



K7LED RELAY

The Relay is the official tabloid of the Mike and Key Amateur Radio Club. The Mike and Key ARC is dedicated to the growth and betterment of Ham Radio. We meet the third Saturday of every month at the Salvation Army Renton HQ, 720 Tobin St. near McLendon's Hardware store. The club operates repeaters on 53.05, 146.82 (103.5 CTCSS), and 224.12 under the call sign K7LED. The following nets meet on the 146.82 repeater: Club net on Wednesdays at 7:30 PM, Public Service net Thursdays at 7 PM. The Clubs mailing address is PO Box 2121 Kirkland, WA. 98083. All persons interested in Amateur Radio are invited to participate in the Mike and Key Club and it's activities. Yearly dues are: Single \$12, Family \$18.

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BOARD MEETING

On last Tuesday at 7:30 PM
Salvation Army in Renton
Next meeting - Jan. 2 @ 7:30 PM

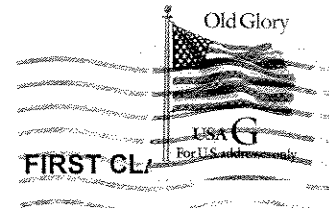
CLUB MEETING

Saturday Dec. 16 at 10:00 AM
Renton Salvation Army HQ
720 Tobin St. Renton
By McLendons Hardware
Doors open at 9:30 for donuts
TALK-IN ON 146.82 RPTR

RELAY DEADLINE

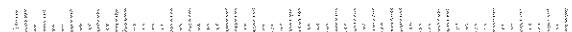
BY THE FIRST OF THE MONTH!

MEETING PROGRAM



K7WTC Life
HEDBERG, PETE
20904 NE 77th ST
REDMOND, WA 98053

CHECK MAILING LABEL FOR DUES EXPIRATION DATE!



The Prez Sez

Submitted by Carolyn/WV7Q

CHRISTMAS? ALREADY? Where will you find your Christmas Spirit this year? I have found mine right here in the members of this club. Have you seen it? Have you noticed the giving that goes on right here, all year long? From this vantage point, I have watched our members jump out of the woodwork to take on remarkable tasks that will benefit us all. Sometimes they mumble that "this is going to be hard", or "I really don't have time for this", but they see a need and somehow find a way to give the time needed to do something wonderful. They suddenly find themselves chairing committees when they wondered if they 'd have enough time just to participate. They come to meetings for six months so all of us can enjoy the benefits of a successful flea market. After saying, "I'll help", they hear, "Where is that Field Day Chairman, anyway?", and they find themselves planning the Field Day we enjoy, with only 6 weeks to do it. They innocently come to a Public Service Committee meeting and find themselves saying, "You need food for 100 people in 2 weeks? My wife and I can prepare that at home if its cost effective." And then they spend hours shopping and doing price comparisons and make a wonderful spread miraculously appear for us all to enjoy. They load themselves down with battery packs, handhelds, and personal survival needs, and show up, rain or shine, at parades, marathons, and races, to provide safety, security and fun, to throngs of strangers they'll never know. They show up at meetings anytime, with little gifts of great joy, "just because it looked like something you'd like." They attend meetings many of us don't even know about, meetings of the WWARA to coordinate our repeaters, meetings of the Fort Flagler Users' Group, planning meetings for Seafair and the USS Missouri, meetings of RACES, ARES, FEMA, and other emergency support groups. We all benefit from their participation, sometimes just through shared knowledge or osmosis. Were you there in October when a brand new member said, "An annual Christmas Party? Sure, I'll plan it!" Did you see how many told him, "I'll help!" Several weeks ago, after waiting 6 years to find someone brave enough to climb my 100 foot pine tree, I had an antenna raising. The ground support crew, M&K members, arrived early Saturday, and some again, early Sunday, alert, enthusiastic and ready to share expertise and brawn to make my dream a reality. Since last Spring, one of our members has

been working on the design of a very special code oscillator for the youth workshop that starts in January. Another member will make the boards. More members will bring their enthusiasm to the meetings and provide that special one on one opportunity that seems so difficult to find between adults and youth anymore.

The Christmas Spirit is alive and well in the Mike and Key Club. It persists year-round. I have found love and friendships here that will last a lifetime. Santa's Mike & Key Elves have been giving to you all year long. You'll recognize them, they're the ones at the Christmas Party, and at the Club meeting, who seem to have "Christmas FEVER." It's easy for them, they have the giving spirit all year long. It's highly contagious. Do yourself a favor, come and get infected, it's a good thing.

From me and mine, to you and yours, wishes for a most wonderful Holiday Season filled with much love and happiness.

Mike and Key Board Meeting**November 28th, 1995**

Submitted by Ryan/N7TNI

Present: President-Carolyn/WV7Q, Vice President-Debbie/KB7QMQ, Secretary - Ryan/N7TNI, Treasurer-Chuck/WA7EBH, Trustee #2-Dan/N7QHC, Trustee #3 - Al/KB7THX, Trustee #4-Chuck/N7STR, Trustee #5-Frank/K7VMG
Visitors were Dawn Humphrey, Frank/KA7QHJ, Ray/WA7EKH, and Robert/AA7ZC.

