



ARRL Northwestern Division Report to the ARRL Board 2022 Year in Review

Respectfully submitted by: **Mike Ritz, W7VO, Director**

Mark Tharp, KB7HDX, Vice Director

OVERVIEW:

This document contains highlights from administrative activities and associated accomplishments within the ARRL Northwestern (NW) Division for the year 2022. Included also within this document are additional reports from Director Ritz, Vice Director Tharp, most of the NW Division Section Managers (SM), and several of the NW Division Assistant Directors

SYNOPSIS:

Geographically, the NW Division contains almost a million square miles of territory, with well over 12,000 ARRL members among over 74,000 amateur licensees. ARRL membership numbers within our Division, year-over-year, are down slightly, and are currently at about 16.4% of total licensees. (Number specifics are contained in Tharp's report below.) Of the 15 ARRL Divisions, the Northwestern Division ranks as the fourth largest, if measured by the number of ARRL members, behind the Southeastern, and just below the Atlantic, and Roanoke Divisions.

DIVISION MEMBER COMMUNICATION CHANNELS:

- To continue in our efforts to improve member communications and promote transparency, Vice Director Tharp and I jointly publish a regular monthly NW Division Newsletter e-mail, sent to approximately 8,500 Division members that have opted-in via the ARRL website to receive them. These newsletters are usually sent out near the middle of each month, and are at least four to five pages long. The focus is to not to just duplicate what the ARRL publishes in its bulletins, but provide insight and background on the what we both are doing within the Board, and provide the latest information on other ARRL and ARRL Foundation actions. Feedback received from members regarding our newsletter and its content continues to be overwhelmingly positive.

- In addition, I author an *ARRL Update* column monthly for the large Salem, Oregon ROADS radio club, for inclusion in their newsletter.
- The total number of virtual meetings held via the NW Division Zoom account was 89 for 2022, down from around 150 during the “COVID year” of 2021. In addition to club meeting requests, the Division Zoom account was also used by the ARRL Foundation for their meetings and quite a few Foundation scholarship interviews, the ARRL Programs and Services Committee, and the Clean Signal Initiative working group. The Zoom accounts have been a real asset for the League, and certainly within my Division.
- The Northwestern Division website, www.arrlnwdiv.org has continued to attract registered members; we are well over 300 that have joined to website to participate in the forums. Our Facebook page, *Northwestern Division, ARRL*, and our Twitter feed @NWDIVARRL are used to re-post our newsletters, and re-distribute select ARRL posts.

Northwestern Division Director Report - Mike Ritz, W7VO

As COVID waned, and amateur clubs began meeting again, either “all live”, or “hybrid- live and Zoom,” my travel activity to serve the ARRL and the NW Division picked up in tandem.

Despite COVID, this was certainly my busiest year as an ARRL volunteer. Being a Director is a big job, and this was compounded by being a Board committee chair, a Board member of the ARRL Foundation, and with the added load of being a “small- time” amateur radio Zoom seminar presenter who suddenly found himself in demand all across the country. This year is starting off just as busy, as preparations are underway for the January Board meetings. (ARRL and Foundation). No rest for the wicked.

After three years of not having the opportunity to do so, I finally made a January trip to Montana to attend a club meeting in that ARRL Section, joining the Yellowstone ARC in Billings as a special guest. I also did a well-received educational seminar for them at the same time, which brought in hams from other local Montana clubs as well. It was a very well attended meeting, and I was joined there by the Montana Section Manager, Paul Stiles, KF7SOJ. I have now visited clubs in all six ARRL Sections that comprise the Northwestern Division.

In February I attended the Salem Hamfair, in Rickreall, OR, and in March attended the Mike and Key Hamfest in Puyallup, WA, where I was joined by Vice Director Tharp, WWA SM Monte Simpson, and EWA SM Jo Whitney, KA7LJQ.

