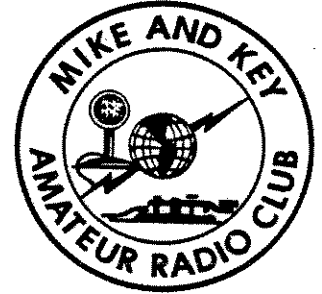
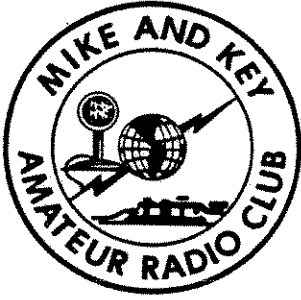


K7LED RELAY



The K7LED RELAY is the Official Publication of the MIKE and KEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, P.O. Box 2121, Kirkland, Wa 98033-2121. The club meets the third Saturday of each month at 9:30 AM in "The Tukwila Community Center", 4101 South 131st. Seattle, Wa. 98168. All "HANS" invited. The Mike & Key Net meets each Wednesday evening at 1930 hr on 224.12 and 146.82-22 Mhz. The repeaters are linked. Your Check-in is welcome.

AN ARRL AFFILIATED CLUB LOCATED NEAR SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

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19415 SE 21st St.
Issaquah, Wa. 98027

RELAY DEADLINE 3 JULY 1990



REPEATER FREQUENCY
52.05 - 53.05
146.22 - 146.82
224.12



First Class

BOARD MEETS

FIRST TUESDAY
OF EACH MONTH

CLUB MEETING
Third Saturday
of Each Month
16 JUNE 1990

TUKWILA COMMUNITY CENTER
4101 South 131st
Seattle, WA 98168
Phone 243-5198

Breakfast 0730
Riverside Inn, Tukwila

K7WTG 91/01
HEDBERG, PETE
20904 NE 77th ST
REDMOND, WA. 98053

COFFEE AND DONUTS WILL BE READY AT 0930

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The next couple months will be busy ones for the club and personally.

First of all, June brings on the annual Field Day effort. This year, like the past ten, the club will set up at Fort Flagler on Marrowstone Island. This location makes for a rather remarkable Field Day site and the effort is always top notch.

Coming in July, Mike (KA7CSE) and I will be travelling to the USSR on a radio amateur exchange. (Many of you met the Soviet visitors during the past month.) We hope that many of you will take the opportunity to work us on our travels and during the IARU Radio-Sport contest. We will be using our own calls preceded by UA4/, as well as UA4P. Hopefully we will be announcing some frequencies and times before leaving. Also in July will be the Goodwill Games Radio Contest and I hope you will all try to work the participants, playing a part in this first ever event.

August will bring the Mike and Key Picnic. Already, the Cougar Mountain Park has been reserved and plans are being made for food and entertainment. We hope you will mark the 25th down and make an effort to attend. Of course, the weather will be perfect.

As you can see, summertime is a busy time in the Mike and Key ARC. While you may not be able to make every event, I hope you will find time to participate in some of them. Until then, gl and 73. -uvj

MINUTES GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MAY 19, 1990

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Mike, WA7UVJ, President.

Introductions followed with 51 in attendance, with 6 visitors.

Julian, KA7MCB, Activities Manager, introduced our guest speaker. Mike

Cusson, KF7YB, spoke to us on the World Sport Radio Event coming to the Seattle area the weekend of July 20, 1990.

A short break was then taken.

Meeting was resumed at 10:40 AM.

Julian, KA7MCB, Activities Manager Brought up discussion on what club wanted to be seen done with the raffle. A discussion then followed. It was moved by Jim, K7PHZ, and seconded by Les, WN7NXC. to have the monthly raffle be three gift certificates of \$25.00, \$15.00 and \$10.00. Tickets will be \$1.00 each.

Ralph, WX7T, Vice president presented two new applicants to membership for approval. Mark Kulian, KB7KBY, and Norma Johnson, WB7CXA. Both applicants were voted in unanimously.

Claire, KB7GEW, Treasurer stated \$4,364.65 in bank, \$5,000.00 C.D. set aside for flea market. Money also being sent to ARRL for the 4 set of Amateur Radio books to be distributed in the libraries.

