-60 list (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FT-60/>). Chances are that no matter what your interest, there's probably a mailing list to discuss that interest.

I'm subscribed to a lot of amateur radio mailing lists and could probably spend most of my day just reading and replying to them. In order to get the most out of them, without them taking away from my on-air time, I only read those threads that I am really interested in, and even then, I quit reading them once they have started to drift off-topic. I also un-subscribe myself from lists that cover topics that I'm no longer interested in.

### Blogs, podcasts and videos

In addition to getting on a few mailing lists, you might want to read a few blogs and subscribe to podcasts. These are also great sources of information about amateur radio. I blog about amateur radio at [www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com), and lots of hams find it a good source of information. You can find a list of other ham radio blogs that I'd recommend on my home page.

Podcasts are also a good source of information. One podcast that you might want to check out is the Practical Amateur Radio Podcast (<http://www.myamateurradio.com>). Since 2008, Jerry, KDOB1K, has been producing PARP, and currently has more than 50 different episodes online. For other podcasts, consult the list on Jerry's home page.

Finally, there are literally thousands of amateur radio videos on the net. On YouTube alone, there are approximately 32,000 of them. The American Radio Relay League has its own channel (<http://www.youtube.com/user/ARRLHQ>), but perhaps the most popular amateur radio video channel is the K7AGE channel (<http://www.youtube.com/user/K7AGE>). K7AGE has more than 6,200 subscribers and his videos have garnered more than 2.1 million views!

Whatever source or sources of information you select, remember to not let them take up too much of your time. Ham radio is about more than just reading, listening, or watching. It's about doing!

## FEATURE ARTICLE

### ELKS RADIO - 2011

Submitted by John Shupe K7DJO



▲ During radio's golden age, the radio drew families, like this one in Provincetown, Massachusetts, together in the evenings to listen to popular programs. PHOTO: ©BETTMANN/CORBIS

WILLIAM J. LYNOTT

**T**HE VOICES AND MUSIC arrived in the homes of millions of Americans at the speed of light, on wings of air. Whether in a remote farmhouse in Kansas or a fourth-floor walkup in Brooklyn, New York, the live sound was everywhere. As if by magic, it penetrated stone, wood, cement—even the human body. It was called radio. From daytime soap operas like *Ma Perkins* to comedies like *Fibber McGee and Molly* and thrilling, bone-chilling dramas of the evening hours like *Inner Sanctum Mysteries*, the advent of

radio introduced Americans to a whole new world of entertainment and up-to-the-minute information.

#### Radio Pioneers

Whether any single person can be considered the true inventor of radio remains a problematic issue to this day. The roots of radio stretch back to the 1830s, when American college professor Joseph Henry and a physicist from Great Britain named Michael Faraday each theorized that electrical currents could be transferred from one wire to another

unconnected wire. Known as the induction theory, this led another British physicist, James Clerk Maxwell, to speculate about the nature of electromagnetic waves during the mid-1860s. His speculations were later verified in the 1880s by German physicist Heinrich Hertz.

The early work of men like Henry, Faraday, Maxwell, and Hertz laid the theoretical groundwork that would make the invention of radio possible. Tackling the practical experimentation that would ultimately lead to the radio's invention, however, would be

PHOTO: ©BETTMANN/CORBIS



◀ Italian inventor Guglielmo Marconi, shown here with his wireless receiver in 1896, was the first person to successfully transmit radio communication signals.

left to other men, among them the Italian inventor Guglielmo Marconi, who became the first person to transmit radio communication signals when he successfully sent a Morse code letter *S* (three dots) to a receiver over a mile away from his transmitter. A year later, in 1896, Marconi applied for a patent for his system of radio telegraphy in England, and in 1901, he succeeded in sending communication signals across the Atlantic Ocean, all the way from England to the northeastern part of Canada.

### Early Radio

Despite the work of inventors like Marconi, at the turn of the twentieth century, the only radio signals that could be sent and received were simple signals such as Morse code. It wasn't until 1904, when an Austrian university professor named Otto Nussbaumer successfully sent the sound of his own singing voice over the airwaves that voice transmissions were finally possible. Soon after this achievement, other milestones in voice transmission were achieved. In 1906, Reginald Fessenden, a Canadian inventor, transmitted his voice from Boston all the way to the Caribbean Sea, and then in 1910, another twentieth-century radio pioneer, Lee de Forest, an American, caused widespread excitement when he arranged a public broadcast of two live

