The Pickle Barrel Review

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTON MOUNTAIN DIGITAL RADIO ASSOCIATION

April 2025

Introduction

Greetings one and all, and once again welcome to the Pickle Barrel Review! As in the previous issues, you'll find this issue filled with the latest happenings not only of the W7NEO system, and the NE-OREGON room, but System Fusion, Allstar, along with GMRS. All that said, as always, we invite others to contribute with articles, or if your club or organization is having an event such as a tailgate, swap meet, VE testing, or whatever, you can list it here as well. The only thing we ask is that your contribution be nonpolitical (unless it's a government action that directly affects Ham, or GMRS Radio), respectful of others (no personal attacks), and relatively family friendly. We realize your pretty darn proud of it, but we really don't want to hear about your new tattoo, let alone just where exactly it's located on your body. And just to be clear, we apologize, but unfortunately your brother-in-law's bachelor party

still doesn't count as a coming event. So, all that said, feel free to reach in the barrel, grab yourself a pickle, pull up a chair and have ah sit for a spell as we discuss the latest happenings in Fusion, Allstar, GMRS, and Personal Radio Communications in general. And for the record, you can rest assured that every line of the PBR is a 100% AI free zone, and will remain so (As proof just look at all the mistakes!).

A word from our sponsor

Friday Night Bingo:

Are you tired of spending your Friday nights trying to find something good to watch on TV and turning up empty handed, while thinking back on all the wild times of days gone by? Well, how about kicking off the weekend right by joining us for Friday night bingo at the local Grange Hall where the fun just keeps on coming, and everyone's a winner! Come on down and enjoy a night testing your skill and luck for just 25 cents a card!

By the way, the organizers would like to take this opportunity to express their sincere regrets for the events of last Friday night, and pass along that Bernice is feeling much better, and as soon as the doctor gives her the go ahead, she'll be back calling numbers once again. In the meantime, the Senior Center and the Ladies Auxiliary have both graciously consented to replace all the broken furniture including the punch bowl. So, from now on, we ask that rather than shouting out "Bingo" as has been the practice in the past, if you think you have a Bingo, please simply raise your hand and one our volunteers will be happy to verify your card for you.

So, this Friday night come on down, and enjoy an evening of gaming and fun at your local Grange Hall, because whoever you are, we've got your number!

Repeater Updates

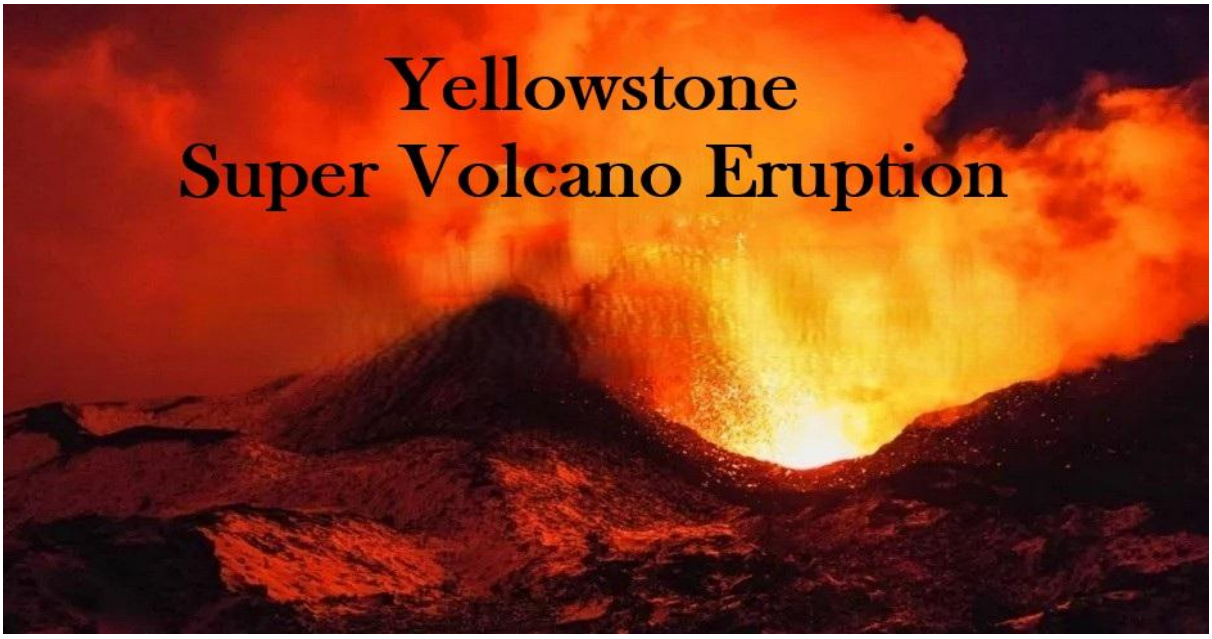
Given that our sites are still draped in white, along with a substantial amount of mud, we haven't really done anything with the system at all. But we were able to have a meeting of our little group to discuss current happenings, and future upgrades to the system. Our group (WMDRA) were all in agreement, so no conflicts with regards to moving forward with upgrades to our system.

One of the things we're considering is a third GMRS repeater. Given the success of the other two, and we had a UHF repeater sitting around not being

used, we thought a third machine might be useful to our local community. We're not quite sure just where to put it yet, but we do have some ideas if we are able to obtain the repeater sites we've applied for.

That's about it for now, but as always, we're always looking for ways to improve our system, and make it just that much better for everyone to enjoy. So, if you have any suggestions, let us know, and if it sounds like a good idea, we'll look into it.

Disaster Preparedness



Back in the summer of 2008 a friend and I packed up our Harley-Davidson motorcycles and headed out onto the open road, joining hundreds of other motorcyclists to participate in the annual pilgrimage to biker holy ground. That being the Black Hills Rally in Sturgis South Dakota. We had planned to visit as many sites along the way during our adventure as we were able, the least of which being Yellowstone National Park. As a kid I used to dream of visiting Yellowstone while watching all the splendor - and of course the geysers - on the documentaries of Walt Disney. So, when I finally found myself riding through the park on my Harley, and visiting all the various sites I had seen on television over the years, the little boy that used to sit glued to the

television was back enjoying all the natural splendor as it unfolded all around me.

This was to be the first of two such rides to South Dakota, which both included Yellowstone. The second being in 2013, and was no less amazing.

Boiling hot springs, Yellowstone

Of course, back then, as I was enjoying all the natural wonder on display, I had no idea that what was powering all these geysers, boiling mud pots, and hot springs I was enjoying was actually a massive magma chamber just a short twelve miles below the road my bike and I were traveling on.

Volcanos and how they work

Before we get into what's sleeping underneath Yellowstone, first let's take a look at just what a volcano is, and the process of just how, and why it erupts.

Believe it or not, volcano's actually have a very useful purpose. That being a natural way in which to keep our dear mother earth cool by releasing built up energy in the form of geysers, and the occasional "burp' of volcanic gases, along with other activity. There's actually allot going on below the earth's crust, which results in the build-up of extreme levels of both heat and pressure. When all that begins to exceed a certain threshold, it results in volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, or both. Much like that "special chili" your buddy cooked up for the get together on game day.

