

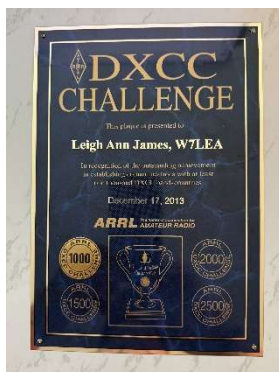
Leigh Ann Nielson, W7LEA (SK January 2025)

Leigh Ann Nielson (W7LEA) was the first person recognized as a member of the newly implemented Columbia Basin Net “Honor Roll” in November of 2025. This honor was established for those that have gone far “above and beyond” in both serving the CBN as well as impacting the Amateur Radio hobby regionally. Leigh Ann not only met this standard but far exceeded it.

Leigh Ann attained her Technician License in 2003 and progressed rapidly thereafter, completing her Amateur Extra 3 Months later. She participated in multiple nets in the region and was called upon by the ARRL to serve as a special event operator for the ARRL 100th Anniversary (W1AW/7). She was also selected to be an operator of the station for the “Last Man Standing” (KA6LMS/7) end of series event in 2021.

Leigh Ann was a member of the Columbia Basin Net (CBN) for 21 years. Over that period, she served as either a director or Net Manager for that entire period. She was also a regular as a net controller. In each of those leadership roles, she was not only concerned about consistent, orderly conduct on the net, but she also ensured that all who shared a passion for being on the air had a predictable, comfortable, and welcoming environment. She recognized that there was a unique camaraderie within the CBN and worked hard to promote that by organizing, and many times hosting, the annual picnic at her own QTH. She exhibited unwavering dedication and commitment to the net’s mission, values, and amateur radio.

Leigh Ann assisted in the formation of The Columbia Basin DX Club WS7G. It is a dedicated group of amateur radio enthusiasts in the Moses Lake, Washington area, focusing on DX communication and fostering general interest in amateur radio. The club is a welcoming space for members enthusiastic about long-distance communication and advancing their skills in amateur radio. She helped facilitate the WS7G special event station that has celebrated President George Washington’s birthday each February from the town of George, Washington for 20 years. At the end of that event, she would design the certificate for those that had contacted the event and ensured they were sent out promptly.



As a DX chaser, she had 331 confirmed entities, being one of the very few to reach that milestone. Leigh Ann was awarded the DXCC, 5 Band DXCC, 5 Band WAS and DXCC Challenge awards.

She also participated in the Washington State QSO Party (AKA Salmon Run). In 2010 she not only achieved the Top Score, Washington YL award, but also attained the

Overall Top Score for the contest in the High Power, SSB category.



Leigh Ann Nielson, W7LEA (SK January 2025)

Finally, Leigh Ann was featured alongside her husband Brian (W7BJN) in CQ Magazine due to their growing prominence in the region. They were acknowledged for their significant contributions and achievements throughout their extensive participation in Ham Radio.

Ultimately, Leigh Ann's passion for, and direct contributions to Amateur Radio have made it stronger today than ever. This element of her legacy deserves to be prominently memorialized not only because of what she achieved, but more importantly, because of who she was; A caring person and fellow operator who positively impacted the lives of many over her years on the air.

