



From the Hot Seat...

'Twas A Good Year...

by Sam Sullivan/N7RHE President

This has been a very good year for the club. We had a very successful Flea Market with rave reviews by the vendors. Field day was great with many first timers attending. Planning for both of these events is under way. Don't forget to sign up to help at Flea Market. We bought a new generator (RV type) and are planning on getting a new, larger trailer to house the new generator, power panel and equipment. Membership continues to increase but we could use more 'Elmering' for the new folks -- even for some of us old ones, too.

The board has been working very hard on the Club's Budget for next year. No matter how many times you participate in that endeavor you learn new things, consider new things, and make decisions for the betterment of the club.

Elections are in March. Nominations will open at the January meeting. Consider running this year. The way to really find out what's happening is to be a Club Officer or Board Member. This year we elect offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three (3) Trustee positions.

After the recent freeze your antenna(s) may need repair. Does anyone have a need for another work party? Do need help with a tower or antenna project? Restore an old rig? Remember that many hands make for light work.

For education ideas or to join the committee, contact Hal KE7BYN or Guy N7ZG. For the Technical committee contact Steve KD7IQL. If you have any ideas for a program or would like to present a program contact Dawn KC7YYB. To assist the Radio Officer contact Paul N7DOH. For Field Day, contact Brendan, KD7IKV or Steve, KD7IQL.

YI9TU is on the Air!

by SGT Mitch Gill K7TUT / YI9TU, Portable in Iraq

It is amazing that after all of this time of hearing "Any day now," or "Next week," my new license and call sign finally arrived. It evidently took a change in the Iraqi government, as the other group lost my application. The new communications entity told me "Two weeks." I laughed (politely) and never even set up [my radio gear] here. Three days later it was attached to my email and I was shocked. So shocked that I did not set up my antenna the first night.

Last night I threw up the antenna and, as it was night time here, the only band that was open was 40 meters. The CQ World Wide contest was up in full force and after an hour of frustration I gave up.

Since the antenna is only up 15 feet and one leg of the inverted V has a crink in the end as it lays across a metal roof... well I guess that would explain the problem. Now I could have been creative, but memories of all my other experiments made me think twice. I can't afford burning down the building, and would end up in jail and miss Christmas at home as well as *staying in jail* until I leave in March. I was tempted to build a vertical out of scrap metal but I would have had to do some welding. As most of you know, I am not safe with anything that can either create -- or catch - fire. *[Continued on Page 7]*

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The *K7LED Relay*, published monthly, is the official newsletter of the Mike & Key Amateur Radio Club. Mike & Key ARC is an ARRL-affiliated club dedicated to the growth and betterment of Amateur Radio.

The club meets at 10 A.M. the third Saturday of every month at Salvation Army Headquarters, 720 S. Tobin Street, in Renton (near the southeast corner of Renton Airport). Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is invited to participate in the Mike & Key ARC and its activities. Annual dues are \$12 for individuals and \$18 for families.



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K7LED Repeaters

146.82 output / 146.22 input
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Mike & Key Online -- Several club resources are available electronically:

On the Web — The club's site at 'www.mikeandkey.org' includes extensive information about club events:

VEC testing, membership, past edition of the *Relay* and more.

Reflector — The public message board offers an easy and free way to converse with club members.

To sign up, surf to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/mkarc>.

E-Relay — Want the newsletter in color and a day or two before the print edition arrives by regular mail?

You will also save the club some money in printing and postage costs. To sign up, send a message to the editor: kg7ku@arrl.net.

Flea Market 2007

December FleaMarket Meeting Minutes

by Michael Dinkelman N7WA

In attendance: Hal Goodell N7NW, Jim Etzwiler KD7BAT, Gil Drynan KB7ZQT, Pam Bryan N7PRS, Gary Bryan KG7KU, Kathy Martin KB7QMO, Diane Dinkelman KB7DNE, Michael Dinkelman N7WA.

Hal – going down to buy Postal permit and check out whether our “stamp” on the flyers will pass muster. No fairgrounds news at this time.

Gil – new phone system for the event based on the internal fairground PBX. We may still have to drop a couple lines. There will be new phone numbers posted at each phone.