Mike, WA7UVJ, President: Work party at Fort Flagler, 8 members showed up, got buildings painted.

Chuck, WA7EBH: Public Service events coming up June 2 and 3 at Fort Lewis. Contact Wayne, K6DOW, if interested in participating. Also a parade in Downtown Seattle on June 2, Contact Chuck, WA7EBH, if interested.

A discussion then followed on Field Day, it is the weekend of June 22, 23, 24, 1990. Still need people to set up, Band Chairmen, to help organize Friday nights party. If you want to operate on a band, you need to let a chairperson know.

Jim, K7ND, moved the club purchase a 10 meter beam antenna. Mike KF7YB seconded. Motions approved. Jim to check into cost of antenna.

Mike, WA7UVJ: Technical Forum to happen every 3 months. Some suggestions that have been received are soldering, DXing, contesting and many others. The next 2

meetings will be June - Field Day, July - Technical Forum.

Activities: Bowling Party, Mariners Game, Dinner party, Operating Day. Julian, KA7MCB, to pick a date and time where we can meet for dinner.

Gib, W7JIE, briefly spoke to us on WARC 92.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Darlene Pauza, N7NCC, Secretary.

FOR SALE

HEATHKIT AR-15 AM-FM TUNER/AMPLIFIER, (75 WATTS PER CHANNEL), WITH KNIGHT 12" 3-WAY SPEAKERS, GARRAD TURNTABLE, ALL INSTALLED IN HAND-RUBBED AND FINISHED BARZLAY WALNUT CONSOLE. (81"L X 28 1/2"H X 18"D) SLIDING FRONT DOOR COVERS, RECORD STORAGE AND TAPE DECK INSTALLATION SPACE. PERFECT FOR REC ROOM. SEE IT-HEAR IT, THEN MAKE A DECENT OFFER. GIB, W7JIE. 226-4222.

PUBLIC SERVICE

RECOGNITION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE VALUE OF THE AMATEUR SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC AS A VOLUNTARY NONCOMMERCIAL COMMUNICATION SERVICE, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS.

That's one of the five principles for the basis and purpose of the Amateur Radio Service, principles you learned for your Element 2 examination.

In the coming months, you will have plenty of opportunity to provide voluntary noncommercial communication for your community. There are parades, festivals, and other events that are crying for communications support.

Amateur frequencies are not a 'given'. (The 220MHz debacle has shown us that.) We need to show that we are deserving of the public trust given us in our band allocations. A few hours of community service goes a long way in repaying our debt and the effort is not difficult.

If you are interested in helping out, review the public service calendar we periodically publish and contact the named organizer. You will not regret your decision. Thanks. -uvj

DE W5YI REPORT JUNE 1, 1990

Japan has two routes into amateur radio. The Third and Fourth Class (lifetime) licenses are administered by the JARL (Japan Amateur Radio League). Both allow operation on all ham bands except 10 and 14MHz. The Fourth Class license permits 10 watt radiotelephone privileges once a written test is passed at the end of a JARL prescribed course. Pass 5 WPM Morse and Third Class (25 watt) all mode operation is allowed.

The Japanese government administers the Second Class (9wpm Morse plus a written test) yielding 100 watts on all bands/modes and the higher power First Class ticket...which requires two more code tests' 12 WPM International Morse and 10 WPM Japanese Morse.

Eighty percent of Japan's 1.5 million amateurs hold only the 10 watt Fourth Class phone license. (Less than 1% hold the First Class ticket.) Station licenses are separate from the lifetime ham operating permits. There are 970,000 station licenses in Japan which must be renewed every five years.
Submitted by W7JIE

RAFFLE

Remember, per the members request, the monthly raffle will consist of three valuable gift certificates to local radio stores. Also, tickets are now \$1.00 each. Donations are still accepted as additional raffle items. Instead of that extra donut, support the club raffle!

The July meeting will be our quarterly amateur radio forum, topics yet to be chosen. If you have any inputs for preferred topics, or are will to talk on a certain subject, please see your closest board member. -uvj.

