

K7LED Relay



Volume 51, Issue 6

Mike & Key Amateur Radio Club – Seattle

June 2023

President's Report

Carl Reynolds / N7CJR
President

The club is looking forward to this summer with many activities on the schedule. This includes Field Day, public service opportunities and our picnic. It may also include a "Free Coffee Program" outreach at the "15 SeaTac" rest stop thanks to a great idea from Robert Christian KJ7CBO.

The next few paragraphs might be "self-motivating therapy" for me, but I hope it does the same for others.

The "art" of amateur radio has expanded quite rapidly in the past 10-20 years, which as everyone knows, growth is good except when it is not. Our club has grown as well to now over 300 members... quickly. One concern is how to "activate" new members to contribute in some way to advancing the "art" of amateur radio, becoming active in club activities, and finally communicating with a mic, key, or keyboard.

Also, how much time do new members have to practice the "art"? "Making time" is something I struggle with a lot and I assume it is a universal problem. There are exceptions to be sure. Just recently I was able to check in on the simplex net and heard a check in from someone on Mt. Erie, and realized that I had been there recently with no radio. Another missed opportunity.

Finding help in becoming a more active Ham can be found in a lot of places. Such as active clubs with Elmers, YouTube University, podcasts, bloggers, city/county/state EMCOMM, etc. What are the best ways? Watching and hearing other people demonstrate and achieve goals motivates me. Another great way is getting "hands on" in the many activities such as POTA, SOTA, GOTA, digital modes, satellite, moon bounce, contesting, fox hunting, ballooning (if the US military does not target it with missiles or new regulations), DXpeditions, DXing, public service, net wranglers, rag chewing, Ham Fests, conventions, mobile/RVing, homebrew, etc.

My former boss once told me, "If you're not making mistakes, you're not learning." Let us make a lot of safe mistakes and keep their cost to a minimum

Celebrating June Members

By Scott Gilyeat, KC7SAG, Treasurer
As of June 2023, these folks have been Mike & Key members for the number of years stated. Congratulations to all of you, and thank you for your participation and service. Happy Anniversary this month! Each of you makes us who we are.

(Life Member, 25 years or more with the Club)
(Anniversary Certificate)

Years

32	Dawn Humphrey	KC7YYB
27	Calvin C. Doss	KC7GZL
21	Daniel Stevens	KL7WM
20	Guy Molinari	N7ZG
20	Phil Sheridan, Jr	KD7UXT
17	Ivy Nelson-Groves	WA7IVY
17	Philip Sheridan III	KE7HAV
12	Michael Mikuchonis	W7XTZ
11	Bill Balzarini	KL7BB
10	David Yarbrough	WA7DY
7	Robert Abbott	KF7RWA
5	Mark Holt	W7EAZ
3	Steve Joos	W7GG
3	John Swafford III	KC7JZO
2	Larry Bethurum	AF7RW
2	Robert Christian	KJ7CBO
2	Clark Graves	KF7LAN
2	Art Jury III	KF7GD
2	Larry Kezner	K7BSG
1	Felipe Aguirre	KK7GEE
1	Darren Baker	WA3DB
1	Nathaniel Coates	KK7FIB
1	Richard Halos	KK7AOM
1	William Osborne	KK7EJW
1	Michael Wallendahl	KK7GCE

Introducing Maverick Lee Mobbs

Rita Danielson / KD7CNU

Introducing Maverick Lee Mobbs, son of Joshua and Rachelle Mobbs KF7QCN and grandson of Ric Danielson K7RIC and Rita Danielson KD7CNU.



It's never too early to start teaching 'em CW...
- editor

State of the Nets

Robert Christian / KJ7CBO
Net Manager

The Nets are as vibrant as always! The Tech net has proven over and over again to be the premier net on Mike and Key. While some social nets are a close tie with the tech net.

We will soon be welcoming new sub hosts for the Social net and Tech net, so if you would like to give it a try do contact us and let us know.

Meanwhile, soon enough, everyone will be enjoying Field Day and all it brings. Let us have the best Field Day the Mike and Key has ever had.

Thank you to all our net hosts, and to Rob for the Check in net for the last year and a half as he has been in charge of it.

To all the Participants who are on the nets - thank you all. Without you, it would not be much of a net.

Why do people join Mike and Key?

David Okrent / W7DAO

I know why I joined Mike and Key, but I am not clear why others have. Therefore, first suggestion, please post on groups.io or send an article to the Relay regarding why you joined and why you stay. I think it would be worthwhile for many of us to share our reasons. I also believe it is an important piece of information when it comes to planning the Club's future.

Did you come to find an Elmer? We have over 130 Extra-class (Elmers) operators, do you know how to find one? What can the Club do to make the process easier? Have you shared your thoughts on this with the members of the technical or membership committees? The energy of an organization is the sum of the members.

Did you come for activities? What activities will you participate in? If we have not offered them, or want a repeat, email me; ask and you may receive. Last time

I asked what people wanted for activities I received five responses out a group of 300 members. As a marketer I expected to receive between 9-15 responses. As a member of an “active” Club my expectation would have been more like 30-50. Is anyone out there? Testing, testing, is this mic on? Maybe between QST, Youtube, etc. the need for technical presentations or practical non-meeting time “learn, wire, and test” sessions are obsolete. Perhaps we need multiple tracks with regard to presentations and activities given many topics and QST articles are essentially replays for seasoned hams. Great for new people or new to a band, but for others, same old – same old.

