

# K7LED RELAY

Vol. 48, Issue: 8

Mike & Key Amateur Radio Club - Seattle

August 2020

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## New Members



Fred Mackaman  
AC7MU



Lisa Huntley  
No call yet

## The President has nothing to report?

David Yarbrough WA7DY, President

After months and months of having hard driving agenda items and super important things to share I have nothing to report. Not only do I have nothing to report, I won't even be available for the club meeting this month, so you can look forward to your Vice President Phil K7PIA taking the helm for the meeting.

While I'm not up to much the club continues to thrive and I have a few special shout outs to some key contributors.

1. Our core VE team has held multiple parking lot exam sessions now with more to come. It's great to see the team make it work and give an opportunity for community members to get their license.
2. The radio officer, Hal N7NW, led the replacement of the feed line for the club's 2M repeater which seems to have resolved our problems. There is a separate article on that subject later in this newsletter. I'd like to also add a special thank you to Steve KD7IQL for his tower climbing work and Jim K7JGM for ground support.

As always, I thank everyone for their continued enthusiastic participation in all aspects of the club's life and welcome your feedback or comments which you can send to [president@mikeandkey.org](mailto:president@mikeandkey.org).

## Early Ham Radio in West Seattle

Michael Dinkelman, N7WA

Danny K7SS, is a long-time collector of many things including QSL cards. He recently sent out the card information and gave me permission to pass it all along.

### 7KO, Walter Reeves

#### An early West Seattle Amateur

Below is a card dated 1925 from 7KO (back before W7s) who lived in the Admiral district in West Seattle, sent to 3PP confirming 7KOs "first real DX".

The card contains a sideways map of Washington State in the background. "Where you fish for DX and salmon" listed on it as well.

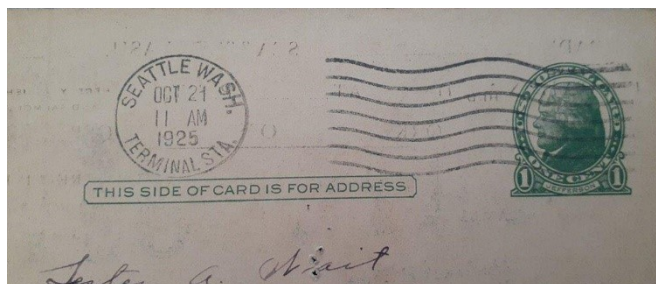
Walter A. Reeves lived at 1440 Palm Avenue, which by the way, is still a superb location to EU and East.

Fun to land this one... earliest West Seattle card seen. I've been collecting old QSL cards and always on the lookout for local stories.

73 de Danny, K7SS

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Danny also lives in West Seattle and told me the 7KO QTH is a killer cliff top in the North end of West Seattle. A saltwater view of 180 degrees. He and his wife used to drive that area when house hunting. It's very high-end real estate now, but he can picture it in 1925. Danny is still looking for a 7SS card. He did send me a JPOG of a 7WA card.



## Board Meeting Minutes Meeting August 4, 2020

Attested to by James Wraalstad, Secretary

### Attending:

- \*David Yarbrough, WA7DY President
- \*Phil Pia, K7PIA Vice President
- \*James Wraalstad, WQ7H Secretary
- \*Jim Kiniry, KE7JIM Treasurer
- \*Hal Goodell, N7NW Radio Officer
- \*Robin Carter, WA7BRI Trustee #1
- \*Dan Aalberg, KG7DAB Trustee #2
- \*Scott Robinson, AG7T Trustee #3
- \*Manfred Bester, AG7NR Trustee #4
- \*Robert Abbott, KF7RWA Trustee #5
- \*Jason KJ7GLB Activities Manager
- Absent - David Okrent W7DAO, Relay Editor
- \*David Smith KB7PSN Webmaster
- \* Ivy WA7IVY Field Day Co-Chair
- \* Michael Hansen KG7MX Guest
- \* Sam N7RHE Awards Committee
- \* Michelle WB7AYU Guest
- \* Dick WA7NIW Guest
- \* Daniel Stevens KL7WM Education and Training

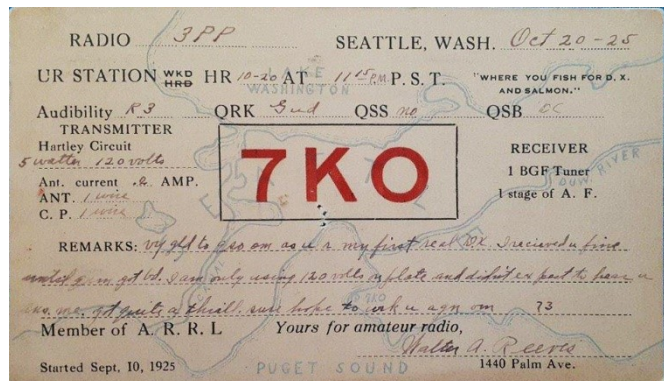
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Scott Robinson AG7T called the meeting to order at 1915. Jim KE7JIM motioned to approve minutes. Robin WA7BRI seconded. The minutes were approved.

### Reports:

Scott the Chairman of the Board had nothing to report.

The President, David WA7DY had nothing to report.

Phil K7PIA Vice President. Three membership applications were presented. Brendan Keyport, Ralph Lucier KA7VEE, and James Otis. The Board recommended all for membership.



## Board Meeting Minutes Meeting August 4, 2020 (continued)

Attested to by James Wraalstad, Secretary

James WQ7H Secretary reported that the minutes have been published in the Relay.

Treasurer Jim Kiniry KE7JIM: The books are in order. Refunds have been issued for the banquet.

Activity Manager Jason KJ7GLB. He is gathering auction/raffle items for the next meeting. Jason is developing an activities survey. Michael KG7MX advises that auctions of items which the club owns is ok vs a raffle which would be regulated. There was a discussion regarding the mechanics of an auction during the pandemic.

Radio Officer Hal N7NW: There was trip to the repeater with Jim Monson, Steve Cook, and David Yarbrough. The coax was fitted with new connectors and installed. Hal reports that the antenna presents with a flat SWR. Hal is looking for a ground strap for the new coax.