Deep inside the earth, the temperature is to the point that rocks in the mantle actually melt, creating a flowing molten rock referred to as magma. Allot of this magma is the result of tectonic plate movements building up even greater pressure and causing heat to transfer deep within the earth's interior.

Since the magma at this point is a fluid, it rises up through the mantel, and begins to pool in magma chambers below the earth's crust. Additional pressure is formed in the magma from gas bubbles as it rises up through the vent, which intern begins to rachet up the pressure even more. This is starting to sound more like the effects of that chili now isn't it.

Just for the sake of clarification, scientists use the term magma for molten rock that is underground and lava for molten rock that breaks through the Earth's surface.

If the magma layer during this time isn't as thick as would typically be the case, the gas that would normally be building up isn't quite as much since more pressure tends to escape, which results in less pressure build-up overall. This type of magma tends to be more fluid in composition, and flows out of openings or fissures as lava. A good example of this is what's seen in Hawaii during an eruption, where the lava appears to move considerably more slowly. On the upside in this case, there tends to be considerably less fatalities during such events. As appose to when the magma is much thicker, making it so the gas bubbles are less likely to escape, and the lava flows faster. The result in this case being that the pressure builds up and the gases violently explode.

Lava flow of Hawaiian volcano

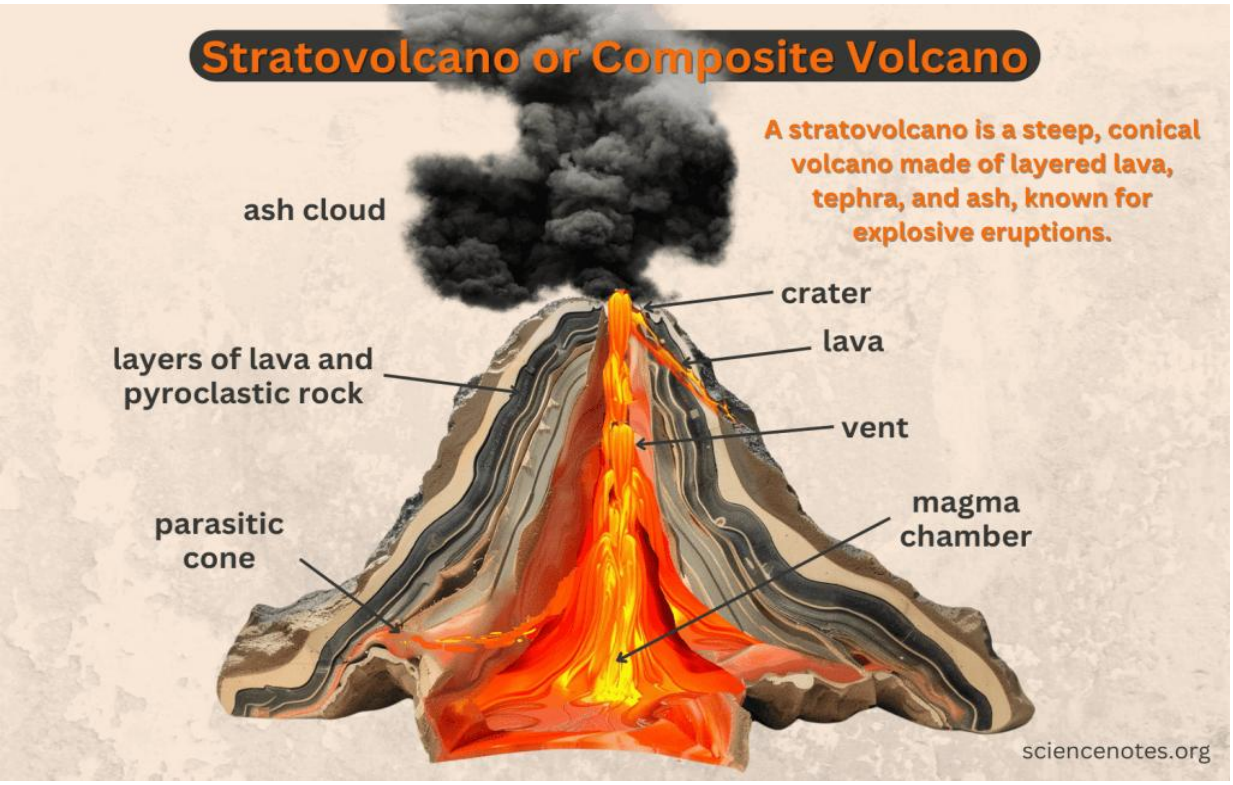
Basically, between the chemical composition, the amount of trapped gas, combined with the temperature of the magma, these are all factors which will determine the type of volcano that will eventually form. Along with the type of eruption, if any, that will most likely result. A good rule of thumb is that when magma is thick and sticky, there is more of a chance of an explosive eruption.

To narrow it down, there are three basic types of volcanoes which are based on the type of eruptions that originally formed them: Strato, Shield, and lastly Caldera,

Strato volcano

Stratos are typically fairly symmetrical in appearance, most notably with relatively steep sides. Having been formed from layers of lava and ash, they appear more like a cone-shaped mountain. Most will have craters at their summits, with either one main vent or several clustered vents. Typically, the lava flows through internal fissures or breaks within the crater walls. This process of lava flow acts like a conduit system that provides a pathway for magma to travel from a reservoir- “Magma Chamber”- deep in the Earth, and on up to the surface. Over a period of millions of years this process will result in the formation of multiple layers.

Strato magma tends to have a high silica content, which intern produces large amounts of gas bubbles. The result being that when these types of volcanoes explode, they create volcanic ash. This ash has sharp, frozen bits of magma and rock resembling millions of tiny shards of glass. This was noted when Mt St Helens erupted in 1980, which not only created highly corrosive dust, but generated its own lightning as well.



Basic structure of a Strato volcano

Although currently dormant, Mount Hood here in Oregon, along with Mt Adams, Mt St Helens, and Mt Rainier in Washington State are all prime examples of Strato volcanos.

Shield volcanoes.

Shield volcanoes, although similar to Strato volcanos, tend to have a much more level shape and are formed from repeated, slower-moving lava flowing down their slopes. Shield volcano's magma tends to have a lower silica content, and is extremely hot and runny. Once it reaches the surface, like all magma, it

becomes lava, with the addition of ash and volcanic gases, which are also produced.

