

# In case of emergency, ham radio operators dial in

## Cascadia threat raises urgency for amateur radio devotees

By R.J. Marx  
Cannon Beach Gazette

It was hot at the convention center, but sales were hotter on the floor of the SEA-PAC convention, the Northwest's largest amateur ham radio show.

Before midday Saturday, June 4, Bill Eaton of Ham Radio Outlet in Tigard had sold out of the season's most coveted item, the ICOM IC-7300. They go for \$1,499, "but they're gone."

What makes this device so special? "It's the new, great DSP (digital signal processing) filtering receiver, transmitter with SDR (software defined radio) built into it — it's got a nice color touch screen," Eaton said. "We had 16, they were gone in the first hour."

Radio communications are expected to play an important role in the event of a disaster that brings down utilities.

From June 7-10, ham radio operators will participate in Cascadia Rising, the emergency preparedness exercise simulating the first four days following a Cascadia earthquake or tsunami.

"It doesn't matter where you



DANNY MILLER/EO MEDIA GROUP

**Richard Lang prepares to use his soldering iron while working on a transceiver kit during the do-it-yourself workshop at the SEA-PAC Ham Radio Convention, at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center. The convention lasted three days and included a variety of seminars, presentations and activities for ham radio enthusiasts.**

are," SEA-PAC Public Information Officer Nicole Crosby said. "There are earthquakes in California, flooding in the Midwest and hurricanes in the East. Each one is its own problem area."

### From Morse Code to the digital age

Ham radio operators are in all generations — it's a hobby spanning Morse code to the digital age.

Upstairs, novices and bargain-hunters alike prowled tables of used equipment.

"It's what every amateur

radio operator does," Tim Coleman of the Clark County (Washington) Amateur Radio Club said. "We buy used equipment to get started in the hobby, then we upgrade equipment," he said. "Then we sell the old stuff."

Don Hawkins of Portland displayed R.L. Drake equipment from the 1970s, "the transition stage between vacuum tubes and semiconductors," according to Hawkins.

Like Coleman and other flea market vendors, he said he looked forward to a trip to the convention floor "to buy new

toys" from his own sales proceeds.

Downstairs, Portland's Louis Bybee offered Morse code keys, power amplifiers for radio, soldering guns, tools, power supplies — what he called "a little bit of everything."

Jack Tiley of Spokane, Washington, displayed antique measuring instruments donated by Gonzaga University to raise money for the local amateur radio club.

His prize was a potentiometer, a precision box for calibrating capacity devices.

"This was the way they did it before they had precision instruments," Tiley said. "It's very unusual. It's what they used in the primary standards labs in the 1940s and '50s. Today it's a collector's item or a museum piece."

Ron Plummer of Los Angeles is celebrating his 70th year in ham radio.

"When we started in the hobby, it was all tubes," Plummer said. "There weren't any transistors. Almost everybody built their own equipment. Now you go to the store and buy what you need."

Morse code still has its role in radio communications, Plummer said.

Also referred to as "CW," or continuous wave, Morse code adds reach and is a "great way to talk to people all around the

world," especially when there is a language barrier.

### In case of emergency

Radio communications are expected to play an important role in the event of a disaster that brings down utilities.

At his SEA-PAC table, John Hays, director of marketing for NW Digital Radio, displayed a high-speed digital radio with expanded network reach. The UDRX-40 Universal Digital Radio sells for \$395, and is supported on Windows, Android, Macintosh and Linux browsers. "There's a resurgence in having an alternative way to send messages in a disaster," Hays said.

In the Seattle area, hams are building a high-speed network to supplement the internet, which could be brought down in a disaster. "It's bigger than Cascadia, but Cascadia's certainly part of the motivation," he said.

One vendor had nothing with a plug, battery or cable on her table.