David Okrent W7DAO, Relay Editor had no report.

Webmaster: David KB7PSN nothing to report.

Education and training: Robert KF7RWA reported that the Parking Lot Testing went well. Daniel KL7WM is working on a training session in Ballard for September.

Membership: Manfred AG7NR nothing to report.

Technical Dan KG7DAB: The Technical and Special Interest group had their first meeting on the 23th of July. Dan has a couple of new members for the technical interest group. There was a discussion regarding membership in committees.

Public Service: Robin WA7BRI had nothing to report.

Facilities: Scott AG7T reported that the Salvation Army is still not open and there is no time frame on the re-opening.

Field Day David WA7DY nothing to report.

Flea Market Hal N7NW nothing to report.

Old Business: None

New Business: David Y. will be absent for the next meeting. Phil will act as president.

Jason proposes to add a cash donation button to the web site. There was a discussion regarding the mechanics for receiving these donations. Jason will have further discussions with Jim Kiniry, Treasurer.

Ivy will be announcing the awards at the next meeting.

Good of the order:

Scott AG7T: The Parking Lot exam session will be on the 18th at 11:30am.

Jim Kiniry motioned to adjourn and Robert KF7RWA seconded.

There being no further business, the Chairman of the Board adjourned the meeting at 8:15.



The K7LED Relay is the official monthly newsletter of the Mike and Key Amateur Radio Club (ARC). The Mike and Key ARC is an ARRL affiliated club dedicated to the growth and betterment of Amateur radio.

The club temporarily meets virtual at 10 AM on the third Saturday of each month. Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is invited to participate in the club and its activities.

The annual Mike and Key ARC dues are \$12 for individual and \$18 for families.

### Send dues to:

Mike and Key ARC, P.O. Box 4234, Renton,  
WA 98057-4234

## Minutes of July General Meeting

Attested to by James Wraalstad, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by David Yarbrough at 1000.

David thanked everyone who participated in Field Day. The point total is over 12,000 so far. The picnic has been canceled.

The Vice President, Phil Pia, declared that a quorum was present and the minutes were approved.

Phil K7PIA introduced two prospective members. Fred Mackaman AC7MU, Lisa Huntley, no call. Both were admitted for membership.

Jim Kiniry: The books are in order. If anyone wants a refund for the banquet, please email the treasurer.

Scott AG7T: Parking lot testing today.

Hal N7NW: The replacement coax is ready to install. Looking to install on the 25th.

Old Business: David WA7DY reports that the awards will be presented in August.

New Business: David WA7DY discussed the election for a new Activity Manager.

Mark W7EAZ discussed what the scope of the Activities Manager.

Jason KJ7GLB was nominated and was elected.

Good of the order: David WA7DY encouraged participation in the social nets everyday at 7:30 pm on the two-meter repeater and Sunday on the 220 repeater. There is a daily zoom meeting at 5:30 and special interest meetings on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for morse code, winlink, and digital modes.

Dan KG7DAB: We need net control operators for the social net.

KL7BH Bill reported that there is a MARS HF Skill Exercise Monday through Friday this coming week. This will be conducted on 60 meters Monday thru Thursday Channel 1 the on 60-meter band, 5330.5khz. Visit the Army mars.org web site to apply.

Ivy WA7IVY motioned to adjourn and Jason KJ7GLB seconded. David WA7DY adjourned the meeting at 10:58.

## New CW Keyer platform

Michael Dinkelman., N7WA

It's all right, most of you can just skip this article.

Most CW ops who have a keyer that interfaces to their computer use the WinKeyer platform from K1EL. It allows the computer to send a CW message to the keyer via a USB connection and handles all the necessary timing. This was a major improvement over trying to key radios by bit-banging the DTR line of a serial port – especially when Windows got pretty cranky about doing such things. Yeah, I am old enough to remember doing such things.

There is a new player in the keyer world and this one does FSK RTTY keying as well. It's called the Mortty. For inputs, it has a USB mini-B jack to connect a computer and a 3.5mm TRRS jack to connect a CW paddle. The outputs include a CW speed pot; four LEDs for power, push to talk (PTT), Radio 1 and Radio 2 transmit; and a 3.5mm TRRS output jack that provides PTT, CW and FSK signals to your transceiver. It supports SO2R. What it doesn't have are pushbuttons that allow you to set up and send canned messages without a computer. Frankly, I have never used that feature on my WinKeyer's anyway.

You can program the Mortty with one of several programs (CW, RTTY, or CW and RTTY) using fldigi. This box is tiny (2" x 1") which makes it ideal for a someone doing a hike though you still need a computer. The introductory price is \$30, about a quarter of the price of an assembled Winkeyer. The Mortty comes fully assembled.

Thinking about getting one but if anybody else has beat me to it, I wouldn't mind knowing your impressions.

You can check out the Mortty at <https://hamprojects.info/mortty/>.



## Sunspot Day Dreams

Michael Dinkelman, N7WA

An article was published on June 27<sup>th</sup> about the next sunspot cycle - #25. It's the usual scholarly article that comes out generally before each new cycle. It will be one of many – each with a different prediction. The title of this one is “Overlapping Magnetic Activity Cycles and the Sunspot Number: Forecasting Sunspot Cycle 25 Amplitude.” What makes this one exciting is they deduce it will be one of the *highest amplitude cycles in the 270 years since records have been kept*. The article explains their reasons for this prediction

Like buying a lottery ticket, it's worth the entertainment value to read. They could be right. More likely and just like a lottery ticket, probably not. Of course, I would be the first to jump for joy if I were wrong. Certainly, their credentials are better than mine.

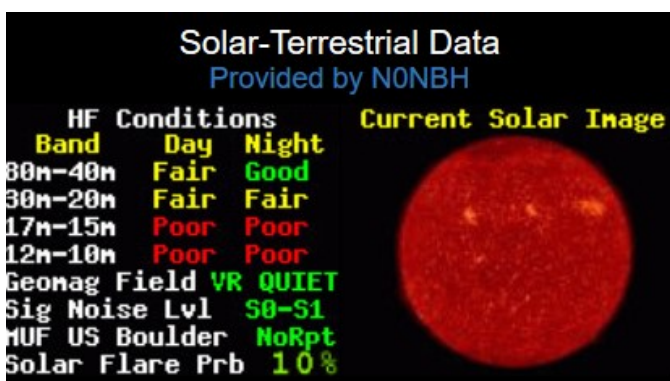
Might be time to upgrade to an HF license? Do you want to miss the possibility of a cycle 19 repeat... or better? As I write this, there are now two sunspot groups from cycle 25 travelling across the sun. Things are looking up.