I thought a “Welcome to HF” lab might be worthwhile, but I only got one or two responses when I floated the idea out there. Frankly, my time, like yours is limited, so little response means I will not invest my time to do it. Silence means, “David, don’t bother.”

Perhaps you were interested in small group social time, like a recurring monthly lunch or session at a local adult beverage location. Post-Covid this is an opportunity for those interested to upload an invite to groups.io and see who shows up. Do it at 7:30 PM and you can go “Live from name of [pub] its Beverage (not an antenna) and Net.”

Did you come to join a contest group or to be mentored by one? Did you think that some of us get together and operate as a group for Winter Field Day, V/UHF contests, 7QP, etc.? Well, except for Field Day, I have not really seen it. Some of us do promote contests via articles we place in the Relay. If you want a contest special interest group, ask an officer. If you want a small group contest activity, post to groups.io and the Relay and see what comes back.

Silence means all is good in the Club, doesn’t it? Is this a friendly Club? If not, share with an officer what you think would help?

Have you been interested in getting into POTA or SOTA, but want to try it with a few people before going off on your own? How do we make that happen? Thanks to a member with interest in radio direction finding an activity did come about. From grassroots to a fun event. There is nothing stopping you from stepping out to create a group activity, just contact the President. Or suggest it to me, your Activity Manager, and together we can make it happen. Yes, together.

I am not trying to shame, blame, or create guilt. If the activity level of the Club is working for you GREAT. If not, do not be silent. Help mold the Club to meet your needs.

The Joy of SOTA

Special to the Relay
Tim / W7EEE

If you have never trekked to a Summits on the Air peak to activate it in the [SOTA program](#), I’d urge you to give it a shot. There is no better way to combine your portable station setup skills, the thrill of a run of QSOs and the natural raw beauty of the Northwest - with the chance of DX, too, as I learned on Memorial Day.

I drove to the top of 3460 Little Peak, [W7W/CW-090](#), for an all-CW HF session around midday. I left Seattle on I-90, took Exit 78 at Nelson, navigated through some back roads until I reached a network of dusty Forest Service roads that brought me to a spot right in the activation zone (within 75 vertical feet of the designated peak).

I set up my [SOTABEAMS linked dipole](#) on a telescoping fiberglass mast strapped to a tree stump,

and connected my Elecraft KX3 to the antenna and a battery.



With my blowtorch 15 watts, I soon called CQ on 20 meters. The Reverse Beacon Network immediately picked me up, the SOTA page showed I was on the air and the calls started coming in.

Arizona. California. Utah. Colorado. One after another, stations called me, with their call sign, signal report and, in most cases, state. Then, deep in what little noise there was in such a remote place, came a faint partial call sign: *Dit-dah, dit-dah-dit, dit-dah-dit*. AGN? AGN? After a few minutes, I made out the full call: DV9ARR. With my modest station and far-from-perfect CW skills, I had reached a ham in the Philippines, nearly 7,000 miles away!

I worked 30 stations in a little more than an hour. The

peak is in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, so it counted as a [Parks on the Air](#) activation, too. In the end, my seventh SOTA activation (and 149th POTA activation) was as exciting as my first, three years earlier, when I reached the famous SOTA Goat WGOAT, Steve, and a station in the Czech Republic with only five watts.

Give SOTA a try. And feel free to let me know if I can help you use the resources of the SOTA program to activate a summit – and have as much fun as I did.

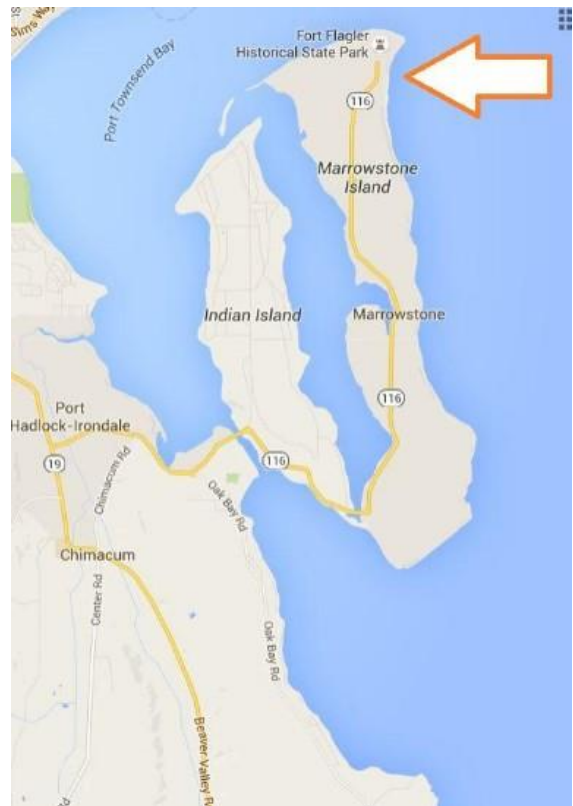
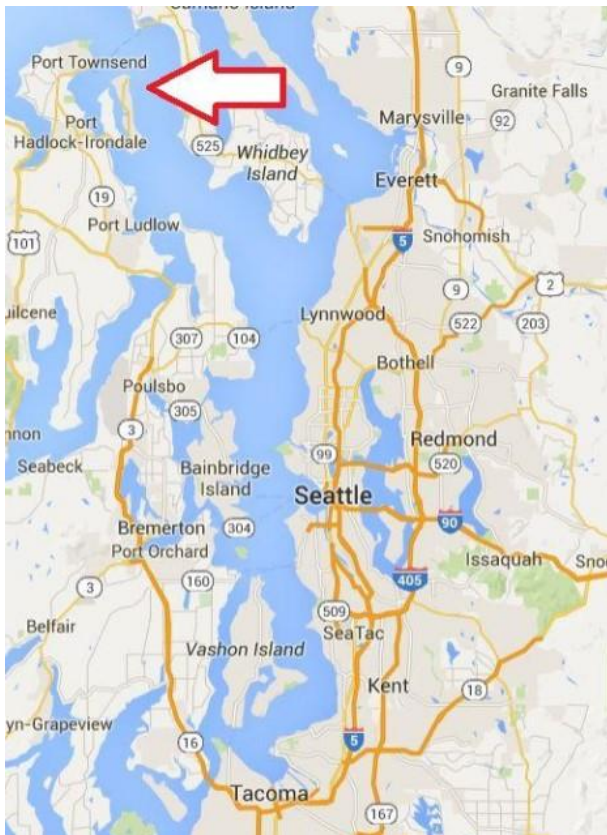
Getting to the Mike and Key Field Day

