

K7LED Relay



Volume 52, Issue 2

Mike & Key Amateur Radio Club – Seattle

February 2024

President's Report

Carl Reynolds N7CJR
President

Last month's activity presentation, "Campsites on the Air" by David W7DAO, our activities manager was outstanding. If only COTA had existed back in the 70's when I was an under-achieving Boy Scout. We had a great scout master which focused on hiking, camping, biking, archery, and plenty more that I have forgotten, but no amateur radio. Gear up!

"Many hands make light work". I know most of you have heard that saying, so let's apply it to our major fund-raising effort and volunteer to support the Swap Meet this March. You won't regret it. Maybe your wallet and body will, but the good will outweigh the bad. Promise. Bonus: More bodies than we need will put a smile on Hal's and Mike's faces. Priceless. Double bonus: seeing old friends and making new ones.

I will repeat myself this month and remind everyone we

have club officer/trustee elections at the March general meeting. If you don't want to run, the next best thing is to join a committee that interests you and be a sponge and/or a helper. The trustees are the chairs of their committees and always need new ideas and/or assistance. I hope everyone finds a place to contribute with one or more of the activities the club promotes. Great places to start are assisting Daniel Stevens KL7WM teaching classes, Scott AG7T with VEs and Robert KJ7CBO with Net Control operators just for starters.

Japan has landed SLIM on the moon on 19 Jan 2024 and with probe LEV-1(JS1YMG) transmitting on 437.41 MHz at 1 watt with circular polarized antenna. I'm curious if anyone knew about it and has attempted receiving. February 13th is World Radio Day with multiple stations and modes activating from 9-18 February. Check out ARRL news. Want to see what HAMS can do for public service? Easy stuff I'm sure.
<https://www.congressionalappchallenge.us/20-ca11>

Looking forward to seeing you at the February general meeting.

Swap Meet Update

I don't usually put Swap Meet news on the first page but I have decided to elevate this information to, almost, Presidential status. (Do not worry, there is plenty more Swap Meet news at the end of the Relay.)

First, THANK YOU to those who have signed up to work. Since my plea last month, we have reached the +70% level in work slots filled. I have been getting confirmation notices from the signup web site nearly daily. This is the bare minimum for putting on this event but some areas are still insufficiently manned. See following info.

Second, the program for the February meeting will be about the Swap Meet. This is a particularly important meeting to attend, in person or on Zoom. You'll get the latest info we can provide and newbies are especially encouraged to participate.

Celebrating February Members

By Scott Gilyeat, KC7SAG, Treasurer

As of February 2024, 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

50	Hal Goodell	N7NW
34	Dean Holtan	N7XS
33	Sandra Dunkel	K7OZY
30	Richard Danielson	K7RIC
28	Paul Roth	N7DOH
28	Adrian Roth	KB7BVL
24	Brendan Burget	KD7IKV
24	Curtis Hanner	N7MWC
24	Dawn Hanner	N7VWH
14	Randy Stagers	K9VD

14	John Swafford II	W7MEU
11	Jim Monson	K7JGM
11	James Wraalstad	WQ7H
10	Dan Aalberg	KG7DAB
7	Koda Mondragon	KI7IXR
5	Lejanna Bayha	KG7POD
5	David Jerauld	KJ7AKG
5	Jeffrey Kenner	W7GPG
3	Mark Chubb	K7NZL
3	Erik Petersen	KG7NOC
2	Victor Bloomfield	KJ7CBM
2	Delia Fjelstad	KJ7YED
2	Martin Greytak	W7POT
2	Michael Munsinger	KJ7VID
2	Jim Roach	AI7OZ
2	Shihua Sun	WA7SUN
2	Guangqiang Zhao	NB2Y
2	Charles Aggenbach	KK7EFH
1	Matthew Beldyk	KC8PNF

Jerry Sandpoint, Silent Key

Chuck Stroehrer WA7EBH

Jerry Sampont, WA7BUY, a former member of Mike and Key Club, became a Silent Key on January 18th. Jerry was active in the club in the 70's and early 80's. He was active in many club activities and Seattle area functions.