Gretchen Otto, a distributor of Thrive Life, offered samples of "Freeze Dried Snackies," ideal for a well-stocked home following a disaster, she said. "Once you open them, for most of the items, you have a year to eat the contents," she said. "The beauty of it is, you can literally eat everything without water except maybe the sauces and

cookies. I've tried every meat, every vegetable, every fruit, without water. "Some were a little dry, but good."

### Getting started

Whether getting into amateur radio for fun or for survival, newbies don't need to spend the \$1,500 necessary for state-of-the-art equipment. Used equipment can be found for under \$100, and all radio operator tests are priced at \$15, according to Crosby.

Entry level is called "technician," followed by general license and amateur extra, which allows access to all available U.S. Amateur Radio operating privileges on all bands and all modes.

For more information, contact Clatsop County Auxiliary Communications or the Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

Local clubs include the Sunset Empire Amateur Radio Club, Seaside Tsunami Amateur Radio Society, Cannon Beach Amateur Radio Society and Oregon Coast Hams.

Links to these and other amateur radio groups can be found at [clatsop-ares.org](http://clatsop-ares.org).

"From people who do it for fun, to contest teams, emergency communications, preparedness, weather-watchers — people use the ham radio," Ham Radio Outlet's Eaton said. "It's a great means of communication."

## Annual Cannon Beach Cottage & Garden Tour fundraiser scheduled

The Cannon Beach History Center & Museum celebrates its 13th year of opening the doors to grand beach homes, historic cottages, and architectural wonders of your favorite coastal town. The fundraiser is scheduled for Sept. 9-11.

The tour is a multi-day event beginning with an exclusive concert and reception on Friday, Sept. 9, featuring vocalist Kelsey Mousley and "The Next Right Thing." Tasty morsels will be provided by Sea Level Bakery and Newman's at 988.

On Saturday, attendees are invited to a special luncheon and lecture at the Tolovana Inn. This year's lecture will focus on vintage and traditional design and the reawakening of these styles in home design. The speaker, Libby Holah, received her master of architecture from Washington

University and has had her vintage and historic designs featured in 1859 Magazine.

Home tours take place from 1 to 5 p.m. in the Tolovana area of Cannon Beach. Attendees will have the opportunity to tour historic cottages (the original "tiny house"), grand beach homes, lodges, and inviting gardens. One of the highlights of the 2016 tour will be the former summer cottage of Frank and Irta Woodfield. Frank Woodfield was a prolific and acclaimed photographer of the Oregon coast and Astoria during the early 1900s. Irta Woodfield was a talented poet.

Following the tour, attendees are invited to a concert

and reception at the Cannon Beach History Center & Museum for a concert featuring Maggie & the Cats.

The final event of the weekend is an English style garden tea at the Tolovana Inn on Sunday, Sept. 11. Attendees will enjoy English style tea while enjoying a presentation by the event's guest speaker, Sherian Wright.

Tickets for this event will be available on July 1. Tickets for each event may be purchased individually, or as a weekend package. For more information, contact the Cannon Beach History Center & Museum at 503-436-9301, email [info@cbhistory.org](mailto:info@cbhistory.org).

**CORRECTION:** In the Seaside High School Class of 2016 graduation section, information regarding graduating senior Michael Oberembt was incorrect. The corrected entry is below.



## MICHAEL OBEREMBT

**Parents or Guardian:** Andrew and Trixi Oberembt

**College Plans:** Attend Clatsop Community College

**Career Plans:** Work in computer repair or computer programming

**Pacifica Project:** Seaside Chamber

**Ambassadors/Honors/Awards/Scholarships:** Student of the Month

**SHS Extracurricular Activities:** Seaside Chamber of Commerce

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- Duane Johnson Real Estate
- Ecola Creek Lodge
- EVOO
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- Inn at Cannon Beach
- Inn at Haystack Rock
- Mariner Market
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- Mo's Restaurant

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- Sea Sprite on the Estuary
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- Sweet Basil's Cafe & The Wine Bar
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- The Ocean Lodge
- The Stephanie Inn
- The Waves Motel
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