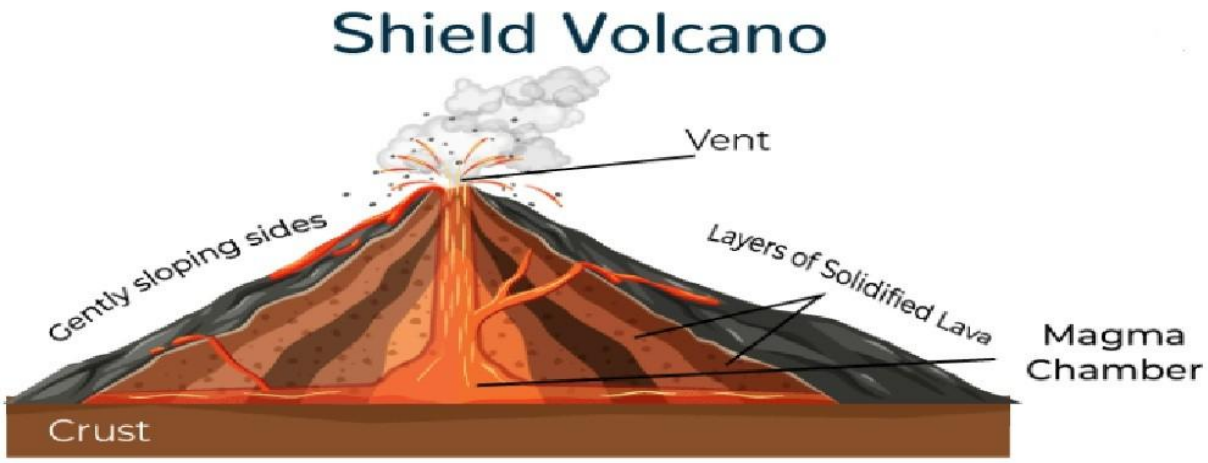


Diagram of Shield Volcano

Over the course of many eruptions, and many thousands of years., the layers build up and the magma chamber at some point empties, eventually becoming dormant. Fortunately, these types of volcanos are less likely to explode than in the case of other types of volcanoes.

Shield volcano erupting in Iceland

Yellowstone Caldera volcano

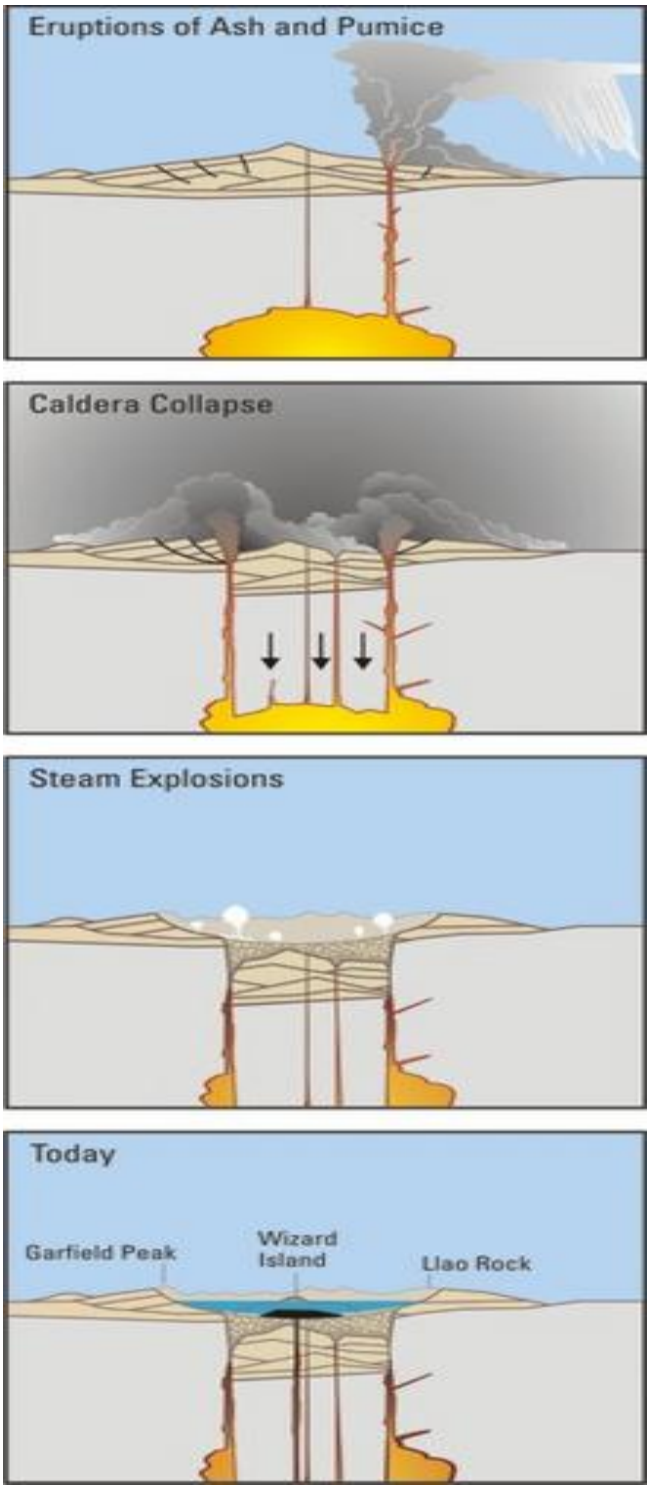
Last, but not forgotten, is the Caldera volcanos, which is what our sleeping giant underneath Yellowstone is. The key feature of this particular volcano is its large, wide depression, which is where the term “Caldera” comes from. Caldera actually originates from the Spanish word meaning “caldron.”

The magma found in these volcanoes can lead to violent explosions that cause a wide-ranging fallout of ash. Volcanologists describe what’s under Yellowstone as a “Super Volcano.” One which stretches underneath not only Wyoming, but Montanna, and Idaho as well. Fortunately, it’s not expected to erupt anytime soon, but when it does finally erupt it will have not only a devastating effect on the three afore mentioned states, but it will also have an adverse effect on much of North America, along with the rest of the world’s climate in general as well. And you thought your ex-wife had a temper!

With all that in mind, let’s take a closer look at just what it is that’s currently sleeping under Yellowstone.

The Yellowstone Caldera, also known as the Yellowstone Plateau Volcanic Field, is what is referred to by volcanologists as
a “Quaternary Caldera complex,” and Volcanic Plateau. What this all translates to in geologic terms, is that the term "Quaternary" refers to the most recent 2.6 million years of Earth's history, characterized by significant climate fluctuations and the rise of humans. In other words, this particular Caldera has been around a while.