Michael Dinkelman / N7WA

Two Fridays from now, I expect to be sitting on a warm beach at Fort Flagler. The full size 80meter vertical should be gently swaying in the breeze, the 20meter Yagi pointed at Europe with signals popping over the pole, cruise ships plying by, and...

What? Huh? How can you join in? Where is this place? Well, first, you need to get to Fort Flagler. It is a rather nice State Park just east of Port Townsend. See that big white arrow?

You will need to get to the Olympic Peninsula. You can either take your favorite ferry or drive around using the Tacoma Narrows Bridge. You will want to get yourself to Chimacum. Once there, your next goal is Marrowstone Island. Fort Flagler is at the tippy-tippy point of Marrowstone



(Now, I know Indian Island looks like a great stopover but you REALLY do not want to bother the nice people there.)

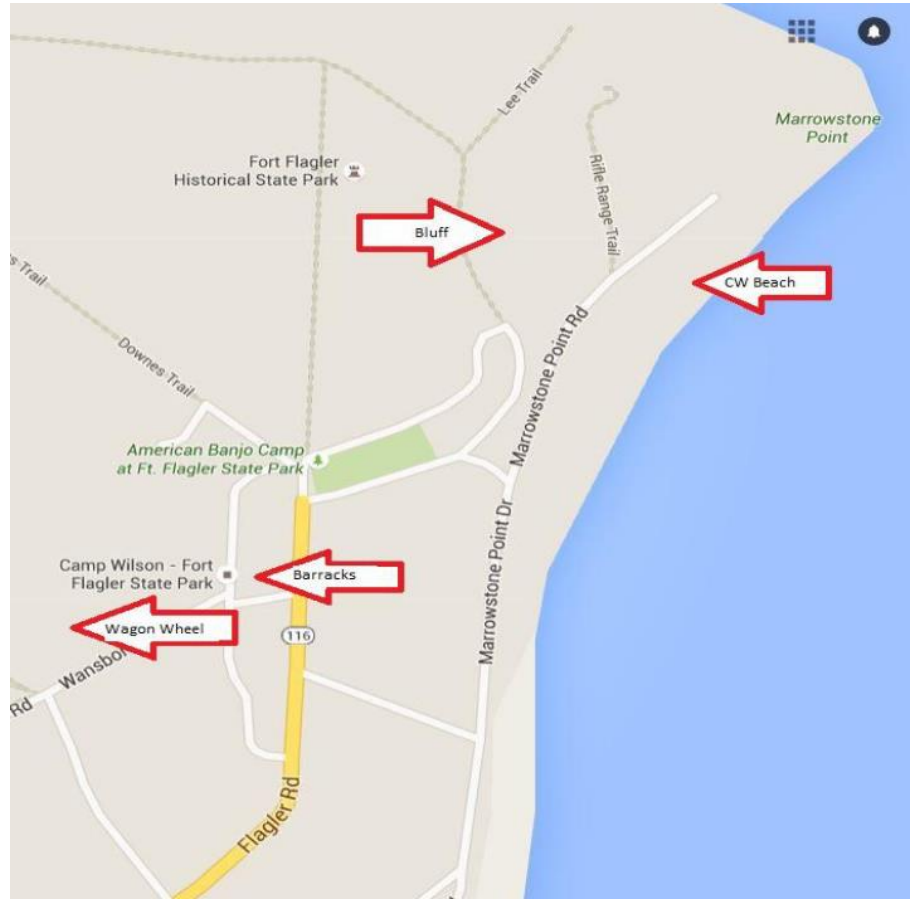
Finally, you have reached Field Day Nirvana. While the barracks are indicated, they will not be available for use. At the Bluff, you will find the Phone stations and GOTA. CW Beach is where the big kids play.

Most everyone camps or RVs at the Wagon Wheel. Our Friday potluck will be held at the Wagon Wheel. You will need a Discover Pass as this is a State Park. If you are part of the Wagon Wheel camp, you covered by the group pass.

You can come for the week (Radio Camp), the three days of Field Day, or make a day-trip out of it.