Gary – vests are in a known location. We need to touch base with Kevin Barrows N7GXZ about pallets (Mike will do).

Pam – discussion on door prizes. We will use the same system as last year, \$25 cash prizes.

Diane – registrations are flowing in. The 'big hit' will be after the holidays. A couple of deposits have been made to the Treasury.

Mike – flyers are being labeled, most are done. Will deliver to Hal last week of December. All areas (except Country Store) are in dire need of workers. We still need a Hospitality person or there won't be a break area for workers. In lieu of an RV, we may put up a 2-3 “popup” shelters but we still need someone to organize and run the area.

Next meeting is January 9th.

FleaMarket Job Descriptions

by Michael Dinkelman N7WA

I noticed quite a few new faces at the last couple Club meetings. These are the same faces that give me a blank look when I ask them if they want to sign up as a Flea Market worker. Then, they usually ask what a particular job entails which is difficult to do in the short period of time available at a Club meeting. So, I am going to put this out for everyone.

Registration workers – these folks man the incoming (Orange) and outgoing (Gold) gates plus the registration booth in the middle of the fairgrounds. Sure enough, many of the positions require being outside, which can be a detriment, but these are essential positions in the operation. Proper dress can alleviate the weather concerns and we do try to treat you right with deliveries of beverages and food. Many of our FleaMarket MVP's have come from this group. Diane Dinkelman is the chair.

Pallet Crew – the primary job here is 1) get pallets to the vendors when they pull up and 2) get the pallets to the tables after the vendor has finished loading it. It is physical work and close coordination with your crew members is essential. We have 12 pallet jacks (several go upstairs). It can also be a lot of fun. You still need to be prepared for weather. For those unable to do the physical work, we can also use a body or two to be the elevator operator. Gary Bryan is the chair. By the way, we need pallet workers AFTER the event as well, to get the vendors back out.

Security – a rather cushy job. All indoors but you can't be easily intimidated. Doesn't mean you should be nasty, either. Most of the time, security is walking the aisles during setup, checking badges, watching for 'light fingers,' and making sure no one lifts up any table covers. The biggest need for security is from 8AM-9AM on Saturday when we watch all the doors after the ticket sales have begun. Alan Hughes KB7SVU is the chair.

Tickets – if you handle money well, this is the place for you. We have three ticket booths on opening and crank back as the day goes on. It's rather hectic at the start so we have 2-3 people in each booth. This area also needs people to take the tickets at the door and to do re-entry hand stamping. The latter jobs require preparation for weather. Kathy Martin and Jim Aigner are the chairs.

Announcing – another inside job, you man the Club PA booth and make announcements as needed. You'll also be the central point for questions, door prize drawings, and the lost and found. With the new phone system, you may also have to place “operator” occasionally and the talk in operators are associated with this area as well. The chair is Pam Bryan.

Country Store – isn't having any problem signing up workers so I am not going to bother with a description. Chairs are Curtis and Dawn Hanner.

VE Examiners—chair is Scott Robinson AG7T.

Hospitality – no chair

We need at least 100 people to support this event. More would be better. Every year, it seems to take more effort to get members to sign up. Add to that the fact that members are getting older and some have become 'snowbirds,' it is essential that our newer members become involved. This is THE Ham event in Washington State - not just a FleaMarket but a great social gathering. If we can't keep up the effort, it would truly be a loss to the regional Amateur Radio community. Please sign up at the club meeting or send me an email (mwdink@eskimo.com) indicating your work area and shift preferences.

December 2006

Sights & Sounds by Sunrise

by Dawn Humphrey KC7YYB, Activity Committee Chair

WOW! What a party! Thanks Pam for all of your creative skills at being the solo hostess at our annual Mike and Key Christmas party. For those of you who arrived late, we apologize for the inconvenience regarding seating. Nevertheless, well done Pam, and thanks on behalf of those who enjoyed the party.

This is it folks! The biggie that you all have been contributing to with your raffle ticket purchases. You will have one last chance to get in on the big drawing for this year. As mentioned at the August mtg, and has the Board's approval, we purchased, the "Stealth Antenna" mount a.k.a 25' telescoping flagpole as the 1st prize and two radios, and a few other items of interest, so be sure to bring your dollars to start off the January kitty for new raffle prizes.