Read the article and decide for yourself:

<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2006.15263.pdf>

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[Editor's Note: Cycle 19 - April 1954 to October 1964, had very high sunset and flare numbers – really fantastic for HF propagation. For more information visit: <http://www.arrl.org/here-comes-the-sun>]



From qrz.com

## Celebrating August Members

Jim Kiniry Jr., KE7JIM, Treasurer

Congratulations to the members having Mike and Key anniversaries this month. Thank you for your participation and service. Each of you makes us who we are.

Name	Callsign	Years
Michelle Cross *	WB7AYU	45 Years
Rick Antes *	KF7VG	31 Years
Al Hopwood *	KB7THX	27 Years
Chuck Jones	N7BV	24 Years
Chris Antes	KC7YES	23 Years
John Walenceus	KC7WOX	23 Years
Steven Cook	KD7IQL	20 Years
Jennifer Pasquier	KF7YGR	19 Years
Richard Pasquier	N7MER	19 Years
Jim Aigner	N7MU	15 Years
Kenneth Roger	AD7II	15 Years
Michael Evans	KF7WXI	8 Years
Martin Grote	KI7JD	8 Years
Peter Glaskowsky	K4PNG	7 Years
Siggi Bjarnason	W7RTF	6 Years
Christopher Rose	AE7XQ	6 Years
Jeremiah Rose	KF7ZPI	6 Years
Tom Helm	WT7S	5 Years

\*Life Member, having been with the club 25 years or more.

## Who got the job?

Two electronics technicians were given a soldering test as part their evaluation for employment. Each one was told to remove a 16-pin integrated circuit (IC) from a through hole printed circuit board (PCB). At the end, one handed the evaluator an intact IC and the other a pile of cut-up pins and the pin less IC. Who got the job?

The one with pile of pins. Why? The best way to remove a through hole component is to cut the leads to free the component, heat the pads and remove the lead or pin, tin the hole and then remove the solder. Damaging a plated feed through on multi-layered PCBs is very expensive.

## Alligator Report for August

Dan Aalberg, KG7DAB

**Not a peep.** Last month I mentioned in the gator report that AI is wanting to move on. I also mentioned talking to several club members, including the gentleman who created the alligator award, and decided to propose some suggestions to help the gator move from recipient to recipient.

Nothin', nada, zippo, zilch! Not one single person made a comment or reply. Well, you know what they say, "silence is acceptance." (BTW, that is exactly what governments hope for when trying to make change in their favor.)

In this case, I was trying to make change in favor of getting more club members active and able to participate.

So, let's try this: below the picture (Figure 1) is a recap of last months recommendations. If we don't hear from anybody this month, the gator gets it!



Figure 1: Future Gator Steaks?

## July Gator Recap:

First of all, did you know that there are no rules for the alligator award? None. It's just "kind of" known that the holder of the gator has to listen for somebody to time out the repeater in order to pass it on. And that's about it. The problem with this? Nobody else gets to play. Another problem, the gator only seems to get passed between a few people in the club over and over and over...(and you know who you are.). Again, nobody else gets to play.

So, we all talked and thought we would try this in order to get more people in the club involved.

1. The holder of the gator can only keep AI for a maximum of one month, then he goes back into the "general pool."
2. Any recipient of the gator cannot have the gator more than once in a year.
3. Anyone in the club can tag someone for gator. This is one way more club members can participate.
4. **No shaming.** A simple "you got the gator" will suffice and take it off-line from there.
5. Only club members are eligible. This part is important, as the repeater is used more and more by non-club members. Please ensure to identify a club member timed out the repeater before tagging them.
6. Social nets and Tech Nets are exempt.



Since this is a technical and special interest area, please send any comments or feedback to [technical@mikeandkey.org](mailto:technical@mikeandkey.org)

So, let's get this little guy out of my house.

## Technical & Special Interest Committee August 2020 Report

Dan Aalberg, KG7DAB - Trustee #2

The coax cable for the 2 meter repeater was installed successfully by Hal and team. It appears that fixed the issue. The obnoxious squelch tail noise has not been heard since.

Technical & Special Interest Committee meeting was held 7/23/20 over Zoom.

### Attendees:

Mark Holt, W7EAZ  
Jim Kiniry, KE7JIM  
Dan Aalberg, KG7DAB  
Steve Joos, KK7ZR  
Jason Nierengerg, KJ7GLB

### Highlights of the meeting:

Two new members were voted in this season;  
Steve Joos, KK7ZR  
Jason Nierengerg, KJ7GLB

There was a pretty lively discussion this session about the direction of the technical and special interest committee. It all is going to boil down to focus in the T&SI area for the club. A secondary topic was recruiting new members into the Technical Committee, so if you "checked" the box in your application form for Technical and/or Special Interest, please send us an email at [technical@mikeandkey.org](mailto:technical@mikeandkey.org)

As the liaison for technical and special interest areas of the club, send me your ideas, feedback or issues you would like brought up to the board. Email me at [kg7dab@arrl.net](mailto:kg7dab@arrl.net)  
73, Dan/KG7DAB

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What's coax? A center conductor insulated from a braid. Hmm, two plates separated by a dielectric – a capacitor. Every wonder where some of those coax losses come from? Or why losses vary with frequency? Now you know the rest of the story.