The meeting was called to order by Al/KB7THX at 1930. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the last meeting as published in the RELAY. After a correction was noted for the meeting date, the minutes were approved as corrected.

Officer Reports:

President: Carolyn/WV7Q - Reported that our ARRL Special Service Club application has been submitted, and gave a copy to the secretary. She asked Chuck/WA7EBH to check on the status of a member who believes he paid his dues, but seems to have been dropped from membership. She has been asked if the Mike and Key club would be interested in purchasing a 286 computer for our club station, or a Heathkit HW-101 radio. Carolyn wrote a letter to the Activity Manager - G. Ray/KB9HHK on behalf of the board, , expressing concern with his attendance at meetings, and his conduct as an elected official of the club. She supplied a copy to the Secretary for the club's

records. G. Ray spoke to Carolyn on the phone after receiving the letter. Carolyn asked the board for guidance in this situation, the By-Laws were reviewed, and discussion followed. The board decided if G. Ray does not attend the December membership meeting, the board will declare the Activity Manager position vacant. The next board meeting they will call for a special election to be held at the January membership meeting to fill the position. Carolyn reported the Youth Activity preparations are going well. The circuit design is almost done, Ray/WA7EKH has will build the circuit boards. Once the board design is finalized, the parts will be ordered, and the Education Committee will make up the parts kits.

Vice President Debbie/KB7QMQ has completed a member information database, and gave a copy to the Secretary. She had four applications for membership, they were: Bob Ovik/W7HDA, Tim Rourke/KC7IYH, Dave Kassens/WB7PCF, and C. 'Ned' Nosler/KC7LRK. After discussion, the board approved the candidates for a membership vote at the December general meeting.

Secretary Ryan/N7TNI: No report.

Act. Manager G. Ray/KB9HHK: Absent..

Radio Officer Ken/K7YR absent.

Chairman of the Board Al/KB7THX received an E-mail message from Tom Sanders/W6QJL, offering Mike and Key members the opportunity to buy the Force 12 antennas used on the Missouri. These are being offered so the manufacturer won't have to ship them back to California. Contact Tom for more information. He will be at the December meeting, and will bring Missouri project items for those who want to purchase them. Al reported that he will not be able to attend the next membership meeting.

Treasurer Chuck/WA7EBH gave the financial report to the board. Financial data will be available for members' review at the next general meeting. Chuck reported that the trustees met for 4 hours and proposed a balanced budget. After discussion, it was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the proposal for vote by the membership at the December meeting. The proposal will be published in the RELAY.

Al/KB7THX questioned the attendance of Radio Officer, Ken/K7YR. He will call Ken, and invite him to attend the next board meeting, Due to the holidays, the next board meeting will be January 2 instead of Dec. 26. Frank/KA7QHJ will coordinate the change with the Salvation Army.

Standing Committee Reports:

Public Service - Dan/N7QHC reported the committee met and discussed the printing of the emergency phone number lists, and what format to use. There is no meeting in December. They would like new input from people who join the committee.

Tech/Spec. Interest - Tom/N7VDU absent.

Ed/Training-Frank/K7VMG warned us not to down load file AOLGOLD.ZIP from on-line services, it contains a virus. Frank will contact Shawn Young and David/KC7FSR about a ham course the YMCA would like to present. David has been given 15 Archie comic books and 2 "Now Your Talking" books Al/KB7THX requested "Now Your Talking" books to donate to Bellevue middle schools. Frank will get the books to Al. The next committee meeting will be Monday, December 4. Carolyn would like to attend the January 8 meeting, and bring parts for the code oscillators for the committee to put the kits together. Ray/WA7EKH will have a No Code Tech class at the Bellevue Senior Center, February 13 through March 25, 2 sessions a week, 1500- 1700. \$26.00 per person for use of the building, and \$19.00 for the Now Your Talking book. Ray is willing to hold classes for other people, if they can be arranged.

Facilities/Publicity - Chuck/N7STR reported the Salvation Army has approved our proposal for a club station building. There are still some details that Chuck will check on before the next committee meeting. There will probably be construction before April, 1996 due to concerns such as weather, funding, and sufficient time to ensure all details are worked out.

Long-Range Planning - Chuck/N7STR reported the committee met November 21, and distributed data from the survey they conducted in October to the individual committee members, for analysis. Chuck reported on some of the responses that came back from the survey

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Good of the order: Remember the Christmas party December 9, 1700, Don Taylor/KC7MPI is chairing this event.

Dan/N7QHC has cast aluminum plaques available, see him for details. Cs areal sign desk plaque for about \$26.00 each, or license plate size for \$22.00.

Ray/WA7EKH stated ARRL handbooks could be sold through the club at a good price. This will be presented at the December meeting. It was moved, seconded and passed to adjourn.