If you rather not camp, there are motels in Port Hadlock and Port Townsend.

... and now, where was I ? Oh yeah... a warm beach..., breezes..., radios...



If the maps are not enough, **From the Hood Canal Bridge at the north end of Kitsap Peninsula:**

- ✓ About five miles after crossing the bridge, turn right onto easily missed Highway 19 (Beaver Valley Road).
- ✓ Travel 10 miles to the Chimacum four-way stop. Turn right on Chimacum-Center Road.
- ✓ At the four-way stop in Port Hadlock, turn right onto Oak Bay Road.
- ✓ Go about one mile and turn left onto State Route 116. Fort Flagler is at the end of the road (about 10 miles).

Bellevue Family Fourth



David Yarbrough / WA7DY

I am supporting the *Bellevue Family Fourth of July* event. This event attracts over 50,000 people and is probably the biggest fireworks show on the eastside. This year it will be bigger than ever with live music, a symphony orchestra for the fireworks show, food trucks, and activities for the kids.

Our Bellevue Communications Support team provides communications for the event staff as well

as monitoring and problem reporting. This event happens on the Fourth of July at the Bellevue downtown park and the volunteer shifts are from 4PM to about 11PM.

I have openings for sector monitors to cover the event and could use your help.

If you are interested in volunteering for this event, [please reach out to me directly](#). I would be happy to have you there.

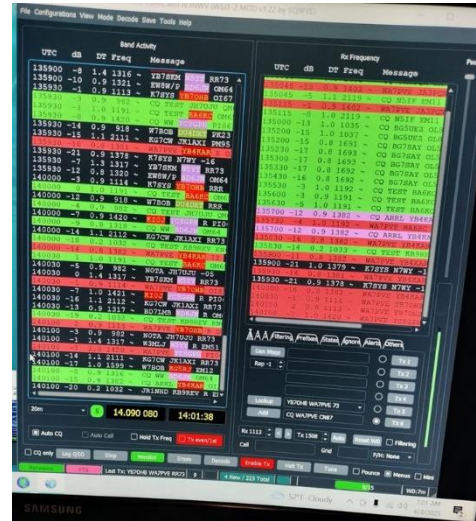
ARRL Digi-Contest Result

Michelle / WA7PVE

Here is my effort for the recent ARRL Digi contest. It's the second annual Digi contest and I have looked forward and planned for it since last year. After a rough start, things got better and I feel I did a reasonably good job this year.

Things I learn about digi contesting this year:

- 1: READ THE RULES !!!
- 2: Utilize the ARRL suggested frequencies.
- 3: Do not use the advanced settings in WSJT to select the contest. It will screw up your CQ Message in transmit.
- 4: My version of WSJT is setup to turn the worked station red. This also compliments the Dupe check in my contest logging program. (N3FJP)
- 5: Do not waste time. Utilize the auto CQ setting on your software so you are always calling CQ while you are waiting to pounce on a new one.



6: Scott (N3FJP) has set up a live leader board called ham dash. This this is great fun. Also, DXmaps and PSK Reporter are necessary to check for band openings.

I hope you all get involved in what I feel is the best contest of the year. 73

Check-in Net Summer Holiday

Rob Horsch / N7RLV

The weekly check-in net that meets at 6:30 pm on Thursdays has taken a summer holiday! Our last net this spring was last week on June 8th. The net will resume weekly check-ins on September 21st.

Since its inception in July 2021, 80 of our members and over 150 visitors have dropped by to give their call sign for the roster. Visitors who later joined the club retained their check-in count status. We have many members with over 60 check-ins and one member very close to triple digits. Join us in the fall when we will celebrate our first Century Club member!

2023 LEWIS AND CLARK TRAIL ON THE AIR OPERATING EVENT

ARRL NW Division Newsletter

The Clark County Amateur Radio Club (W7AIA) would like to let everybody know they are once again hosting the Lewis and Clark Trail on the Air (LCTOTA) special event.

The event this year will run from 0000 UTC June 3rd to 0000 UTC June 19th. They have coordinated with 22 clubs from the 16 states along the original Lewis and Clark "trail of discovery", and all will be activated during this period. Attractive certificates are available for those working 1-15 states and another one for those working all 16. Stations on air times are posted on the website, LCTOTA.org. A great opportunity to pick up some elusive states for WAS!

SeaPac 2023 - more fun!

David Smith / KB7PSN

Growing up in Southwest Portland, OR, an area less than an hour and a half from the Oregon Coast, I became quite familiar with the small-town fun and activity between Astoria and Yachats.

I moved to the Seattle area in 1985; still enjoyed frequent trips to The Coast. Then, about 1995, I started to make annual trips to Seaside, Oregon, the first weekend in June -- it was SeaPac Convention weekend. Each year, I would stop by many of the famous landmarks, stopping / shopping at local curio shops, favorite restaurants, coffee, and donut stops, and the scenery,

As I look back over the previous weekend (another SeaPac weekend), I find that it was as enjoyable as previous trips to the area; although, I am not walking as fast as I used to be when I was younger.

I saw about 10 members from Mike & Key ARC this time around; although, there were probably many more there as the Club has grown over the last few years. Everyone seemed to be having fun!

So, here are a few Seaside scenes (the city!)