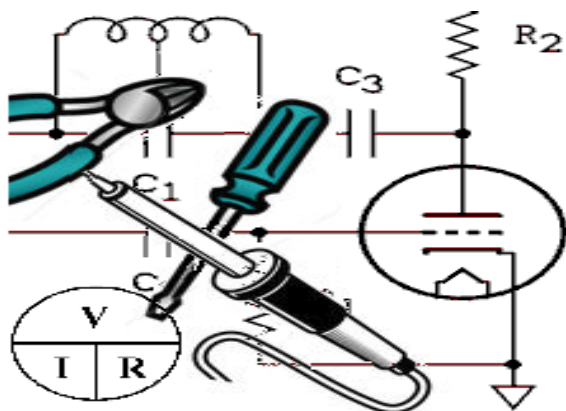
## Random Tips

David Okrent, W7DAO

1. **Wire Stripping:** As you know, the goal when stripping insulation is to avoid any nicks, cuts, or other damage to the wire. The key to getting satisfactory results is to use an automatic stripper (\$20 and up) or one with sections for each common gauge of wire (\$4 and up). Either of these can work for the bench or the field. The best wire strippers are thermal units (\$80 and up). These melt the insulation; therefore, there's no chance of damaging the wire. Unfortunately, they are pretty much restricted to the bench.
2. **Crimp or solder joint?** Although there are Hams on both sides of the debate, the fact is studies and industry practices have established mechanical crimping as the hands down winner. A mechanical crimp offers speed, consistency, reliability, and longevity, well, if you have the right tool. Overall, solder is more prone to failure due to inconsistent application and long-term contamination. What about using crimping and soldering together? This doesn't yield any significant improvement.
3. **If you are in the field and don't have crimps or a soldering iron, what's the best wire splice to use?** In my opinion, it's the Western Union or Lineman's Splice for making an inline connection like extending a dipole antenna. This splice provides good surface contact between wires, great lateral strength, and it doesn't require soldering. Search online for videos on the technique.
4. **If you solder wire splices, like the Western Union, a good rule of thumb is to use enough solder to fill in and coat the wires but not so much as you can't see the individual strands.** This goes for tinning wire too.
5. **Want to dive deep? Check out:** <https://standards.nasa.gov/standard/nasa/nasa-std-87394>.

## Around the Shack

Dan Aalberg, KG7DAB



**Does the backyard count as remote?** I mention that because not a lot going on this past month in the shack. Sunshine, job and lots of yard work has kept me quit busy.

I have a list of 'shack' projects to do, but nothing that I have had significant time to work on this summer. With the very warm weather we have been having and myself, being a typical Seattle area resident, I don't have air-conditioning. This past Monday (Aug. 3rd) was my night to run the nightly Social Net. It has been quite a run of hot weather and I was looking for a way to run the Net and stay cool at the same time.

I started thinking of getting a roll-up Slim-Jim or maybe even another Ed Fong antenna that I could use for the back yard. Then I remembered the 2/440 dual band vertical dipole I built years ago, as seen in Figure 1. I used it for years and it works great. The copper wire even has a nice patina to it from being outside so long. The hardware is stainless steel and sealed in silicon. I mounted it to a 2x4 and screwed it to my fence next to the house. It was my main 2 meter antenna for the longest time.

Unfortunately it was on the north side of the house and the deck, where the shade and chairs are located, is on the south side of the back yard. Being this antenna was not currently connected to any radios, I moved it to the south fence and mounted it there.



Figure 1

With a short extension coax cable, I was able to reach the middle of the deck. I brought out the Baofeng UV-5R, hooked it up and did a couple of signal checks before the net started. With CM5's all around, I set up shop as seen in Figure 2 and proceeded to run the net from my new-found 'remote' location.

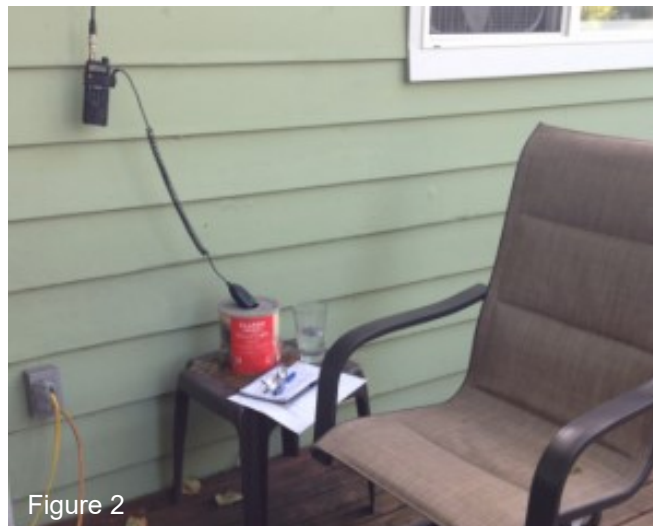


Figure 2

Yes, the radio is dangling from the coax. I told you I had a 'short' coax extension. My 'to-do' list now has 'get a longer coax cable' added to it.

The net went without a hitch and there was a very nice summer breeze blowing the whole time. So now I have a wonderful summertime location to run the Monday evening Social Net's from my QTH.

Until next month...



## Salmon Run 2020

Michael Dinkelman, N7WA

In just one short month, the fall contest season will kick off with the Salmon Run. This contest is where you are the hunted. Stations across the country and even the world will be looking for stations in Washington and looking for a clean sweep of all 39 Washington counties. Mobiles and portables working from the rarer counties help make this possible.

Of course, Washington stations will be looking outside and inside the state. It's a bit of a challenge to work those close in counties but it can be done. Also, it's not too late to think about making a trip out to operate portable. There are a few places where you can even sit on a county line and give out two contacts each time you work someone.

The contest is September 19-20. This is actually considered an official club activity since it falls on a Club meeting day.

Rules for the Salmon Run:

<https://www.wwdxc.org/salmonrun2020/salmon-run-rules/>.

Other info:

Site: <https://www.wwdxc.org/salmonrun2020/>

[Click here for county abbreviations](#)

Pay attention to the different entry categories. I highly recommend N1MM+ as a logger because it knows how to handle county lines and mobiles. If *you* are mobile or travel to different counties, you can work people from each county. Working the bonus station, W7DX, gets you an extra 500 points.

As we get closer to the contest, there will usually be a list of county activations. (Just because a county is activated, doesn't mean you can't activate it too.)



This might be an active year – contest activity has been at elevated levels ever since people have been staying home for the coronavirus. Personally, I am looking to go out mobile, but in fashion that gets me home Saturday night. I may cover a combination of eastern and western counties. I'll publish a list in the September Relay.