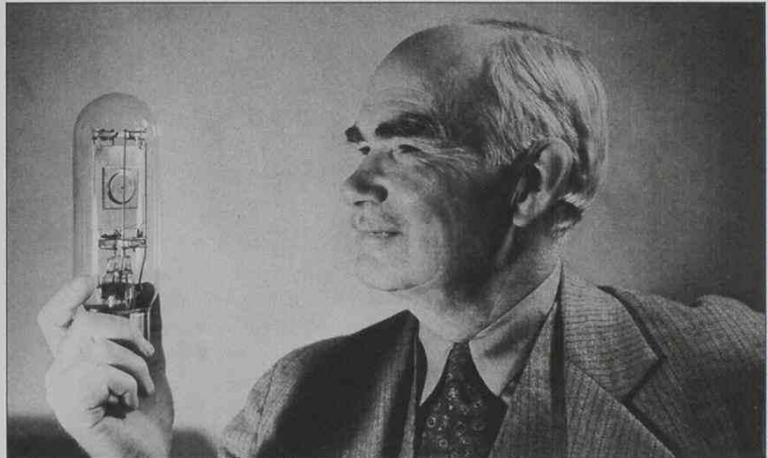


PHOTO: ©BETTMANN/CORBIS

▲ American inventor Lee de Forest made major contributions to radio technology that eventually made commercial broadcasting possible.

operas from the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City.

The greatest living operatic tenor of the day, Enrico Caruso, was among the performers who sang into the microphone at the Metropolitan Opera House on the evening of January 13, 1910. Transmitted by de Forest's equipment, his voice was heard by small groups of people, including members of the public who were listening at receivers de Forest had set up around the city, and amateur radio operators in the area who happened to be tuned to the right frequency during the performance. Because not many people had access to radios during the

early twentieth century, however, de Forest's "public" broadcast may have reached as few as fifty people.

### Early Radio Sets

Amateur radio enthusiasts lucky enough to have heard Lee de Forest's broadcast from the Metropolitan Opera House might have been using a type of radio called a crystal radio to listen to the broadcast. Invented in 1902, this simple form of radio receiver often employed a thin wire called a "cat whisker" in contact with a crystal, such as a galena crystal, to detect a radio signal. Crystal radios were easy to make and required no

# RADIO

batteries or electricity, but because they were not amplified, they had to be listened to using earphones. The sound in the earphones was very weak, but this didn't discourage young radio enthusiasts from sneaking beneath the covers after "lights out" to manipulate the cat whisker in search of an elusive radio signal.

Other early radio receivers were more sophisticated than crystal radios but were still relatively crude and often consisted of parts mounted by experimenters on a flat piece of wood called a "breadboard." They required heavy, messy batteries and were difficult to operate. Still, the thrill of hearing sounds broadcast through the air had a hypnotic effect and drew many people into the developing world of amateur radio. By 1913, there were more than three hundred licensed amateurs operating radios in the United States alone.

With the start of World War I, there was a need to make radio a practical way to send messages on the battlefield, and this did much to prompt advances in the design of radio equipment in the early twentieth century. When the war began in 1914, radio transmitters and receivers were still not sophisticated enough to completely replace older methods of battlefield communication, and for many military leaders, homing pigeons, telegraphs, and telephones were still the most effective ways of sending crucial messages. Advances made in the manufacturing and quality of vacuum tubes during the war, however, led to more powerful and reliable radios, and in the post-war period, radio transmitters and receivers were developed to the point where commercial radio broadcasting first became practical. It was also the first time that commercial radio manufacturers were able to offer the public a radio that used speakers rather than the earphones required to listen to earlier radios.

## Radio Goes Commercial

With the means now available to send and receive mass radio broadcasts, all the public needed were radio

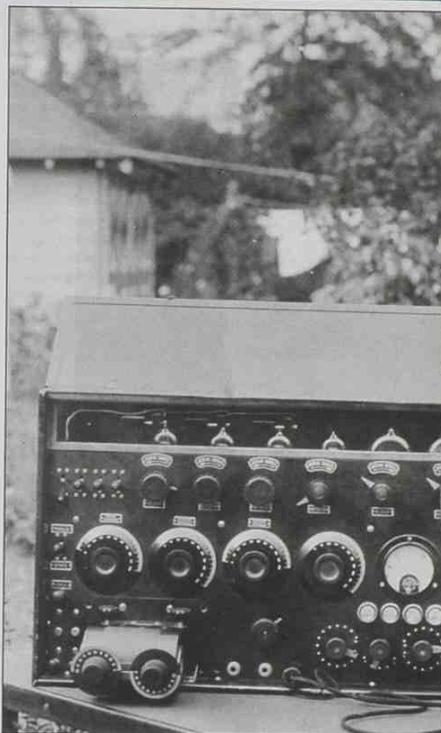
PHOTO: FROM WESTERN HISTORIC RADIO MUSEUM, VIRGINIA CITY, NEVADA



▲ During the early 1900s, "breadboard" radios similar to this were often made at home by radio enthusiasts. Pictured here is a commercial breadboard radio manufactured by Atwater Kent in 1924.

receivers in their homes and radio stations to broadcast regular programming. To fill the need for programming, the first commercial radio stations began to appear in the early 1920s, and the event that many radio historians point to as the birth of commercial radio broadcasting took place on November 2, 1920, when station KDKA in Pittsburgh made its first broadcast and announced the Harding-Cox presidential election returns. Soon the sale of radio receivers began to grow so fast that radio manufacturers were unable to keep up with demand.

