



K7LED Relay

Volume 25, Number 1

Page 1 of 5

January, 1997

The Prez Sez

Carolyn, WV7Q

The New Year is here and the Mike & Key is already in a dead run! Are you part of the action yet? Participating is good, but being part of the planning is GREAT! Come and be part of the Excitement! All of these activities are happening NOW, and your participation can only make them better. Call the member listed, (or ME), if you have any questions, or to let them know you'll help.

The Mike and Key Electronics Flea Market, (the largest West of the Mississippi) is only weeks away. Look for the sign up sheets at the General Meeting. They will need everyone of us doing two or three tasks each to make it all happen. (Chuck, WA7EBH - 392-5303)

The Public Service Committee will be compiling the Amateur Radio Community Service Pamphlet, 5000 of them (this year for the first time) for distribution at the Flea Market. Their next meeting is 7:00 PM on Jan 21st at the Tukwila Denny's. Come lend a hand! This can be a great family activity, no Ham knowledge is required, but you sure can learn a lot! (Jeremy, WA7YGB - 226-2856)

The Technical Committee is peaking and tweaking the new radios for our new operating station. They will also be evaluating, selecting, and building, the needed antennas. There will also be interaction with our newly formed **Repeater Committee**. (Jim, W7FKI - 838-8453)

The Facilities Committee has purchased the lumber and is busily designing the operating station that they will build in "the Closet" at the Salvation Army. How are you with a hammer? a skill saw? Are you looking for experience putting up antennas and building an operating station? Here's a great ground floor opportunity for you. There will be a real feeling of satisfaction for these folks, each time a member gets a chance to operate the new station. (Al, KB7THX - 747-5192)

The Education Committee is beginning their 6 month build it program at this month's meeting. In January and February, interested members will be given instructions on shopping at the Mike and Key Flea Market for some of the parts needed to build a Receiver Kit in March and April. Then, at Field Day, the opportunity to build a One Watt Transmitter and Antenna, and participate in a QRP contest. (Frank, K7VMG - 891-1058)

I look forward to getting to know some of you better as we work together folding, tweaking, building, climbing, soldering, collating, hammering, promoting and assembling a great organization for us all.

Grinch Busters

Dan, N7QHC

One week before Christmas and the Grinch struck the Salvation Army Red Kettle drive from our Corps!

Mailing Address
PO Box 2121
Kirkland, WA 98083
Internet Address
mikeandkey@aol.com

RELAY Editor
Jack Grimmitt (N7IHS)
18128 SE May Valley Rd.
Renton, WA 98059

Telephone
(206) 392-9510

Fax
(206) 392-5871

e-mail
grimmitt@halcyon.com

Hearing this, a small band of community service minded hams, mostly from the Mike and Key, rallied forces and fielded "Kettle-Watchers" under Capt. Hal's blessings.

This is a heartfelt "thank you" to you faithful volunteers (you know who you are) who selflessly spent one or more evenings making sure all those bell-ringers were safe and able to bring back those much needed donations. There weren't any more kettle thefts that we know of, so perhaps our "elves" were just what was needed.



New Members

Congratulations to the newest members of the Mike & Key ARC.

Alan Hughes, KB7SVU

Tressie Hughes, KC7BAL

Peter Wood, KB9MLT

David Swartz, KC7RRH

approved 1-18-97

General Meeting Minutes, 12/18/96

Melissa, KB7TFF

Officers present: President - Carolyn (WV7Q), Vice President - Frank (K7VMG), Secretary - Melissa (KB7TFF), Treasurer - Chuck (WA7EBH), Activities - Mike (N7GVQ), Radio Officer - Harry (W7JWJ), Trustee #2 - Mary (W7QGP), Trustee #3 - Al (KB7THX), Trustee #4 - Jeremy (WA7YGB), Trustee #5 - Chuck (N7STR), RELAY Editor - Jack (N7IHS).

Officer Reports

President: Carolyn (WV7Q) reminded everybody that the coffee fund is self-supporting, and to take breaks on the West side of the building so as not to be in front of the chapel entrance. Carolyn asked

that all be responsible amateurs and to join the ARRL as they are our weight with the government. Don't forget the vote is coming up for Division Director. She also reminded all to sign the roster, quickly today so that we could tell if there is a quorum present for the election of a new Trustee #1 during the Chairman of the Board's report.

Corrections to the minutes were: Under Treasurer's report: \$2000 not \$2900 was reinvested at 6%. The \$2900 interest was put into the 1997 budget. The minutes were approved as amended. Also, today, the treasurer, Chuck (WA7EBH) must leave early so make sure you conduct any business with him before 10:45.