If you have any questions about the Salmon Run, email me at: [n7wa@arrl.net](mailto:n7wa@arrl.net).



Randy K7TQ operating the 2019 Salmon Run in the N7WA mobile station somewhere in the darkness of Eastern Washington.

## Consider taking your HT for a walk



## Repeater Repair Success

David Yarbrough WA7DY, President

As you may have been aware we had been suffering various apparent interference with the 2M repeater including a seemingly weaker signal, slightly worse reception, and the infamous 'fart noise' that would occur at the tail of a repeater transmission. Hal had suspected the feed line to the antenna was the problem and procured a replacement - 50' length of LM-400.

On Sunday July 26, a group of four club members, led by our Radio Officer Hal N7NW made a trip up to the summit of East Tiger Mountain to visit our repeater site and replace the feed line. In the group, was Steve KD7IQL, Jim K7JGM, Hal, and myself.

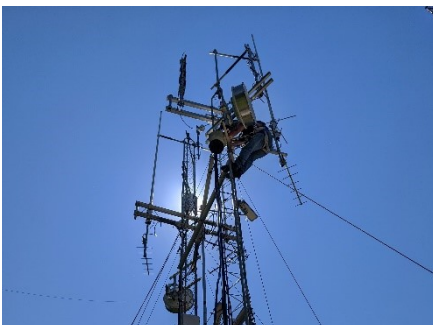
At the repeater site, we first tested the antenna as it was and recorded the SWR and power readings. We then disconnected the repeater and Steve took on the tower climbing duty while we supported from the ground. Steve dropped the old feed line and we found the antenna end of it to be pretty funky with aged tape and coax seal, more on that later.

We tested the new feed line carefully and then installed it on the antenna. Testing the new setup we found that SWR was indeed redacted and the forward reading wattmeter was showing at least a three watt gain in transmit power from the repeater. The signal was clean and the work was a success!

A few days later, Hal performed an autopsy on the old feed line and found that the coax near the connector was fairly corroded and it appeared that the center conductor was likely not making a solid connection with the antenna. All in all, it was good to see positive results from the coax change and confirming the source of the problem gave us confidence in the repair.

Reports of repeater performance have been generally good so far.

Again, I'd like to say a special thanks to Hal N7NW, Steve KD7IQL, and Jim K7JGM for their support of the club and putting in the time to travel to the site and do the work. As simple as it sound, we were on site at the mountain for about four hours including the time to drive up and back down the mountain.





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## Club Contacts

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### Officers:

<b>President</b>	David Yarbrough	WA7DY	president@mikeandkey.org	425-445-2792
<b>Vice President</b>	Phillip Pia	K7PIA	vicepresident@mikeandkey.org	253-307-4781
<b>Secretary</b>	Jim Wraalstad	WQ7H	secretary@mikeandkey.org	425-823-0247
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jim Kiniry	KE7JIM	treasurer@mikeandkey.org	206-979-5717
<b>Activity Manager</b>	Jason Nierenberg	KJ7GLB	activities@mikeandkey.org	564-999-8472
<b>Radio Officer</b>	Hal Goodell	N7NW	radioofficer@mikeandkey.org	253-549-4178

### Trustees:

<b>No. 1</b>	Robin Carter	WA7BRI	publicservice@mikeandkey.org	253-858-2008
<b>No. 2</b>	Dan Aalberg	KG7DAB	technical@mikeandkey.org	206-739-4208
<b>No. 3: COB</b>	Scott Robinson	AG7T	cob@mikeandkey.org	425-788-0452
<b>No. 4</b>	Manfred Bester	AG7NR	membership@mikeandkey.org	707-803-8811
<b>No. 5</b>	Robert Abbott	KF7RWA	education@mikeandkey.org	206-948-9613

### Committees:

<b>VE Testing</b>	Scott Robinson	AG7T	ag7t@arrl.net	425-788-0452
<b>Membership</b>	Manfred Bester	AG7NR	mikeandkeymembers@gmail.com	425-788-0452
<b>Logo</b>	Jim Aigner	N7MU	jimaigner@comcast.net	253-630-2752
<b>Club Library</b>	'Toku' Okumura	AD7JA	ad7ja@msn.com	206-772-2450
<b>Webmaster</b>	Dave Smith	KB7PSN	webmaster@mikeandkey.org	---
<b>Public Service</b>	Robin Carter	WA7BRI	publicservice@mikeandkey.org	253-858-2008
<b>Newsletter</b>	David Okrent	W7DAO	w7dao@arrl.net	---
<b>Technical Interest</b>	Dan Aalberg	KG7DAB	technical@mikeandkey.org	206-739-4208
<b>Education</b>	Robert Abbott	JF7RWA	education@mikeandkey.org	206-948-9613

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## Club Resources

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[www.mikeandkey.org](http://www.mikeandkey.org) – The club website includes extensive information about our activities, events, VE testing, membership, past editions of the Relay, and more.

<https://groups.io/g/mkarc> - This is the club's free and easy to use public message board.

**E-Relay:** Help the club save on printing and postage, send email to the [n7wa@arrl.net](mailto:n7wa@arrl.net)

**K7LED Repeaters:** Tiger Mountain - [146.82 output, 146.22 input, PL 103.5], [224.12 output, 222.52 input, PL 103.5]

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### Postal Address:

P.O. Box 4234  
Renton, WA 98057-4234

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**Email:** [info@mikeandkey.org](mailto:info@mikeandkey.org)

**Reflector:** <https://groups.io/g/mkarc>

**Website:** [www.mikeandkey.org](http://www.mikeandkey.org)



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**Calendar: July - August**


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**Weekly****Daily:**

- 2m Repeater: Social Net at 7:30 PM, except Wednesdays
- Zoom Social Net at 5:30 PM

**Mondays:**

- Zoom Morse Special Interest Group: 8:30 PM, <https://mkarc.groups.io/g/morsecode>

**Wednesdays:**

- Zoom Winlink Special Interest Group: 8:30 PM, <https://mkarc.groups.io/g/winlink>
- 2m Repeater: Technical Net at 7:30 PM