Mike and Key General Membership Meeting
November 18, 1995

Present: Pres. Carolyn/WV7Q, Vice Pres. Debbie/KB7QMQ, Sec. Ryan/N7TNI, Treas. Chuck/WA7EBH, Trustee #1 - Tom/N7VDU, Trustee #2 Dan/N7QHC, Trustee #3 Al/KB7THX, Trustee #4 - Chuck/N7STR, Trustee #5 Frank K7VMG, RELAY Editor Joyce/N7JPW

Call to Order.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Welcome to members. Carolyn/WV7Q welcomed first time visitors, asked them to refrain from voting, and to sign the attendance rosters. Coffee and doughnut fund is self supporting, please remember to donate. Please use the west side of the building for breaks.

Introductions.

Officer's Reports: Pres, Carolyn/WV7Q introduced the M&K internet address, mikeandkey@aol.com. It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the minutes of the November meeting as printed in the RELAY. Carolyn reminded us the M&K is an ARRL affiliated club, and the ARRL is our means of legislative power. Please be a responsible amateur and join the league. The Ham Youth Workshop will be held during the club meetings in January, February, and March 1996. Capacity is limited, so if you would like to sign up a young person between the ages of 6 - 16 to build a code oscillator, please contact Carolyn. There are about ten slots left. In the spirit of keeping the meetings short, Carolyn encouraged officers and committee chairs to submit reports in time for publication in the RELAY. There is a petition in the coffee room that we have been asked to make available for signatures to keep the USS Missouri in this area.

Vice President Debbie/KB7QMQ had the following applications for membership: Katie Taylor/KC7MPH, Cecil Rickard/KC7BYZ. They were voted into membership. She had ARRL, club rosters, and Constitution and By-Laws booklets.

Secretary Ryan/N7TNI received mailings from the Salvation Army, CQ Communications, Bellevue Community College, and ICOM.

Treasurer Chuck/WA7EBH reported the financial status and has the books available for the members to inspect. The budget committee met, and will submit a proposed budget to the board at the next meeting. Christmas Party is December 9.

Act. Manager G. Ray/KB9HHK absent.

Radio Officer Ken/K7YR absent.

COB Al/KB7THX, no report.

Committee Reports:

Education and Training - Frank/K7VMG reported David Lee/KC7FSR requested help to set up a ham radio class at Sunrise Elementary, Kent.

Public Service: Dawn Humphrey announced no meeting until January.

Facilities and Planning - Chuck/N7STR made a presentation to the committee and the board for a structure for a club station at the Salvation Army Headquarters. Proposal has been approved by them. Chuck had the written proposal available for members to examine. Construction probably will not start until April, 1996.

Strategic Planning - Chuck/N7STR reported the committee will meet 1900 Tuesday, November 21, Salvation Army Headquarters. They need help tabulating results of the survey. There is a sign-up sheet for anyone interested in being a 'sponsor' to new members, and could introduce them to the club.

Technical Committee - Tom/N7VDU reported the next meeting is 1 hour before the next board meeting, Tuesday, November 28, Salvation Army Headquarters. They still need more people for the committee. Tom is attempting a Space Shuttle contact at 1105 during the meeting today. He has an antenna set up on top of his table.

ARRL - Harry/W7JWJ reported the FCC has been closed during the past week, due to the budget problems in Washington, DC.

Net Report - Frank/KA7QHJ: Every Wednesday night 1930, K7LED net is held on the club's 146.82 repeater. This is a casual check in net, you can talk about anything you wish, your latest project, ask technical questions, or whatever. The net lasts about an hour or more. If your license doesn't allow you to get on HF, this is a good way to meet new people. If you are available one night every 5 weeks and would like to help out, contact Frank. He needs 2 more operators.

Old Business: The proposal the Mike and Key club jointly sponsor a division HamFest with Radio Club of Tacoma, has been withdrawn.

New Business: Don/KC7MPI volunteered to chair the Christmas Party this year. This will be held here, 1700, December 9. Many members volunteered to help. Club will provide meat and beverages, the rest is pot-luck. There is an optional \$5.00 limit gift exchange. Children are welcome. Please bring canned food for food bank.

Good of the Order: Stephan/KB7WKK announced that Merlin Stricker/KA7GVK became a Silent Key. Stephan will be in the mountains east

of here, and will be on the air on 6M, 2M, 220 MHz, and 440 MHz.

Carolyn/WV7Q announced that members Bill/KD0JU and Mo/WB7RTF will be moving to Colorado. They have been an integral part of community service here for a number of years, and they will be missed. There is a going away party for them tonight at the Golden Steer restaurant in Kent.

Gib/W7JIE donated a Roberts Rules of Order and parliamentary procedure book to the club several years ago. Does anyone know where it is? Gib explained the requirements of the ARRL Special Service club program, and presented an ARRL Special Service Manual to Carolyn for the club. Carolyn reported the club is working on a renewal as a Special Service Club.