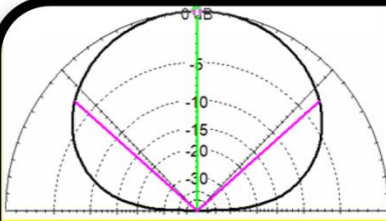
Local resident from Astoria. Apparently, stopped traffic for a bit. Something I do not normally see in "the big city"!



Oh, a "side note" ... I registered "early". I won the "Early Bird" prize! I claimed it before leaving the Convention.

Looking forward to doing this again!





*PNW NVIS Net – Tuesday's 7:00 PM
80M – Prim 3.84MHz – Alt 3.86MHz
40M – Prim 7.23MHz – Alt 7.25MHz*

Pacific Northwest NVIS Net always starts on 80M

Potentially on Sunday at 1000 (10:00AM) on 7.2MHz LSB Possibly in the Spring

For a review of NVIS, see the [March 2023 Relay](#)

Participation in the CQ WPX CW Contest

Manfred Bester / AG7NR

On May 27/28, 2023, I participated in the CQ WPX contest as AG7NR/M in CW-only mode. I operated from my favorite local spot at the Adams Street Boat Ramp parking lot on Lake Washington. My observation was that band conditions were largely disappointing, compared with the CQ WW DX contest last November.

Over the course of 5 hours on Saturday morning/early afternoon and another 2.5 hours on Sunday morning, I was able to complete 109 QSOs with 101 unique stations in S&P mode, mostly on 15 and 20m. Only four contacts were made on 10 m (NS1L, KC7V, NH7T and CW5W). Check out CW5W's QRZ page with a picture of his gigantic, stacked antenna. This was the only station in South America I was able to hear on 10m. Overall, my QSO partners were in 14 different CQ zones. As a result, my confirmed DXCC count in LoTW increased by 7 towards my goal to achieve the Mobile DXCC Award in CW.



CW contesting appears to be serious business. ;)

My mobile station configuration was unchanged, as far as radio and antennas are concerned. However, I switched over from using a MacBook with Flrig/Fldigi to an Acer Aspire Windows 11 laptop with N1MM+ for CW contest logging and radio control. With this change I also had to swap out the Mortty V4 CW keyer to a version that runs a Winkeyer-compatible Arduino sketch. The Acer laptop appears to be quiet, as far as RF emissions go, although more testing needs to be done to confirm this on the lower bands.

Equipment Review - Geochron

Michael Dinkelman / N7WA

I admit it. I have always lusted after Geochrons ever since being a Novice in Junior High. It is an amazing piece of mechanical engineering but it is mainly a very fancy clock. A clock that graces corporate offices, homes, and, yes, ham shacks. It is also a very expensive clock in its [mechanical form](#).



Enter the modern age. Geochron is available in an affordable [electronic form](#) called the Geochron Atlas. They take a Windows computer, the ones used for retail displays, and put on their own software. I made this my retirement gift to myself this Spring. The computer is the size of the palm of your hand. Because it is software based, you can add software [bundles](#) including one for Ham Radio. (There are non-radio related bundles as well.) You need to add a display. The best display result comes from using a 4K display. At this time, it is difficult to find those kinds of display at less than 40" but I expect they will eventually come. Even with a 27" older display, I was pleased but a full 4K display is better. I went with the smallest one I could get but if you wanted to really impress folks, you could get

a monster and hang it in your living room or den. You will also need a wall mount. I planned on this going in the shack so I was careful as to placement and mounting. I probably obsessed over doing this for over a month.

In the end, I am pleased with the basic display settings. The jury is still out on the Ham Radio bundle which I have subscribed too. I find that when I turn on many of the extra display features, whether in the bundle or not, that the display gets crowded. For example, you can turn on DX spotting but I can do that on my computer and have far more control over what I see and how it refreshes. I have played with many of the options, like turning on flight details or satellites but I always seem to end up back to with the basics. I just enjoy watching the gray line, the International Space Station, and the detail on the map.

There is one cool bundle I might try someday. There is an International Space Station Live View using the NASA feed. It is a living moving display on a big TV. If you decide a Geochron Atlas is for you, pay careful attention to how you purchase it. You can get a free bundle if you buy it the right way. I thought I was doing it right but messed up.

Venues for Upcoming General Meetings

Manfred Bester / AG7NR

The Facilities & Publicity Committee has been engaged in finding new venues for our General Meetings and VE sessions. Please mark your calendars for the following meetings:

Kent Senior Activity Center,
600 E Smith Street, Kent, WA 98030
Directions: <https://mikeandkey.org/hybridKSC.php>

June 17, 2023
July 15, 2023
Sept. 16, 2023

The Kent Senior Activity Center seems to fit our requirements in terms of room size, parking, rental fees, regular access, etc. This facility is largely unused on Saturdays, as virtually all their activities take place during the week. A custodian will be on site to setup the room per our instructions.

Mike & Key ARC – General Membership Meeting

Date/Time: May 20, 2023, 10:00 Pacific
Meeting Place: The River Community Center, 3611 I Street NE, Auburn, WA 98001
Attested to by Jeanne Yearian, Secretary

Presentation on Field Day 2023 by David Yarborough 10:00 AM (for those not able to attend or who want to review the information, the presentation is posted on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/l72a1FArX2Y>)

President, Carl Reynolds N7CJR: Call to Order 11:00

Vice President, Paul Petach KI6QXV: Verified a quorum is present

Motion to approve minutes (Dave KB7PSN): Seconded (Phil K7PIA), approved with no dissention

Reports

Chairman of the Board- Manfred Bester AG7NR – no report.