April was pretty much dedicated to the ARRL Foundation, with the entire month being absorbed with scholarship vetting. Just about every day on my calendar from that month had something Foundation related on it, whether it was Scholarship committee strategy meetings, or one of the many Zoom candidate interviews.

Upon the need to keep my marriage intact, I basically took the whole month of May off and far away from ARRL activities, to join her in a trip to her homeland in Northern Ireland.

June brought with it a return to reality, and the ARRL Northwestern Division Convention at SEAPAC, in Seaside, OR. I was joined there by some of the ARRL Staff, CEO Minster, NA2AA, President Roderick, K5UR, Vice Director Tharp, KB7KHX, and several Division Section Managers and Assistant Directors. I oversaw the ARRL Forum at the event, and also provided an additional educational seminar for the audience there.

July brought the next ARRL Board meeting, and all the preparations required for it. This was followed by several Foundation Club Grant introductory meetings held by Mike Walters, W8ZY at HQ, and following that were several weeks of *intense* Club Grant vetting. This wound up being a real issue, as the time window for us to vet all the grant requests was one step over “unrealistic”. Still, we all soldiered on and “got the job done”.

August brought the Pacific NW DX Convention, held this year in Spokane, WA. I had a chance there to meet many of the Division’s active contesters and DXers, get their input related to their amateur radio passion, and also meet with Ed Hare, W1RFI from ARRL HQ, with whom I did some strategizing on the Clean Signal Initiative process.

September was peppered with a combination of club visits, and more Zoom educational seminars for clubs across the country. That month I also provided an informational seminar for the *QSO Today Virtual Hamfest* related to promoting the ARRL Foundation.

October, November and December were pretty much the same as September as far as club visits and seminars are concerned. At the invitation of Pacific Division Director McIntyre, K6WX I attended the PacfiCon hamfest, (and Pacific Division Convention), in San Ramon, CA in October. At PacifiCon I was a featured guest speaker, providing a pair of seminars, one on *Amateur Radio RF Exposure Regulations and Mitigation*, and another related to the ARRL Foundation Scholarship process. When not doing my seminars, I also helped other ARRL dignitaries man the ARRL booth at the convention.

Other highlights:

- It was my pleasure to serve on several ARRL Board committees:
 - *Chair of the Programs and Services Committee*
 - *Member, HF Band Planning Committee*
 - *Liaison, Clean Signal Initiative Committee*

- I was re-elected by the ARRL Board to serve on the ARRL Foundation Board in January, and was elected by the Foundation Board as their Vice President in their January meeting. I was an active member of both the Foundation's Scholarship and Grant Committees.

Expected Plans for 2023:

I really don't expect much to change this year. I will probably be doing even more in-person club meetings, and will still be providing educational seminars for many of them. I am still in demand for Zoom seminars, and will continue to "spread the word".

I do plan on getting up to visit with an Alaskan club this year, I haven't been to one since before the COVID days.

In April, the International DX Convention in Visalia, CA will again be held, and I will be there in-person to solicit PSC input from these dedicated and passionate hams. Hams from all over the world attend this event, and it's a very valuable opportunity to ensure the ARRL is meeting their expectations.

In June will be the NW Division Convention at SEA-PAC, where I will be a seminar speaker on an educational topic still to be determined, and as moderator for the ARRL Forum.

In August will attend the Pacific Northwest DX Convention, this year to be held in Vancouver British Columbia. I expect there to be a DX/Contest Forum there as well.

In September I expect to attend the Spokane Hamfest, and Washington State Convention, however there has been no announcement of that event quite yet. I expect that there will be an ARRL Forum at that event hosted by myself and VD Tharp.

Continuing as always between the large events are many Division club meetings. For 2023, I expect that while many clubs are migrating towards "live meetings", most will continue to operate in a hybrid fashion, with a combination of live and virtual meetings. I also expect to be

conducting quite a few technical and ARRL informational seminars via Zoom, and also as “in-person” activities during the upcoming year.

