



The Pacific Northwest's Largest Amateur Radio Convention

“Magic on the Air”

SEA-PAC June 5 – June 7, 2026

Notes from the Chair

Thanks to **Barbara Robertson, SEA-PAC 2025** Chair, for her leadership that helped to make the convention an energetic and exciting event. As Vice Chair it was a pleasure working with Barbara and the team of Committee members to put on a convention with so many varied activities. *SEA-PAC* is always a great opportunity to get together with friends, meet new acquaintances, and learn from everyone there. I always appreciate talking with vendors and Flea Marketers about what's new or new to me. The Workshops, Seminars, ARRL officials, staff and the Field Organization representatives are all informative and fun to learn from. There is something for everyone and the Committee appreciates the opportunity to help put it all on. I am honored to be Chair of such an outstanding Committee.

Welcome to *SEA-PAC 2026*. Mark your calendars for Friday June 5 – Sunday June 7, 2026. As you will see from what follows, we are working to create a convention that will have something for everyone. Amateur radio is a great hobby and conventions like *SEA-PAC* provide opportunity to experience many aspects of the hobby all in one place.

We are excited to welcome **Neil Rapp, WB9VPG**, as our Banquet speaker. He was awarded Ham of the Year at the Dayton Hamvention 2025, and has been particularly active working with young amateur radio operators through Youth on the Air Americas.

Watch for Workshop and Seminar information, as well as the prizes here and on our website <https://seapac.org>.

The Committee got started planning in September and has selected “*Magic on the Air*” as the theme for *SEA-PAC 2026*. We hope this issue of *Waves* and those that follow will highlight not only the “*Magic on the Air*”, but the magic of this year's convention.

Barb Yasson, AC7UH

SEA-PAC 2026 Convention Chair

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.

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



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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 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. We will send email registration confirmations starting in April.

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.

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

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



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SEA-PAC Pin Contest

Submissions to the Pin Contest are due March 1, 2026. Check our website at <https://seapac.org> under *SEA-PAC* Pins for the contest rules. Thanks for sending your pin design to pincontest@seapac.org.

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 offer either two or three all-day workshops on Friday, June 5. One will continue with Emergency Communication training and skill-building. Another will feature a build activity, tentatively building a Morse code trainer that includes a microcontroller and smart training. The third is still under development and will be announced in a future edition if our plans come to fruition. If you have ideas or questions, send an email to workshops@seapac.org and we will respond.

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 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.

Seminars

We desire to offer about 45 seminars in 2026 on a wide range of interesting topics. If you have ideas for a seminar you would like to attend, or are willing to share your knowledge, send an email to seminars@seapac.org. Potential presenters should include a working title, a short synopsis of the proposed seminar, name, and call sign. We are particularly interested in activities available to technician licensees but that is only the start. Seminar length is 50 minutes except during the noon period that will be extended 15 minutes to accommodate the luncheons.

Other topic ideas include:

- How to get started building tools for your station.
- Antennas are always of interest (can you ever have enough?)
- Outdoor ham radio including domestic DX-peditions, SOTA, POTA, and similar.
- Contesting
- DXing
- Amateur Television
- Working satellites, Earth-Moon-Earth contacts and other far out communications
- Getting prepared for emergency communications support
- How to make effective use of the ARRL Antenna Book
- Ways to use a microcontroller (Arduino, Raspberry Pi, Blue Pill) in your station.
- Growing ham radio among youth and experienced adults
- Operating VHF/UHF in contests (how far can you talk?)
- Learning Morse code for fun (and use)
- Your great idea....