President- Carl Reynolds N7CJR – no report

Vice President- Paul Petach KI6QXV: New membership applications were presented. The following candidate was approved by the Board and General Membership.

First Name	Last Name	Callsign
Steve	Ignell	KK7MJD

Secretary: No report

Treasurer: Accounting status. Please pay dues in person or online. 306 members, submit expenditures for Swap Meet by the end of May. When the books are completed, they will be turned in to be audited

Activities Manager: David Okrent W7DAO Send emails with ideas for future presentations to David.

Radio Officer: Hal N7NW. Not present.

Standing Committees

Technical & Special Interest – Ash Thornton KK7GFG - No report.

Public Service – Robert Grinnell KD7WNV Parks on the Air proposal to include Field Day.

Education & Training – Jeff Hite N7FCC No report.

Membership – Manfred Bester AG7NR No report.

Facilities & Publicity – Alex Malesis W7AEM Next month the General Meeting will be held at Kent Senior Center, 600 East Smith. The facility has been secured for June, July and September.

Repeater (Radio Officer by Default) - Hal Goodell N7NW - not present.

Publications & IT Support

Relay Editor – Mike Dinkelman N7WA - Send in articles and reports

Web Master – Dave Smith KB7PSN No Report

Essential Committees

Audits: No Report
Awards: No Report
Finance: Upcoming Swap Meet audit
Strategic Planning: No Report

Event Committees

Swap Meet: Fairgrounds contract has been received, signed and returned with a check for the down payment for 2024: No Report

Field Day: David. Status update - Survey has gone out to gauge interest. Reminder: Barracks not available - shut down due to health concerns. Need good crew for set up on Friday and tear down on Sunday. For those planning to camp at the Wagon Wheel, Dick asked for campers to contact him so he can add them to the list.

Picnic: 9AM-2PM, August 19, 2023, at 5 Mile Lake Park in Auburn.

Old Business: No Report

New Business:

Proposal by Robert, KJ7CBO, to set up a Mike and Key outreach event (free coffee + Ham Radio) at the I5 Rest Stop south of Federal Way heading north. This would be a great place and chance for people in the club to join together and talk radio, talk on the radio over a good cup of joe! The Board will follow up! More to come.

Good of the Order

Reminder from Scott: the General Class Question Pool will be changing at the end of June.

Steve Olsen: installing a new hex-beam antenna – needs help with the installation in Kirkland

Next Meeting

June 17, 2023, 10:00 Pacific, Kent Senior Center, 600 East Smith, Kent, WA and remotely via Zoom
Adjourn Motion made (Phil K7PIA), seconded (John), approved Time 11:30 AM

Mike & Key ARC – Board Meeting via Zoom - Meeting Notes

Date/Time: June 6, 2023, 18:45 Pacific
Attested to by Jeanne Yearian, Secretary

Chairman of the Board (Manfred, AG7NR) called the meeting to order at 19:00 Pacific
Secretary (Jeanne, KE7MES): Established quorum

Carl (W7CJR) made a motion to approve minutes of May's Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Jeff (N7FCC). None opposed. Motion passed.

Note by Michael, KG7MX: Officially, the leader of the meeting cannot vote, unless there is a tie

Participants:

Carl Reynolds, N7CJR (President)
Paul Petach, KI6QXV (Vice President)
Jeanne Yearian, KE7MES (Secretary)
Scott Gilyeat, KC7SAG (Treasurer)
David Okrent, W7DAO (Activities Manager) – not present
Hal Goodell, N7NW (Radio Officer)
Jeff Hite, N7FCC (Trustee #1: Education & Training)
Ash Thornton, KK7GFG (Trustee #2: Technical & Special Interest) – not present
Robert Grinnell, KD7WNV (Trustee #3: Public Service)
Manfred Bester, AG7NR, Board Chair (Trustee #4: Membership)
Alex Malesis, W7AEM (Trustee #5: Facilities & Publicity)
Michael Hansen, KG7MX (Volunteer Counsel)
Mike Dinkelman, N7WA (Relay Editor)
David Smith, KB7PSN (Webmaster)
Steven Cook, KD7IQL

Reports:

Chairman of the Board, Manfred Bester, AG7NR: No report.

President, Carl Reynolds, N7CJR: No report.

Vice President, Paul Petach, KI6QXV, joined the meeting later. Scott, KC7SAG, introduced 3 new candidates: New membership applications (3): Marc Shecter, KK7LMP; Phu Huynh, KI7TYK; Allen Brown, KK7LUL; All were approved by the Board.

Secretary, Jeanne, KE7MES: No report.

Treasurer, Scott, KC7SAG: Reviewed the past month's transactions. Books are in order. Reviewed membership activity. Current member count: 308. Alaska USA Federal Credit Union changed its name to Global Federal Credit Union.

Activities Manager, David, W7DAO, not present. No report.

Radio Officer, Hal, N7NW: 220 repeater locked up, but could be reset remotely. Steve, KD7IQL, may go up to Tiger Mountain in July.