Jerry donated the trailer that the 15-meter Field Day beam is mounted on, after giving up miniature hydro boat racing. Too many crashes, plus his wife had something to say about it. He moved to Port Angeles in 1998 and to Green Valley, AZ in 2018.

He will be missed.

Welfare Messaging

Dave Wilma KG7LEA

The Seattle Neighborhood Emergency Communications Hubs will be sponsoring a welfare messaging clinic on April 7 in Seattle.

<https://seattleemergencyhubs.org/calendar-event/i-am-safe-messaging-training-and-testing/>

Club Presentation Schedule

Dave Okrent W7DAO

February: Swap Meet Briefing (before and after "Go Kit Show and Tell")

March: Elections

April: RF Seismograph – Alex Schwarz

May: Field Day Briefing

June or July: Waiting on confirmation from Renton Emergency Communications on which month.

August: Picnic (May have a J-pole build event, if willing to help contact W7DAO@arrl.net)

September: Controlling stepper motors, switches, etc. with Arduinos or Raspberry Pi's

October: Open

November: Putting together a Remote Station – Richard Lansky

Waiting for Amateur Radio Newline to get back to me on doing a presentation.

Note: W7DAO is not running for re-election as the Activities Manager, if you are interested, please contact Manfred.

Mileage May Vary

Rob Horsh N7RLV

Many thanks to David Okrent, W7DAO, for creating the first Mike & Key Club 3-hour HF sprint contest on February 3rd. There were several interesting ways to score points, designed to allow stations with different capabilities to be competitive. There were also several innovative features to encourage modes and practices not usually considered in a contest. I decided to focus on the miles per watt category using SSB. Since 1 watt was the minimum denominator allowed per contest rules, I set my sights on trying 1 watt, something I had never done before.

I have a very lucky QTH on an island surrounded by salt water. This gives me a huge advantage - from other locations the mileage may vary. Folks don't generally change their QTH, antenna or rig for a 3-hour contest. One exception to this is a choice of location by operating portable or mobile. I have been able to work difficult stations, like Clipperton Island by going mobile. My home QTH had a blind spot to the south, which is the direction of Clipperton Island. I drove around Vashon Island to find a few spots where TX5S was coming in with the strongest signal, then managed to work them from the car. Weirdly, driving south towards them at 20 mph seemed to be what worked on 2 different bands. I think the doppler effect was insignificant.

To maximize miles per watt, one must look for far away stations that might be able to hear you on minimal power. Key factors include how strong their signal is to you, how much competition is drowning you out and how much noise they have at their location. Quantitatively, luck is the biggest factor. On Saturday there was a European DX contest, so there were many stations on the air. This meant there were many choices including many big contest stations with great antennas, and also less competition since the contacts were short and frequent. The DX stations were also listening harder than usual to get as many contacts as they could, not just looking for easy to hear stations. Propagation was superb on all the HF bands that Saturday morning, so all the stars were aligned for me to do as well as my station was capable of.

My strategy was to pick a strong station making rapid fire contacts, listen to the pacing of their response to

calling stations, and time my call to let the final syllables from me come after the pileup. I called "November seven romeo lima victor q r p" once per try. I find it annoying when stations repeat their call twice or call very late, after the pile up is finished, or throw out a partial call. I just call once and only slightly delayed, if delayed at all. Generally, all they hear is "q r p" but it is enough to get a station to come back with "who was the QRP?"

My first dx on 1 watt was PI4CC on 28.4775 MHz in the Netherlands at 4881 miles. They are a contest club with great antennas and a quiet QTH. They came back to me on my second call. Wow. I was amazed. I switched to 15 meters and worked S53M on 21.340 MHz in Slovenia at 5472.1 miles. This is another club with great antennas and location. They came back to me on my third try. Finally, I moved to 12 meters and found F4GGQ, a nice fellow named Jeff near the sea in France who was not doing the contest. He came back to me on my second try. Jeff is 4870.3 miles from me and we worked on 24.976 MHz.