If you do not make the meeting and your ticket is drawn for the top three gifts, you WILL be receiving them, maybe not this year, but at the next meeting you do attend, but all others will be redrawn, if the ticket owner is not present!

This will be our program, with the usual coffee, donuts and social time. Merry Christmas, and Happy-any-other holiday that you prefer to celebrate! 73!

K7LED Relay

by Brendan KD7IKV and seconded by Ted N0YC.
Motion passed.

Officer Reports:

President – Sam N7RHE: The next Mike & Key General Membership meeting is December 16, 2006.

Vice President – Carolyn WV7Q: New member applications from Tim Kane K7ANE, and Tokuzo Okumura AD7JA. Both were approved by the membership.

Secretary – Dick WA7NIW: Received notice to renew Post Office Box.

Treasurer – Jack N7IHS: The Club's books are in good order. Gave Balance Sheet summary.

Radio Officer – Paul N7DOH: Getting closer to having the repeater up and on the air.

Activity Manager – Dawn KC7YYB). Today's program will be on APRS given by David Dobbins, K7GPS. New pins are available, new material doesn't turn yellow with age.

Chairman of the Board – Brendan KD7IKV The board has been working hard on the Budget for the upcoming year. There is now a printed version of the Policies and Procedures, which are instructions on the details for carrying out the requirements of the By Laws. The Mike & Key Board meets November 29, 2006 at Galliano's Cucina in SeaTac.

Relay- Gary. Check the roster that came out with this month's Relay to make sure your information is correct.

Webmaster – Jim KD7BAT: New pages for Swap, and Christmas Party.

Standing Committee Reports:

Technical – Steve KD7IQL: Nothing new to report at this time.

Education – Guy N7ZG (No report)

Facilities – Brendan KD7IKV: Getting broken antenna analyzer repaired.

Public Service – Pam N7PRS: Next year's Pamphlet is being worked on, no meeting today. Christmas party is December 9 at Vince's. Families are welcome. White Elephant gift exchange will happen. Please sign up so that there will be enough of everything. Check from HRO arrived to pay for their ad in the booklet.

Strategic Planning – Frank NA7O: No report.

Flea Market -- Mike N7WA: Mark your calendars for March 9, 10 for the Flea Market. The next meeting is December 5.

VE Exams -- Scott AG7T: Not present for the meeting, but will be for the examination session.

Field Day -- Steve KD7IQL & Brendan KD7IKV: Make sure to mark your calendars for Field Day June 23, 24 2007. Reservations have been made for the Wagon wheel, and the Barracks. We are looking to get more barracks space. We are budgeting for a new trailer to put the new generator in, complete with new power distribution equipment. Band Chair positions are open, members are urged to sign up to learn Band Chair duties for future operations.

[Continued on Page 5]

Public Service Committee Minutes

[The Public Service Committee did not meet in November.]

General Meeting Minutes-

November 18, 2006:

Officers present:

- President – Sam Sullivan (N7RHE)
- Vice President – Carolyn Pasquier (WV7Q)
- Secretary – Dick Radford (WA7NIW)
- Treasurer – Jack Grimmitt (N7IHS)
- Activity Manager – Dawn Humphrey (KC7YYB)
- Radio Officer – Paul Roth (N7DOH)

Trustees present:

- No. 1 – Brendan Burget (KD7IKV) Chairman of the Board
- No. 2 – Pam Bryan (N7PRS)
- No. 3 – Guy Molinari (N7ZG)
- No. 4 – Steve Cook (KD7IQL)
- No. 5 – Frank Tate (NA7O)

President Sullivan called the meeting to order at 10AM. at the Salvation Army building in Renton, Wa. All members and guests recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Sullivan made several announcements: The Mike & Key ARC is affiliated with the ARRL, which members are encouraged to join; everyone, including visitors, should sign the rosters; visitors are reminded not to vote on membership matters; smoking is allowed in the parking lot but not in front of the chapel.

Members and guests introduced themselves. The question of the day was, Do you contact special event stations and get QSLs from them? Answers ranged from Yes, to No, to detailed descriptions. Quorum present.

Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as printed in the *K7LED Relay* made

December 2006

General Meeting Mins... [Continued from Page 4]

Ed Bruette N7NVP, Western Washington Section Manager stopped by to say Hi. Noted that he was in the right place when our descriptions of our organization started out as Motley, moved to Illustrious, then Friend and Mentor. Reported on ARRL Board continued commitment to Emergency Preparedness. Commented on the detrimental effects of the new band/mode limits imposed by the new FCC decision. In regards to Field Day, he is looking forward this year's event. His real reason for coming was that at the Flea Market last year someone failed to open the box from ARRL, so we never got the Door Prizes until today when he brought them.

Ken Rau stopped by to let the club know that Lew Rambo became a Silent Key about a week ago. His memorial service is going to be at the Bothell Masonic center this coming Tuesday.

Littlejohn reported that his antenna party started out with a drizzle, moved to a downpour, then a deluge. Then the wind came along. He wanted to thank everyone who helped out with this project. He brought along a booklet of pictures of the event with the hopes that everyone dried out within 3 or 4 days.

Old Business:

New Business – Discussion of what constitutes a Life Membership. It seems that one was issued in error, and then retracted. This will be discussed at the next board meeting.

Good of the Order –

Public service events coming up, Seattle Marathon on November 26, meeting today for volunteers. Santa Parade in Auburn December 2. Special Peoples' Holiday Cruise on December 3. Santa Talks on or around December 19.

There being no further business, Brendan KD7IKV moved to adjourn.

Motion passed, and President Sullivan closed the meeting at 10:57AM

Attested: Dick Radford WA7NIW, Secretary

**Board Meeting Minutes-
Held December 6, 2006:**

Officers present:

x President – Sam Sullivan (N7RHE)
x Vice President – Carolyn Pasquier (WV7Q)
x Secretary – Dick Radford (WA7NIW)
_ Treasurer – Jack Grimmer (N7IHS)
x Activity Manager – Dawn Humphrey (KC7YYB)
x Radio Officer – Paul Roth (N7DOH)

K7LED Relay

Trustees present:

x_No. 1 – Brendan Burget (KD7IKV) Chairman of the Board
x_No. 2 – Pam Bryan (N7PRS)
x_No. 3 – Guy Molinari (N7ZG)
x_No. 4 – Steve Cook (KD7IQL)
x_No. 5 – Frank Tate (NA7O)

Visitors in attendance: Dan Humphrey, Dave Smith, Loras Gassman, Dick Vance and Adrian Roth.

This is the November Board meeting, the regular meeting was rescheduled because of the snow.

Chairman Brendan KD7IKV called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at Galliano's Cucina in SeaTac, Wash.

Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the previous board meeting was made by Sam N7RHE and seconded by Pam N7PRS. Motion passed.

Officer Reports

Chairman of the Board – Brendan KD7IKV:

President – Sam N7RHE:

Vice President – Carolyn WV7Q: New applicants: Bill Morton, and Terry Barham. Both were approved by the Board, to be recommended to the Club at the next General Membership meeting.

Secretary – Dick WA7NIW: Nothing new to report at this time.

Treasurer – Jack N7IHS:

Activity Manager – Dawn KC7YYB: Reported having 8 items for the Big Drawing. The Salvation Army kettle will be passed at the December meeting.

Radio Officer – Paul N7DOH: Reported on the repeater. It's ready to go, the coordination papers are in progress. With the current snow situation on the mountain, and the condition of the road, we won't be putting it up soon. He has new papers from the State that need to be filled out to update our officer information.

Committee Liaison Reports

Facilities – Brendan KD7IKV:

Strategic Planning – Frank NA7O: Nothing new to report at this time.

Technical – Steve KD7IQL: Nothing new to report at this time.

Public Service – Pam N7PRS: We received a check from HRO for a full page ad. The committee will meet for sure this month. Data collection is under way.

Education – Guy N7ZG: Nothing new to report at this time.

Field Day – Brendan KD7IKV / Steve KD7IQL: We are not able to get the Hostel for 2007.