Nils/WB7TJK reported on the activities of the ship MS Restoration. Nils, Jo/KB7UFM, and several other hams worked on this ship for over 5 months when it was here. The ship, financed by the Word of Life, a Swedish religious organization, is transporting persecuted Jews out of Russia. They are picked up in Kiev and transported to Haifa, free of charge. Recently, 26 Jews were trapped between two combating factions of Russians. The ship's crew managed to rescue them, and they were taken to Haifa safely.

Dawn Humphrey has badges to be picked up for Carl/WA6SGE, Gordy/WA7ABC, Dick/K7NEX, Al/MPU, Paula/KJ7KD, Don/KB7UYA.

Mary/W7QGP had a printout of all of the ARRL affiliated and Special Service Clubs. The M&K is an ARRL affiliated club. Our Special Service Club report was prepared and mailed after the last board meeting.

It was moved, seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting.

The program, presented by Harry/W7JWJ, was a slide show of M&K activities of Field Days past.

ANTENNA GROUP

Carolyn WV7Q

In August, to reciprocate with the Radio Club of Tacoma, I went with others to represent the M&K Club to help with their Flea Market. It was there that I found out Alan KB7SVU climbs trees and towers and does all kinds of antenna work. He was able to design a special cap and mast assembly for my treetop, climb my tree, and mount

a tribander and an ATV antenna at 95 feet. Some had said it couldn't be done.

Alan would like to form an Antenna Group, a group of Hams who are interested in antenna work and are willing to help him put up antennas for those of us who can't, or just need help. Whether it's a treetop, a tower, or a rooftop, he would like to form a group of volunteers that would be interested in antenna raisings at their convenience. Usually a team of 3 to 5 is all that's needed, and with a list of 10 to 15, there would always be a sufficient number to call on. All that's required is a willingness to learn, and the ability to listen (usually to the guy in the tree). If you know how to solder, read a meter, or climb, that's great, too. Having worked with Alan, I would recommend him highly. He is patient and friendly. Even with the stress of being in that tree for some 6 hours, he was never impatient or demanding. His instructions were precise and his explanations willing and understandable. He was a joy to work with. He never claims to be the expert, and decisions are made by the owner of the equipment. If you'd like to get some serious antenna experience and help get more of us REALLY "on the air," call Alan KB7SVU at 840-4947 and become part of the fun.

CQ WorldWide Contest 1995

Submitted by Michael, WA7UVJ

Fall is the best of seasons for radio if for only one reason - great contests! I gotta admit though, with the current lack of freckles on the sun, I wasn't expecting much action from downtown Kent in the CQ Worldwide Thanksgiving weekend. Boy, was I surprised!

It started out innocently enough. A bunch of locals (including myself) figured that the action would be kinda of slow from the Left Coast so we decided that we would all run "Assisted" mode and connect up through the packetcluster for mutual support. This way, if any DX (rare or otherwise) showed up, we would have a little fun at least.

It started out slow on 15 meters Friday night. Still, it was surprising that anything was getting through as darkness fell on Western Washington and a number of JA's were bagged. Running down to 20 meters, the action was slow but steady. The JA's continued piling in and the Pacific and South America made a show. During this time, the pileups can be pretty hairy and hard to cut with 100 watts but I picked through a couple - trying to keep the attitude that this was for fun. Being connected

through packet into a larger group allowed me to enjoy cruising the bands and putting up spots I couldn't work but the others could (this paid off later as they reciprocated).

By 8PM (local) it was time to hit the low bands as 20M tapered off. Forty meters allowed me to knock off the Caribbean, South American and the occasional JA. My mistake had been in ignoring the spots that had been posted earlier for 40 meters. From past experience, I was used to others being able to the world on 40M while I couldn't even hear a whisper. It was to be a remarkable difference this year as I found out later. By the time I headed for bed at 10PM, I had about 50 Q's in the log - not great but it was fun as we all chatted on packet in between pileups.

Up at 3AM Saturday morning, it was a time to pick up JA's and the South Pacific on 40 and 80 meters. About 6AM the Europeans started showing up on 20 and 15 Meters wasn't much later. Still a lot of competition for the weaker stations, the big boys were easy pickings. A big surprise came through with an easy hit on South Africa at 8AM (I had written off Africa altogether for this contest). The day continued slow and steady through 4PM local time when the rest of the guys started posting their first 24 hour results. Ouch! I was at about half the rate as the others with about 200 contacts. Still - it was fun.

This time, I couldn't ignore the spots coming over on 40 meters. I went down early - it was still daylight - and worked Germany, Hungary, and Poland within 10 minutes with 100 watts and a poorly rigged vertical. (Shoot! I couldn't even remember ever hearing Europe on 40 meters before.) Jack/WA0RJY posted that he had started hearing Europe on 40 just after noon local time on 40 with his good antennas. I became a believer that anything was possible. Several more Europeans fell before the band finally closed. The rest of evening was spent picking up JA's, SA, and the Pacific in between watching a few TV shows. Back to bed at 10PM and up at 3AM.