The input box is for any new or old business not currently on the President's agenda.

Bob (WA7OXN) became a Silent Key, and the Club gave a moment of silence in honor thereof.

There are 2 new Life Members today who have been Mike and Key members for 25 consecutive years. They are: Ray (WA7EKH) and John (K7PFR).

The second build-it project was a great success. There is still one kit left, if you want it see Caroline (WV7Q). There are 2 new build-it projects planned. In Jan/Feb. there will be instructions on shopping at the Flea Market for parts needed to build a receiver kit. Later in the year near Field Day there will be a project building a 1 watt transmitter and antenna to operate QRP at Field Day.

Vice President: Frank (K7VMG) presented some applicants for membership. They were: Fred N7QBD (N/P), Paul EA8BPW (N/P) and Melodie (N/P), Esther KC7RSW (NP), Allen KB7SVU, Tressie KC7BAL, David KC7RRH, Peter KB9MLT. Those present were voted into membership.

Treasurer: Chuck (WA7EBH) announced that the books are open for any and all who would like to peruse them, however he will be leaving at 10:45, and Jack (KB7ZS) will take over. January 2nd will be the next Flea Market meeting at the Salvation Army at 720 Tobin in Renton. The budget has been approved by the Board for presentation to the General Membership. There was no discussion on the budget, and the budget passed unopposed.

Activities: Mike (N7GVQ) announced that the year-end drawing winner was Ward (W7GEY) who was presented with his prize of a 1997 ARRL Handbook.

Radio Officer: Harry (W7JWJ) notified everyone that he received the check for the WWARA to pay for the club repeater. He also announced that the PANSAT is a new satellite operating spread spectrum. Harry has repeater lists and Amateur related web sites if you want them. Harry reminded everyone that his 13 wpm incentive is still open. Anyone who can copy 5 minutes solid copy will be awarded an ARRL life membership.

Christmas Party: Many thanks were given to Frank (KA7QHJ) and an interesting gift of some "Rainbeer Rootbeer" was presented. There are copies of the 12 Days of Christmas if you want them.

Chairman of the Board: The club has a Kenwood TS-440 to lock up in the Club closet, which is the last closet next to the door leading outside. The Club also has a 2m/440 FM Kenwood 733, and a 2m/440 beam antenna for installation on the roof of the Salvation Army. The club still needs an HF antenna.

Three members are needed to serve on the audit committee, to work along with the 2 Board members selected. The 3 volunteers were: Mike (KB7YXB), Bob (WB7QNB), and Peter (KB9MLT).

The Club needs a motor home for the Fleamarket talk-in, and have several volunteers, many thanks were given.

Tom (N7VDU) submitted his resignation, which was accepted by the Board. The new Trustee #1 elected at the meeting is Sam (N7RHE).

The Technical and Facilities committee are working together on the closet, and the Public Service committee is working on the Club Web Page and Public Service book.

Announcements:

Two less Hams: Leonard (W7JHY) and Marve Leason(?) Gleason (?), call unknown by the secretary or announcer.

Contact Dan (N7QHC) if you want to help with the Kettlewatch for the Salvation Army.

This is the last chance before Christmas to get all those Christmas gifts from the Logo Committee.

Bill (KL7BB) found a better solution for 4 parts on the build-it project. The diodes were not tested, and as a result, some did not work. In addition Bill suggested switching capacitors. Bill (KL7BB) has the capacitors and diodes, in addition to schematic layouts for the direction finders.

If you ordered a build-it kit, and have not picked it up yet, see Caroline (WV7Q).

QST/NCJ/QEX has now come out with CD-ROM with all the magazine material dating back to the 1950s.

The next Board Meeting will be on January 8, at 7:30 PM at the Salvation Army.

The meeting adjourned at 11:04 AM.

Vanity Lottery

Michael, N7WA



Twenty four years ago, I spent 6 grueling weeks waiting for my first call as a Novice. Now, a "grizzled" old timer (though not as old as Gib) I have just finished subjecting myself to the same miserable wait with about 5,000 other Extra Class Hams across the country and at least three others in this Club. Thankfully... never again. What was the cause of this occasion? Only the opening of Gate 2 in our governments latest money making scheme - the Vanity Callsign Program.

It all started a couple years ago as the idea of being able to pick your own call resurfaced at the FCC

when new computers were brought on line. First, we had to wait for the program to be defined and a cost to be determined (\$150 at one time). Then we had to wait for the new 610V to be designed and printed. Finally, we had to wait while gates 1 and 1A (Clubs and Relatives) were processed. Finally, in September, the FCC announced that applications from Extras would be accepted on September 23rd.