New manufacturers like Stromberg-Carlson, Philco, Atwater Kent, Stewart Warner, Sentinel, General Electric, Philmore, Zenith, RCA, Majestic, and scores of others began producing radios almost overnight, and as an American radio audience equipped with radios developed, a corresponding explosion took place in the number of radio stations in the United States. Whereas there were only ten licensed radio stations in the United States at the end of 1921, by October 1922, there were 502, and by 1923, one of the most dramatic changes in communications since the invention of the printing press had taken place: people in over six million homes in the United States were scanning the airwaves for the voices



and music that had captured their imaginations in ways never before experienced. Radio, it was said, was "theater of the mind," and only the listener's imagination limited the worlds of fantasy that radio programs could create in the listener's mind.

## The Golden Age

The golden age of radio lasted from about 1925 until the early 1950s and changed the entire concept of home entertainment in the United States. In

## Radio Memories

**A**T 7:00 p.m. on Sunday nights, everything stopped at our home while the entire family gathered around the radio to listen to *The Jack Benny Program*,” says Gordon Lawrence of Blue Bell, Pennsylvania. “Tuesday night was comedy night on the radio,” he recalls, “but the shows didn’t start until 9:30 p.m. I remember sneaking under the covers with my portable radio to listen to *Fibber McGee and Molly* at 9:30 p.m., Bob Hope at 10:00 p.m., and Red Skelton at 10:30 p.m. when I was supposed to be asleep.” Among Lawrence’s other favorite shows were *Tom Mix Ralston Straight Shooters* and *Jack Armstrong, The All-American Boy*.

Fred Hobbs of Denver, Colorado, remembers his introduction to radio at the age of four or five. “My older brothers convinced me that the voices from our radio were coming from little people inside the box. I remember imagining what each small person looked like.” When he was a little older, Hobbs got a radio of his own. “It came in two pieces—a separate speaker connected to the rest of the radio with a wire,” he says.

To some people, however, radio during the golden age was about more than just entertainment. Dwayne Owens of Sun City, California, for instance, recalls the two years he was bedridden with rheumatic fever as a child. “Radio was my only contact with the outside world,” he says. “It was a source of comfort and motivation to get well and take part in life outside of my bedroom.” Owens’ favorite shows included *The Lone Ranger* and *Red Ryder*. He also liked the cops-and-robbers shows, especially *Gang Busters*. “In those days,” says Owens, “we had to use our imaginations in order to enjoy radio shows; there were no pictures to look at. We aren’t called on to use our imaginations as much today.” —WJL



PHOTO: ©BETTMANN/CORBIS

▲ This rather elaborate radio using a horn speaker is probably homemade and dates from around 1922.

America’s largely agrarian society of the 1920s, radio brought the outside world into remote farmhouses for the first time. Members of farm families, many of whom had never traveled farther from home than a day’s ride on horseback and who knew only their closest neighbors, were introduced to a previously unknown world of sophistication that included musical theater,



PHOTO: © UNDERWOOD & UNDERWOOD/CORBIS

▲ Comedian Ed Wynn, dressed here for his *Gulliver the Traveler* radio show, was so put off by the lack of a live audience during his 1922 radio debut that he waited ten years before performing on radio again.

drama, comedy, and daily news. Suddenly, the world was a smaller, cozier, and more intimate place.

Whether they were news, drama, or comedy programs, however, all of these new radio broadcasts required performers, and many entertainers were recruited from the ranks of vaudevillians. Never before in human history could a person be heard live by

millions of people simultaneously, and some comedians, although accustomed to performing before live audiences, were terrified by the presence of an eerie-looking device called a microphone. Ed Wynn, one of the most famous vaudevillians of his day, was so disconcerted by the lack of a live audience response during his 1922 radio debut that he waited ten years

# RADIO

before gathering enough courage to try performing on radio again.

Other performers had no such problem, and thus was born a line of radio personalities who were destined to achieve a level of fame never before imagined in the entertainment world. With families huddled closely around their new radio receivers, an unprecedented degree of intimacy between entertainer and audience came into being. The new over-the-air visitors quickly became more than voices from afar, they became like members of the family.

One of the members of this new radio family was Graham McNamee, who became one of the most famous early radio announcers. In 1923, while struggling to succeed as an opera singer, McNamee walked into the New York studios of radio station WEAJ and tried out for a job as an announcer. The station manager hired him, and soon McNamee was a national radio figure. With a voice that seemed made for radio and a background in dramatic performance, McNamee was a highly skilled announcer who was adept at helping the listener use his imagination to see the sports events and news he was describing. McNamee's evening broadcasts invariably ended with the words: "This is Graham McNamee speaking. Goodnight all."

Golden-age radio programs, however, offered listeners much more than just sports broadcasts and general reporting. These programs provided a wide variety of programming that included music, dramas, soap operas, and comedies. One of the most popular shows of all time was a comedy that first aired in 1928 called *Amos 'n' Andy*.