Standing Committees

- Technical & Special Interest: Ash Thornton KK7GFG: not present. No report.
- Public Service: Robert, KD7WNV. Lots of activity and opportunities coming up for various public service events.
- Education & Training: Jeff Hite, N7FCC: No report.
- Membership: Manfred, AG7NR. Several Club members attended the memorial service for Fran Underwood, N7FWZ, last Saturday.
- Facilities & Publicity: Alex, W7AEM. Jiro, KW6A, brought attention to a potential facility that could be rented, but they have lots of scheduling conflicts; Bill Swickard, KK6KCN, tested the AV capabilities at the Kent Senior Activity Center in preparation for the upcoming General Meeting; the Kent Commons Community Center is difficult to schedule ahead of time, as the City of Kent books its events first on a quarterly basis and then lets out remaining time slots for other groups to book
- Repeaters: Hal, N7NW (Radio Officer by default). 220 repeater locked up, but could be reset remotely. Steve, KD7IQL, may go up to Tiger Mountain in July.

Publications and IT Support

- Relay Editor: Mike Dinkelman, N7WA. Deadline for newsletter submissions is June 9. Articles and reports welcome!
- Webmaster: David Smith, KB7PSN. The website's email spam filter at info@mikeandkey.org is capturing legitimate emails as well as spam. At this time, all email being marked as 'spam' is being sorted manually.

Essential Committees

- Audits: No Report
- Awards: Dave, KB7PSN): Would like to have finalized list by July 1; Will be handing out

awards at the picnic in August

- Finance: Swap Meet audit on June 13 or 14 (to be confirmed)
- Strategic Planning: No meeting held last month

Event Committees

- Swap Meet: Fairgrounds contract has been received, signed and returned with a check for the down payment for 2024.
- Field Day: Additional GOTA station support may be needed, as George, AE7G, may not be available this year, but would be willing to loan some of his equipment; Carl, N7CJR, may be interested; Gary, KG7KU, and Ivy, WA7IVY, may be willing to help; the Club owns an IC-756 and Robert, KD7WNV, has a matching ICOM power supply. Letters will be going out to local elected officials, inviting them to attend. They will be directed to report to the welcome tent on the Bluff, where a tour will be arranged.
- Picnic: 9AM-2PM, August 19, 2023, at 5 Mile Lake Park in Auburn.

Old Business

- Mike & Key outreach event at the I-5 SEATAC freeway rest stop planned by Robert, KJ7CBO, for August; An agreement with WADOT needs to be signed by a Mike & Key Representative; Carl, N7CJR, will work with Robert
- Rental for storage of Club-owned equipment and hardcopy files (Option: Covington Life Storage, 5x10x8 ft., \$59/month); Storage items: Swap Meet items, hardware, records; Rental space should be an indoor, secure, temperature controlled facility; may need shelves; insurance

coverage could be provided as an add-on the Club's insurance policy; Scott, KC7SAG, will check out terms and conditions; the Club may get a bonus for signing up for a year; Michael, KG7MX, noted that records need to be preserved by the Secretary per our bylaws and WA State law (RCW 24.03A.210).

- Update of new principal officer(s) via IRS Form 990-N (Annual Electronic Notice for Small Organizations); Scott, KC7SAG, submitted this form for 2022; Will list the President as principal officer for the 2023 report

New Business

- Rental for storage of online data (Option: Microsoft Office 365, 1 TB); There may be discounts for 501(c)(3) organizations; Scott, KC7SAG, will investigate
- Decide on a date for the July Board Meeting (avoiding July 4): Consensus is to hold the meeting on Wednesday, July 5, at the same time and via Zoom

Good of the Order: No Report

Action Items

- See text above.

Next Meeting

- Date/time/location: July 5, 2023, 19:00 Pacific (7:00 PM) remotely via Zoom

Adjourn

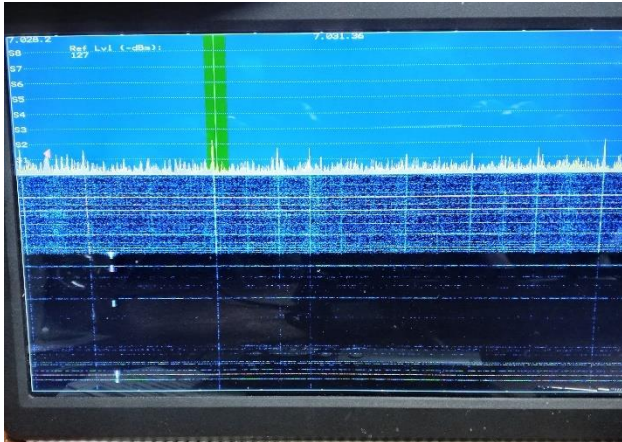
- Motion to adjourn by Carl, N7CJR seconded by Paul KI6QXV, meeting adjourned at 20:25 Pacific



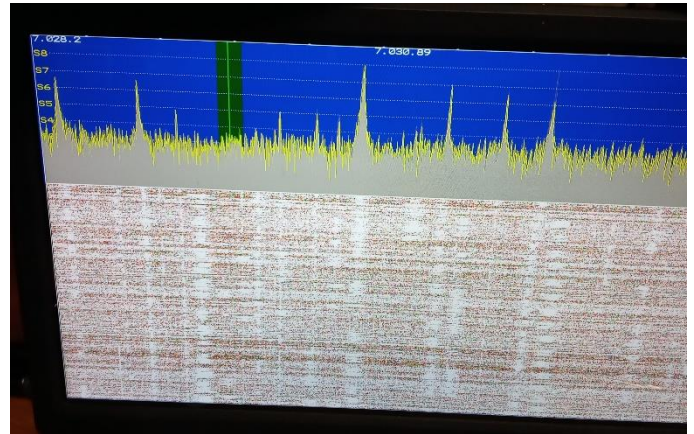
CQ WPX CW Contest – N7WA

Michael Dinkelman / N7WA

It was my first WPX in three years and my first serious one in five. Personal circumstances necessitated this be a 40M single band effort so I could operate evenings while Diane slept. Pointing the beam east, the noise floor on 40m would start the day at S1-S2 and end up near S5 as dusk arrived and the summer electrical activity peaked across eastern Washington and the nation.



