



K7LED Relay

Volume 25, Number 3

Page 1 of 5

March, 1998

The Prez Sez

Chuck, a.k.a. Buster, N7STR

Well it's 6:00 AM the day after the Flea Market. What am I doing up at this hour? I have no idea why I got up, except to play with my new toy. I am writing this article with it, it's a new (to me) laptop computer. It only took me an hour to find the program I needed. Like all new toys, it takes a little bit more time to understand. I remember an old saying that, "you can tell the age of the boy by the cost of his toys." I think you can also tell his age by how complicated they are. This is very complicated, so I must really be getting old.

This year's flea market was absolutely fabulous. It was a lot of work, but I was extremely proud of the Mike and Key membership. I heard nothing but compliments from the vendors and 99.9% of the attendee's. There has to be one unhappy, disgruntled customer, otherwise we wouldn't have any room for improvement next time. But, this guy was mad at Gigi's, not us. I need to say to my Security Crew, thanks for making me look good. You were always visible, you handled matters that you could, and turned over matters that you should have, when you should have. I have nothing but compliments for all of you. Each and every one of you indicated it was a lot of work, but that you would like to do it again. I had many duties and responsibilities beyond security at the Flea Market. Your efficiency made my whole job easier. We got wonderful compliments from the Fair Grounds Staff for being one of the most efficient and dependable groups to work with. This is all a direct result of the planning of the Chairman, Chuck Stroher, the support of his committee heads, and the help they had from the club members. This club has a lot more to be proud of than being a Ham Radio Club. It has the finest quality membership I have ever had the pleasure of being a part of.

If you didn't go to the Chinese dinner after the fleamarket, you missed out on one of the best parts of the whole experience. We had a record number go to dinner, 44 at last count, who laughed and laughed about all kinds of things. We laughed about the poor people at the wedding table that sat behind us, the protein in the water, "PASS THE PORK", and "Wow, thatsa one strong onion". We had a great time, and I don't know if you can feel it, but there is a genuine feeling of friendship and respect growing throughout this club. As I watched the members at setup on Friday & early Saturday morning (5:00 AM for a lot of us), during cleanup after, and during the Chinese dinner, I could feel the energy of strong relationships developing. Someone remarked at the dinner that the club was changing, and that there were some people that didn't participate. This is true, and they made their choice. There also were a lot of new people there, and that was their choice. Yes, this club is changing, and if there is anything I can guarantee in life, it's that it always will be changing. Change is one of the great challenges of any club or organization. From what I can see as your president, this club is dealing with it very well. We are one of the few clubs in the NW region, and for

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that matter, in the US, that is continuing to grow. We are one of the few clubs that has a FLEAMARKET that doesn't decline in attendance or go away altogether, and this is a direct result of the quality of our participating membership. You set the club's direction.

This brings up another subject. I goofed at the last meeting, and didn't call for nominations for officers for the elections to be held at our March meeting. I apologize to the membership for my mistake. Please come to the next meeting prepared to nominate and vote in your new slate of officers and set the direction for 1998. For those that are elected, congratulations, for those that don't, there are many positions or committees for you to participate in within the Mike and Key club. Please participate, for it is your participation that makes things happen.

In advance I want to thank the membership for the opportunity of being your president for the last year. It has been fun, a lot of fun for me, and I hope a lot of fun for you. Thanks to Larry, & Harry for keeping me in line at every meeting. A special thanks to Melissa our outgoing Secretary for a great job, and for adding her insight to our board meetings.

Oh yeah, and don't forget the banquet on April 4th. We have sold more than half of the 60 tickets already. Be prepared to come and have a great dinner and good fun with your fellow club members.

A special reminder, *Field Day is Coming, Field Day is Coming!*

Now last but not least, may I be the first to wish you a "Happy Ham Year".

Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes for the Mike & Key ARC General meeting and Board meeting where not submitted this month. I am sure that copies will be available at the meetings.

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Congratulations You Did It!!!

Chuck Stroehrer, WA7EBH

Congratulations are in order to all of the Flea Market workers, both in and out of our Club. I have been receiving nothing but praises on a job well done. Some have said that this is the smoothest operation that they have been involved with. Well folks, you are the ones that made it happen, I just stayed out of your way and let you take care of things. You took pride in ownership of the area that you were working in, and made things happen. Corrected errors, made decisions, smiled when folks were upset, and most of all had a good time doing it.

