



*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 January issue of Waves. January 2026 is here and we have roughly five months until **SEA-PAC** 2026 opens on June 6, 2026 at 9 a.m. at the Seaside Convention Center. I'm excited for the opening of the convention so we can get together with old friends and make new ones, see the exhibits and Flea Market wares, talk with the exhibitors and Flea Marketers, and attend the Seminars that will run through out Saturday and through Sunday morning.

That said, there are a few pre-Saturday 9 a.m. **SEA-PAC** events that may be of interest. Two Workshops will start at 9 a.m. on Friday June 5; see "Workshops" in this issue for full details. One will address Emergency Communications topics and the other will be a build workshop. The opportunity to put something together from the start is fun regardless of what you are building.

Another pre-Saturday event will be the Friday Reception at 6:30 p.m. upstairs in the Convention Center. The Friday Reception is an opportunity to get together with the invited guests (ARRL and others), as well as the **SEA-PAC** Committee, and our friends who also attend. The food is always good; it makes a good early Friday supper or appetizers for dinner later. The 7 p.m. Radios on the Beach special event meets at the Roundabout at the Prom to make contacts at Radios on the Beach. The fun is checking out what your radio and antenna can do as well as all the other radios and antennas out there.

We all attend **SEA-PAC** for a variety of reasons, all of those Face-to-face QSOs, what we can learn from

the Workshops, Seminars, from the exhibitors and their exhibits, as well as from everyone else in attendance. Check out what we have in this Waves and the website ([seapac.org](http://seapac.org)) to get you started thinking about what will be happening June 5 – 7 at **SEA-PAC**.

**Barb Yasson, AC7UH**

**SEA-PAC** 2026 Convention Chair

[chair@seapac.org](mailto:chair@seapac.org)

### ***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 next June, too.

### ***Waves Email List***

In October and November we experienced an issue where the Waves was delayed or not delivered to folks who are part of our email list. In October, Gmail was our culprit and we worked with our vendor to make some changes. While we resolved the Gmail challenge in time for the November Waves, however, when it came time to distribute



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the November issue, we received multiple bounces back from emails that were no longer deliverable.

If you have not received the October or November Waves and would like to be on our email list, please send an email to [info@seapac.org](mailto:info@seapac.org). Should you wish to opt out of the distribution list, please let us know to unsubscribe you by sending a request to be removed from the email list to [info@seapac.org](mailto:info@seapac.org).

We have also started an archive of the Waves, which can be found at [www.seapac.org/waves](http://www.seapac.org/waves). Here you can download the prior versions of the Waves.

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

Each year SEA-PAC holds a Souvenir Pin Design contest. Rules are posted at [www.seapac.org](http://www.seapac.org) on the Pin Design button. 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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!

### SEA-PAC Silent Key Recognition Project

The SEA-PAC planning committee will continue the recognition during the 2026 convention of past attendees who have become Silent Keys since the 2025 convention. The silent key recognition project gathers information from their friends and relatives about Silent Keys who attended SEA-PAC. We maintain the silent key list and provide it to the Seaside Convention Center to be entered with the other SEA-PAC convention information that scrolls

on the rotating screens around the convention center. We ask that you send us the Silent Key's name, call sign, and year they passed away. For SEA-PAC 2026 we are asking for Silent Keys who attended SEA-PAC and who passed away in the period May 19, 2025 through May 18, 2026. Please send your SK information to: [vice-chair@seapac.org](mailto:vice-chair@seapac.org).

Thank you for helping us to recognize our attendees who have become 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



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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.

You may ask why 6 pm? 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 may contact you 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](mailto: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.
7. Please observe the Will-Call and Registration hours. On Friday morning Registration and Will-Call is only open for

Workshop attendee check-in. If you are not a workshop attendee, please provide us the time to get those folks to their classes.

8. The Early Bird incentive has been discontinued.
9. We will send email registration confirmations starting in April.

### Lodging for SEA-PAC

If you're able to stay in one of the wonderful hotels in or near Seaside for **SEA-PAC**, that's fantastic! We also understand, though, that the cost of lodging during the convention weekend can sometimes make overnight stays—especially more than one night—a challenge.

Over the years, our committee members (many of whom stay three or more nights during **SEA-PAC**) have discovered some helpful ways to keep costs down while still enjoying a comfortable and relaxing visit:

- **Plan ahead!** Reserving early gives you the best selection of rooms across a wider price range. In fact, many attendees make next year's reservation before they even leave this year's convention!
- **Team up with friends.** If you know other **SEA-PAC** attendees who are also looking for budget-friendly options, consider sharing a larger rental unit together. You'll save money and enjoy more time with fellow hams. You can also share with non-ham friends or family members who would love a Seaside getaway.
- **Explore larger rental options.** Beyond hotels, you can find great places through Beachhouse 1, Airbnb, and Vacasa.