SEASIDE 1990

(SEA-PAC)

The annual SEA-PAC Amateur Radio Convention-Flea Market was held June 1, 2, 3 with many of our own M&K members in attendance. In spite of the pouring-down-rain, a good time was had by all.

Six of us stayed at our annually reserved condo on the beach and continue to have very unusual happenings. It seems as though we are destined to have weird things go on around us.

For dinner on Friday night, Jimmy WM7A, Pati WB7VJA, Chuck K7CHV, Lori N7LCO, Jerry WA7BUY and Louise XYL, Chuck WA7EEH, and Joyce N7JFW, decided to dine at Norma's. Through all the laughter, we hear sirens and witness fire truck and aide car arriving at the restaurant. A white-haired man (a ham of course) had passed out at another table. The medics did their thing only to have the man fully recover and refuse to be transported to the Hospital ER room.

After being told many times, "There is no place good to eat in Seaside", Skipanons in Warrenton was highly recommended. Reservations were made for 10 (Ray WA7EKH and Ellen, XYL joined us) and away we went. While the waitress was taking our orders, the waitress exclaimed, "Oh no!! There goes our cook." The Sheriff was escorting the cook out the door in handcuffs. (We later found out the cook had violated his Work Release). All in all, we did get dinner, but it was probably no better than anywhere else.

Friday and Saturday nights after dinner found the eight of us strolling about town - in the rain of course - looking in store windows, getting ice cream cones, candy, etc. and ending up at the FUN ARCADE. We played games and won enough tickets to get a bag of Salt Water Taffy. You can be sure the tickets cost way more than just buying the candy, but we would not have had the fun. Saturday night we won enough tickets for 3 boomerangs. The young man had been watching us (the older set!!) playing the games and was laughing. We were discussing the fact that we needed one more boomerang and decided to come back the next day and win

enough tickets to do so. However, Louise asked him what we would have to do to get another boomerang and he gave it to her. The poor guy was probably not used to seeing people with graying hair having such a good time. Or else.....he didn't want to see us again??

Then off to Miniature Golf...Lori N7LCO was the winner!! She can really move that little ball. Jimmy WM7A thinks that we should put out bets next year and the winner take the losers to dinner. What an idea!!

Louise wanted to know how the "rubbee duckee" worked. That's okay, Louise, you are going to be a Ham by this time next year, aren't you?

The ladies went on their annual "Treasure Hunt". Tillie says she traveled over 5 miles according to her pedometer. So ladies, you got your exercise looking for prizes. Pati won a pair of earrings and Lori won a sack of salt water taffy. Lori also won a calculator on the hourly ham drawing. Jerry WA7BUY also one an hourly ham draw prize, a computer program.

Vic WB7TBR won a door prize, too. Pati missed an antenna door prize on Sunday afternoon.

There were many laughs and good times had by all. We're looking forward to next year and hope the sun will shine with a little less wind. Jimmy couldn't fly his bird due to the excess wind and all the rain!! 73's N7JFW

FIELD DAY

The weekend is almost here, June 23/24, for FD 1990. I hope that most of you are planning a trek to Ft. Flagler St. Park on those dates. Even just a one day stay would be fun and be of benefit to the whole operation. I'm sure the band chairs could use a few more operators to fill in a 24-hour schedule.

To date, operation is planned on 75-20-15m phone and possibly two CW stations. Dick, W7KCX, has 75m, Jack, KB7ZS, has 20m; Ken, K7YR, has 15m and Mike, WA7UVJ, has CW beach. See these people for

available operating times. Tom, KA7SEH, has the 10m novice/tech station. As a reminder, anyone can operate any station as long as a qualified person is also at that station.

Persons interested in setting up an additional band should contact me as soon as possible. We will be discussing FD at the next meeting. Also, there is still room in the BOQ. Jim, K7ND

FIELD DAY POWER. UPDATE

On May 26th five club members, WB7AYU, WA7TAI, WA7EKH, K7YR and KB7ZS joined Jim, W7GFW on Camano Island to complete the installation of the generator donated by Chuck, WA7RJT.