*Amos 'n' Andy* was destined to become one of the most enduring radio classics of all time. Developed and performed by two white men, Freeman F. Gosden and Charles J. Correll, the show's main characters were two good-natured African American friends from the South who had come to Chicago to live. Gosden and Correll originally did all of the voices of a large cast of characters that included

PHOTO: ©BETTMANN/CORBIS



▲ Once a struggling opera singer, Graham McNamee (right) went on to become a national radio figure. Here he speaks with Babe Ruth during a New York Yankees baseball game.

Amos, Andy, and the irascible, scheming George "Kingfish" Stevens. Within a few months of its debut, *Amos 'n' Andy* became radio's most popular show, with forty million people listening to it each night at the peak of its popularity.

Almost as popular as *Amos 'n' Andy* was the *Fleischmann Hour*, a musical variety show, which was sponsored by Fleischmann's Yeast and hosted by crooner Rudy Vallee. The show first took to the airwaves on October 24, 1929, and soon ranked second with American radio audiences. With Vallee's extraordinary attention to detail and personal direction, the show became a major influence on the development of radio programming, and Vallee's efforts turned the *Fleischmann Hour* into the forerunner of the modern variety show.

## The Depression and Beyond

The coming of the Great Depression hit the radio manufacturing industry hard, but at the same time, it increased the public's appetite for radio programming. Except for the cost of the radio (in 1936, an AC-DC radio could be purchased for as little as \$13.25, a little more than \$200 in today's dollars), radio as entertainment was free for the listener, making it one of the preferred types of enter-



PHOTO: ©BETTMANN/CORBIS

▲ Crooner Rudy Vallee, shown here in the 1935 film *Sweet Music*, helped make the *Fleischmann Hour* radio program, which first aired in 1929, the forerunner of the modern variety show.

tainment during the Great Depression. Radio drew families together as they gathered around their sets in the evenings to listen to various programs, and it eventually became an important part of the social fabric of American society by providing an entertaining escape from the harsh realities of Depression-era life.

PHOTO: © BETTMANN/CORBIS



▲ Real-life husband and wife comedy team George Burns and Gracie Allen became one of the most beloved couples in early radio.

Among the many programs that worked their way into American hearts during the Great Depression was *The Burns and Allen Show*, starring the real-life husband and wife team of George Burns and Gracie Allen. Burns and Allen became one of the most beloved couples in early radio, and like many of their counterparts, they got their start in vaudeville. Initially, Gracie played the straight role, but by the time the couple had entered radio, George was acting as straight man, trying to make sense out of Gracie's ditzzy stories about her never-ending search for her fictitious, lost brother. Gracie quickly became the focal point of the show, and by the early 1930s, her zany antics made her one of the best-known women in radio. In real life, each always gave credit for the show's success to the other.

Another well-loved comedic pair during the Great Depression was Fibber and Molly McGee, who were played by real-life couple and former vaudevillians Jim and Marian Jordan. Begun in 1935, *Fibber McGee and Molly* was not an immediate hit. Nonetheless, the McGee residence at 79 Wistful Vista, with its running sound gags and catchy character phrases, would become one of America's most famous fictional addresses. Other comics destined for star status included Edgar Bergen and

## Roosevelt and Radio



PHOTO: © BETTMANN/CORBIS

President Roosevelt's "fireside chats" helped FDR become the first US president to successfully use radio to reach out to the American people.

**W**ITH its many comedies, dramas, and soap operas, radio, during its golden age, was largely about escapism, and with the coming of the Great Depression in 1929, escapism was sorely needed. Nonetheless, at the height of the Depression, radio also began to serve an important political function in the United States, a function arguably initiated by the radio broadcast of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's 1933 inaugural address and strengthened by the president's subsequent radio addresses to the nation.

With the radio broadcast of his inaugural address in 1933, FDR became the first US president to successfully use radio to reach out to the American people. It was during this address, while speaking of the banking crisis the nation was facing, that he uttered his now-famous phrase in which he told the American people that "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself. . . ." The address became one of Roosevelt's most powerful and well-known speeches and gave hope to millions of Americans that the worst of the banking crisis was over. Roosevelt would continue to use the radio to talk to the American people throughout his presidency, hosting numerous radio talks, known as "fireside chats," on topics such as the New Deal in 1933, the declaration of war on Japan in 1941, and the state of the war effort in 1943. —WJL

his dummy Charlie McCarthy, Bob Hope, Joe Penner, Eddie Cantor, and Judy Canova.

Perhaps some of the most intriguing of the radio shows of that era, however, were the bone-chilling suspense dramas that pitted good versus evil. This genre called upon the listener's imagination to fill in pictures of torture, murder, and violence. The long list of hair-raising

radio dramas included *Inner Sanctum Mysteries*, *I love a Mystery*, *Lights Out*, *The Whistler*, *Suspense*, *Mystery Playhouse*, and, of course, *Mercury Theater on the Air*, the Orson Welles series that produced the terrifying adaptation of H. G. Wells' *The War of the Worlds* on October 30, 1938.