Morning 40m Noise Levels



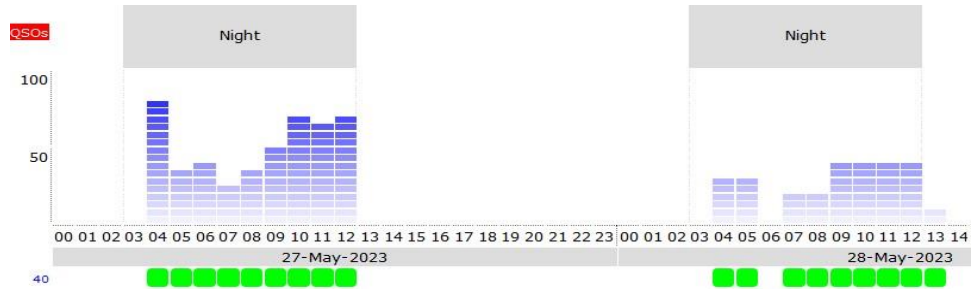
Early evening 40m Noise Levels

Gradually, as the night progressed, the noise SLOWLY tails off. The best solution for fighting the noise seemed to be pointing the beam west and working folks off the front (Asia) and back (USA) sides.

Conditions seemed so-so. There was a wide variation in signal levels from very weak to very strong. I worked a few that I could barely copy due to the hollow echo in their signals. No long-path but that is usually a Fall/Winter feature. I tried anyway. Nothing from Europe or Africa but that is not a surprise. South America was light. 53% USA, 31% Japan, Canada 5%, everybody else, less than 2%

Band	QSOs	Pts	WPX
7	698	2224	339
Total	698	2224	339

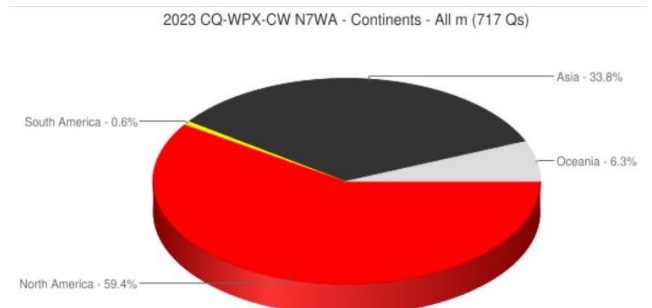
Score: 753,936



Contest Rate Meter



Contact Distribution



Farewell Chip, K7JA (SK)

A recent picture of Chip and Janet provided by WB2JKJ. There are innumerable wonderful tributes on the web and, I expect, coming in print.

Both Chip and Janet grew up locally. For a short while, he was involved in the Radio Club of Tacoma, the Mike & Key, and with a young bunch of contesters working with W7RM at Foul Weather Bluff. Then, Chip graduated from the University of Washington before going to work for Amateur Radio companies nationally and internationally.

He kept in touch locally, but frankly; Chip was an international figure. Even then, he was always approachable and willing to chat. He is gone way too soon and will be missed.



Apple City ARC Hamfest June 9-11

Jeff Hite / N7FCC

Many in the club have enjoyed our annual swap meet which continues to be the largest in the NW. Having a love of central part of the state and ham radio, made it easy to take the drive to the Wenatchee Valley to attend this smaller event.

The ACARC is a friendly club with many attendees from around Central Washington, WWA and the Wenatchee Valley. Attendance was rumored to be a little over 100. They had some great prizes with hourly drawing and drawings for grand prizes, tech presentations and testing. Many attendees arrived in

RVs to spend the weekend in eye ball QSOs, and of course participating in the swap meet.



A hot dog lunch was served including chips and drink for only \$5.00 and offered a free second hot dog! The event was very relaxed and lent itself to some nice discussions and meeting new and old friends. The misting of rain, which is not the historically norm for this event, did dampen things a bit with some of the crowd leaving earlier than expected. Talk among the swap meet was tales of some great deals and some nice free stuff for some of youth attending. If you have never attended, it is a nice drive and fun day or plan to camp out and enjoy the group meals and events over the entire weekend at next year's event.





Contact Us:

Email: info@mikeandkey.org

Message Bd/Reflector: <https://groups.io/g/mkarc>

Website: www.mikeandkey.org

Officer contacts info:

<http://www.mikeandkey.org/officers.php>

Postal Address:

P.O. Box 4234

Renton, WA 98057-4234

The club website includes extensive information about our activities, events, VE testing, membership, past editions of the Relay, and more.

The Mike and Key ARC is an ARRL affiliated club dedicated to the growth and betterment of Amateur radio. The annual dues are \$12 for individuals and \$18 for families. Visit our website for meeting, membership, and other information



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