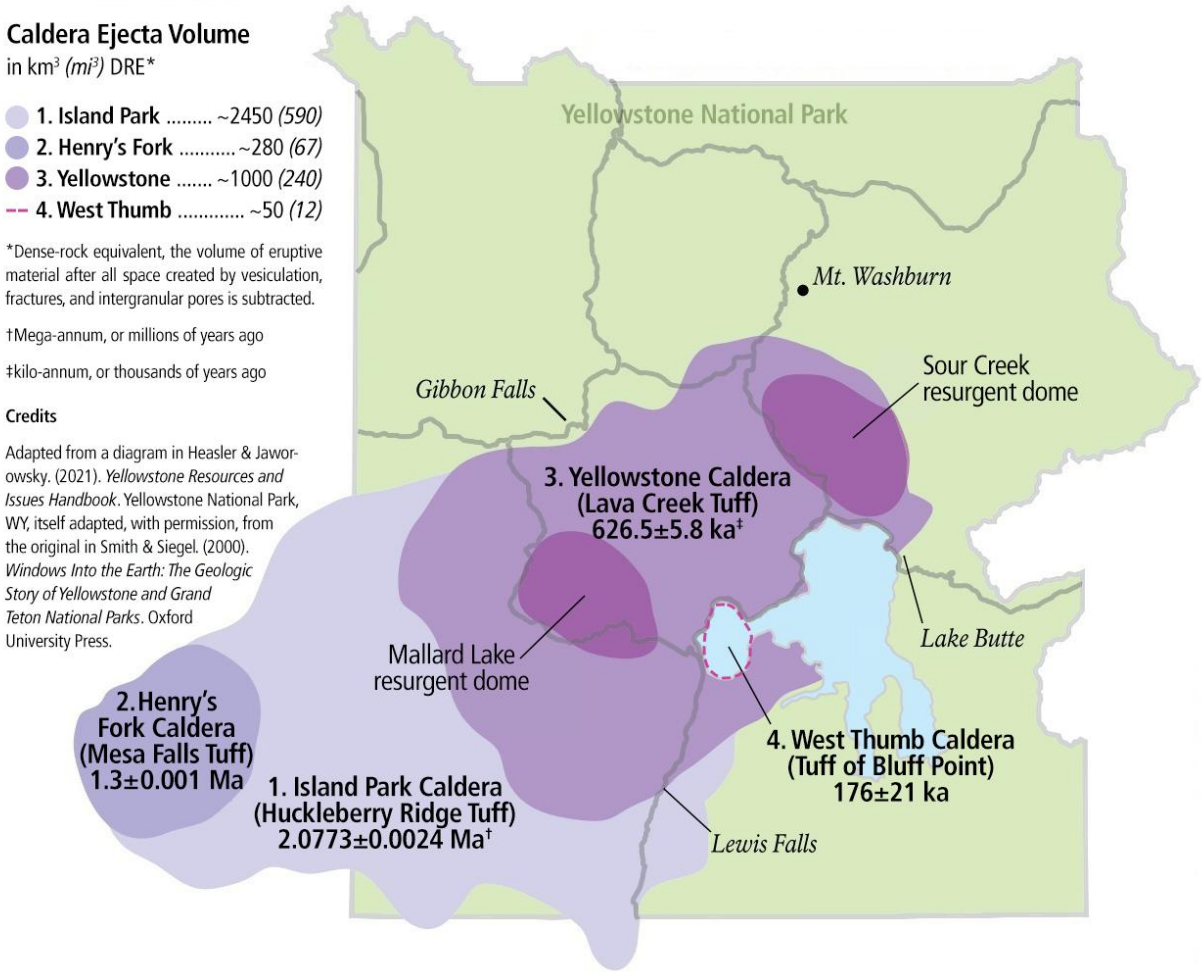
So just what exactly is a Caldera anyway? Well, I’m glad you asked. A Caldera is formed when a magma chamber empties out all, or most of its contents of magma leaving behind a large empty chamber. With the magma now gone, nothing is remaining to support the crust overhead, and it collapses leaving a large crater, or “Caldera.” Calderas can typically range from 0.62 up to 62 miles in diameter.



The process of forming a Caldera

Within Yellowstone there are actually four overlapping Caldera's resulting from various eruptions spanning over millions of years. The Yellowstone

hotspot is credited as being responsible for the large-scale volcanism in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming, as well as Nevada and Oregon. All of this was formed as the North American tectonic plate moved over it.



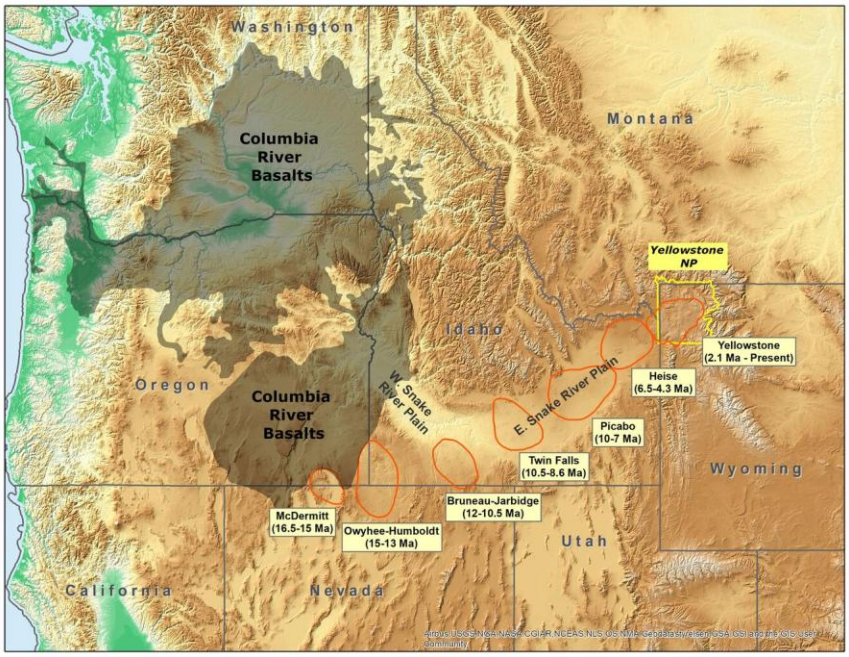
The overlapping Caldera's of Yellowstone Park

These Calderas are one of the largest volcanic systems on Earth. Lurking beneath Yellowstone National Park Over the past two million years, the volcano has had significant eruptions three times so far, leaving behind calderas, or massive craters.

In order to better understand more about just how it was that these calderas came about in Yellowstone, we need to delve a little more into the geological history of just how all this was created.

Yellowstone Hotspot

So how did these Caldera's form in the first place? As was already mentioned, the Caldera's rest on what is referred to as the Yellowstone Hotspot.



Map showing the approximate locations of Yellowstone hotspot volcanic fields (orange) and Columbia River Basalts (gray). Boundary of Yellowstone National Park is shown in yellow.

To better understand just what a Hotspot is, and how it all fits in with our discussion so far, let's take a closer look at the whole thing, and hear from the people that are doing the hard work to find answers.