The early morning brought few surprises on the low bands and out of idle curiosity I scanned 20 meters on a regular basis while watching the rain in the streetlight outside. Hearing whispers, I pointed the beam north and found Europeans on 20 meters at 5AM local time. I couldn't work 'em but I posted them any way and a few of the (surprised) gang popped and woke up Europe to the fact that 7 land was on the air. Within a half hour, even I could work Europe and the multipliers rolled in on 20M with the occasional drop onto 40M to pick up the

odd Pacific station. As Europe closed down in mid-morning, I spent the rest of the day working the lower power DX stations that had been buried in massive pileup the previous 2 days. Later, 40M reared its head again as it opened into Europe early.

Oh! 10 meters? There wasn't much of any 10 meter action this year. It was sorta like a "spirit" band with strange whispers. A couple South Americans did break through momentarily but without the packet spots would've been hard to notice.

In the end, I had about 320 QSO's during about 26 hours of operation. That included 68 separate countries (many worked on multiple bands). I got whooped bad by the rest of the group but that didn't matter. The combination of surprising band conditions and group comraderie made it a contest I'll never forget. It was a lot of fun just posting stations and watching several in the group swoop in like hawks and knock off a new one. I did it myself and lots of times you found yourself competing against others in the clan to see who could break the pileup first.

I will admit - I have always thought of testers who went "assisted" as being less than true to the art. I have now been converted and while I may not always do this type of operation, it was a fun change of pace. I have new respect for these operators. Looking for a new type of contest experience? Try hooking up with a packetcluster and going "assisted".

Facilities Committee Report

N7STR, Chuck

The Salvation Army has given us approval to construct Storage and Ham Shack, as presented in our latest proposal. The construction is scheduled for April of 1996. A facilities committee meeting will be held prior to the Dec. 16 General Meeting at 9:15 AM. All interested are encouraged to attend.

WHERE ARE YOU?

Submitted by Gib/W7JIE

In most discussions you can usually tell about a person in just a few words. What kind of person are you? Take this simple test and with an honest answer you can identify where you are.

People with great minds talk about **IDEAS**.
 People with average minds talk about **EVENTS**.
 People with small minds talk about **PEOPLE**.

Hope you are not disappointed.

I WONDER-----

Submitted by Gib/W7JIE

My wife and I have traveled extensively on AMTRAK across the country visiting relatives (can't afford the trip unless we can bum free board and room off those unsuspecting folks!). While traveling I take my IC2-GAT along to monitor AMTRAK operating frequencies. Provides a nice change of traveling. But while in vicinity of many population areas, I also try a bit of "hamming". It's amazing to me how few responses I get on repeaters. Try calling for a response and I usually end up with dead air. In some of the unlikely spots I'll get a contact but mostly not. Which brings me to the whole point.

Have YOU responded to a "stranger" calling on the repeater? DO you fear that a call might generate a responsible answer? Who knows--the caller might be in need. Wants to know something about the area. Where is the repeater located? Who is the sponsor? How do I get to someplace? Or maybe the caller is just needing someone to talk to after driving a ga-zillion miles today. Everyone can't monitor '82 all the time but when you can cover the frequency, be a good M&K ham and respond to "stranger" calls. It might even be a call from a millionaire who wants to give you some bucks!

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

N7STR, Chuck

The committee has met twice since the survey was done at the October meeting. Answers are tallied and the committee will begin meeting again after the holidays to analyze the raw data, formulate conclusions, and determine appropriate goals for TODAY's membership.

Sweepstakes 1995

Submitted by Michael, WA7UVJ

Hope you had a chance to join in the Mike & Key Sweepstakes effort this year. Looks like a number of club members managed to get on one or both weekends. On CW, I worked Mike/KA7CSE Sunday and heard from Brian/N7RVD that he made it. John/K17OT was expected to get on CW though I haven't heard if he actually got on. On the SSB side, I found Al/KB7THX calling CQ on 40M Saturday night and then Case W6PKW and

Jim/K7ND reported that they made a splash as well with a couple hundred Q's each. All in all - a good turnout!

Myself, I tried to put in a serious (?) effort on CW for the whole weekend and dragged up about 522 Q's and 68 sections. Not great but acceptable. Sure would like to get a clean sweep someday. The SSB effort was mainly to earn a pin and lasted just a few hours late Saturday and on Sunday (had to work Saturday anyway). It came out to about 108 Q's and a couple dozen sections. I know most of the other club members did better than that. The SSB effort was also a chance to try out a new logger (more on that later).

Now, if you worked either Sweepstakes event, PLEASE send in your logs to the ARRL and be sure to mention your score counts towards the Mike & Key Club score - both modes get added in together for a combined total. In about six months, we oughta see how we stack against the competition. Thanks to all who participated - it was beyond my expectations. Maybe next year we can get a few more people off the repeater and on the air.

Wanted - CQ article

Submitted by Michael, WA7UVJ.