At this point I have no idea which ARRL committees I will be on for 2023, but expect not much to change from previous years.

And of course, there is all the ARRL Foundation work. As I stated earlier, no rest for the wicked.

As an ending note, I would like to take this time to thank Vice Director Tharp for the great service he provides to our Division. He covers bases I simply can't, and as we work as a team his knowledge as a long time EWA Section manager and Board watcher is an invaluable asset.

Northwestern Division Vice Director Report – Mark Tharp, KB7HDX

Below is a summary of events I attended and division statistics for the period January through December, 2022. Also included are brief reports from the various committees I am serving on.

It is my honor to serve as Vice Director, representing members in the Northwestern Division.

Attended events:

Mike and Key swap – Puyallup, WA

SEAPAC, NW Division convention – Sea Side, OR

Wenatchee Hamfest – Dryden, WA

PNW DX convention – Spokane, WA

Spokane Hamfest (WA. St. Convention) - Spokane, WA

N7YRC Swap - Union Gap, WA

PNW VHF Conference – Salem, OR

Committee activity:

Emergency Communications and Field Services committee:

Many topics were discussed this year with this committee and several positive things have come out of it. We approved and submitted a motion to include military status in the SK listings of QST. We approved and submitted a motion to have basic initial supplies sent to newly elected Section Managers such as shirts and eyeball cards. (Business cards) Our work on ARES

form 4 and form 2 is mostly complete and the committee has turned the project back to HQ staff. A few of us are still involved in a small way with help on finalizing instructions and of course beta testing. I was also assigned to the clubs sub-committee and the field service re-structure sub-committee. The clubs SC is working to revitalize the club president handbook and update as much as possible. The hard copy versions of these were discontinued and replaced with the “active club primer.” We found the material was not as up to date as it could be, and had room for improvement. Another project is to re-brand a program called “Plant the seed” which started just before Covid hit in the Delta Division. It basically involves getting clubs in touch with libraries and providing a set of books. But rather than just send the books, the clubs set up a table with static and live displays of Amateur Radio. This is still in the early stage and we hope to have it ready to go out mid-year 2023. The restructure committee discussed several topics over the year we would like to see implemented however as these items are still a work in progress within the full committee, I do not want to release the details until they are approved by that body in January when we meet in person. I can say one of the large topics has been answering the directive of minute 55 of the January BOD meeting where we were tasked to provide a draft version of a way to improve communication between the Director, Vice Director, Section managers, and HQ Staff.

ARISS committee: The ARISS committee continues to aid with support to ARISS by way of submitting news reports to HQ and Division staff and looking for ways ARRL can assist with continued funding. Project STAR has been revealed to the public and I helped finalize the art work used with help of Cascade Signs in Yakima, WA. HQ staff provided a basic concept, and with input from the committee, it was fine-tuned and has appeared in numerous issues of QST and OTA. The committee publicly thanks both David Minster – NA2AA and Becky Schoenfeld – W1BXY for the random placement of the STAR graphics into ARRL publications when space is available. The committee is also reviewing the documentation provided to new and existing Section Managers as well as a new document to be provided to Directors and Vice-Directors pertaining to ARISS contacts.

Board of director meetings: I attended the January annual meeting and the July meeting in Connecticut.

We also held a special meeting of the Board in November via ZOOM over a day and a half and I was present.

Executive Committee:

The ARRL EC meetings have continued to be held on ZOOM and I have participated as an observer during all but one this year.

W1AW/Remote:

In early July I was contacted by Ed Hare, W1RFI from HQ who was going to be in Spokane, WA the first week of August attending the IEEE conference. He was bringing all the components to set up a remote operation back to the mother ship, W1AW, and was looking for some help manning the booth and operating the station. Well, many of us had the chance to operate as W1AW/7 back in 2014, but here was an opportunity to swing the big call with no stroke seven attached to the tail end. I made a few calls and we managed to fill the time slots and Ed and HQ learned quite a bit about what worked and what was an issue. The biggest issue was interference with the bulletin station coming online in the afternoon. Even with the problems many attendees of the conference were exposed to Amateur radio.