Christmas Party- Saturday, Dec. 9

Old Business-

Dick WA7NIW- MOU has been revised and is being reviewed. Discussion to continue at the January board meeting.

[Continued on Page 6]

December 2006

Board Meeting Mins... [Continued from Page 5]

Sam N7RHE- Policies and Procedures. We now have descriptions of how the duties of the various officers are to be carried out.

Life Memberships- There was discussion of the life membership that was awarded in error and was then revoked when the error was discovered.

New Business-

Budget- After lively discussion Guy N7ZG moved to accept the budget, Pam N7PRS seconded. Motion passed.

Sam N7RHE moved to authorize the treasurer to keep adequate money from the CD rollover to finish off this year's books. Seconded by Dawn KC7YYB. Motion passed.

Good of the Order- Nothing for the Good of the Order.

There being no further business, Dawn KC7YYB moved for adjournment and Pam N7PRS seconded. Motion Passed and Chairman Brendan closed the meeting at 8:58 pm.

Attested: Dick Radford WA7NIW -- Secretary

Local Ham Willing to Speak Out

By John Saundres KD7UI

Listening to the North West ARRL rep at the November meeting got me inspired to write a few words to the ARRL. This was on the Omnibus ruling the FCC made and these rules take effect December 15th if not challenged. I hope other amateurs in the club took the opportunity to express their opinion.

According to all the information I see, Amateur Radio is not growing, and the average age of the Ham community is 57. I think the time is fast approaching for the ARRL to look at new ideas since the old ones don't appear to be working. The following note was emailed to the ARRL.

=====**Begin Note**=====

FCC Omnibus R&O
November 22, 2006

To whom it may concern:

I'm totally against the latest proposed ruling put forth by the FCC. It will affect many aspects of Emergency Services in data transmutations and other areas. It will also limit other data modes and any experimentation of new data possibilities. Many amateurs have invested time and money in data modes for use in Emergency Services groups.

If this ruling does go through it will not only be a financial loss to the amateur but networking with other Emergency Services groups in other States and the country will be lost.

K7LED Relay

Shrinking the CW and Data spectrum of any amateur band for more Signal-Side-Band (s.s.b.) activity is not a good policy. Over the years the licensing requirements have been relaxed to the point that it's been separating amateurs into two groups. S.S.B. or voice versus CW / Data modes.

In my view and many others, not just "old timers" are seeing what could be a real problem in the amateur community. On the VHF, UHF bands lowering the standards did not create problems. Lowering the standard on the HF bands has caused considerable friction in the ham ranks. This has been happening over time and with this ruling could bring it to a head. Taking away the Extra, Advanced and CW / Data licensing requirements has lowered the amateur to almost that of the Citizens Band (CB) operator.

I have been retired for about one and a half years now. In my work career I have seen a steady decline of technical skills in the work force. Somehow the premise seems to be if we make things easier it will be beneficial in the long run. I believe the experiment has failed miserably. Not only in Amateur Radio but our education system as well.

Unfortunately this has taken several years for the outcome to be recognized. One of the phrases heard is, "changing the paradigm". Everyone is for change until it comes to them! The result is complacency and mediocrity.

I can't help but think both the FCC and ARRL have let the Amateur Radio Community down.

Sincerely,
John H. Saundres . KD7UI

=====**End Note**=====

This just in...

The M&K Holiday Party Was A Blast!

by Pam Bryan N7PRS

Last night, Saturday, December 9, the Mike & Key Club's Holiday party turned out to be a big evening filled with Holiday cheer. There were forty-nine (49) adults and children in attendance at Vince's Restaurant in Renton Highlands to celebrate the holiday season and have some fun.

There was excellent food enjoyed by all, games to test their knowledge of Christmas trivia, and a gift exchange that provided everyone with the opportunity to 'steal for fun.' What was especially nice to hear was the laughter from enjoyment, and to see the camaraderie being shared by all. I loved seeing those smiles.

So I say: 'Thank you,' Mike & Key for sharing yourselves for an evening and helping to get this holiday season off to a fine start. I wish you all the Merriest Christmas and a Happy New Year!