Finally, I wanted a contact on 20 meters, but signals on the band just were not very strong. I picked the best I could find, OH8L, a contest station in Finland. I called him a few times at 1 watt, then a few times at 5 watts, then a few times at 100 watts. Finally, I turned on the linear and worked him at 400 watts. 4755 miles divided by 400 watts is about 12 miles per watt. Mileage may vary.

Report -Trustee #2

Robert Christian KJ7CBO

Tons of cool projects are on the table this Spring and Summer! The Swap Meet will kick things off in grand fashion!

I am looking at dates for another coffee event at the I-5 Rest area near Auburn, and Mike and Key in the Park.

This is where members and the general public can gather around and bring ham radio to the community. This is a cool idea, right?

Well, I hope, by the first of April, to have dates set for Mike and Key in the park, different parks around Kent, Renton, Auburn area's and meet up with fellow hams like you! This is going to be awesome cool.

The NVIS Net's are going great! Ross W7ROV John KJ7KSX, Gregor NW7GO all together are making this net slick! So, if you have not tried NVIS this is your call to join them. Contacts have been made from California, Washington, Idaho, Montana, and Canada. They are working hard on this net to make it a success that it is. Give Ross a Big thank you for stepping up to the challenge! Bravo!!!

Last note here, we are still needing 4 maybe 5 more Net host. You must be a member of Mike and Key and willing to have a ball of fun! We are looking for fill in host which could be on the Tech net, Mike and Keys premiere net, to the Social net Rosters. Hey we have a space for you to join us and have a ball.

Mike and Key is a fantastic repeater group that I, for one, call home. Thank you all for your participation on the nets! It is you that make it all worth doing.

Results of the 3-Hour Sprint

Dave Okrent W7DAO

I think the quote, "It's better to try and fail then to not have tried at all" is appropriate here. Given the Relay articles, the direct email, the postings to groups.io, and to the Facebook group, I think it was a successful try.

However, with only three people out of the Club's population of Generals and Extras it seems there's no interest in sprints. Better to have tried a Club Sprint than not have tried at all.

Two people, in addition to myself, sent in points. I operated mobile from Bellevue Crossroads at 20 watts SSB on 10m, 20m, and 17m. Rob Horsch, N7RLV, operated SSB and got 11.25 points as well as the miles per watt SSB record of 5,472 (he operated at 1 watt).

Atsushi Sasaki, JR1NKN (W7KN) operated CW at 5 watts and made 3 points and grabbed the CW record of 943 miles per watt. I made 20 points and I had 250 miles per watt with my contact to Northern Italy.

Editor's comment – Dave has made it clear over several years that he is pushing for Hams to get active. Doing anything new, or different, requires the ability and willingness to take a chance. If there were not folks willing to do so, it would be a boring hobby

indeed. I thank Dave for putting his idea forward. I might suggest he not consider it a failure but a reason to try again next year.

Contesting 101

Michalle Baskette WA7PVE

Ladies and Gentlemen, it's time to start your engines... er radios.

I recently saw an article about a family operating a contest Field Day style. The whole family was sitting around a picnic table taking turns operating. The kids and XYL all excited to take their turn. Well that's not exactly how it works in our home. However, it does take the whole family working together as a team.

For those non-NASCAR fans let me elaborate. When you watch a race it's easy to see a great driver say Gordon, Larson, or Elliot turning laps. However, it's the team behind the driver that makes the driver great. The owner, the Spotter, and the Pit Crew.

Now let's delve into contesting a little more.

The Owner

Yep, the money guy. In our case that would be the XYL. "You just bought a radio, you don't need a new one". Ah yes, I always do. She also supplies the Red Bull and chips.

The Spotter

The spotter tells the Contester when to take breaks "Honey, the Kraken are on and you been at it 15 hours straight." The Spotter watches out for any trouble that might cause the contester to lose time or QSO's. "Dad the chain came off my bike again" The Spotter will grab a tool box from the garage and fix the distraction. "Hush don't disturb daddy". "Dad my hamster escaped" The Spotter will grab a cardboard box and a broom to find the critter. "Hush don't disturb daddy"

"Dad the house is on fire" The Spotter, "hush don't disturb daddy".