As a side trip to this, after consulting the organizers, I invited Ed to attend the PNW DX convention which was the weekend of his trip. He accepted and we even talked him into a presentation.

Division stats:

For the period ending November 30, 2022, the Northwestern Division had 74,013 licensed Amateur radio operators. Of that number, 12,178 are ARRL members, approximately 16.4%. We showed a slight decrease in members again this year.

The Division added many new Amateur Operators this year; however, with the implementation of the new software system at HQ, I was not able to gather accurate data each month as in the past. 2023 will be much better now that most of the bugs are worked out.

Mike and I continue to work with members on various issues during the year and we look forward to a fantastic and very "radioactive" 2023.

NW DIVISION SECTION MANAGER REPORTS:

Alaska Section - David Stevens, KL7EB

It is with sad remorse to see our SEC Linda Mullen AD4BL resign and leave the leave Alaska. Her husband health was deteriorating, so Walter KERITP and Linda moved to Alabama. Matsu's DEC Don Bush KL7JFT informed me that EC Louis Friends KL4NK became a SK. He was a great liaison with the local native. They both will be greatly missed. Todd Dokey, KL4EL is the new SEC. He is continuing the monthly call to all Alaska DEC. quarterly exercises. Crag Bledsoe, KL7H is a new ASM.

From 5 foot snow storm and 8 foot drifts in January, February, and March for western Alaska; the in the same for Anchorage and Central Alaska here in December. We all are tired of shoveling snow. We will be glad 2022 is gone. COVID is nearly controlled. The Alaska Native Hospital is, like many, finally relaxing the mash requirements came January 9th 2023. YEAH.

Three hamfests; 1) Kenai with Moosehead ARC, then Wasilla with MARA, and Fairbanks with Arctic ARC. Almost back to normal.

Eastern Washington Section - Jo Whitney, KAJLQ

In November 2021 ARRL listed 1076 members in the EWA section. In October 2022 that number was 1016, a decrease of 6.1%. I attended the Mike and Key Swapmeet in March 2022 to "sit" at the table with Monte Simpson WWA SM – this was my first Hamfest as SM. The Yakima Hamfest usually held in April, did not survive the pandemic – missed opportunity for ARRL exposure. The Wenatchee Hamfest in June was more of a meet and greet vs setting up a table. In July the N7YRC group had a Hamfest in Yakima and continues to build attendance – to support the Hamfest I was kitchen manager to supply a BBQ lunch and did not set up a table. In September was the Spokane Convention, we gained new members during that in-person event. Going out to Field Day sites in Ephrata, Wenatchee, Ellensburg and Pasco did give the ARRL some exposure. For 2023, I will try to be more visible as the ARRL representative for EWA.

I also attended the NW Convention SEAPAC in Seaside Oregon and the Dx Convention in Spokane.

EWA has 19 clubs affiliated between 1 and 95 years. Walla Walla ARC W7DP is the oldest. I did not visit any club meetings last year. My duties as EC for Yakima County and local involvement require a commitment to a number of days each month – I my search for a replacement goes on. There are two groups operating in EWA that may consider ARRL affiliation)3Rivers AuxComm and Spout Springs Repeater Association) – I am working on those contacts. In 2023 I will need to replace my ACC, they have not been assistive in contacts with clubs.

On a positive note, the SEC Frank Hutchinson AG7QP, is visiting ARES groups that are often associated with the area clubs. He is a very good ambassador for ARRL and ARES.

There were 6 ASMs in EWA, one passed this year. John Williams W7HNNH. The five have divided the counties to send out information to the newly licensed. What they distribute, when and how will be a discussion point for improvement or expansion to show more of the ARRL.