Much discussion was involved before the first move made. My that was a good idea as it prevented to many false starts. Ken got started on the mounting the fuel tank while Jack got underway with the spare tire rigging. The rest tackled the generator itself, and the many items required to get it ready to place in the trailer.

As a last minute thought it was decided to try the electric starter before sliding the thing inside. Good thing we did as we found a short, and putting the talents of Ray to work soon had it turning the engine.

After dragging the thing to the gas station the magic moment came, the starter switch thrown and, in spite of the odds, it sprang to life with a horrible screech. What could that be? After some head scratching, contemplation, wonderment, and flat out guessing the starter was removed. The problem was not solved until we found the 28V generator shroud rubbing. With that corrected the job was completed and Jack towed the rig back to Bellevue where it awaits a tow vehicle to drag it to Ft. Flagler.

It is hard to express our thanks to Jim for all his assistance and expertise but should any of you have the fortunate occasion to meet with Jim please pass along your thanks. There is no way the group that went to Camano can thank

Helen, Jim's XYL, for the coffee and excellent lunch but we tried and for those that decided not to make the trip certainly missed a feed.

All in all a great day and I feel we are ready, power-wise, for the upper field day site. Please see my related article regarding the 20M band. 73

Jack, KB7ZS

Field Day and the 20M Band

When you read this it will be about two weeks until we meet for Field Day '90. Since I volunteered for the 20M band I am naturally looking for all the good operators and dupers.

At the present time N7AVO Deb, N7AMX Karl, and WA7EKH Ray have said they will assist. I will certainly be there and I would hope others will join in the fun. We have in hand, or nearly there, radio, tuner, meter, 20 amp power supply, related communications equipment, table & chairs, lights and extension cords. K7ND has assured me the antenna, tower, rotor etc. is available and will be set up.

Needed are a kerosene heater and perhaps some tape & plastic to seal the doorways, (cool down in those bunkers). Anything else you can think of bring along or let me know your thoughts.

20 Meters needs the involvement of the members more than anything else so lets try and make this year one to remember. CALL ME AT HOME (454-2353) WITH YOUR THOUGHTS AND DESIRES. 73,

Jack, KB7ZS

DE W5YI REPORT
JUNE 1, 1990

UNLICENSED AMATEUR JAILED AGAIN!

Richard Burton, 45, ex-WB6JAC, is once again back in jail for unlicensed amateur radio operation. His amateur license was originally revoked on September 11, 1981 for malicious interference, failure to use his assigned call sign, use of profane and obscene language, one-way

communications (he was jamming a repeater by retransmitting Morse code) and broadcasting.

Burton refused to go off the air and was cited again in November 1981 and in January and April 1982. The FCC, unable to halt Burton's unlicensed radio operation, had him arrested on April 30, 1982. He was arraigned on May 3 in the U.S. District (federal) Court, Los Angeles. A grand jury returned a seven count indictment against him.

On June 8, 1982, Burton was found guilty of "broadcasting obscene, indecent and profane language and for operating an amateur radio station without a license." Judge Manuel L. Real sentenced Burton to eight years imprisonment ...suspending all but six months. He could have received a ten year jail term and a \$70,000 fine.

The Burton sentence was to be followed by five years probation during which he would perform 1500 hours of community service work. It marked the first time an amateur had been imprisoned for activity on the ham airwaves.

The case was the result of investigation by engineers from the Long Beach FCC field office who tracked the source of Burton's illegal two-meter ham band radio transmissions to his residence in Reseda, CA. The FCC received dozens of complaints from amateur radio operators in Southern California about the defendant's illegal and highly objectionable transmissions.

At the time there was some support for Burton in the Los Angeles amateur "Free Radio" community. Some amateurs felt the matter was a Freedom of Speech issue. Burton's five year probation was over around Christmastime.

Burton consented to a November 1989 radio interview on the controversial Tom Leykis KFI(AM) radio talk show aired from Los Angeles. Leykis has been having his own troubles with broadcast indecency. He received a \$6,000 fine for airing three pieces of allegedly indecent dialogue last year. Leykis brought Burton onto his show because he said the situation

was similar - but it really wasn't. KFI(AM) was FCC licensed when charged with broadcast indecency, Burton was unlicensed. A very big difference! Burton said he would be trying to get his ham ticket back.