The Pit Crew: (the kids)

The most important part of the team. Our kids have learned from an early age that when dad is contesting ya just don't disturb him.

The Pit Crew keeps the contesters on the track and running. They silently bring in plates of sandwiches

and chips. They make sure dad always has a fresh can of Red Bull handy. They are the go-between the Spotter and the Contester.

Spotter *“go tell your dad he is messing up the neighbors tv again”*.

Anyway, that's how it is in our family. Team work. Always Team Work.

Next month: The East coast wall or why it sucks to contest from the Pacific Northwest. 73

Winter Field Day from Fort Casey

Bill Swickard KK7KCN

What fun this event was, and it truly was a test of a NW winter environment, new equipment (to me) and great folks to electrify the air with.

On arrival day, which, for two of us, was Friday afternoon; the weather graced us with pleasant temperatures, yet a bit blustery depending on where we stood in the park. It worked out to be a great day to erect antennas and realize that tying them down securely would be beneficial. Ross W7ROV and I were busy setting up camp on Friday. Matt KC8PNF arrived late Friday evening and being a skilled and prepared camper, set his tent up in the pitch-black dark accompanied by wind and rain (No, not Earth Wind and Fire).

Overnight, the winds tested our campers and Matt's tent. They stood against it with just a little *“shakin' goin' on”*. The antennas that we stood on Friday, were still standing on Saturday Morning much to our glee. I believe that our eyes twinkled with delight.

Saturday morning, in time to put up an off-center fed dipole in an inverted V, Robert KD7WNV and Tim K7ANE setup and were ready by contest start at 1100. We all exercised mic keys, pencils and keyboards, making contacts until dinner time.

After tearing Robert and Tim away from Roberts' motorhome, we proceeded to traverse over to

Callen's restaurant across from the Coupeville-Pt. Townsend ferry dock. We were pleased with both



the food and the service and glad for a break to talk about politics and aviation while fueling up our belly tanks. The winter field day was more about setting up and working in less-than-ideal winter conditions, testing our wits and body strength to the max, so a bit of off-contest time was a permitted necessity.

We thought it was windy on Friday night, but the wind seemed to double on Saturday night until just after midnight. About the time I was thinking I should rope and stake down the camper like Gulliver, it died, and sleep was available for the taking – something I was resolved to participate in.

Robert and Tim, who clearly knew what they were doing, made over 240 contacts during the 12-hour contest, even with meals and sleep away from the microphone. The rest of us did add to the number, but not by anything close to that (like, 21 for me). However, there were many lessons learned and we all had a great time, I think. Being my first real contest where I was doing more than serving food, making antennas, and drinking by a fire, I learned many things. One such lesson was that 2M simplex/70cm, even with a cool new homemade dual band Yagi on a rotator, is not worth messing



with when you are sitting in an earthen bowl. There did not seem to be stations on them, there hills.

The open water pointed at the Olympics. A mountain bounce might have worked. It easily reached the Tiger Mountain repeaters, but repeaters were not allowed in the contest. After getting frustrated with it, I went back to 10m.

Lesson 2 was realizing that I could have been more portable and gone to the top of the park, some 75 to 100 feet higher (truly a guess). I might have had a chance up there. That's OK- It leaves something to try for next year. Ten Meters was HOT though, so the fun meter was all the way to full scale, including some DX on 30 watts. Copy 4Mike, K7LED, kilo 7 light emitting diode, WWA, whiskey, whiskey alpha....

Setting up a canopy and fire pit and sitting around it drinking/jaw boning was not attained because of the wind and rain. Well, it was a winter field day, after all. Summer field day 2024 is coming, and June brings us another chance to sit by the fire and drink. Sorry Dink, no CW was used by any of us...

Volunteerism: A Distinctly American Tradition

The goal of our Hospitality Team is to provide a space for refreshment: whether friendly conversation, lunch or snacks, for those working as volunteers during the annual Swap Meet.