Welles' radio play depicting a regular music and news show interrupted by sporadic and panicky

## Fibber McGee and Molly

**T**HE *Fibber McGee and Molly* radio show was first aired on the Blue Network radio network on April 16, 1935, and ran until June 6, 1959. Originally broadcast from Chicago and running for one-half hour on Tuesdays at 10:00 p.m., the show starred Jim and Marian Jordan in the title roles and was written largely by Don Quinn. From 1935 to 1940, the show's theme songs were "Save Your Sorrow for Tomorrow" and "Ridin' around in the Rain," both of which were replaced after 1940 by Billy Mills' "Wing to Wing."

For many listeners of *Fibber McGee and Molly*, the McGee residence at 79 Wistful Vista is synonymous with Fibber, the tongue-twisting teller of tall tales, and Molly, his sweet, understanding wife with the Irish brogue. But 79 Wistful Vista wasn't always home to the McGees. In the earliest episodes, Fibber and Molly were actually homeless, and the show consisted largely of swing music and two skits dedicated to chronicling the couple's travels along US Route 42.

Once installed at 79 Wistful Vista, however, the show became the domestic sit-com that many listeners will remember. It was here that McGee's closet, an overstuffed hall closet that dumped a rush of junk on any unsuspecting person who happened to open it, once defeated a pair of burglars; it was here that McGee and the character Throckmorton P. Gildersleeve verbally jostled with each other to the audience's delight. And it



PHOTO: ©BETTMANN/CORBIS

Jim and Marian Jordan, who played the title roles in *Fibber McGee and Molly*, are shown here performing their lines during a 1940 broadcast.

was here that catchy, recurring character lines, like the Old Timer's "That ain't the way I hear'd it" and Molly's admonishment "Tain't funny, McGee," began to make their way into contemporary American idiom, helping to make *Fibber McGee and Molly* the top-rated show on radio by 1943. —JS

## RADIO

reports of an invasion of the Earth by Martians was so realistic that some listeners ran into the streets in sheer terror. Other people took refuge in churches, where they prayed for protection; some went to police stations. A few people were so terrified that they packed up their belongings and abandoned their homes.

Despite the effects of Orson Welles' broadcast of *The War of the Worlds*, however, in the late 1930s, radio was the only source of up-to-the-minute and authoritative news in America. This position as the most timely and credible source of information would be challenged by television in the early 1950s, but during its golden age, radio would produce a number of star news reporters, including H. V. Kaltenborn, Edward R. Murrow, Fred Friendly, and Lowell Thomas, who was perhaps the most listened-to news commentator of his era. During this time, audiences transcended every

PHOTO: ©BETTMANN/CORBIS



▲ In 1938, Orson Welles produced a terrifying adaptation of H. G. Wells' *The War of the Worlds* for Mercury Theater on the Air.

racial, ethnic, social, economic, and educational boundary. Virtually everyone in America listened to radio.

### End of an Era

Even as radio dominated the entertainment world, however, the

specter of television trailed doggedly behind. The theoretical possibility of adding pictures to the sound that traveled on wings of air was an obsessive goal for television pioneers. Although the first experimental transmissions of electronic television were conducted as early as the 1920s, it wasn't until after World War II that the first commercially practical television programs were broadcast. By the 1950s, television had transformed radio into the dignified but gray and faded matron of home entertainment, and slowly but surely, audiences were drawn to the hypnotic experience of the new sound-plus-picture medium.

While the golden age of radio came to a practical end in the 1950s, radio has never left us and probably never will. Dame Radio was rudely toppled from the mountaintop, but more than fifty years after the end of her most splendid era, she remains alive and in reasonably good health—proof that although television may have dimmed her star it will probably never quite extinguish it. ■