The indecency crackdown was ordered by FCC in response to a commitment made by new commissioners at their Senate confirmation hearings. Nearly a hundred indecency matters were acted upon by the commission. The FCC radio wave cleanup policy is now being challenged on First Amendment grounds by a coalition of broadcasting and public interest groups who charge an inconsistency between the "old" FCC under former Chairman Dennis Patrick and the "new" commission under Chairman Alfred Sikes.

The point of the Leykis/Burton interview was that Burton was being persecuted for the way he expressed himself. Apparently Burton doesn't believe the government has the prerogative to restrain his First Amendment right to say what he thinks. Leykis said that he believed that the free market itself should regulate content. In any event, it was widely reported during the past few weeks that Burton was back ranting on the 2-meter ham band even though he had not been relicensed as a radio amateur.

After many complaints, Burton was again arrested by the FCC and U.S. Marshalls on Wednesday, May 16, on three felon counts of violation of Title 18, Section 301 and 501 which involves unlicensed radio operation. A search warrant had already uncovered an amateur 2-meter radio at the Burton residence some two weeks ago.

Burton allegedly made on-the-air threats against the judge, attorney Jose Merdler, N6AHU (who is Assistant ARRL Section Communications Manager, Los Angeles Section), and the FCC engineer-in-charge of the Long Beach office, Larry Guy. Reportedly, when arrested, Burton was throwing knives at a dartboard which contained a picture of the judge as its bull's-eye.

Burton refused to enter a plea at his arraignment and the court has now appointed a public defender in his

behalf. Bail has been set at \$10,000 and he remains jailed at the Metropolitan Correctional Institute, Los Angeles. Some Burton supporters have been appealing for funds on the two-meter airwaves trying to raise his bail.

WELCOME ABOARD

NORMAN H. JOHNSTON, WB7CXA
P.O. Box 276
Ravensdale, WA 98051

MARK KULIEN, KB7KBY
21904 - 28th Pl. S.
Seattle, WA 98188

PROGRAMS

The program for the June meeting of the Mike & Key ARC will regard the up and coming Field Day effort. Bring your questions and input.

REWARD OFFERED

A reward of 5,000 microfarads is offered for information leading to the arrest of Hopalong Capacity. This unrectified criminal escaped from a Weston primary cell coil named Millie Henry, who was found choked and robbed of valuable joules. He is also accused of driving a D.C. motor over a Wheatstone Bridge, and refusing to let the band pass. The Electromotive Force spent the night looking for him in a magnetic field where he had gone to earth. They had no success and now believe that he has returned ohm via a short circuit. He was last seen with his friend Eddy Current, riding a Kilocycle. Eddy was playing a harmonic. Charges to be made against him under Ohm's Law.

Credit to: D. Roberts, Hereford, England via Frankford Radio Club, via South Lyon (Michigan) Area Amateur Radio Club.

=====
PIGWAR TICKET & PAYMENT FORM (BEARS AND BURNABY A.R. CLUBS.)

Dick Mehnert, WOKPK
35500 39th Ave So.
Auburn, WA, 98001-9005

Norm Kirk, VE7FKN
1625 Howard Ave.,
Burnaby, B.C. V5B 3S2

YES - I would like to participate in the 3rd Annual PIGWAR at the International Peace Arch Park on August 25, 1990. HERE IS MY \$10.00 (U.S.) (checks made out to BEARS-PIGWAR)

My Call sign is _____ The club I'M affiliated with
(The one I heard about this thru)
is _____

My name _____ Number of family coming _____

Address _____ Catered(?) _____
_____ (# of tickets)

_____ # OF BROWN BAG TICKETS _____

(Brown bag tickets are free - they reserve space, but cannot be used to purchase food or beverages at the PIGWAR)

telephone (day) (____) _____ (nite) (____) _____

Please copy this form as required and send to one of the two addresses above by 31 July, 1990.