2023 was the ARRL's Year of the Volunteers. The ARRL held a year-long celebration recognizing the organization's volunteer support and their contributions. We hope you took the opportunity to spend some time thinking about the significant role volunteers have played, and are still playing, in our country overall. We did . . . and are truly thankful for the dedicated, committed group of volunteers who make the Mike & Key ARC one of those 'points of light' dedicated to preserving the history of America's airwaves as well as being part of our Nation's emergency management network. This volunteer tradition of effective, 'grass roots' action is distinctly American. And, as members of the American ham radio community, we pass that tradition on by example as well as encouraging others to do their part!

Mike & Key ARC has always operated on a 100% volunteer basis. We believe in preserving, expanding and having fun with ham radio technology, past and present, but I believe our greatest mission is to share that knowledge and passion with others. Are *you* one of those who would like to ensure that Mike & Key continues promoting, educating and supporting ham radio? Or, perhaps you are a grateful off-air member who would like to give something back to this organization to ensure it continues with outreach and education in our community. Then, we need your help to make the upcoming Swap Meet a success. It has volunteer opportunities for a variety of skill sets!



Whether you can commit a few hours, a few years or any amount of time in between, consider this your personal

invitation to join us at Mike & Key's biggest fundraiser of the year, our 42nd Annual Swap Meet, March 9, from 9 to 3. Please check out the list of opportunities on the website.

I am the chairperson for Hospitality and you might wonder what you need to volunteer with us. Most of all, we need volunteers who enjoy people and show it with a smile! Welcoming people, keeping our area tidy and replenished when trays need filling . . . did I say 'smile'? Of course, at the end of the day, help cleaning up and loading up is greatly appreciated. Sign up with Hospitality to help us celebrate our volunteers!

"Without volunteers, we'd be a nation without a soul." — Rosalynn Carter

Ed: Wow! I am sold, where do I sign up?
<https://mkarc.ivolunteer.com/>

Mike & Key ARC – General Membership Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: January 20, 2024, 10:00 Pacific

Meeting Place: [Kent Senior Center, 600 East Smith, Kent, WA](#)
<https://www.mikeandkey.org/hybrid.php>

Attested to by Jeanne Yearian, Secretary

President, Carl Reynolds N7CJR: Call to Order (Pacific)
10:00AM

Presentation by David Okrent, W7DAO, POTA/Campsites on the Air, how to prepare, what to expect.

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

Approval of 12/16/23 General Meeting minutes: Motion made by Steven, KD7IQL; Second: Gil, W7GIL. Minutes approved with no dissension.

Agenda:

Reports

- President (Carl Reynolds N7CJR): Thank you for the birthday gift.
- Vice President Paul, KI6QXV: New membership applications: (1) David Ashley, W7GEL; (2) Alan Boggs, K7IIV, (3) Allan Knutsen, KK7KOM, (4) Denice Camahan, KK7PLF. All approved by the General Membership with no dissension.
- Secretary (Jeanne, KE7MES): No report.
- Treasurer (Scott, KC7SAG): Current membership 295. Reminder: Please pay your dues to keep current. Check the website for current payment options.
- Activities Manager (David, W7DAO): No report
- Radio Officer (Hal, N7NW/Steven KD7IQL): Hal announced he is stepping down from his position as Radio Officer. At the January Board Meeting Steven KD7IQL was voted in to replace Hal. A Repeater Committee has been established. (Steven KD7IQL) Everything running fine. Once snow melts around April/May we will begin the scheduled projects on Tiger Mountain specifically. We will be asking for help as we begin work. Please use the Radio Officer email address on the website to get in touch.

Standing Committees

- Technical & Special Interest (Robert Christian KJ7CBO): Looking at dates in April and May to schedule another Coffee Day at the I-5 rest area in Federal Way or possibly Smokey Point (north of Everett). Also, we need 4 or 5 more Net Hosts (must be a Club member).
- Public Service (Robert, KD7WNV): 5 or 6 are going up to Fort Casey to take part in Winter Field Day at the end of January. We will be camping right by the water, using individual set-ups. Just as regular Field Day, the operating hours will be from 11AM Saturday to 11 AM Sunday; however, it's not sponsored by the ARRL.
- Education & Training : Jeff, N7FCC: No report.
- Membership (Manfred, AG7NR):
- Facilities & Publicity (Alex, W7AEM): No report.
- Repeater (Steven KD7IQL): (See above.)
- Publications & IT Support. Relay Editor (Mike, N7WA): Keep the great articles coming in.