**SEA-PAC** is always more enjoyable when you can take your time and truly relax. By staying a little longer—and using some of the approaches above—you can make your experience smoother, more fun, and easier on the budget. We hope you'll



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give it a try and make the most of your **SEA-PAC** adventure!

#### *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](mailto: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 contribute throughout the year to those who step in during key registration periods and on-site event hours.

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

We'll be launching the 2026 Volunteer Intake Form soon in the Volunteer Portal on our website. Once it's live, everyone interested in volunteering—whether you're returning or new—will be asked to complete the form. This allows us to better 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](mailto:volunteers@seapac.org).

#### *Friday Reception*

Friday-evening we will hold a reception (with food) and good conversation with ARRL officers and **SEA-PAC** Committee members in

a pleasant social environment. This is an enjoyable fee event upstairs at the Convention Center.

#### *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 people in attendance

#### *Saturday DX and YL Luncheon*

We adjusted the afternoon seminar schedule and extended the lunchtime period to better accommodate the DX and YL Luncheons. The DX luncheon presentation tentatively will cover a recent DX-pedition in the Pacific. The YL luncheon speaker will be Carla Herman KJ7ZZG. The topic will be announced shortly.

#### *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



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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.

#### *Workshops*

We plan to hold two workshops in 2026. Toby Clairmont and company will present a workshop with practical instruction on several Emergency Communication topics. More details forthcoming on the web and in future issues of the Waves. The second workshop will be a half-day building workshop where participants can build a Morse Code Trainer that uses an Arduino-style processor. We will have a morning session and an afternoon session (sign up for just one). We will have more details on the [seapac.org](http://seapac.org) website soon. Send questions to [workshops@seapac.org](mailto:workshops@seapac.org) and we will respond.

#### *Seminars*

As in past years we call for talks on a variety of communications-related topics. We have several talks now and would like many more. There will be up to 34 seminars on Saturday and up to 10 on Sunday, each 50 minutes in length, on an eclectic mix of topics. If you would like to propose a seminar, send an email to [seminars@seapac.org](mailto:seminars@seapac.org) with your working title and a short topic synopsis.

Topics of interest include:

Outdoor ham adventure including Parks on the Air (POTA), Summits on the Air (SOTA), operating portable.

Kid-friendly and new ham topics, such as acquiring and setting up your first station.

Operating mobile

Antennas are a perennial favorite topic. Small to large will draw a crowd.

Operating in Contests. How to begin, how to improve your score from your previous contests, how to succeed with logging software.

How to succeed with various modes such as FT8, FT4, RTTY, CW, and actually talking on the radio.

Basic tool kit for building accessories for your station

How to conduct an emissions survey of your station

Award chasing, including DXCC, VHF grid hunting, Worked All States, etc.

How to confirm your contacts for awards. Logbook of the World, ClubLog, eQSL, and other services

How to make contacts via ham satellites

#### *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.



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Mail the completed form to:

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

Or email all information to: [VE@seapac.org](mailto:VE@seapac.org)

Questions? Call John Bucsek at 1 (503) 803-6134 evenings, or email John at [VE@seapac.org](mailto: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 will have our Flea Market both downstairs and on the Mezzanine Saturday, and Mezzanine only on Sunday. There are some slight changes (two tables removed) in configuration but nearly identical to 2025. Sign up via registration. We ask that once those who rent tables have their tables arranged that you depart from the Exhibit Hall. We also ask that no sales should occur until 0900 on Saturday so everyone has a chance at the treasures you bring to the Hall.

We love our Flea Market! Take this opportunity to clean out your shack, swap equipment, or get rid of that boat anchor that doubles as a door stop. The success and integrity of our Flea Market depends on you – our Flea Marketeers! Below are some things to be aware of.

1. There are slight floor layout changes this year due to fire codes. Please be sure to put your requested tables in the comment section of your registration. We will do our best to accommodate your first choice.
2. Please remember that each person working at the flea market table must have a registration badge for SEA-PAC. We do know that there are some groups of folks who share

tables, which is fine, but please communicate with others in your party when registering by signing up everyone at one time in the same registration OR make a note in the comment section who you are associated with. Please help us eliminate the duplicate registrations.

3. Help us maintain the integrity of our Flea Market. To accomplish this, **absolutely no sales are to be made on Friday or Saturday morning before SEA-PAC officially opens.** We have folks who have driven many hours to attend SEA-PAC for the Flea Market and are sorely disappointed when before the official opening on Saturday morning, all the deals are gone. You will sell more if we are able to build our reputation for a strong Flea Market.
4. Friday is a day for Exhibitor and Flea Market set-up only. When you are done with your table set-up, please cover your tables and exit the building.