=====

Boeing Employees Amateur Radio Society

P.O. Box 3707, Mail Stop 8L-35
Seattle, WA 98124, USA

Dick Mehnert, WØKPK
B.E.A.R.S. PIGWAR Chairman,
35500 39th Ave. So.
Auburn, Wa. 98001-9005
(206) 838-2498
15 May, 1990

Dear MIKE :

Would you please read this at your club meeting, and put a copy of it in your your May or June bulletin?

The PIGWAR is coming! == AUGUST 25TH! == The PIGWAR is coming!

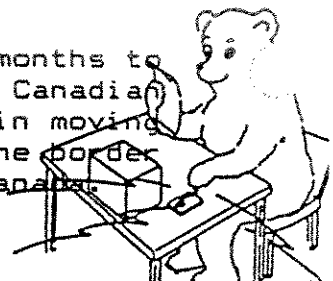
This is an official invitation to your club to join with the Boeing Employees Amateur Radio Society, the Burnaby Amateur Radio Club, and other Northwest hams to join and participate in the Third Annual PIGWAR celebration..

What is the PIGWAR? (I thought you'd never ask!) As Amateur Radio operators of both the United States and Canada, we share with our Ham brethern across the border -- in perfect ham reciprocity on either side of the border. Each of us has an amateur radio license that is valid in either country, on either side of the longest unfortified international boundary in all of human history. "HAMS ACROSS THE BORDER" is our motto.

"Twasn't always so" - 132 years ago the last armed confrontation between the English and Americans ocured on San Juan Island. Thousands of troops, and dozens of heavily gunned warships were about to erupt in battle, all over the death of one "potatoe eating" pig. Yep, the Canadian pig crossed the border and ate American potatoes! It was shot dead by the American because the Canadian refused to keep his pig on his side of the border! It took cooler heads (thousands of miles away) to say that it was senseless to war over a dead pig, and the Kaiser of Germany arbitrated today's boundary without bloodshed.

Two years ago, some Northwest amateurs commemorated the present ham reciprocity with one another across the border and instituted the first "PIGWAR". We - Canadians and Americans, celebrated this first PIGWAR with an all-day celebration of "HAMS ACROSS THE BORDER" by doing just that: Our stations were 1/2 in the U.S., and 1/2 in Canada, (actually half the antenna, half the operator, and half of the transceiver were in each country).

Did we use a VE7 or a W7 suffix? It took the FCC several months to decide that they would NOT issue a special call sign -- the Canadian DOC obliged within hours with VE7PIG! We took ham liberty in moving the original war from San Juan Island (hard to get to) to the border crossing at Blaine, Washington, U.S.A., and Surrey, B.C., Canada.



we set up across the international border with parking on the American side in the Peace Arch Park. We had a Ham fine time!

As before, we are going to celebrate the PIGWAR again this year. With the assistance to the North of the Burnaby Amateur Radio Club, we are contacting amateurs through their local clubs - from Vancouver Island to Vancouver, Washington. We want the PIGWAR to become part of YOUR club's summer amateur plans. It's fun!

Previous PIGWAR celebrations had food and drink available, catered from "The Cave Man Restaurant" in Kent, Washington. Their menu includes barbequed pork, chicken, sausage, includes rolls, butter, beans and salad, to which we'd added beer and soda pop. We had a cost of \$10.00 (U.S. funds, or equivalent) to cover, for all day, each person who had paid in advance. Another option was to have each family bring their own food and drink separately. The latter option seemed better for larger family groups, (the youngsters would not eat as much as the adults, and the family cost was not as high).

We also have professionally cartooned Tee-shirts (high quality) available at the site for \$4.00 U.S., as well as QSL cards for the occasion. We have reserved the kitchen, rest room, and picnic area for SATURDAY, AUGUST 25th. It was picked because it is NOT in conflict with the Seattle Good Will Games, Labor Day, Boeing Salmon Derby weekend, and it was available. (The last was most important!) The area can handle 300 persons, and we are asking all clubs contacted by this letter to respond:

1. With a preliminary headcount of interested (really, rather firm, but not irrevocably committed) individuals back to me by 30 June. Please indicate how many would like to be in the "catered-food" group, and how many would "brown-bag it" in family groups. We need this preliminary count by 30 June.