- Web Master (Vacant):

Essential Committees

- Audits: Conducted the annual audit last Wednesday. Books are all in order.
- Awards (Presenter: Dean Holtan, N7XS): No report
- Finance (Scott, KC7SAG): No report
- Strategic Planning: No report.

Event Committees:

- Swap Meet (Mike N7WA): Have started planning the 2024 (March 9th) Swap Meet. We have been designated an ARRL sponsored swap meet by the ARRL so they help with advertising, providing mailing labels once again this year. Sign up online to volunteer. Next month, the Swap Meet Committee will be giving the presentation with more information. This is the event that brings in the money to keep the Club going.
- Field Day (David WA7DY): The ARRL published the results of the June 2023 Field Day in the December edition of QST. Mike & Key ranked #1 in our ARRL Section and Western WA. We were #1 in the 6A Class by 1843 points. We were 4th out of all classes (usually we fall somewhere between 8 and 14). So, mark your calendars now. June 22nd is Field Day 2024. The Wagon Wheel has been reserved and M&K members can camp free of charge beginning June 17. Join us for Radio Camp beginning Monday before Field Day!
- Picnic (Hal N7NW): 5 Mile Park reserved for 2024.

Old Business: (None)

New Business:

March Elections: Manfred – Encourage everyone to consider running for the Board. Michael Hanson (KG7MX) has been the Club's Volunteer Counsel for many years. He has retired. George Thornton (AE7G) has agreed to fill this position.

Good of the Order:

- Our thanks to Jiro for making badges free of charge for club members. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the room. You do need to be present to sign up and then pick up your personalized name tag.
- Vic brought in a radio he would like identified. Stop by the back table to help identify it.
- Clipper time is on the air for a couple of weeks

Next Meeting: February 17, 2024, 10:00 AM Pacific at the Kent Senior Activity Center, 600 E Smith St, Kent, WA 98030.

Adjourn: Vote to adjourn at 12:07. Motion made by Gil (W7GIL) & seconded Phil (K7PIA) . Approved with no dissension.

Mike & Key ARC – Board Meeting via Zoom

Date/Time: February 6, 2024, 19:00 Pacific

Attested to by Jeanne Yearian, Secretary

Participants:

Carl Reynolds, N7CJR (President)

Paul Petach, KI6QXV (Vice President)

Jeanne Yearian, KE7MES (Secretary - not present)

February 2024

K7LED Relay

Scott Gilyeat, KC7SAG (Treasurer)
David Okrent, W7DAO (Activities Manager - not present)
Steven Cook, KD7IQL (Radio Officer)
Jeff Hite, N7FCC (Trustee #1)
Robert Christian, KJ7CBO (Trustee #2)
Robert Grinnell, KD7WNV (Trustee #3)
Manfred Bester, AG7NR (Trustee #4 - Board Chair)
Alex Malesis, W7AEM (Trustee #5 - not present)
George Thornton, AE7G (Volunteer Counsel)
Mike Dinkelman, N7WA (Relay Editor)
Hal Goodell, N7NW (Swap Meet Co-chair, Repeater Committee Co-chair)

Agenda:

Call to Order (19:00 Pacific)

Establishment of quorum (Paul, KI6QXV): We have a quorum.
Approval of previous Board meeting minutes: Motions by Paul, KI6QXV and Carl, N7CJR: Vote: 100% Yes

Reports

- Chairman of the Board (Manfred, AG7NR): Welcomed George Thornton, AE7G, as new Volunteer Counsel for the Club
- President (Carl, N7CJR): Nothing to report
- Vice President (Paul, KI6QXV): New membership applications: Ryan Frymier, KK7QAR; Brian Winslow, N7QLN; Joseph Brand, KE7BBQ; Steve Miller, KG7VJW; Rich Frankenberg, KI7HAE; All were pre-approved by the Board
- Secretary (Jeanne, KE7MES): No report
- Treasurer (Scott, KC7SAG): Active members: 299; Discussed expenditures and revenue
- Activities Manager (David, W7DAO - not present): No report
- Radio Officer (Steve, KD7IQL): Received request to increase the repeater time-out from 2 to 3 minutes, will discuss offline. Working on paperwork for the change of the K7LED trusteeship with the ARRL for their filing with the FCC.