Then the madness began. Should I or shouldn't I change calls? How do I make sure the application arrives on time? What calls should I pick for my 25 choices? Should I use the new electronic 610V? The Internet Amateur Radio reflectors buzzed with Vanity related messages to the point of driving those uninterested to the point of madness. I finally made my choices and a trek to the Post Office the Friday before the gate opened. A number of bucks later, my application was guaranteed to arrive on time and the sweating began. Not hearing much locally, I had secret hopes that not many would apply. Then, at the Club meeting I heard that Mellissa Donomirski had applied for my #1 choice as well (K7MD). Well, hopefully one of us would get it. Then Jeremy comes up and he has some of my same high choices - this is not looking good folks - two other people in the same Club with the same idea. How many others were there? Well, the Internet gave the answer on September 24th - over 4500 first day applications. Plus, it was so overwhelming that the FCC estimated a couple weeks to process the paperwork. Then it was three weeks, four weeks, and then the computer broke down..... the rumor mills exploded and all I could do was sweat and try not to think about it.

It all ended with a whimper instead of a bang - on election night of all times. I was headed for bed and went to check the packet cluster for any messages. Huh? there's a file on node containing all the first day calls and it's big! So, I begin the long download on packet. (It would've been quicker on the Internet). Hundreds of calls go by sorted by suffix. Most of my choices were going along with them. K7MD went to some guy in Utah - ouch! As the calls go by, my stomach gets a sinking feeling and I wonder if I got any of my choices. We reach the U's and I hit a wrong key on packet and the download aborts - argghh! I gotta start all over! Diane goes to bed with a "I'm not going to watch this twice". I don't blame her as my stomach twists again and I replay the entire list. Finally, we get past the point of my previous mistake and I watch the final calls go by. There it is! Me ... N7WA, hey, that's not bad. I had forgot about that one even though it was fourth on my list. Whew! I'm glad that's over..... "Hey Diane!....."

So, I will always remember Election Day 1996 - certainly not for the politics but for suspense of a better kind. That suspense was repeated for others as well. Mellissa, unfortunately, missed out having only picked two choices and the first one (K7FF) was gone before Gate 2 opened. Jeremy now has W7YG, a variation of his old call. Bill Freyfogle, a new member with a 6 call he kept quiet about finally

sounds like a native with N7MS (close to my second choice of N7MD). Hope I haven't missed any others.

My first chance to use the call was the SSB Sweepstakes. Talk about rough. It was difficult to roll that call off the tongue unless I was thinking about it. I guess I had 24 years to get used to WA7UVJ; I can take a few weeks to unlearn it. Fortunately, my fist has a better memory than my mouth so I anticipate fewer problems in the CQWW. Next up? The second days worth of Gate 2 applications are still waiting to be processed as litigation is rearing its ugly head over first days results. Gate 3 for Advanced Class ops seems a long way off at this point. Still, my wait is over, Christmas came early, and I have a neat new contesting call which I hope I will be able to use longer than the first one. Maybe you'll be able to try it yourself in 1997 - good luck if you do. Now, where was that QSL card order form?

Dang Floppy Discs

Gib, W7JIE

I was really smart!! I purchased a bunch of 3 1/2 inch floppy discs at the Flea Market (M&K of course). Thought I was getting a bargain. Gosh all them thar discs fer just a little money! Who can lose?



Found out I could. The computer wouldn't even "format" most of the danged things! It gave me all kinds of excuses. Not to be defeated by a simple computer, I thought I'd try something smart. So I took a little weak magnet and opened the "gate" on the floppy. Holding the gate open, I put the magnet over the access hole (where the computer reads information), and then spun the disk 4 or 5 times.

Now I tried to format the disc. Sunnagun!! It worked!! Tried it with 3 or 4 others. Same procedure and same results. Ah-ha, this is some smart trick for M&K ARC members.

Obviously, however, the solution is rather simple. When the original disc would not even "format", the computer claimed bad media or track zero is bad or some other reason. But the media of the disc looked good to me. So let's erase all possible information or whatever on the disc (with the weak magnet), spin the disc a few times to cover all possible spots on the media, and then see if it works.

After "cleaning" the disc, I then tried to "format" it. "Ok" said the computer and formatted it with no errors. Then I ran it thru a small program called "Scandisk" which in turn gave the now clean disc a good reading. I've used these reclaimed, resurrected, and reconstituted operating discs a few times and found out that my bargain purchase, after a little work, was well worth the cabbage leaves I spent. Hope it fits for you.