December 2006

K7LED Relay

YI9TU is on the Air... [Continued from Page 1]

With that, I decided to leave it alone until I have time to get the antenna up higher but I did go on 20 meters and decided to try to give a few calls. I did get a 8Q7 and a LY before I had to leave for work and that was encouraging. I am expecting tomorrow when I have a 3 hour break (no days off here) in the morning to catch a few more stations. Sometime next week I will raise the inverted V off of the roof and get it up another 8 feet which should be good for 20-10 meters. No six meters here and that's too bad as I have heard opening from Africa to Asia to Northern Europe.



Sgt. Mitch Gill, YI9TU, in 'full battle rattle.'

Two meters here is really different. Its quiet and absolutely NO ONE is within a decent distance to talk to. I could do a CW practice all day long and NO ONE would care because there is NO ONE listening! The only repeater in all of Iraq is on Camp Anaconda sixty miles North of Baghdad.

Due to all the tin roofs around me I am seriously considering making the shack somewhat portable. There is a chemical bunker (see photo) located about 300 feet away which used to be a Morale Welfare area. It has electricity (the only one) and cables might be snaked down into the bunker. It's a mess there and I have to operate with the illegal poker games but I could handle that. I would be unique as well. How many Hams can say they operated in a war zone in a chemical bunker? I have a video camera coming in the mail and as soon as it does I will start filming. I figure all of you might enjoy seeing me poorly handling a pileup, competing with a poker game while operating standing up as there are no chairs (poker game remember?).

All in all, I am excited about the opportunity to have a little relaxation that I will enjoy. I was surprised to get YI9TU instead of TUT but that's OK. King TU, just doesn't have that same ring but I will live with it.

I will be visiting the local Sheik and on another trip I will be going to the local schools to drop off supplies for the kids and hand out toys. I am looking forward to that trip as it really shows how these soldiers care about these people and they are grateful. It has also been quiet here for about 4 weeks. No rockets. Well that's not exactly correct as a dud fell about 100 feet away from me and one of my friends here.

We saw the rocket as it came over and then nothing until we heard the thud when it hit the road. We started towards it and I thought better of it (remember, anything that has to do with fire or explosions I have not luck with. This would not have been good). We waited until the Emergency Ordinance Disposal (EOD) team came as we kept everyone away from it. Luckily it was a dud and smart for me, I kept away.



Mitch says... 'Under consideration as possible Shack.'

So look for me on the air about an hour or so in the mornings my time around 7-8PM your time and then on Saturday nights your time around 7-11pm. Most of the time you will find me on 20 meters CW and PSK31 when I set that up. SSB sometimes depending but since I am not in an ideal place nor ideal conditions and it's me (remember the many other antennas I built that never worked?), you may never hear me BUT give it a try. I will be listening. Any club members are free to contact me by email and try to set up a SKED; mitchell.gill@us.army.mil. Until then, wish me luck, I'm gonna need it!

Express Your Appreciation

by Gary Bryan KG7KU

At the M&K Holiday party (see article on Page 6), Carolyn WV7Q read a message sent to her from Sgt Gill YI9TU. In short, Mitch encouraged everyone to express their appreciation for all those who have- and those who do- serve your Country. These people have and continue to put their lives 'on the line' to protect and preserve that which promises to one day be true for all people everywhere-'Peace on earth...'

Excerpt from the ARRL Newsletter...

The ARRL Letter

Vol. 25, No. 48

December 8, 2006

**==>TOOTHACHES, EXTRATERRESTRIALS TOPICS
IN HAM RADIO CHATS WITH ISS CREW MEMBERS**

Toothaches in space and the possibility of intelligent life on other planets were among the topics piquing the curiosity of students in Germany and Canada when they spoke via ham radio with the ISS. The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program arranged the back-to-back contacts on November 20. During what may have been the first-ever ARISS school contact in German, youngsters gathered at the Museum for Industry in Mannheim, Germany, to speak with European Space Agency astronaut Thomas Reiter, DF4TR. One wanted to know what would happen if he or one of the other ISS crew members developed a toothache.

"Thank goodness, not yet," Reiter said. "Of course, in preparation for flight, we get an extensive medical examination and that includes a close look at the teeth, precisely for the purpose of making sure that [a toothache] doesn't happen. If it happens anyway, there are painkillers and medical support onboard to treat the tooth and bring relief."