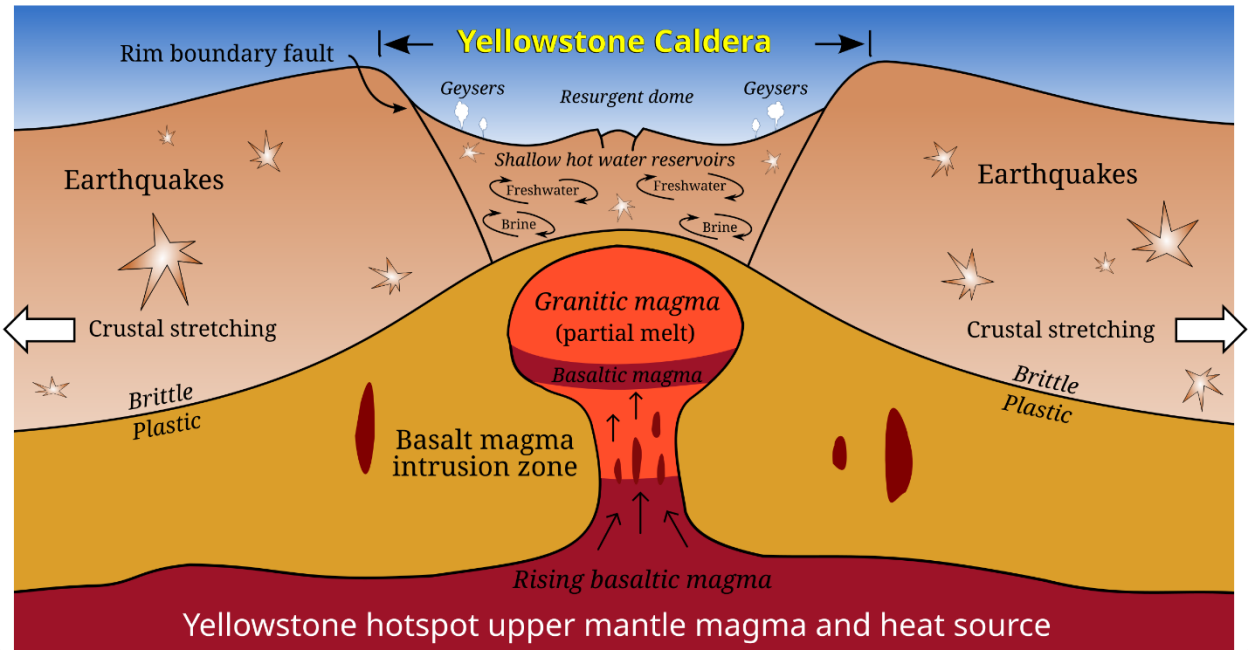


Diagram showing the hotspot and the Yellowstone Caldera

To better understand future eruptions, Ninfa Bennington, a Volcanic Seismologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, used Magneto Telluric methods to identify four pots of magma stored underneath the Yellowstone Caldera.

Magneto Telluric methods have been around since the 1940's, but are still very much in use today by scientists who study the earth. The definition of Magneto Telluric (MT) is:

An electromagnetic geophysical method for inferring the earth's subsurface electrical conductivity from measurements of natural geomagnetic and geoelectric field variation at the Earth's surface.

Which is really just a fancy way of saying that scientists use Magneto Telluric instruments in order to help identify materials that can conduct electricity beneath the Earth's crust. Ninfa Bennington's team used those very same type of instruments at over 100 measuring stations across the caldera in order to identify magma, which has a much higher conductivity than solid rocks.

Of the four magma-rich regions the team discovered, only the northeastern one appears to remain hot enough to keep magma in a liquid state on a long-term scale. The reason for this is that it's the only reservoir just outside the

northeastern boundary of the caldera that appears to be connected to deeper basalt reservoirs.

Fortunately, one of the things that actually keeps the Yellowstone Caldera from erupting is the very thing that attracts hundreds of tourists to Yellowstone each year, the geysers. With all the splendor of the geysers going off, providing a magnificent display in the process, what's also going on is that the pressure within the Caldera is being relieved at the same time.

But scientists are saying that sooner or later the possibility of an eruption on a significant scale, although most likely not in our lifetime, is still very possible. So, with that said, let's take a look at just how an eruption at Yellowstone would play out.

Results of a Yellowstone eruption

A large eruption at Yellowstone could have devastating, widespread effects, including ashfall across not only the US, but even some as far as Europe as well. Along with that is the potential for global climate changes, and significant disruption to human activity and agriculture. While a "super-eruption" is unlikely in the near future, as can be seen the potential impacts of such an eruption are significant.

But if another large, caldera-forming eruption were to occur at Yellowstone, its effects would be worldwide. Such a giant eruption would have regional effects such as falling ash and short-term (years to decades) changes to global climate. Those parts of the surrounding states of Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming that are closest to Yellowstone would be affected by pyroclastic flows, while other places in the United States would be impacted by falling ash (the amount of ash would decrease with distance from the eruption site).

What exactly is a pyroclastic flow you ask? To put in plain English, this is basically the stuff nightmares are made of. Just imagine a large, extremely hot mass of violent chaos flowing extremely fast down volcanic slopes, and in the process destroying everything in its path.

To break it down a little further, pyroclastic flows contain a high-density mix of hot lava blocks, pumice, ash and volcanic gas. Most pyroclastic flows consist of two parts: a lower (basal) flow of coarse fragments that moves along the ground, and a turbulent cloud of ash that rises above the basal flow. Ash may fall from this cloud over a wide area downwind from the actual pyroclastic flow itself.

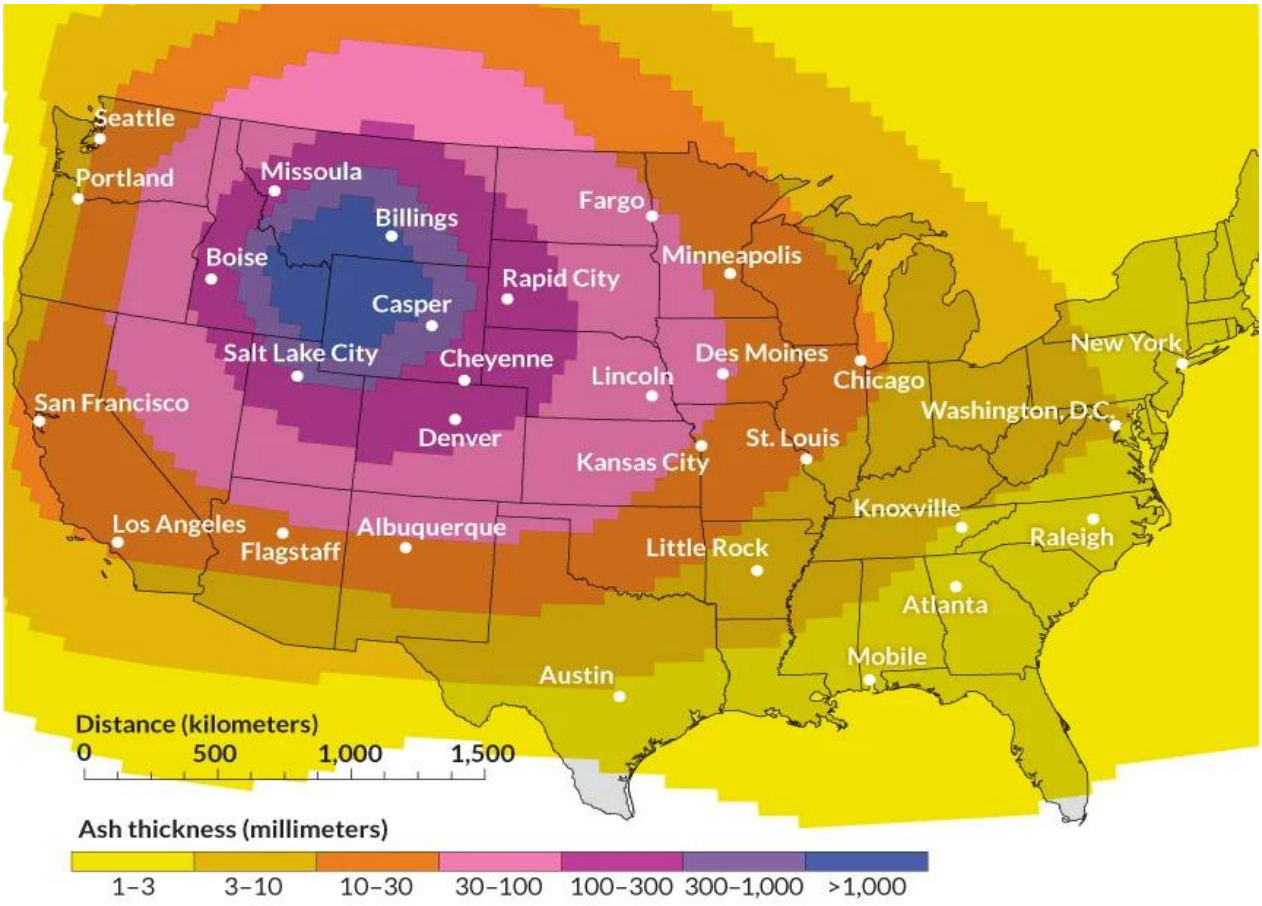
In 1982 a couple of Seismologists, Christopher G. Newhall, and Stephen Self of the United States Geological Survey came up with a scale in order to measure the size of explosive volcanic eruptions. The scale came to be known as the VEI scale, or "Volcanic Explosivity Index," and is nowadays the standard for measuring the intensity of volcanic eruptions. Similar to the F, or "Fujita" scale used to measure the resulting damage of tornados.