Fleamarket Sign-ups

Michael, N7WA

The start of the New Year means that the Mike & Key Electronics Show and Fleamarket is only 10 week away. This years event will be held, as usual, in Puyallup on March 8th. Table sales are strong and interest is about normal except in one area....worker sign-up.

There are approximately 200 members in this Club. At this time, less than 40 people (not all Club members) have signed up to indicate any interest in working the event. That works out to less than 2 out of 10, or 20%, of the Club membership. I can forgive new members for being hesitant as this is something new. The rest of us have been here before and know the importance of supporting this event.

This Hamfest provides the funds required to run this Club from year to year. (Forget your dues as they don't even make up the cost of publishing the RELAY.) On top of the RELAY there is the rental costs of the Salvation HQ, Field Day, the Picnic, the Banquet, capital equipment, Public Service support, the repeaters (now there's a hunk of change), and just about anything else the membership dreams up. I belong to another local club who's activities are restricted by what comes in as dues and it costs me \$25 a year. All this Club asks is \$12 and a few hours of rewarding work.

What kind of work? We need people to push pallet jacks, sell and take tickets, Public Address announcers, Country Store clerks, Radio talk-in, Registration, Security, Setup, and Teardown. Granted, some of these positions require muscle and others are out in the possibly cold and wet outdoors. Still, there are plenty of openings for the couch potato and those who have an adversity to fresh air. If you are new and hesitate to volunteer, please relax. We will not put you anywhere that will cause loss of sleep and there are plenty of "Elmers" to provide direction.

The Sign-up book will be going around the next Club meeting as it has for the past four months. Following the January sign-up period, I will be making up the worker badges for distribution at the February meeting. Passing out the badges early has worked out *great* the past two years. It's good for you because you don't have to hunt up someone to get your badges (can't get in without one) and it gives the Job Chairs a good view of who's available and how to schedule their resources.

As always, being a worker gets you in free and early access to the goodies. It also makes you part of the biggest Hamfest in the Pacific Northwest. Best of all, it says you are an active member of this Club and you support it. Else... why belong?

January Meeting Program

Mike N7GVQ

Our program for the January Meeting will focus on

a subject that is near and dear to all Field Day enthusiasts, Generator Safety. I'm told our speaker from Puget Power is a retiree who logged over 40 years with the company, so I'm certain that he has numerous real life accounts of the "do's" and "do not do's" of dealing with Electrical Generation to share with us. You owe it to yourself to attend and be edified about this all too important topic!

Buy, Sell, Trade, or Wanted



This column is available members and relatives or friends of member (no dealers please) who have electrical/electronic equipment (including computers and software) related to Amateur radio for sale or trade. Ads will be run for two months unless the editor is notified otherwise.

Estate Sale

The following are from an estate sale. For further information or to see the equipment, please contact Charles Stroehner WA7EBH at 392-5303. Prices are asking prices.

- * Yaesu FT101 160-10 Meters plus WARC low hours — \$400
- * AEA PK-80 Packet — \$125
- * Auto Tuneup scope — \$50
- * VHF tuneable monitor receiver — \$25
- * Public Address system — \$50
- * Various clock radios and stereos — \$10 to \$50
- * CB Radios — \$10
- * Various Test Equipment and meters
- * Various homebrew projects - power supply and HD HF tuners
- * A collectors Item Skyriders Receiver Good condition
- * Lots of technical manuals and ARRL handbooks

Note: If someone knows of a school that would like ham radio technical data books and reference material, please give me a call. The Hams widow would like to see a school have some of the good books for the students.

For Sail Cheep!!

I still have that fifty foot telescoping steel pipe antenna mast. Would be perfect for your Inverted Vee antenna as the center mast. Still here for forty bucks. Give me a call at 226-4222. Gib (W7JIE)

Public Service Committee

Jeremy, W7YG

The Public Service Committee will hold a meeting at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, January 21, 1997 at the Southcenter Denny's Restaurant. New Members who want to help the committee's two projects (expansion of home page and Ham info booklet) are welcome.



Remember This!!

Remember how each person had a specific job so we could work with maximum efficiency. Remember how we learned to attach an element to a boom using only a hammer? Ready for more of N7STR's handy beam assembly tips? Ready for the best Chili in the world (assuming you have leather lips)? Well, read the article below and start planning for *Field Day '97*. - ed.



Field Day '97

Chuck, N7STR

Field Day is coming, Field Day is coming. The Mike and Key Railroad has selected Mike Foster and myself as the fall guys, I mean Field Day Chairmen for 1997.