I understand that in 1990, CQ magazine published an article on a tetrode power amplifier design. I think it was June or July of that year. If you have a collection of CQ's (I don't save mine very long), I would appreciate a photocopy of that article from someone. I am not sure of the date of the article so I could be off a year or two but I am sure it was from the 90's.

Good tetrode designs are rare for HF amplifiers these days. I wasn't aware of this article until I made an inquiry on the Internet Contest Reflector. It is supposed to be a good design. Since that was just before I obtained some tetrodes that I would like to make into an amp - I probably ignored the article. My address - 637 2nd Ave S, Kent, 98032-6137. Thanks for any help.

**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS
TO ALL**

Software Review - TR Logger

Submitted by Michael, WA7UVJ

My copy of NA has been getting a little dated lately and I have been looking around for something new. (I know - if it ain't broke, don't fix it). I've looked into the WRITELOG program that works under Windows but it wasn't quite right for me. I read a review of TR (written by N6TR) in NCJ that sounded good and John/KI7OT said he had bought a copy and liked it. Fifty dollars later and just before SSB Sweepstakes, I had my own (version 5.51).

First a caveat (I have learned the hard way). TR is an extremely versatile and flexible program. It was designed to control two radios at once and log stations with a minimum of keystrokes. These keystrokes do not match up with the "standards" of CT or NA. It has some NEAT features. This flexibility comes with a price. Figure on spending hours to get the configuration file to your liking if you want to run CW. (SSB isn't quite so bad since you don't generate code.) I still haven't got mine right. There are other problems as well.

First, I attempted to perform the installation as instructed by the manual. Following the on-screen instructions, I thought I must have made a wrong answer as it quit the install process. Two more tries with the same result, I gave up and just copied the files over to my harddrive. Heading over to update my computer's AUTOEXEC.BAT file I found that the install program had ERASED it! Hmmmmm! OK, I can recover but score a technical foul against TR.

Configuring the program for Sweepstakes (SSB) went easily and, I ran TR for my 100+ QSO's. The program has a neat BANDMAP feature that stores the frequency of stations (use a computer controlled radio) as you go up and down the band. The stations stay on the map for an hour (changing colors to indicate age) before clearing off. If you already worked a station - it gets an asterisk. This is neat because you can identify stations you've already worked as you roll up and down the band. Pileup was too big to crack last pass? Just click on that station in the bandmap later and the radio pops right on the station again. Because CW wasn't required, the operation was pretty straight forward, yet after the contest - cracks again appeared in the facade. I couldn't get a summary sheet to print out with my results. I had to create my own - a slight but nagging headache.

Two weeks later was the big test - CQWW on CW. I spent three hours getting ready. The

program needed to talk to my packet TNC, the radio, and send CW. It seems to be OK. Sure is hard getting those key combinations down for CW. Still it shouldn't take long and the contest won't be that hectic. Well, one hour into the contest, I was dumping my Q's to the printer and starting up NA (I lost an hour of contesting time switching and reentering my data into NA.) Reflecting upon it later, I feel my main problems were not having the configuration file fully correct. Talking to others who use the program, it seems to be a major undertaking that, once finished, allows for very efficient operation. Still..... I remain doubtful.

Fortunately, the reputation of N6TR is high and the program comes with a year of free upgrades (from a BBS). Reading the news on the Internet reflector for TR, enhancements and fixes (for the install and summary) may be already available. I sure like that bandmap and missed it during the CQWW so I will spend a few more hours getting the configuration file setup right. I do not recommend this program for the neophyte contester at this time but I have few doubts as to the capability of the author. If you are computer experienced and patient - you may wish to give it a try. A limited free version is available (version 4.05) from the TR BBS, (503) 658-6116, but does not have the bandmap and other features. TR is distributed by George Fremin, 913 Ramona St, Austin, TX 78704 for \$50 plus \$3 shipping. You probably will not find advertisements in the major Ham rags but they are in NCJ. A favorable review is published in the MAY/JUNE 1993 copy of NCJ.

1996 ARRL HANDBOOK

Submitted by Ray, WA7EKH

The Mike and Key has the opportunity to purchase publications from the ARRL at bulk rate prices.

In as much as I have a collection of ARRL Handbooks that date back to 1965 I would like to continue this collection, however, the price of the 1996 Handbook is now increased to \$38.00 + \$6.00 shipping. This outrageous (I think).

This '96 Handbook has a lot going for it. There was a lot of re-write as of '95 and this edition now contains "SOFTWARE" for the first time and a lot of other new stuff.

OK, here is the pitch!! ARRL has a large "order list" and you can obtain a price reduction if you buy enough of an item. The 1996 Handbook price is: Retail \$38.00 - 1-9 books \$28.50; 10-49

books \$25.35; 50-99 books \$24.32 and 100 or more \$22.80.

I believe that there are at least 10 members that would be interested in buying a Handbook if they could get it at \$25.35. This includes shipping. I know of two of us who already want a book, so, are there eight more out there that are interested. If so bring your checkbook to the December meeting and we will get an order sent in.