The museum, home to the "Adventure Space Travel" exhibit, played host to some 200 participants, ranging from 12 to 20. Southwest Germany Radio's daily youth-oriented program "Das Ding" (The Thing) conducted the event and selected the 16 questions asked from among those listeners proposed. Since there were no ISS passes over Europe, Tony Hutchison, VK5ZAI, served as the ARISS ground station for the event, and Verizon Conferencing provided two-way audio to the participants. ARISS Europe Chairman Gaston Bertels, ON4WF, assisted on site.

Reiter also explained that the crew has little free time. "Leisure time is a foreign concept up here," he quipped. He described the effects of weightlessness on the muscles as "the biggest problem that we have to fight here" through vigorous exercise. He said he exercises an hour in the morning and an hour in the afternoon to stay fit, "and when we come back to Earth it will be easier to re-accommodate to gravity." Reiter will return to Earth this month.

A short time later, ISS Expedition 14 Commander Mike Lopez-Alegria, KE5GTK, fired up NA1SS to speak directly on VHF with high schoolers at Centre Hastings Secondary School in Madoc, Ontario, Canada, via ground station VE3UR. Responding to one student's question, Lopez-Alegria described commercialized space travel as "the wave of the future."

"I'm not sure that I'd call it 'routine' just yet, but I think that probably in the not-too-distant future we will start to see it develop like the airline industry did about 100 years ago or so." Lopez-Alegria said that while he doesn't believe there's intelligent life on Mars, he's convinced it exists elsewhere. "The universe is too large for us to be the only one with intelligent life," he suggested.

The 10 high schoolers managed to fit in nearly two dozen questions before the contact concluded. "I wish you all the best," Lopez-Alegria said as he signed off. The Ottawa ARISS team provided radio equipment for the contact and gave a presentation to the students before the QSO. Radio and newspaper reporters covered the event as an audience of 800 looked on.

ARISS <<http://www.rac.ca/ariss>> is an international educational outreach with US participation by ARRL, AMSAT and NASA.

Is Your Club Information Current?

by Gary Bryan KG7KU

Have you missed seeing the Relay show up in your mail? You can always drop a note off to the Relay editor, Gary Bryan KG7KU by handing him a note at the General Club meeting, or by sending an email to kg7ku@arrrl.net. The Relay team consists of Jack Grimmert N7IHS, Jim KD7BAT, Dave AD7GG and myself. You can see any or all of us to pass on the correct information for the Club roster. Thanks!

Ham Nets & Events for 2006/2007 -- DECEMBER / JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
10 2000 -- King Co. ARES 146.82 (Weekly) 2200 -- NW Astronomy Net 145.33 (Weekly)	11 0545 & 1645 -- Weather Net 145.33 (M-F) 1730 -- Puget Sound Traffic Sys. 146.82 (Daily)	12 2000 -- Snohomish Co. RACES 146.92 (Weekly)	13 2000 -- General /Tech Info 145.33 (Weekly) 2100 -- NWSOAR Net 146.82 (Weekly)	14 1900 -- M&K Public Service Net 146.82 (Weekly) 2000 -- Computer & Packet Net 145.33 (Weekly)	15 2000 -- Youth Net 145.33 (Weekly)	16 1000 -- M&K Club Meeting 1300 -- Ham Radio exams
17 2030 -- Snohomish Co. ARES 146.92 (Weekly)	18 1800 -- WA Emerg. HF 3.985 (Weekly) 1830 -- WA ARES 3.985 (Weekly) 1930 -- Puget Sound Repeater Group 146.96 (Weekly)	19	20	21 2000 -- Amateur TV Net 147.08 (Weekly)	22	23 0900 -- WA ARES HF Net 3.985 (Weekly)
24	25 2000 -- YL Net 145.33 (Weekly)	26	27 1900 - M&K ARC Board Meeting (perhaps Jan 3)	28	29	30 0900 -- NW Swap Net 145.33 (Weekly)
31	01 January HAPPY NEW YEAR! -- 2007 --	02	03	04	05	06
07	08	09	10	11	12 Relay deadline	13