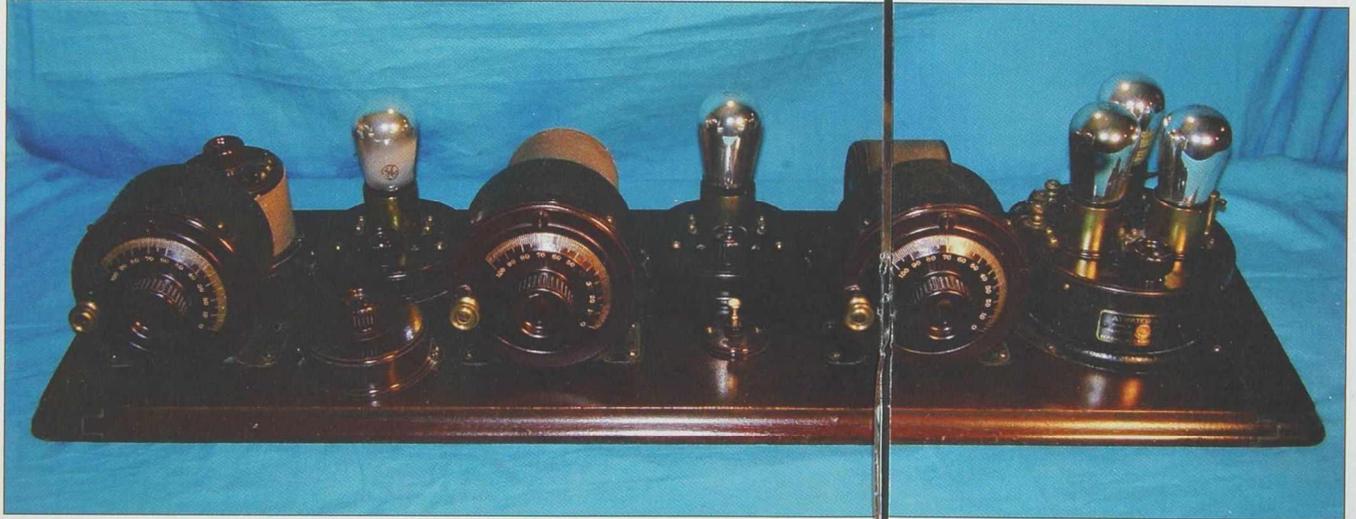


PHOTO: ©BETTMANN/CORBIS

and music that had captured their imaginations in ways never before

▲ This rather elaborate radio using a horn speaker is probably homemade and dates from around 1922.

PHOTO: FROM: WESTERN HISTORIC RADIO MUSEUM, VIRGINIA CITY, NEVADA

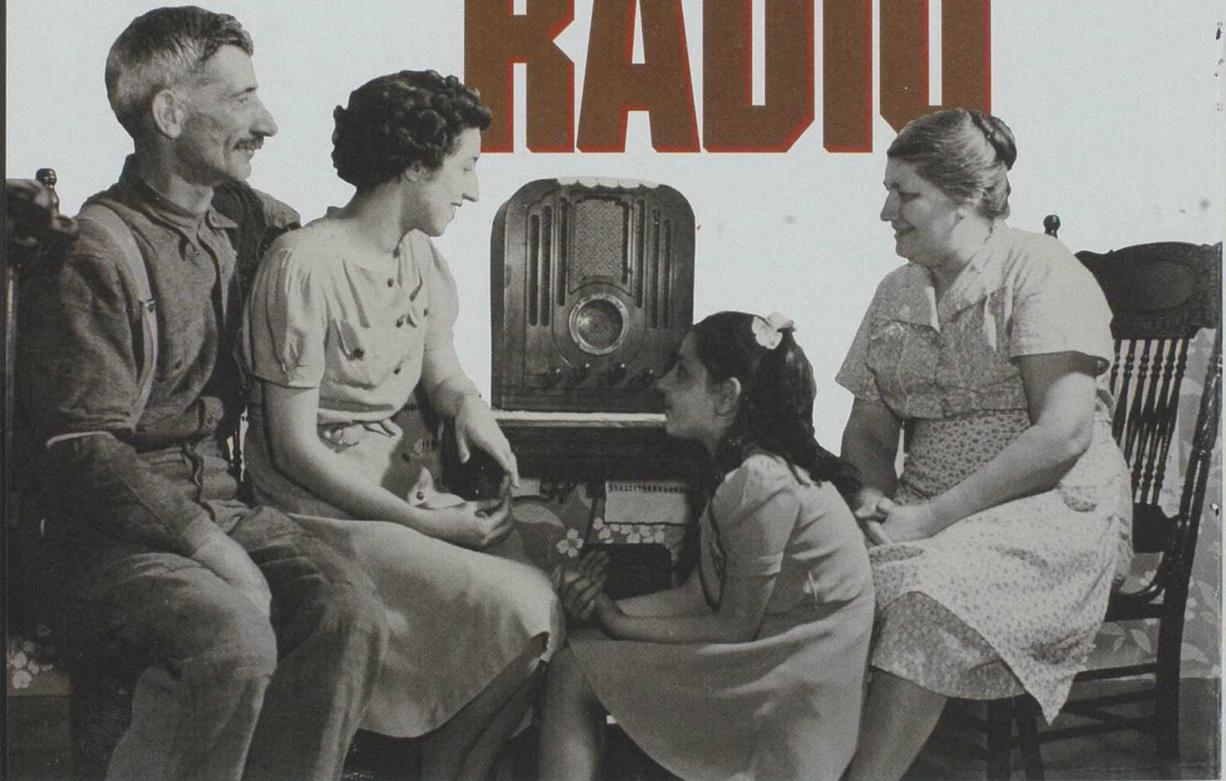


▲ During the early 1900s, "breadboard" radios similar to this were often made at home by radio enthusiasts. Pictured here is a commercial breadboard radio manufactured by Atwater Kent in 1924.