1996 Budget Proposal

Submitted by Chuck/WA7EBH

The trustees meet in November and prepared the 1996 budget for the club. The meeting lasted over 4 hours and a lot of effort went into the planning.

The proposed budget was approved for submittal to the General Membership by action of the Executive Board during the December Board Meeting.

Some of the Highlights are as follows:

Revenue (Income)

Due to increased costs of the Fairgrounds, our Flea Market income will be down this year. Next year (97) we will have to raise our prices.

In October of 96 we will pull out the interest from our CD to help in the General Account before reinvesting the principle.

Expenses (Outgo)

Due to reduced income this year, we have had to cut back some of our programs. Included in this cutback are the following:

Field Day, all parties using the wagon wheel and barracks will pay the going camping rate. There will be no free camping this year. Also buying of any new equipment for use will be limited.

Committees, all have about the same amount with the education and training increased to cover the proposed code key project of WV7Q's.

Public Relations includes \$250 donation for the AMSAT OSCAR program, as voted on by the club this fall.

All other programs were near their previous levels with a little inflation factor thrown in for good measure.

This budget will be voted on as a whole, since the club members had a chance to get input thru the Board of Directors.

WANTED: AN EDITOR

It's been fun folks, but our time is becoming scarce and the March 1996 edition of the K7LED RELAY will be the last one we will be publishing.

Are there any inspiring or creative folks out in radio land that are willing to take on the task of editing this publication?

The time commitment is about 15 hours a month plus a few trips to the copy center and post office to mail the newsletter.

We are willing to help the new person get started and have some software items and logos that could be shared.

Please contact the current editor, Joyce, N7JPW or the Board if you are interested.

WANTED: FLEA MARKET HELPERS

The club is looking for a lot of good people willing to dedicate long hours for little pay. (Isn't everyone?) We need a lot of help putting on this years great event. There will be sign up sheets at the next club meeting, so you can schedule yourself a work slot. If you can't make the meeting and would like to help, please call one of the chairpersons listed below.

Facilities and setup	Hal	N7NW	549-4178
Announcing	Al	KB7THX	747-5192
Table Sales	Diane	KB7DME	854-4031
Ticket Sales	Jo	KB7UFM	242-8271
Country Store	John	WA7HQG	783-2489
Staging and pallets	Frank	KA7QHG	243-9232
Security	Ray	WA7EKH	821-4188
VE Exams	Jim	K7ND	549-4062
ARRL Sales	Kathy	KB7QMO	631-5370
General Chairman	Chuck	WA7EBH	392-53

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Submitted by Joyce/N7JPW

What a nice time by all. Thank-you to Don/KC7MPI and his committee who did an outstanding job. There was a good attendance and lots to eat. We were entertained by a great youth choir followed by a fun gift exchange. Those not there missed a good time.

1996 BUDGET PROPOSAL	1994		1995		1996	
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	Actual/Projected 10-95	Proposed	Actual/Projected 10-95	Proposed
<u>REVENUE</u>						
DUES	\$2,115.00	\$2,114.00	\$1,900.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,900.00	\$2,000.00
FIELD DAY CAMPING			\$6.00		\$6.00	
FLEA MARKET	11,072.00	10,288.00	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00
INTEREST	596.00	600.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
MISCELLANEOUS	2.00	100.00	\$133.00	\$222.00	\$133.00	\$222.00
BADGES-NAME TAGS	75.00	75.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
RAFFLE	325.00	325.00	\$197.00	\$200.00	\$197.00	\$200.00
CD CASHOUT				\$2,000.00		\$2,000.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$14,185.00	\$13,502.00	\$9,286.00	\$11,522.00	\$9,286.00	\$11,522.00
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>						
FIELD DAY						
GAS	\$0.00	\$55.00	\$22.00	\$50.00	\$22.00	\$50.00
CAMPING (W.W. & Bks.)		500.00	\$392.00	\$150.00	\$392.00	\$150.00
TRAILER FEES	0.00	75.00	\$210.00	\$50.00	\$210.00	\$50.00
TOW VEHICLE	128.00	75.00		\$50.00		\$50.00
PARTY EXPENSE	150.00	200.00	\$160.00	\$150.00	\$160.00	\$150.00
SANI-CAN	220.00	230.00	\$220.00	\$250.00	\$220.00	\$250.00
OTHER EXPENSES (REPAIR)	322.00	350.00	\$205.00	\$100.00	\$205.00	\$100.00
PARK RESERVATION FEES	84.00	90.00	\$195.00	\$200.00	\$195.00	\$200.00
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES		500.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
BUG SPRAYING			\$385.00	\$400.00	\$385.00	\$400.00
FIELD DAY TOTAL	\$904.00	\$2,075.00	\$1,789.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,789.00	\$1,500.00
PICNIC						
FOOD AND POP	\$231.24	\$300.00	\$248.00	\$200.00	\$248.00	\$200.00
OTHER EXPENSES						
PICNIC TOTAL	\$231.24	\$300.00	\$248.00	\$200.00	\$248.00	\$200.00
COMMUNITIES						
TECHNICAL & SPECIAL INTEREST	\$0.00	\$80.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
PUBLIC SERVICE	0.00	80.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
EDUCATION & TRAINING	0.00	80.00	\$52.00	\$500.00	\$52.00	\$500.00
STRATEGIC PLANNING	0.00	80.00	\$9.00	\$100.00	\$9.00	\$100.00
FACILITIES & PUBLICITY	0.00	80.00	\$7.00	\$100.00	\$7.00	\$100.00
TOTAL	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$68.00	\$900.00	\$68.00	\$900.00