In 2023, I have marked my calendar to attend hamfests scheduled in EWA. Working with my appointed staff, we should make a concentrated effort to be more visible in attendance at club functions.

Idaho Section - Dan Marler, K7REX

Q1: How has your Section as a whole done this last year? Has it lost ARRL membership, gained membership, and why do you think it went up or down?

A1: Idaho ARRL membership had been climbing for several years in a roll and then dropped slightly in 2022. Part, but not all, of that is due to the pandemic. One issue for us is that many of our hams are aging out, the hobby is changing, society is changing, and it's telling when membership in any organization drops.

Q2: How are your Affiliated clubs doing? How many did you visit last year? What are you expecting to do this year? What are you doing to increase the number of clubs that are ARRL affiliated, and how do you support them?

A2: Since bringing on our new ACC, the affiliated clubs have been getting far more attention. Some of them had long forgotten that they were an affiliated club, and just getting them to do their annual report has been challenging. I send a handbook to those affiliated clubs that do their annual report, which has helped. However, having our ACC reach out to them has proven to be most beneficial; we've seen an increase in affiliated clubs due to those efforts.

The pandemic put a stop to many Idaho Clubs meetings; some still have not started to fully meet in person yet. Plus, it doesn't help that winter conditions and long distances between clubs make travel difficult and costly.

2023 should be a better year for all our clubs and the members we represent.

Q3: How many ASMs do you have, and what are they doing?

A3: I have nine (9) Assistant Section Managers in Idaho. They are located at different geographical locations within the Section. Idaho is very diverse in that different parts of the state are nothing like other parts of the state. Having someone that knows their concerns and speaks their language goes a long way. These ASMs represent their area in ways I could not. We meet once a month on Zoom and keep in continuous communications through an email reflector.

Each month, we discuss the needs of the ARRL, per Mike Walters, W8ZY monthly Section Manager meeting, and together work to achieve those goals.

Q4: What are your (SM) plans for 2023? Visit more clubs and hamfests, work to increase ARRL membership, or what?

A4: I am taking a different approach to meeting the needs of our membership and future members. I have started an ALL-Idaho Amateur Radio once-a-month Zoom meeting. Yes, I will be attending hamfests and visiting clubs, but more importantly, I want an ongoing effort to represent my entire Section. This month's meeting will have Mike Ritz, W7VO (NW Director), presenting **Mark Fledderjohann, KI7EZS**, with the **ARRL QST Cover Plaque Award**. I want all Idaho hams to participate in these types of events. We will also have an ARRL presentation with a follow-up discussion. I want our members to feel they are part of the ARRL and non-members to see value in joining.

Q5: Feedback and suggestions for improvement, both at the Section and Division levels. If you have gripes about how Mark and I are doing our jobs as Directors, include it. (For better or worse, it's ALL great feedback for our performance as well...) If you need more support from Field Service at HQ, specify what that is!

A5: I have no complaints concerning our division-level management. I do wish we had monthly division briefing meetings with all the section managers. It would be a means of getting together to discuss common ground issues and for the division director/vice director to better understand what is happening within their division.

Montana Section - Paul Stiles, KF7SOJ

As a whole we have done quite well bouncing back from Covid due to monthly Zoom meetings. We hold 1 per month as a general meeting and 1 ARES meeting by the SEC.

Membership numbers appear to be up over last year due to most clubs having new ham classes and monthly test sessions.

We are contacting organizations involved with SAR such as Civil Air Patrol to get some of their members licensed.

I do plan to attend the Glacier Waterton Hamfest / Section Convention again this 89th. year of continuous operation.

As you know I have decided not to run for another term as SM. I have so many projects that need to be finished before I become unable to accomplish them. I will stay on beyond my term, however my priorities will be more toward unfinished projects.