VEI	Ejecta volume (bulk)	Classification	Description	Plume	Periodicity	Tropospheric injection	Stratospheric injection[2]
		Examples					
0	< 10^4 m^3	Hawaiian	Effusive	< 100 m	constant	negligible	none
		Kīlauea, Mawson Peak (current), Fagradalsfjall (2021-2023), Mauna Loa, 1975, 1984, 2022					
1	> 10^4 m^3	Hawaiian / Strombolian	Gentle	100 m – 1 km	daily	minor	none
		Yakedake (1995), Dieng Volcanic Complex (1964, 1979, 2017), Havre Seamount, 2012, Sundhnúkur (2023-2024)					
2	> 10^6 m^3	Strombolian / Vulcanian	Explosive	1–5 km	2 weeks	moderate	none
		Mount Etna, Stromboli (since 1934), Unzen, 1792, Ritter Island, 1888, White Island, 2019, Marapi, 2023					
3	> 10^7 m^3	Strombolian / Vulcanian / Peléan / Sub-Plinian	Severe	3–15 km	3 months	substantial	possible
		Surtsey (1963-1967), Nevado del Ruiz, 1985, Redoubt, 1989-1990, Ontake, 2014, Kanlaon, 2024					
4	> 0.1 km^3	Peléan / Plinian / Sub-Plinian	Catastrophic	> 10 km	18 months	substantial	definite
		Bandai, 1888, Pelée, 1902, Lamington, 1951, Eyjafjallajökull, 2010, Merapi, 2010, Semeru, 2021					
5	> 1 km^3	Peléan / Plinian	Cataclysmic	> 10 km	12 years	substantial	significant
		Vesuvius, 79, Fuji, 1707, Tarawera, 1886, St. Helens, 1980, Puyehue, 2011, Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha'apai, 2022					
6	> 10 km^3	Plinian / Ultra-Plinian	Colossal	> 20 km	50–100 years	substantial	substantial
		Lake Ilopango, 450, Huaynaputina, 1600, Krakatoa, 1883, Santa Maria, 1902, Pinatubo, 1991					
7	> 100 km^3	Ultra-Plinian	Super-colossal	> 20 km	500–1,000 years	substantial	substantial
		Long Valley, 760 kyr, Campi Flegrei, 37 kyr, Mazama, 5700 BC, Kikai, 4300 BC, Santorini, 1610 BC, Samalas, 1257, Tambora, 1815					
8	> 1,000 km^3	Ultra-Plinian	Mega-colossal	> 20 km	> 50,000 years[3][4]	vast	vast
		Wah Wah Springs (30 Mya), La Garita, 26.3 Mya, Yellowstone, 2.1 Mya, 640 kyr, Toba, 74 kyr, Taupō, 26.5 kyr					

VEI scale, or "Volcanic Explosivity Index."

Volcanic eruptions go through several stages, typically beginning with earthquake swarms, and gas emissions. Then moving on to initial steam and ash venting, lava dome buildup, dome collapse, magmatic explosions, more dome growth interspersed with dome failures and finally, ash, lava and pyroclastic eruptions. As has been noted, pyroclastic eruptions are the most dramatic, and destructive from a near term view. But in the longer term, and certainly wide reaching in their damaging effects are primarily from the ash.

Volcanic Ash and its Composition:



Predicted progression of ash cloud after a Yellowstone super volcano eruption.

Volcanic eruptions will eject millions of tons of small ash particles into the atmosphere, some of which can remain suspended for weeks and travel long distances. These particles are primarily composed of silica (SiO2) and other minerals, forming an amorphous glass. When humans and animals' breath in

this ash it forms a substance in the lungs similar in composition to concrete, making breathing almost impossible.

Larry Mastin, a Volcanologist with the USGS gave an excellent presentation on the subject of a Yellowstone super volcano eruption, and specifically the effects, and propagation of the resulting ash cloud. In his presentation he references the results of various modeling that him and his team developed based upon previous super volcano eruptions that have taken place during fairly recent eruptions, all over the world, and the resulting ash clouds from those eruptions. Larry explains the difference between a regular, and a mushroom ash cloud, and the influences of prevailing winds, along with varying atmospheric temperatures, and their long-range effects on those ash clouds. In his presentation he points out that the upward thrust of the ash from the eruption, would eventually reach a point where the density, and temperature of the ash cloud itself would equal the surrounding atmosphere and level out into a mushroom cloud. This mushroom cloud would in term intensify the effects of the ash, creating climate change, and damaging effects over the course of years on not only the general population, but agriculture, and power infrastructure as well.

On a personal note, when I was working for the Boeing Commercial Aircraft Company as a Manufacturing Engineer in the Upgrade and Incident Repair division, we supported the repair of wide body Boeing commercial aircraft such as 747's, 767's, and 777's. In 1992 we were tasked with evaluating a Lufthansa 747-400 that had the misfortune of flying through the ash cloud of the Mt Spurr, Alaska volcano eruption. This resulted in engine failure of all four engines, which caused the aircraft to instantly drop several thousand feet. Fortunately, the crew was able to restart the engines just long enough to make a safe landing at Anchorage Airport, which had been closed due to the amount of ash falling. When the survey report reached our office, in looking at the pictures it looked as though the entire aircraft had been sand blasted inside and out. The damage was so extensive that the aircraft was deemed unrepairable. How they were able to safely land is still a mystery.