# Magic on Wings of Air: The Golden Age of

# RADIO



▲ During radio's golden age, the radio drew families, like this one in Provincetown, Massachusetts, together in the evenings to listen to popular programs. PHOTO: ©BETTMANN/CORBIS

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Next Club Meeting:

**3rd Saturday 19 May 2012**

- The Ogden Amateur Radio Club meetings are usually held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month.

- **Time: 9:00 AM**
- **Location: Riverdale Fire Station**
- **Topic: Field Day planning & Golden Spike special event experiences**
- **Talk-in: -146.90 (pl 123.0)**

Check OARC web site for details

[www.ogdenarc.org](http://www.ogdenarc.org)

- Please invite a friend to join you. You do not have to be a member of the club to participate in our club meetings or activities. We invite all to join us.
- If anyone is interested in doing a presentation on something or just have something unique to show at the meetings. - Please get a hold of any of the officers and let us know.

## Next Weber Co VE Test Session:

**1st Wednesday 06 June 2012**

- Exam sessions are held in Ogden every few months, *usually* the first Wednesday in February, June, and October.

**Time: 05:00 PM** *Walk-ins allowed*

**Location: New for June & October 2012**

**Ogden Public Safety Building  
2186 Lincoln Ave Ogden Utah**

**Contact: VE Liaison:**

**Mary Hazard**

[w7ue@arrl.net](mailto:w7ue@arrl.net) (801-430-0306)

**Rick Morrison**

[morrisonri@msn.com](mailto:morrisonri@msn.com)  
(801-791-9364)

**Cost: \$ 14.00**

Two forms of **ID**, one of which must be a **picture ID**.

For "Upgrades" bring current **license** and a **copy** of current license, and any **CSCE**'s

Most **calculators** allowed. Calculator memories must be cleared before use.

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## Club Web Site

Be sure to visit our club web site.

- [www.OgdenARC.org](http://www.OgdenARC.org)

Club membership is open to anyone interested in Amateur Radio. You do not need an amateur license to join us. Dues are used to operate the club, field day activities, and repeater equipment maintenance.

You do not need to join the club to participate with us.

## Club Call Sign

Listen to the club repeaters for this very familiar CW ID. You do know Morse Code don't you?

- **W7SU**

ARRL Field Day is held on the last full weekend of June every year.

Location may vary each year so watch this notice for details as time draws near.

See you there.

OARC REPEATERS			
FREQ	CLUB	ZONE	LOCATION
146.820-	OARC	123.0	Mt Ogden
448.600-	OARC	123.0	Mt Ogden
146.900-	OARC "Talk-in"	123.0	Little Mtn (w/auto patch)
448.575-	OARC	100.0	Little Mtn (w/auto patch)

OTHER AREA REPEATERS			
FREQ	CLUB	ZONE	LOCATION
146.620-	UARC	none	Farnsworth Pk
147.120+	UARC	100.0	Farnsworth Pk
449.100-	UARC	146.2	Farnsworth Pk
449.500-	UARC	100.0	Farnsworth Pk
ATV	UARC	Ch-58	Farnsworth Pk
147.040+	DCARC	123.0	Antelope Isl
447.200-	DCARC	127.3	Antelope Isl
449.925-	DCARC	100.0	No Salt Lake
145.290-	GSARC	123.0	Brigham City
145.430-	GSARC	123.0	Brigham City
147.220+	GSARC	123.0	Brigham City
448.300-	GSARC	123.0	Brigham City
146.640-	BARC	none	Logan
146.720-	BARC	103.5	Mt Logan
147.260+	BARC	103.5	Promontory Pt
449.625-	BARC	103.5	Mt Logan
145.250-	WSU	123.0	* coming soon
449.250-	WSU	123.0	* coming soon
145.490-	K7HEN	123.0	Promontory Pt
146.920-	N7TOP	123.0	Promontory Pt
449.775-	N7TOP	123.0	Promontory Pt
448.825-	IRLP/Echo	123.0	Clearfield City
449.950-	IRLP	123.0	Clearfield City
449.425-	IRLP	100.0	Nelson Peak
147.360+	Summit County	100.0	Lewis Peak