Standing Committees

- Technical & Special Interest (Robert, KJ7CBO): Working with WADOT regarding the free coffee event this summer; Also, we are planning for Mike & Key in the Park gatherings (Saturdays or Sundays).
- Public Service (Robert, KD7WNV): Not many events are scheduled until April/May; Working on the Public Service booklet: HRO will not be able to advertise this year. Discussed taking out one sheet of paper to reduce costs and compensate this way for the loss of revenue; Cost for printing 1,500 copies is 88 cts/copy; It was suggested we may want to ask commercial Swap Meet vendors if they are interested in advertising with us.
- Education & Training (Jeff, N7FCC): Working with Toku, AJ7JA, regarding the Club Library (take outdated books to the Swap Meet Country Store and others to the Club's storage locker); Equipment Library remains at Toku's shop.
- Membership (Manfred, AG7NR): Nothing to report - will need to resume committee meetings.

- Facilities & Publicity (Alex, W7AEM - not present): No report.
- Repeater (Steven, KD7IQL; Hal, N7NW): Waiting for weather improvements to visit Tiger Mountain. Planning to start system upgrade projects. New interface person at WADNR is M. Nelson.

Publications & IT Support

- Relay Editor (Mike, N7NW): Deadline for Relay articles is Friday, Feb. 9
- Web Master: No report.

Essential Committees

- Audits (Scott, KC7SAG): Audit of Club books was completed in January.
- Awards: N/A
- Finance: N/A
- Strategic Planning (Manfred, AG7NR): No report

Event Committees

- Swap Meet (Hal, N7NW; Mike, N7WA): Planning meeting via Zoom on Feb. 13. Meeting at the Fairgrounds on Feb. 15 to discuss logistics.
- Field Day: Wagon Wheel reservations were made last fall.
- Picnic: Reservations for Five Mile Lake Park were made in January.

Old Business

- None

New Business

- Transition of Volunteer Counsel (George Thornton, AE7G): Concerned about two items: Radio Officer needs to contact the Volunteer Counsel immediately if there is any legal issue; Update the Corporate Minutes Book (essential decisions; Officer elections; changes to bylaws, etc.; repeater site transition; cover the last 5 years); Will need to discuss with the Secretary and Radio Officer; Manfred, AG7NR will schedule a special Zoom meeting to discuss details
- AV equipment purchase (Bill Swickard, KK7KCN) to spend \$300 out of approved budget. New equipment will improve communications during General Meetings; Vote: 100% Yes.
- Upgrade of the Club's Zoom account (Scott Gilyeat, KC7SAG): Would like to have the next tier to allow for additional Zoom hosts (Board members). Current costs: \$150/year. Unfortunately, an upgrade to the next tier is not affordable (\$2,421/year).
- Policy #21 amendment proposal: "New members who participated in license classes and successful exam sessions sponsored by the Club may ask the Treasurer to have their first-year membership fees waived." (Scott Gilyeat, KC7SAG). George, AG7T will craft revised wording that the Board can then vote on.
- Board email list clean-up (Manfred Bester, AG7NR) will send email to those on the distribution list to ask if anyone would like to stop receiving emails from the Club.

Good of the Order

- Robert, KJ7CBO: Question for the Radio Officer: 220 repeater has an assigned EchoLink number, but EchoLink appears to not be available; Hal, N7NW: WA7HJR 440 repeater on Tiger Mountain has had an EchoLink connection.
- George, AE7G: The Board should have a discussion about ongoing threat of fraud.

Action Items

- Manfred, AG7NR: Organize Zoom meeting with Volunteer Counsel to discuss Corporate Minutes Book.
- Manfred, AG7NR: Will email those on the Board's distribution list and ask if members wish to stay on the list or, alternatively, unsubscribe.