Conclusion

The effects of a super volcano eruption extend far beyond the initial chaos of thousands of deaths in a very short period of time for those near the actual eruption. As a result of the thick ash having been thrust skyward to our upper atmosphere there would be a dramatic change to our weather on a global scale, with the blocking out of the sun. It's estimated that the global temperature would not only drop 10 degrees Celsius, but the resulting "volcanic winter" could potentially last for an estimated six years. During this time period agriculture in north America would be devastated, along with our power grid. The ripple effects of all of this should be obvious.

As you can see, this is not only a fascinating topic, but one that could have devastating effects over a large area of our planet for decades. Fortunately, scientists studying all this assure us that the likelihood of a super volcano eruption in Yellowstone is extremely low. So, feel free to put away your tinfoil hat, and perhaps you might want to reconsider asking that cute girl in accounting out.

Although there is much more we could cover on this topic, unfortunately, once again I'm limited on the amount of space available for this little newsletter. So, in the meantime, if you haven't already, I hope all of you will someday get the chance to visit Yellowstone National Park as I have, and enjoy all the splendor and natural beauty of a truly amazing place. And rest assured, it's not going to explode anytime soon.

Lynn Wilson, K7LW

If you're interested in Dr Mastin's presentation, just click here, you won't be disappointed.

Legal Corner

We've all seen the bumper stickers exclaiming; "PUT DOWN THE PHONE AND DRIVE!" I myself, like many others I'm sure, have been cut off in traffic on

numerous occasions only to come up alongside the offending vehicle to see the driver yakking away on a cell phone, or worse, texting.

On one such occasion while riding my Harley in Mazzulla MT, I happen to notice one particular vehicle weaving somewhat erratically through traffic. Upon coming alongside this vehicle, I noticed a young woman swiping away on her notebook computer while driving in city traffic. She immediately stopped what she was doing when an angry biker (me) tapped on her window and motioned for her to put the notebook down, and focus on her driving instead. Hopefully, with any luck, she still remembers that day, and no longer takes her notebook for a drive. Yeah, I kind of doubt it myself.

Fortunately, on July 23rd, 2017 Washington state enacted the; "Driving under the Influence of Electronics Act." Consequently, on January of 2018 this resulted in law enforcement in Washington state to begin enforcing that same law. In October of 2017, Oregon followed suit with a similar law which went into effect shortly there afterwards officially declaring all actions holding a cell phone beyond a single touch or swipe while driving as being illegal in Oregon. To date, anyone driving in Oregon under the age of 18 can't even use hands-free devices while driving. Violation of the law in Oregon will net the offender a "mandatory" fine of $2,000, but in Washington the fine is only $124. However, in both cases, if the individual is found to be a repeat offender the fines increase significantly.

So how does that affect those of us in Family Radio Communications (Amateur and GMRS Radio)?

Fortunately, in both instances there were state congressmen that were also licensed Amateur Radio operators who knew the value of being able to operate a two-way radio responsibly while driving. As such, they were able to ensure that both Oregon and Washington's bills included wording effectively allowing those of us in the hobby to be able to communicate responsibly while driving.

For Oregon:
ORS 811.507
Operating motor vehicle while using mobile electronic device

- *Exceptions*

It is an affirmative defense to a prosecution of a person under this section that the person:

(4e) *Was 18 years of age or older, held a valid amateur radio operator license issued or any other license issued by the Federal Communications Commission and was operating an amateur radio;*

For Washington:

Title 46 - MOTOR VEHICLES
46.61.667 Using a wireless communications device or handheld mobile telephone while driving.

(3)(a) Subsection (1)(a) of this section does not restrict the operation of an amateur radio station by a person who holds a valid amateur radio operator license issued by the federal communications commission.

When these laws first went into effect radio operators were being advised to print out a copy of the laws showing the exemption for Ham & GMRS, and keep it in the glovebox of their vehicles. This was so in the event you did get pulled over for using your radio while driving, you could (respectfully) show the trooper the law, and avoid a ticket.

So, there you have it. Remember to stay safe while driving, and if you don't have any hands free in your vehicle, and you feel that you really need to respond to a text, or answer a phone call, please just simply pull over.

Lynn, K7LW/WRYF803

Emergency Communications

It has been brought to our attention that there is currently an effort to include Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) as part of the overall Oregon Amateur Radio response during an emergency. Although we do not currently have any active DMR repeaters in our group, we have been looking into the possibility of putting up at least one machine, perhaps two.

During our last WMDRA meeting we discussed how we might include DMR as part of our Comprehensive Emergency Operations Management Plan. But to

be honest, we couldn't come up with anything that would prove useful without compromising our existing core values. So, we decided to leave things as they are for the moment, and discuss options at a later date.

Since we haven't yet been approached on the subject by any outside organizations, our thinking is not to worry about it until the time comes and we are approached. When, and if that time ever comes, we of course will do our best to accommodate in providing a resource for emergency communications, while still keeping within our own WMDRA guidelines.

Please be aware that the WMDRA (W7NEO) is not officially a member of any Amateur Radio Emergency Services organizations. However, we do make our systems available to outside organizations provided prior arrangements have been made with WMDRA, and it is agreed upon by those organizations to abide by our policies.

Repeater Operation

Lately there has been quite allot of discussion with regards to emergency traffic, and just how to respond while operating on any of the local repeaters, including ours. In our case, as with most repeater systems, we have a detailed Emergency Communications Plan. I would invite anyone using the system to check it out if you have any questions regarding emergency communications on this, or most any other repeater system.

Not long ago there was an incident that quite frankly, most Amateur Radio operators, and GMRS operators for that matter, should find embarrassing. The incident took place while a group was conducting a social net (no slam on social nets intended) on a local repeater located somewhere on the Oregon coast, when a station broke in with an emergency. As the account goes, the individual was rudely informed that a net was in progress, and that he should seek out a different repeater for his traffic. Not only was this extremely inappropriate, but it's also in direct violation of FCC rules.

Fortunately, the individual with the emergency was eventually able to get help, and the situation was handled in a professional manner. It's my understanding that the individuals that had rudely responded to the person in need were spoken to by the local repeater owner's.

But this got me to thinking, and I remembered an article that had been published in a previous issue of the Pickle Barrel Review a few years ago, and thought it worth revisiting. So, if you'll indulge me on this one, I give you the following reprint which I consider worth a second look.

Repeater Operation – Published in the October, 2020 issue of the Pickle Barrel Review.

We all prepare for the big emergencies and how the various repeaters in the area will be utilized during these emergencies. But what about the smaller, more one-on-one emergencies that can and will crop up?

Here is what I'm referring too. Imagine your relaxing in your shack one afternoon, maybe listening to HF searching for that rare DX station that will get you just that much closer to your DXCC. Just when your about ready to haul it in, over the local repeater you hear a station indicating that they are in trouble and asking for help. How do you approach this? Now on the W7NEO repeater system we have a strict rule about not allowing nets on our system, but this is not a net, or is it? What we have here is an exception, and it really must be that way on ours, or any other repeater system because quite literally lives could be at stake based upon just how well you handle it.