Oregon Section - David Kidd, KA7OZO

(As last year, nothing submitted)

Western Washington Section - Monte Simpson, W7FF

The ARRL Western Washington Section consists of the 19 counties of Western Washington. Based on data available today, December 18, 2022, from the ARRL, the WWA Section is the fourth largest section in the league:

1. Ohio, 5,679
2. South Texas, 5,070
3. Virginia, 4,901
4. Western Washington, 4,822

This past CY WWA membership decreased 4.2% and the SM will be working to attract new members into the ARRL.

The section has 58 Affiliated Clubs.

WWA Section has 115 appointees listed in the ARRL Field Service Appointments Database.

Major accomplishments during CY 2022 include:

1. Support to the Division Tribal Liaison during the preparation, execution and wrap up of the National Tribal Emergency Management Council's Full-Scale Exercise, Thunderbird and Whale, June 6, 2022, through June 19, 2022. Section volunteers staffed the NTEMC EOC in Snohomish County, near Maltby, as well as providing license preparation instruction to various tribal members to help them prepare to provide their own EMCOMM support. WWA Section coordinated with the section managers of Lost Angeles County, South Florida and Virginia to arrange for support for the United States Volunteers - Joint Services Command who participated in in Thunderbird and Whale 2022.
2. Support to Disaster Airlift Response Team of Oregon and Washington on June 18, 2022. The DART volunteers from the general aviation community transported food donations to sites in both states. EMCOMM volunteers from EWA, Northern California, Oregon, and WWA provided communications support during two events. This was no small undertaking, and the ARES DART DEC Dee Williamson did a yeoman's job of coordinating this tremendous effort.
3. Participation during CY 2022 in a work group started by the Seattle Emergency Hubs, <http://seattleemergencyhubs.org/> , <https://vimeo.com/41719650> , regarding I'm Safe Messaging. Initially the work group was emphasizing preparing and implementing a messaging system to replace the American Red Cross' I am Safe program. The ARC I'm Safe Program was for disaster victims to input information into a database about their status following a disaster. The I'm Safe Messaging is for those involved in a disaster to report to a family member/friend of their choosing to receive a message via amateur radio to report their status. The templates devised by this work group are like the old NTS Health and Welfare message formats. The project has developed three message templates for hams to use: a Quick

message that involves sending a brief text message to a cell phone by cell phone number and carrier. There are long and short formal messages based on the Radio Relay International/NTS formats. When completed the products of this work group will be presented to neighboring ARS EMCOMM teams, ARRL Headquarters, Emergency Management Agencies, and other stakeholders. Through the assistance of RRI the messaging forms have been placed in a directory at WINKLINK so hams may easily access them to prepare I'm Safe messages. We have just started talking with the American Red Cross' Northwest Region. The work group has a copy of ARRL Puerto Rico Section's MOA with the Red Cross. It is the goal to develop an MOA/MOU with the ARC NW Region. Unlike Puerto Rico the State of Washington has two sections and involves EMCOMM groups not affiliated with ARES.

A lesson learned from the three projects above is ARES, at least in Washington, has evolved into an Emergency Management Agency centric organization while it's traditional roles have been minimized due to lack of volunteer staffing. Efforts need to be taken to bolster ARES staffing to meet the need of our NGO stakeholders. The hardest part of this goal is attracting new volunteers without taking from existing efforts. One significant accomplishment this year that will help is the Radio Club of Tacoma has offered its facilities and volunteers to serve as an Official Emergency Station and they will be handling NGO messaging traffic such as the I am Safe.

The SM would like to acknowledge EWA SM, Jo Whitney for being supportive of a ARRL Team Washington. The EWA SEC, Frank Hutchison is also supportive of unified goals and objectives within the ARES programs of Washington.