**AREA CLUB MEETINGS & WEB SITES**

CLUB	WEB SITE	DATE/TIME	LOCATION
OgdenARC	<a href="http://ogdenarc.org">ogdenarc.org</a>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday 09:00 am	Check OARC web site ...
WC ARES	<a href="http://ogdenarc.org/join.html#ares">ogdenarc.org/join.html#ares</a>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday 06:30 pm	Weber Co. Library Ogden Utah
WC Sheriff Comm-O		1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday 10:00 am	Weber Co. Sheriff Complex West 12 <sup>th</sup> Street Ogden Utah
Barc	<a href="http://barconline.org">barconline.org</a>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday 10:00 am	Cache Co. Sheriffs Complex 200 North 1400 West Logan Ut
CSERG	<a href="http://dcarc.net/ares.htm/">dcarc.net/ares.htm/</a>	Last Wednesday 8:30pm	Clearfield City Hall Clearfield Utah
DCarc	<a href="http://dcarc.net">dcarc.net</a>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday 10:00 am	Davis Co. Sheriff Complex Farmington Utah
NU Ares	<a href="http://home.comcast.net/~noutares/">home.comcast.net/~noutares/</a>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 7:00 pm	Cache Co. Sheriff Office Logan Utah
Uarc	<a href="http://xmission.com/~uarc/">xmission.com/~uarc/</a>	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday 7:30 pm	UofU EMC Bldg Room 101 Salt Lake City Utah
GSarc	<a href="http://Ubetarc.org">Ubetarc.org</a>	Check Website	Check Website
Utah DX Association	<a href="http://udxa.org">udxa.org</a>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday check web page for details	check web page for details Salt Lake City area
UvhfS	<a href="http://ussc.com/~uvhfs/">ussc.com/~uvhfs/</a>	Each Tuesday 8:00 pm (refer to web site)	Weekly 2 meter net (no eye ball meetings)
WDArc	<a href="http://westdesertarc.org/">westdesertarc.org/</a>	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday 7:00 pm	Tooele County Courthouse Tooele Utah
WsuArc	<a href="http://arcweber.edu">arcweber.edu</a>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday 5:30 pm	WSU Blding #4 Room ? Ogden Utah

## LOCAL AREA NETS

DATE	CLUB	FREQ
Daily @ 12:30 PM mt	Utah Beehive net HF	7.272 Mhz <b>HF LSB</b>
Daily @ 07:30 PM mt	Utah Code net HF	3.570 Mhz <b>HF CW</b>
Daily @ 02:00 UTC	Utah Farm net HF	3.937 Mhz <b>HF LSB</b>
Sunday @ 8:45 AM	Ogden Old Timers HF net	7.193 Mhz <b>HF LSB</b>
Sunday @ 7:30 PM	GS ARC	145.430 - 123.0 (training net)
Sunday @ 8:30 PM	SATERN Net	145.900 - 123.0
Sunday @ 9:00 PM	Morgan Co Net	147.060 = simplex
Sunday @ 9:00 PM	UARC Info net	146.620- no PL tone required
Monday @ 9:00 PM	2-meter SSB net	144.250 Mhz <b>2-meter USB</b>
<b>Tuesday @ 8:00 PM</b>	<b>Weber ARES</b>	<b>448.600 - 123.0</b>
Tuesday @ 8:00 PM	VHF Society Swap	147.120 + 100.0
Tuesday @ 9:00 PM	Bridgerland ARC	147.260 + 103.5
Wednesday @ 8:00 PM	GS ARC	145.290-, 145.430-, 448.300- (all 123.0)
Wednesday @ 8:30 PM	CSERG	145.770 simplex
Wednesday @ 9:00 PM	No. Utah 10m HF net	28.313 Mhz <b>HF USB</b>
Wednesday @ 9:00 PM	6-meter SSB net	50.125 Mhz <b>6-meter USB</b>
Thursday @ 6:30 PM	Davis Co Elmers Net	147.040 + 123.0 <b>New Hams</b>
Thursday @ 8:00 PM	Weber State ARC	146.820 - 123.0 (coming soon)
Thursday @ 8:00PM	State RACES VHF/IRLP	145.490 - 123.0, 146.680 - 123.0 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday - even months only
Thursday @ 8:30 PM	Davis ARES	147.420 = simplex
Thursday @ 9:00PM	Wasatch Back Net	147.360 + 100.0
Saturday @ 8:00AM mst	RACES State HF	3.920 Mhz <b>HF LSB</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday – odd months only
Saturday @ 11:00AM mst	QCWA net HF	7.272 Mhz <b>HF LSB</b>

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*OARC OFFICERS*

President: Kim Owen KO7U

Vice Pres: Larry Griffin AD7GL

Secretary: Gary Hudman WB7FMS

Treasurer: John Shupe K7DJO

Program Director:  
Gil Leonard NG7IL

Activity Director:  
Dave Woodcock WY7P

*"WATTS NEWS" e-Magazine*

NL Editor: Val Campbell K7HCP

*OTHER CLUB APPOINTMENTS*

Webmaster: Val Campbell K7HCP

Historian/Librarian: Kent Gardner WA7AHY

Advisor: Kent Gardner WA7AHY

Advisor: Stan Sjol WOKP

Photographer: John Shupe K7DJO

QSL Manager: John Shupe K7DJO

Equipment Manager: Val Campbell K7HCP

Repeater Engineer: Mike Fullmer KZ7O

VE Liaison: Mary Hazard W7UE and  
Richard Morrison W7RIK

Club Call Sign Trustee: Larry Griffin AD7GL

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**73 es cul de W7SU**

[www.OgdenArc.org](http://www.OgdenArc.org)