**Fridays:**

- Zoom Digital Special Interest Group: 8:30 PM, <https://mkarc.groups.io/g/digitalmodes>

**Sundays:**

- 220 MHz Repeater: Informal Net at 8:00 PM

**Monthly****Board Meetings** (7:15 PM on Zoom):

- September 1, 2020
- October 6, 2020

**General Meetings** (10AM on Zoom):

- August 15, 2020
- September 19, 2020
- October 17, 2020

**Testing** (12:30 PM, contact [ag7t@arrl.net](mailto:ag7t@arrl.net)):

- August 15, 2020
- September 19, 2020
- October 17, 2020

**Newsletter Articles Due** ([w7dao@arrl.net](mailto:w7dao@arrl.net)):

- September 4, 2020
- October 9, 2020

For more information visit [www.mikeandkey.org](http://www.mikeandkey.org), <https://mkarc.groups.io/g/morsecode>, <https://mkarc.groups.io/g/winlink>, <https://mkarc.groups.io/g/digitalmodes>

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**Aldo Samboni, N7MYM (SK)**

Aldo Samboni, N7MYM, a long time club member passed away on July 3, 2020, at the age of 98.

From Al and Becky Hopwood:

Aldo, N7MYM (“N7Make Your Move”) and his wife June lived in a large craftsman home in Magnolia. He drove a 60s Jaguar four-door that never made it into the garage due to Aldo’s many wood working projects. He loved to make sawdust.

June was always after Aldo to “Stop making sawdust and wash the sedan.” She could see the driver’s side of the car from her vantage point at the kitchen window and it always bothered her that the car was dirty when she drove it to run errands. After years of harping, Aldo finally consented and washed the half of the car that she could see from the kitchen. They had a good marriage and he was an excellent story teller on our nightly 10 meter net, Aldo was quite active with 10-10 International.



## Another Field Day Adventure in the Year of the Virus

Robert KD7WNV, Robin WA7BRI,  
and Tim K7ANE

After the M&K Board decided to pull the plug on this year's Mike and Key Field Day plans at Fort Flagler in light of the state's continuing COVID-19 restrictions, Robert KD7WNV suggested to Robin WA7BRI and Tim K7ANE that we might want to reprise our prior Salmon Run (Washington QSO Party) station operation at Blewett Pass as a remote Field Day club station. Both Robin and Tim liked the idea, and started putting plans and materiel together.

In many ways the proposed site would be ideal for a "socially distanced" station. Just off Blewett Pass on Highway-97, see image below, it's at the Swauk Forest trailhead in the Wenatchee National Forest, at over 4,100 feet on the county line between Kittitas and Chelan counties. There are two widely separated primitive campsites there, each with adequate room for 2-3 RVs or trailers, and maybe a yagi or two. There are also plenty of tall pines from which to hang wire antennas. We figured that since it is not a formal campground, it would not be closed to camping by COVID-19 restrictions, nor blanketed with reservations. A weekday arrival would provide a good chance of securing one of the campsites.



On the Thursday before Field Day, Robin drove up from Gig Harbor and met Tim at the yard in Tukwila where he keeps his small travel trailer. Tim had bought the trailer last November to replace the one

that was stolen three years ago. Tim had planned on taking a long trailer shakedown cruise earlier in the spring, but the pandemic had thrown a monkey wrench in those plans. So, Field Day was going to be a good opportunity to meet both functions.

Tim and Robin loaded all the gear in Tim's truck and trailer, filled the water tank, got the propane tanks and tire pressure topped off and hit I-90 by about 1430. The trailer towed really well, straight and easy. By 1600 they'd made Cle Elum, where they made a quick hardware stop, then on up highway 97 to the pass. When they arrived at the camp, a car was parked in the preferred site, and a woman was eating at the picnic table. During a pleasant chat, she explained she was just overnighing, sleeping in her car, and planned to be on the road early Friday morning. She insisted that Tim and Robin use her site, and after lunch she moved to the smaller camp.

Meanwhile on the west side of the mountains, Robert was using Thursday to pack the radio gear into his RV. By nightfall, it was mostly ready, with only a bit to finish up the next morning. On Friday he loaded the remaining gear, and the all-important station manager, his 12-year-old dachshund, Lucy.

Tim had picked up a pizza back in Seattle before they'd left on Thursday, so he and Robin heated it up that night and had a simple dinner. Unlike prior fall stints at the pass for Salmon Run, the mosquitos were out in flocks, so the guys soon moved inside. Robin helped Tim work through a couple small trailer glitches, and soon had everything working great. After the long day, both were tired so made it an early night. On Friday morning they unhitched the trailer and returned to Cle Elum to meet Robert at the planned 1345 rendezvous. Traffic on I-90 delayed Robert some but by about 1500 we all hooked up on the west end of town. The main project there was to pick up groceries for the remaining weekend at the Safeway.



## Another Field Day Adventure in the Year of the Virus (continued)

Robert KD7WNV, Robin WA7BRI,  
and Tim K7ANE

When we arrived back up at the campsite at the pass, we worked out the final arrangements of the RVs and antennas. We parked the two RVs in an L-shaped orientation, to block the wind and provide a large station/working area with the contiguous coverage of the two awnings, then got to work on the antennas.

Tim and Robert had learned a few lessons about stringing up lines for antennas at Salmon Run last year. After having one weighted tennis ball got hung up in the tree (later recovered due to lubrication from rain, but forcing a line cut) and losing two more far down steep hillsides due to broken lines with his pneumatic launcher, Robert had determined certain priorities, as follows:

1. Get the ball back down to the ground
2. In a recoverable location
3. Preferably still attached to the line

To those ends, he had come up with three guiding principles:

1. Shoot back towards your best recovery area (if you can't get to a spot to make a shot, you can't get there to search for a ball, either)
2. Use plenty of power (if you're shooting towards a good recovery area, it's not going to matter if the ball travels a bit higher/farther than intended)
3. Let the line run until the ball hits the ground, or close. You may even need to be ready to help the line off the reel, if things stop up during descent. The ball will never have more momentum than during the shot itself.