OK everybody the announcement starts now. If you are interested in being a Band Chairman for field day get your requests in now. I want all the field day band positions filled by the March meeting. I already have 15 meters phone taken by WV7Q. We have a new kid on board that wants some CW Band on the beach, his call is N7WA. I hope he can keep up with his lizard level predecessor.

I need 10 Novice, 20, 40, 75 Phone, and 15, 20, 40, 80 CW Band Chairman sign-ups. See me or Mike Foster at the January meeting. We also need sub-chairs for the Potluck BarBQ, Wagon Wheel, Barracks, Assembly and probably some position I can't remember that's real important.

This field day is gonna be *Fantastic*. Besides the regular ho, hum field day activities of High Wire Acts, Loose Nuts and Short Circuits, we're going to have a transmitter kit assembly and QRP contest, Potlucks, Late Nite Fireside Chats and family activities galore. Oh yeah, we need a suck, I mean volunteer to coordinate family activities galore.

Get your reservations in early for the Wagon Wheel, or the Barracks. We really pushed the envelope last year.

Oh yeah, I forgot to mention that for you newcomers, *this is what being a Ham is all about*. Don't book anything for the last weekend in *June*, the 26th, 27th and 28th, but *Field Day*. Forget about Aunt Martha's 2nd cousins wedding, tell your relatives to put off having babies, and unless your going to inherit a Million Dollars from Uncle Fester, put off the funeral until after *Field Day*. If you miss this one, you've got to wait an entire year. But that's not the worst part, you have to listen to everybody tell you how great it was for the next year.



K7LED RELAY

The RELAY is the official tabloid of the Mike and Key Amateur Radio Club. The Mike and Key is dedicated to the growth and betterment of Amateur Radio. We meet the third Saturday of every month at the Salvation Army Renton HQ, 720 Tobin St., near SE corner of the Renton Airport. The Club operates repeaters on 146.82 MHz (103.5 CTCSS) and 224.12 MHz under the call sign K7LED. The following nets meet on the 146.82 repeater: the Club net on Wednesdays at 7:30 PM and the Public Service net on Thursdays at 7:00 PM. The Club's mailing address is PO Box 2121, Kirkland, WA 98083. All persons interested in Amateur Radio are invited to participate in the Mike and Key ARC and its activities. Yearly dues are \$12.00 for individual memberships and \$18.00 for family memberships.

Volume 25, Number 1

January, 1997

President

Carolyn Pasquier - WV7Q
(206) 862-1157
carolynp@sprynet.com

Vice President

-Frank Henshaw - K7VMG
(206) 891-1058
dtxb40a@prodigy.com

Secretary

Melissa Donimirski - KB7TFF
(206) 226-2856
mellibot@aol.com

Treasurer

Charles Strocher - WA7EBH
(206) 392-5303
stroehc@wsdot.wa.gov

Activities

Mike Foster - N7GVQ
(206) 630-4106

Radio Officer

Harry Lewis - W7JWJ
(206) 523-9117
w7jwjw7qgp@aol.com

Trustee No. 1

Tom Patterson - N7VDU
(206) 432-1500
n7vdu@wolfenet.com

Trustee No. 2

Mary Lewis - W7QGP
(206) 523-9117
w7jwjw7qgp@aol.com

Trustee No. 3

Al Hopwood - KB7THX
(206) 747-5192 (COB)
kb7thx@aol.com

Trustee No. 4

Jeremy Donimirski - WA7YG
(206) 226-2856
jdonimi@uswnvg.com

Trustee No. 5

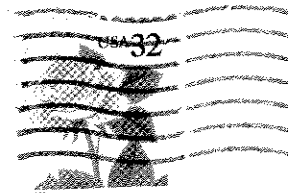
Chuck Benefiel - N7STR
(206) 312-5341
cbenefiel@sprynet.com

RELAY Editor

Jack Grimmett - N7IHS
(206) 392-9510
grimmett@halcyon.com

Return To

Jack Grimmett
18128 SE May Valley Rd.
Renton, WA 98059



First Class Mail

Next Board Meeting

January 29th at 7:30 PM
Salvation 5th Army in Renton
720 Tobin, Renton

Next Club Meeting

Saturday, January 18th at 10:00 AM
Salvation Army in Renton
720 Tobin, Renton
Doors open at 9:30 AM for donuts
Talk-in on 146.82 RPTR

January Program

Generator Safety

Sam Sullivan N7RHE 7/98
13626 - SE 232nd
Kent, WA 98042

✓ Check Mailing Label for Dues Status

Sign-up
For The
Fleamarket!