NORTHWESTERN DIVISION ASSISTANT DIRECTORS:

Note: There were no new NW Division Assistant Directors appointed in 2022. Here is the current list for 2022, and their focus areas are listed below. Several have provided reviews of accomplishments for 2022, they are shown below the list below:

- **Daniel Stevens, KL7WM**
 - Education/Training, Seattle, WA Area
- **Delvin Bunton, NS7U**
 - Education/Training, Vancouver, WA / Portland, OR Area
- **Lynn Burlingame, N7CFO**
 - Division Event Calendar Coordinator
- **Dave Cole, NK7Z**
 - RFI/EMI Technical Resource
- **Steve Aberle, WA7PTM**
 - Tribal Liaison
- **Michael Sterba, KG7HQ**

- Webmaster / Social Media Admin
- **Bill Balzarini, KL7BB**
 - STEM outreach, Seattle, WA area

Northwestern Division Assistant Director Reports:

DIVISION SPEAKERS BUREAU and HAMFEST COORDINATION: Lynn Burlingame, N7CFO

WWA Speakers Bureau. In addition to my Assistant Division Director position, I am the Western Washington Affiliated Club Coordinator. In 2010 I established the Western Washington Speakers Bureau. Our speakers have made many in person and online presentations to clubs outside of Western Washington so the Division Director and I recently decided to make it a Northwestern Division function. It is available at <http://www.n7cfo.com/amradio/hf/SB.pdf>

We need speakers in basic skills areas:

- Antenna construction
- Antenna theory
- HF operation
- Home station setup
- How to make Co-ax connections
- Mobile installations
- Radio programming
- Soldering
- VOM use

We also need speakers on advanced topics.

- APRS
- Contest Software
- FLDigi
- Go-kits
- HAMWAN
- Introduction to Contesting
- Learning Morse code
- National Traffic System
- QRP operations
- Raspberry PI intro
- Software Defined Radio (SDR)

- SOTA
- Tower safety
- VARA
- WINLINK
- Youth programs

Clubs: I distribute the monthly New Amateur Reports (<https://www.arrl.org/new-amateur-reports>) to affiliated clubs so they can contact new hams.

My highest priority is to provide services that facilitate getting new hams on the air.

The following have proven to be effective recruiting methods:

- Appoint greeters to welcome visitors to meetings, introduce them to officers and offer refreshments, assistance, Elmering, etc.
- Ask club members to wear nametags
- Provide paper nametags for guests.
- Start each meeting with introductions of all attendees.
- Grant a year of free club membership to new hams.
- Add visitors to club mailing lists so they can receive newsletters and other correspondence.
- Send new licensees an information package about amateur radio, club membership, ARRL membership and radio events.
- Maintain current contact information on the club website.
- Establish an Elmering program
- Invite newcomers to participate in club nets.
- Hold basic skills classes and nets
- The Eyewarn program was developed by the Clark County ARC (Western Washington Section) and has been an effective way of getting newcomers on the air. <https://eyewarn.net/> Hamfests/Swapmeets. I maintain a division webpage that lists amateur radio events. In 2022 we had twenty-two events.

EDUCATION/TRAINING, (Vancouver, WA / Portland, OR Area): Delvin Bunton, NS7U

The principal activity I did in 2022 was planning the educational activities at SEA-PAC plus our first ever Friday social. We had 38 seminars and the ARRL Forum on Saturday and Sunday with an average attendance of 50 each. Additionally, we had four workshops on Friday that about 200 attended the workshops.

I also did some preliminary organizing for an educational event that will occur this February that will cover several emergency communication topics.

NW DIVISION TRIBAL LIAISON REPORT: Steve Aberle, WA7PTM

During 2022, radio amateurs in the Northwestern Division (home to 277 of the 574 federally recognized tribes in the United States) continued to work with individual tribes and with the National Tribal Emergency Management Council (NTEMC).