2. By 31 July, I'd like \$10.00 U.S. from interested people, by name, address and call sign, (checks may be made out to "BEARS-Pigwar"), at the address above. We need the money then to be able to complete negotiations with The Cave Man Restaurant and the beverage suppliers. Neither the BEARS nor the Burnaby club make any profit on the PIGWAR, (nor do we want to loose money).

The same time limits apply North of Everett, where the Canadian PIGWAR contact is Norm Kirk, VE7FKN, Burnaby Amateur Radio Club, 1625 Howard Ave., Burnaby, B.C., V5B 3S2.

Plan a day of fun, hamming, and companionship with brother/sister "HAMS ACROSS THE BORDER" - a special day - made more so this year by you and your club members' participation.

Any questions? Write me, call me on the Evergreen Intertie (Seattle, 145.33 machine), phone me at home in the evenings, or speak to any officer or member of the BEARS or Burnaby clubs.

Hope to see you all at the Northwest 1990 PIGWAR in Blaine, Washington!

Dick, W7KPK

FCC LICENSES COST MONEY!!!

On May 21, 1990, the F.C.C. started charging \$35.00 for each private radio license application. All private pilots, boaters, fishermen, and you name it had to pay. TV station licenses, broadcasters, cellular phone people had to pay a lot more. A whole lot more!

But amateur radio operator/station licenses are STILL FREE.

But don't get complacent and start patting yourself on the back. As with everything, there is a hidden cost and one of these days the cost will have to be paid. YOU CAN'T GET SOMETHING FOR NOTHING. That old law has never been repealed. And it's coming due a lot sooner than you think.

When Congress passed the legislation to allow F.C.C. to start collecting money for licenses, even amateur radio was included. Eventually the lobby got their acts together and convinced Congress that amateur licenses should be exempt from this license fee. It became law. Everyone pays but the hams. Why? Because of the "PUBLIC SERVICE and EMERGENCY SERVICE" hams provide to their communities. Only two little reasons killed the charge for ham tickets. Oh there were lots of words bandied about relating to the killing of this cost, but reduced to it's fundamental, it's because of YOUR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC SERVICE (parades, walk-a-thons, etc.) and YOUR PERSONAL PREPAREDNESS FOR EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS.

Years ago, in the late 40's & early 50's, to renew your license, F.C.C. required you to show "PROOF OF OPERATION". This consisted of copies of your log, showing contacts etc. made in the last year, thus proving you were ACTIVE and on the air. That was required. Today some folks don't even keep logs! Wonder how they swap QSL's, or can prove they were NOT on the air during an interference investigation?

Now for the Nitty-gritty. If Congress believed that we hams are ACTIVE in community service, and we are ALL prepared for any emergency, HOW DO YOU STACK UP? Can you show how many public service events you participated in during the past years? How long can you operate your station under truly emergency conditions? Can you prove any of this? How would you validate the belief of Congress that YOU can do it? Is your station in the book of facts?

Those DX hunters, Packeteers, 75-meter nets, jammers, experimenters, UHF record setters, and about all hams will find it hard, if not impossible, to validate the Congressional findings. Logbooks are fine. Volunteering for Public Service will help. Club emergency stations will cut much of it. But when the real proof is required, it will take a lot of YOUR personal effort to validate retention of ham licenses--and frequencies! Think about it.

During 1992, (just around the corner), a lot of BIG MONEY is going to be spent trying to wrestle frequencies away from someone to support someone else's "needs". New African nations need broadcast frequencies. Developing techniques require more frequencies, shipping industries need more frequencies, personal and private requirements must be met somehow. Almost every radio user is in need of "MORE FREQUENCIES"!! Not just in the U.S. of A., but world-wide. Something must give and you know who is the prime candidate. We pay nothing for it, use it poorly, clutter up the air with nonsense, chatter, bad language, and think we deserve it! DOES YOUR RECORD STAND UP TO THAT INSPECTION?

I'm not asking for more volunteers, or more Field Days. I think that it's up to YOU to verify your own qualification for an Amateur License renewal.

And for free at that!! Or would you prefer to return to the 50's and keep a log of your activities just to keep a valid license??

de GIB/W7JIE.