Next Meeting

- March 5, 2024, 18:45 Pacific (Remotely via Zoom)

Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn: Robert, KJ7CBO; Second: Jeff, N7FCC
- Adjourned at 20:34 Pacific

Fairgrounds Construction

Michael N7WA

Remember this?



The fairgrounds told us, last month, that we would not have complete access to the Gold gate. In particular, no vehicle traffic. Plus, we were not sure where the ticket booths or Gold Gate Registration would be.

On the very day Hal and I went down to check out a new routing for our vendor traffic, they sent us an email that said... (I am paraphrasing here...)

FORGETABOUTIT

In fact, they expect we won't be affected for 2025 either. I won't hold my breath for 2025 but we are good to operate as normal for 2024. Whew!

Workers Needed

Michael N7WA

As I indicated, worker signups have met a minimum threshold for running this years Swap Meet. That doesn't mean we are out of the woods yet. We still need those few hold-outs to come forward.

Hospitality This is a cushy, indoor job surrounded by food and drink. We need some folks to signup, particularly for setup and teardown. Your boss is Jeanne (also the Club Secretary and organizer of the Club Holiday party). This is also a good position for a spouse that wants to help the Club but who wants nothing to do with those filthy radios in the next building.

Registration Not so cushy a job. Mostly outdoors. We hand out packets to the vendors as they come in the gate. We are out in the middle of the fairgrounds and you should be prepared for weather. We do have a little golf-cart and a warm building to duck into when it slows down. I, N7WA, am your boss. Sometimes, the weather is nice!

Tickets We have some openings in the later shifts. Manfred AG7NR run the show.

Setup We usually have plenty of folks show up but nobody seems to remember to actually signup for setup even if they have signed up for other work. It just makes us feel a lot better if you let us know you are coming Friday morning.

Teardown Yeah, please stay after the event is over and help us stack tables and chairs. I know, we are all tired. Trust me, I am more tired than you.

I will bring some hardcopy signup sheets to the Club meeting just to catch you in case you can't get the on-line version to work for you.

As usual, Signup Here:

<https://mkarc.ivolunteer.com/>

Releasing a License

Michael N7WA

Swap Meet season always reminds me that few Hams let their estate know that their license lives on until it expires or it is released. That can be ten years. You can hear the pain in the phone calls I get when they receive a Swap Meet flyer. Maybe you might consider printing off this info and sticking a copy with your important papers.

Canceling an Amateur Radio License with the Federal Communications Commission

You may provide proof of death in the form of a copy of the death certificate or a copy of an obituary with the date of death listed.

Send this information (a copy is fine) via FAX or Mail along with a cover letter to the FCC requesting that the individual's call sign be canceled. The letter should look something like this:

(Your name)
(Your street address)
(Your City, State, ZIP)
Tel: (Your phone number)
E-mail: (Your email address, if any)
(Today's date)
Federal Communications Commission
Attention: Amateur Division
1270 Fairfield Road
Gettysburg, PA 17325
Re: Deceased Amateur License Cancellation

To whom it may concern:

I am requesting that you cancel amateur license (callsign) since the holder, (holder's name), died (date of death). A copy of the death certificate (or obituary) showing the required information is attached.

Thank you,

(Hand-written signature)
(Your name)

You can fax this information to:
Federal Communications Commission
Attention: Amateur Division
Fax number 717-338-2850

or you can mail this information to:

Federal Communications Commission
Attention: Amateur Division
1270 Fairfield Road
Gettysburg, PA 17325

Prefer to try this on-line:?

If you can scan and attach the required information, you can point your web browser to the FCC's help request page at <https://esupport.fcc.gov/onlinerequest.htm> and submit the cancellation online.

Simply fill in the requested fields with the subject of "Deceased Amateur License Cancellation" and paste the information as listed above into the "Problem Description" field. You can then attach the required supporting documentation by clicking on the "Add Attachments" link. Then submit your request and you should receive your tracking number which will allow you to track your progress.

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