When FEMA Region 10 and northwestern states scaled down their “Cascadia Rising 2022” National Level Exercise to a series of table top drills and discussion-based webinars, the NTEMC stepped up and conducted a full-scale exercise in June. This was aptly re-named “Thunderbird and Whale 2022” in recognition of the ages-old oral tribal histories where Thunderbird represents the earthquake and Whale represents the tsunami. ARES and ACS resources from five states (five ARRL Divisions and six ARRL Sections) provided EOC, tribal, and airport communications support for this exercise. At the close of 2022, hams were making preparations to support the emergency communications needs in the upcoming full-scale “Thunderbird and Whale 2024” exercise.

During the second half of 2022, radio amateurs from the Northwestern, Pacific, and Southwestern divisions helped the NTEMC conduct two virtual Technician License Classes, plus a weekly “Ham Radio Basics Plus” series of additional communications training covering an assortment of topics. Additional training is planned for 2023.

On November 20th, the Northwestern Division conducted a “Emergency Communications Support for Tribal Nations” briefing for the ARRL Emergency Communications and Field Services Committee outlining an opportunity to expand the ARES program in an uncharted direction. Since tribal nations have their own governmental structures, they do not fall neatly into the county-centric emergency management system which has emerged nationwide since HSPD-5 was introduced. An augmented and innovative ARES structure is needed to support tribal emergency communications needs.

Despite some gains in licensees, amateur radio remains under-represented in tribal areas. The ARRL can help rectify this by encouraging clubs and ARES groups located near tribes to be welcoming toward their tribal neighbors. If needed, the NTEMC can provide introductions to the emergency managers in tribal nations. Holding an occasional licensing class and VE session at a tribal venue, followed by “new ham”

workshops, tribal STEM education outreach, involvement in local radio activities, and communications support for tribal activities, will all help solidify ongoing working relationships.

NW DIVISION EMI/RFI TECHNICAL RESOURCES: David Cole, NK7Z

This year I was contacted by the Handbook people, (Ward Silver), and they are using some of my material from my web page in this year's handbook in the RFI section. Seven mentions of my call, and web site in the 2023 Handbook.

I answered a number of RFI questions for local people, and via email for non-local folks. I assisted a number of folks in understanding the ARRL RF Safety calculator at:

<https://www.arrl.org/rf-exposure-calculator>

I also am an active contributor on the contesting.com RFI mail list, which has several thousand subs. Same for the Elecraft K4 list.

I have setup and am working with several other people, in an antenna tuning strike group I have set up. When a new ham has an antenna to tune, or a problem, several of us all go and help...

I am currently working on, and have, a working push button macro launching pad for the Elecraft K4. Software written to take the pad output, preformat it and talk to the K4 via telnet to execute any commands sent to the radio. This will be put up on my web site free to anyone that wants it, as I did for the K3.

Worked with a group of folks in Portland to help locate an interfering RFI source on one of the local PDX repeaters.

My next VE test session will be my 100th...

WEBMASTER AND SOCIAL MEDIA: Michael Sterba, KG7HQ

The last couple of years have been relatively quiet in reference to prior year mostly due to pandemic lock downs and slow recoveries. The result has changed approaches applied to facilitating the assistant role requiring adopting the usages of virtual interactions using WebEx and Zoom services. There has been varying degrees of success to this approach due to the unfamiliar technology for many and personal preferences for in person interactions.

For calendar year 2022, (7) amateur radio events were attended in person and (5) virtually. (3) presentations were given on ARRL Membership benefits, each element being referenced directly from the ARRL home web page and/or QST's membership promotional pages.

Accomplishment / Sustain:

- Maintain and sustain the ARRL Northwestern Division Website, email server, and the Western Washington Section Site.
 - Applied a post pandemic refresh to the look and feel to website pages
 - Provided prompt leadership communication posting and subsequent social media pages
- Responded to 37 member concerns and/or questions and elevated incoming items, when appropriate, when further subject matter expertise was required
- Continue advocacy on behalf of the ARRL and its leadership
 - Attend amateur radio events such as conferences, clubs and flea-market events in Eastern/Western Washington