The first thing to do is of course to respond to the individual in need. In doing so what you as the responder need to realize during all of this is that you have automatically established a directed net on the repeater, and you are the net control station by default. As NCS it is important that you maintain net discipline and focus on the job at hand. With that ultimately being to get the first responders to the scene of the emergency as soon as possible with as much information as your able to provide them with while reassuring the victim(s) that help is on the way. Additionally, when communicating over the repeater to the person in need always speak with a calm reassuring tone in

your voice. This will help to relax the individual on the other end and reduce panic. 911 operators are masters at this.

Find out what the emergency is, his or her location, how many are involved in the emergency and just how severe are the injuries, and if any are life threatening. If you're dealing with a vehicle accident then you need to ask questions such as; "Is there anyone trapped in their vehicle, is there fuel leaking out, is there fire, is the accident blocking traffic?" If it's an individual then you will need to assess the situation by asking what is taking place (Heart attack, stroke, trauma, etc). Determine if the individual is in pain, where is the pain (chest, leg, etc) how severe is the pain (1 to 5 with 5 being the worst)? If they have fallen was anything in the way of bones broken, is there severe bleeding, are they in a position that they are relatively safe for the time being until first responders arrive? Be prepared to answer these types of questions because the dispatcher will be requiring allot of information in order to deploy the most applicable assets and give them the best picture of what to expect.

I should also mention that as NCS you will be expected to remain on frequency until the first responders have arrived on scene and your services are no longer required. Remember, your first responsibility is always to the victim.

One last point I really need to make that is very important. As I mentioned at the beginning, by responding to the emergency on the repeater you have assumed the duties of NCS by default. With that in mind, you will need to maintain net discipline by ensuring the frequency is clear of what I refer to as "Radio Lookie-loos." You will need to be up front in telling other stations to stand by until the emergency has cleared, and the repeater can be returned back to normal operation. The absolute worst thing you as NCS can do in an emergency is to lose control of your net. So don't be afraid to be blunt, lives may depend upon it.

Lynn, K7LW

Current events

Spring has sprung, and before long temperatures will begin to rise, and once again we'll be able to dawn our shorty shorts and thus traumatize the neighbors with our Lilly white legs, and knobby knees.

It has been suggested that we hold a pot luck get together somewhere in one of the local parks as a sort of "Meet and Greet." It would be a gathering for everyone including family and friends. Although this idea was originally brought up on the Thursday night GMRS net, Ham's and their friends and family are certainly welcome as well.

It was suggested that it take place sometime this summer once the weather warms up, but at the moment it's still in the; "Hey wouldn't it be cool if…" So, it's still wide open as far as place, date, and time.

Anyway, keep it in mind, and hopefully we can make it happen, and spend an enjoyable day of getting to know one another in person.

VE Testing

There is no VE testing going on that we're aware of, but if you check the Links section of our website, there may be information on some of our friend's websites as to where you might find a test session going on near you.

But in the meantime, if you do have a regular test session taking place, feel free to let us know, and we'll post it here in the next issue of the Pickle Barrel Review.

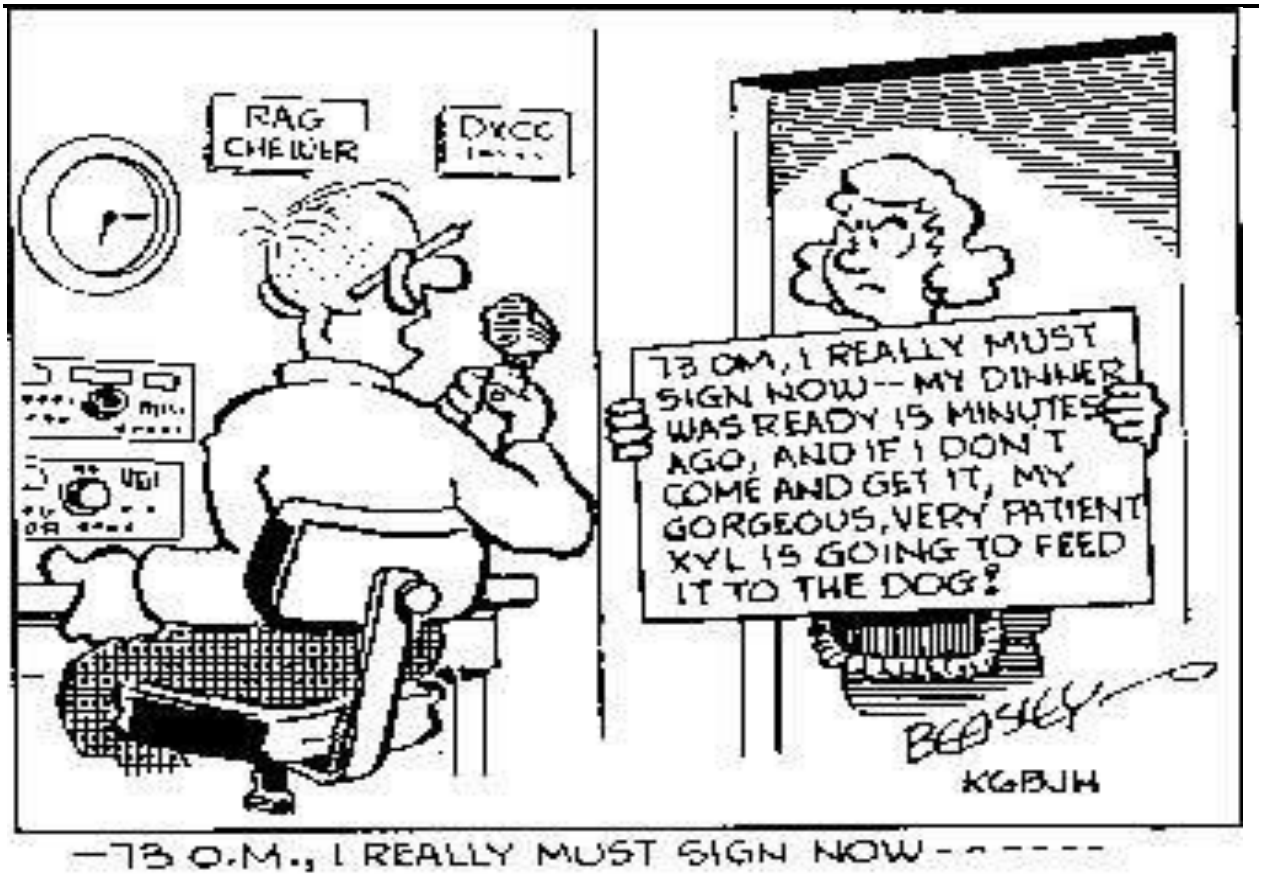
The End

Well, that's about it for this edition of the Pickle Barrel Review, I hope you enjoyed it. We'll continue to work to keep it informative, fun, and interesting. So, until next time, we here at the WMDRA (W7NEO) hope everyone is getting ready for spring, and enjoying the last of the winter band conditions. But in

the meantime, feel free to reach in the barrel, and grab another pickle, there's plenty to go around, along with plenty of great conversation!

73,

Weston Mountain Digital Radio Association
W7NEO



"Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration."

– Thomas Edison