So, for this Field Day, under Lucy's expert supervision, Robert lined up a shot, intending to go over the tall (~130 foot) pine that stands alone right in the camp. It did not clear the top, but went through branches about three-quarters of the way up, and did manage to come through and back down to the ground, recoverable still on the line. He was initially disappointed that the shot was not higher in the tree, but after pulling a 200-foot antenna support rope back up through the tree and finding only a few extra feet on each end, he was more pleased.

Friday was pretty hot over there, and combined with the work of prep, loading, travel plus the elevation, we were all tired, and decided to leave the rest of the antenna raising and setup for morning. Tim's new trailer included an outdoor propane BBQ that he wanted to test out, so we grilled some steaks, and microwaved "baked" potatoes and other fixin's for dinner; turned out pretty good. After some pleasant socializing and discussion of best equipment use and strategies for the rest of Field Day, we had a dessert of popsicles, then hit the sack.

Saturday morning, as we prepared to raise the G5RV antenna, the prior day's line shot in the tree began to look not so good: it had gone through very close to the trunk, and hoisting the antenna with it would pull the antenna into the branches, fouling the legs and preventing their extension. After some discussion, we decided to try another shot out over a major branch about 75 feet up. (Since success is never assured, we left the first line in place, just in case!) Robert quickly hauled out the launcher and set up for the shot. He was concerned that the angle might carry the ball into other trees beyond the target, but there were enough branches and growth in the way that the ball was slowed down and dropped nicely, almost straight down, after clearing the targeted branch.

The other lesson that Tim and Robert had learned last year in Salmon Run was to put a pulley system on the end of the primary antenna support rope, then hoist the antenna with that system once pulley is pulled up into place, rather than raise the antenna directly with the primary rope, which is running over a branch. That not only makes much easier to hoist the antenna itself, it makes it easy to swap out wire antennas if desired. So we proceeded with that arrangement, and raised the G5RV dipole, oriented for good SE propagation.

With an antenna up, we began setup of the primary station. We got out the Icom IC-756PROIII transceiver and Robert connected it temporarily to a battery so Tim could begin preliminary operating and checking conditions while Robin and Robert completed the station setup. However, after that was done and Robert switched the radio over to the full power system (generator, power supply and battery, managed by a WestMountain PWRgate), we suddenly had a tremendous amount of noise on receive. Initial suspicion was the generator (Robert's Honda eu2000i), so we switched over to Robin's

## Another Field Day Adventure in the Year of the Virus (continued)

Robert KD7WNV, Robin WA7RBI,  
and Tim K7ANE

eu2000i, but surprisingly, the noise remained. After some thought and discussion, we tried switching the radio over to run directly off the power supply, removing the PWRgate and battery from the system, and the noise was gone. This was a great relief, not only economically--that the problem lay with the much less costly PWRgate--but also we would be able to go ahead and operate Field Day!

By 1030 Tim made a couple test QSOs just to ensure everything was working well. Quick contacts with California and Montana confirmed that the station was ready for the "non-contest" start. Things got off to a steady slow-moderate pace at 1100. Tim was operating and Robin was logging, for the next couple hours. Robert started laying out and assembling the 3-element tri-band (10-15-20m) yagi on a military-type mast and tripod. When all was ready, all three guys, under Robert's and Lucy's keen supervision, raised it up to 15 feet, and guyed it against the rising breezes. It was a bit of a challenge, and nearly toppled twice, but we saved it and got it up intact. An "Armstrong" rotor line attached to the boom permitted it to be easily directed as desired.

Now with both the dipole and yagi up and running the team took turns operating and logging. After we shared a late lunch of sandwiches, we continued working the various bands. Twenty meters seemed the most productive, but 40 and 80 were showing some fair results as well. Propagation was only fair; calling CQ and "hunt and pounce" tactics were about equally successful. We could hear a fair number of East Coast stations, but weren't able to break through the heavy QRM.

Robert  
KD7WNV (r)  
and Tim K7ANE  
working at the  
756PROIII.



Robin WA7RBI and  
Station Manager,  
Lucy, on the air  
with the 7000.



While we were stating our class as 2A, we had yet to put two transmitters on the air simultaneously. In the early evening, Robert started working to correct that, setting up the Icom IC-7000 transceiver, LDG IT-100 external antenna tuner, and power supply for the second station. We'd also decided to try to give 50 MHz a try, so Robert assembled his 3-element, 6-meter yagi, mounted on another military mast/tripod at 12 feet.

Late Saturday afternoon the clouds had rolled in, the breeze rose and the temperature dropped. The guys kept putting on more layers of clothes, but we got colder and colder, just sitting at the rig and computer. By midnight, the mercury was down to 41-degrees. Tim was shaking from the cold, so headed inside to get warm. Robin and Robert kept operating for another hour and a half, but dwindling contacts and the bone-chilling weather conspired to put an end to the evening's effort.

Sunday morning dawned overcast and cold, but no rain. After a simple cereal breakfast, Robin and Tim started working the airwaves on the primary station, as Robert again tried 6 meters on the second station. The bands remained fairly poor, but started improving a bit as the morning progressed. Not finding much on 6 meters, Robert switched the wire antenna over to station #2 and began working 40 meters, leaving Tim and Robin working 20 meters with the yagi for the final hour and half.



## Another Field Day Adventure in the Year of the Virus (continued)

Robert KD7WNV, Robin WA7BRI,  
and Tim K7ANE

The team kept operating the two transceivers, scouring the various bands, searching out occasional new QSOs for the rest of the exercise. The 6m, 10m and 15m bands were totally dead. Twenty meters had strong stations across the band, but were hard to contact due to competition from high-power stations, probably home-based, some certainly running amps, dominating the band. Forty and eighty meters continued to produce slow but fairly steady results with western stations. The team kept slowly adding to our score. When this year's Field Day ended at 1100 (L), we'd managed to accrue 384 contacts. While not up to the typical Fort Flagler numbers, hopefully it'd give a fair nudge to the club totals.

It took another four or so hours, to break down and lower the antennas, and pack up the stations and campsite. The trip down the mountain was quick, and we donned the required face masks and stopped at the hamburger stand at the east end of Cle Elum and got a fine take-out dinner to fuel up for the trip back. The stop quickly reminded the team of the still-present pandemic, with long lines of masked and socially distanced folks ordering and waiting for their meals.