1996 BUDGET PROPOSAL	1994 ACTUAL	1995 BUDGET	1995 ACTUAL (10/95)	1996 PROPOSED
CHRISTMAS PARTY PARTY	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$250.00
CHRISTMAS PARTY TOTAL	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$250.00
BANQUET				
AWARDS	\$180.00	\$200.00	\$150.00	\$250.00
PRIZES	600.00	600.00	\$600.00	\$500.00
ENTERTAINMENT }*				
OTHER EXPENSES }*		125.00	\$32.00	\$50.00
BANQUET TOTAL	\$780.00	\$925.00	\$782.00	\$800.00
*Combined for 1994				
RELAY and ROSTER				
POSTAGE	\$650.00	\$700.00	\$800.00	\$750.00
PRINTING	1,581.00	1,600.00	\$900.00	\$1,000.00
SUPPLIES	0.00	50.00	\$45.00	\$50.00
RELAY TOTAL	\$2,231.00	\$2,350.00	\$1,745.00	\$1,800.00
FACILITIES				
UNANTICIPATED EXPENSE	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
MEETING HALL RENT	900.00	1,080.00	\$1,080.00	\$1,100.00
GOODNEIGHBOR CENTER	300.00	300.00	\$500.00	\$200.00
STORAGE LOCKER			\$240.00	\$500.00
FACILITY RENTAL TOTAL	\$1,200.00	\$1,430.00	\$1,820.00	\$1,850.00
REPEATER				
SITE RENTAL	\$360.00	\$360.00	\$450.00	\$360.00
REPAIR	395.00	200.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
OTHER EXPENSES	0.00	50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	0.00	250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
NEW EQUIPMENT	527.00	500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL REPEATER	\$1,282.00	\$1,360.00	\$450.00	\$510.00

1996 BUDGET PROPOSAL	1994 ACTUAL	1995 BUDGET	1995 ACTUAL (10/95)	1996 PROPOSED
MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS				
OFFICERS EXPENSES	\$84.00	\$100.00	\$102.00	\$100.00
STATE FILING FEE	10.00	10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00
BANK SERVICE CHARGES	71.00	25.00	\$40.00	\$50.00
TRAILER LICENSES (2)	49.00	55.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
INSURANCE	252.00	275.00	\$275.00	\$300.00
WWARA MEMBERSHIP	24.00	12.00	\$24.00	\$12.00
PRINTING (NON RELAY)	14.00	100.00	\$130.00	\$100.00
PUBLIC RELATIONS	729.00	1000.00	\$1,832.00	\$800.00
GUEST SPEAKER	0.00	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
P.O BOX	35.00	35.00	\$40.00	\$40.00
UNANTICIPATED EXPENSES	550.00	250.00	\$600.00	\$250.00
NAME TAGS-BADGES	842.00	500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
CAPITOL EXPENSES	0.00	2000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
TOTAL MISC.	\$2,660.00	\$4,362.00	\$3,103.00	\$3,712.00

EXPENSE SUMMARY	1994 ACTUAL	1995 BUDGET	1995 ACTUAL (10/95)	1996 PROPOSED
FIELD DAY TOTAL	\$904.00	\$2,075.00	\$1,789.00	\$1,500.00
PICNIC TOTAL	231.24	300.00	248.00	200.00
COMMITTEES	0.00	400.00	68.00	900.00
CHRISTMAS PARTY TOTAL	300.00	300.00	300.00	250.00
BANQUET TOTAL	780.00	925.00	782.00	800.00
RELAY TOTAL	2,231.00	2,350.00	1,745.00	1,800.00
HALL RENTAL TOTAL	1,200.00	1,430.00	1,820.00	1,850.00
TOTAL REPEATER	1,282.00	1,360.00	450.00	510.00
TOTAL MISC.	2,660.00	4,362.00	3,103.00	3,712.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$9,588.24	\$13,502.00	\$10,305.00	\$11,522.00

RECAP	1994 ACTUAL	1995 BUDGET	1995 ACTUAL (10/95)	1996 PROPOSED
TOTAL INCOME	\$14,185.00	\$13,502.00	\$9,286.00	\$11,522.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	(9,588.24)	(13,502.00)	(10,305.00)	(11,522.00)
PROFIT OR (LOSS)	\$4,596.76	\$0.00	(\$1,019.00)	\$0.00