

## September 2, 2021 - 2 Steps Forward, 1 Step Back

### *2 Steps Forward!*

August has been a time of gathering together of all materials required to create the new and bigger Access Point atop WhidbeyTel's 190' tower. Not only have all the components been delivered but, also we have designed, configured and assembled the triple radio array to be installed at the tower top!

The radio array is shown on the right ready for hoisting up the tower. Each radio is aligned to offer best overlapped coverage of our service area. Three times the capacity of the old system!



During the same time, work on the electronics equipment to support the array has started as well. This digital networking equipment that interfaces between the radio array at the tower top and the Fiber Optic connection provided by WhidbeyTel will be housed in a small Rubbermaid shed purchased from Home Depot! Mid-month, a crisis.



### *1 Step Back!*

We were interrupted in this progress by the slow failure of the main Access Point radio at our Bush Point location a couple weeks ago. What to do? It did not make sense to just replace the unit with the spare we had on hand but, to use one of the three new radios from the tower array. Why? Because the new radios have technology that will come into play in the future for network advances in service. So, we removed one of the three radios from the new array, re-programmed it to serve at Bush Point and up it went. It is pictured to the left after mounting.

A replacement was immediately ordered and we have it on hand now ready to assemble and place on the array for the WhidbeyTel tower. We hope to make more good progress in September on the WhidbeyTel tower project located in the Green Bank area of Whidbey Island.

Peace, David

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