Robert and Lucy took a nap stop at Lake Easton State Park, then headed back to Kenmore. Tim and Robin crossed over Snoqualamie pass and continued into Seattle, where they dropped Tim's rig at the storage site, then both headed for their respective homes, both making it before sunset.

Afterwards, whole team reported still healthy. Everybody out there, stay healthy too.

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Got an idea for an article? Just do it and submit. If you want help, ask.

## Op-Ed: Ham for Life

David Okrent, W7DAO

A number of years ago I did a simple demographic analysis of the US Amateur Radio population. It was triggered by an article posted by the ARRL stating the hobby was growing. My study demonstrated ham radio (at the time I did the analysis) was not growing when the death rate, birth rate, etc. were factored in. It was experiencing zero population growth. Based on this analysis the ARRL posted a small retraction.

One of the things I saw in the data was a bimodal distribution by age. One peak population was in the teen years and the other in middle age. This was not a new finding. Often young people leave the hobby once they start careers and/or families and some percentage of these return later in life.

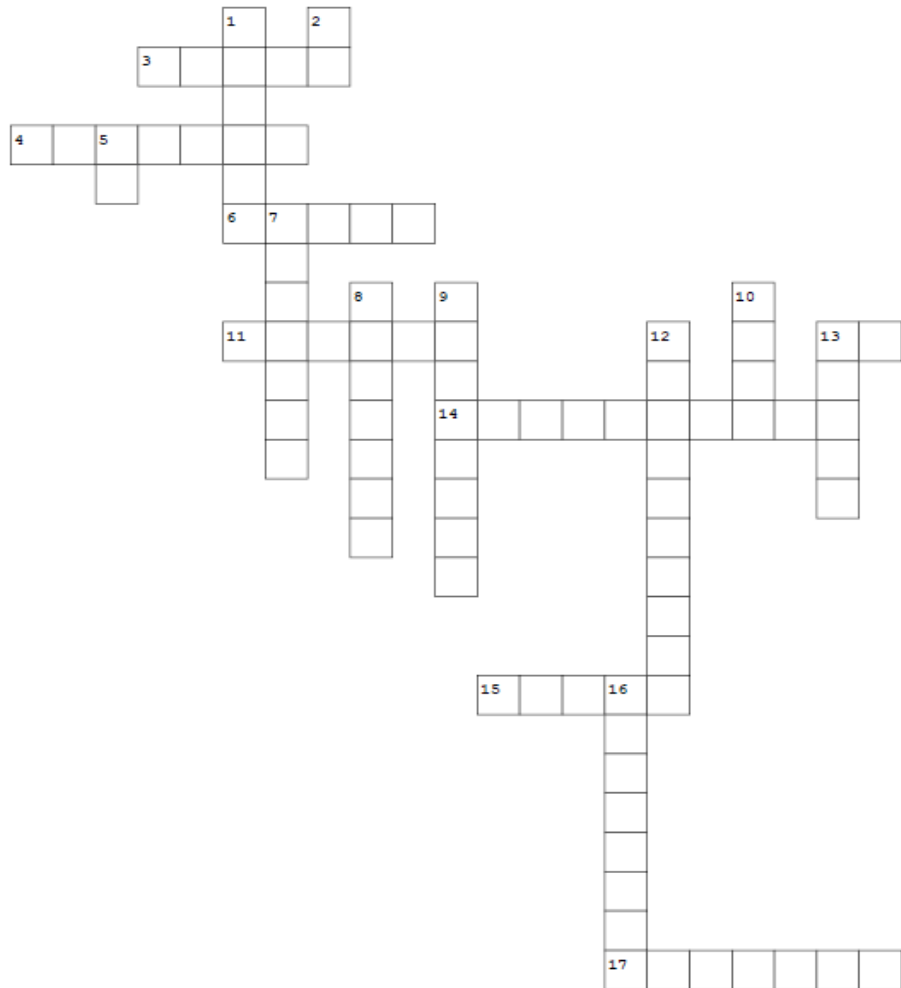
There is a lot of work being done on attracting young people to the hobby, and I agree with this. In fact, maybe the club can consider sponsoring an enrichment program in the schools post-Covid. The Ham community may also want to consider a campaign to support people staying active post school. Perhaps a "Family Amateur Radio" campaign or for pre-family, the "Caged Ham," well more like, "Hamming Up Your Apartment."

My interest lately is what I call "Ham for Life." I thought of playing off "cured or aged ham," but good sense took over. This term is focused on the aging of our population. When people begin to downsizing to small residences or move to retirement communities, assisted living, or nursing homes, their hobby often has to be left behind. Yes, there are new avenues opening up with renting time as a remote operator and applications like Echolink, but is it the same experience?

I believe clubs and the ARRL should begin building up a promotional program and supporting resources to convince senior residences to provide a ham radio station – a club station, in their buildings. This not only would help amateurs stay active, but they would naturally draw in some of their neighbors too. Is this a role the community of US Amateur Radio Operators should take on? Leave a comment [groups.io/g/mkarc](https://groups.io/g/mkarc)



Now for something completely different.



### Across

3. Generally 2.8kHz is the bandwidth for [blank] transmissions.
4. The 6dB loss at an antenna means you have only a [blank] of the power radiating.
6. Comes in 9 and 25 pin connectors for older computers.
11. One coulomb per second.
13. The modern abbreviation that replaced cps.
14. It has a base
15. A transceiver operating 50km or above the earth is a [blank] station.
17. The [blank] filter limits the passband of the first intermediate frequency (IF) stage.

### Down

1. The class A amplifier is the most [blank].
2. "This is"
5. The emissions that has both side bands and a carrier.
7. The inverse unit to ohms.
8. For the same given transmitter power CW has a higher power [blank] than SSB voice.
9. FM Emissions are generally [blank] polarized
10. One joule per second.
12. [blank] propagation is usually associate with buildings and mountains (hyphenated).
13. The first name of the person in the ARRL referred to as the old man.
16. Transmissions from satellites often end up being [blank] polarized.