A person from another club wanted to hire our staff to help them out. I said that my group would shoot me if we had to do more than one a year. Just goes to show that this club is well respected in the FM circles.


Even though I can't personally thank each and everyone of you in person, I am doing so by the newsletter. I want to especially thank the committee chairs that spent countless hours putting their area's plan together and making changes when conditions changed in order to go with the flow.

There will be a critique following the March meeting, or possibly during elections to get the ideas down for next year. If you can't make the meeting and have comments, write them down and either send them to me or e-mail them to wa7ebh@juno.com.

Thanks again to all that helped.

Fleas

Michael Dinkelman, N7WA



Well, that was fun. I cannot remember a smoother running Mike & Key Fleamarket from beginning to end. We had lots of help, good weather, adequate Fairground support, the egress went great, and I (personally) found a great deal on an audio DSP. Some odds and ends from my experience.

Setup:

It all started with the setup crew. We weren't slated to start until 10:00 AM but I was chomping at the bit at home so Diane and I headed out early and arrived around 9:30. Well, so did a bunch of others and as the drop cords were in, why wait? The tables started going up. We had a **Great** setup crew. If I started listing names I would miss someone so I will just leave it at that. However, within two hours, the basic layout was complete. Then the skirts and number crew started up and soon, things were looking darn near finished. From then on, it was just details. I'll say it one more time - you guys and gals were great. Heck, we even opened the Yellow gate early

this year because we were **READY!**

Charlene:

Who the heck is Charlene? Last year, I received a strange e-mail out of the blue - just after our 1997 fleamarket. From a Charlene Davis near Pendleton, she explained that they were thinking of doing a Hamfest and wanted some advice. (Since when did I become an expert?) Well, never one to shirk duty in the advice-giving category, I sent back a long reply, never expecting to hear of this again. Instead, the past year has been flurry of e-mails back and forth with questions, advice, encouragement, and hope. One e-mail exchange about publicity mentioned our freebie tables for Clubs and Charlene immediately snapped one up. Uh Oh! You mean I was going to end up meeting this person up close? I had no idea if she was young, old, big, small, an ax murderer or Mother Teresa. The realities of radio and e-mail are that you really never know what the other guy looks like (or sounds like if you are a CW op). I've had some real surprises in the past through radio. Well, we lucked out and got a worker. Charlene arrived during setup and immediately dived in to help. Her table was certainly the prettiest looking but you never found her at it as she and her husband Walt were always out plugging their Hamfest. She must have given out a thousand of those wooden nickels, got lots of publicity for the Pendleton Hamfest, and made an impression on many of us. I think many thought she was a member of the Mike & Key the way she blended in. If you missed her, you missed an enthusiastic member of the Ham radio family. I can't make Pendleton, but if you do, say hello for me.

Improvements:

We have made this Fleamarket a success by trying to improve it every year. We throw out what doesn't work and keep the good stuff. Sometimes we blow it but not from a lack of trying. If you have any ideas for changes next year, let the committee chairs know. Don't wait for next year - you'll forget. Write it down and send it in. One fix in the works - tables maps **WILL** be **LARGER** next year. I think we stretched the limits of ink jet technology this year as nobody could read those table numbers (maybe I'm just getting old). I promise to get new software so Diane can create **BIGGER** maps.

4x4's:

We share the Fairgrounds with an auto show. Some of the 4x4 show organizers came out blustering and threatening again this year but we were prepared. Having received assurances from the Fairgrounds about our rights to the roadway, our people held their tongues and let Hal (N7NW) and the Fairgrounds staff do their stuff. Diplomacy won and last years antics by that group was not repeated this year.

Vendor Comments:

It is still early for Vendor comments but I can't wait as the Relay deadline is approaching (or past). The few I have received are positive. Hopefully, by

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the Club meeting we will have some additions. Vendor feedback is important to this operation.

That's it for my observations. Hope everybody had a good time. My legs are finally starting to feel normal again and I have already started on the 1999 campaign. Which reminds me.... If you have interest in helping out in publicity - let me know. I can't, nor do I want, to do this forever though I am not giving it up yet. It isn't a hard job or complicated - mostly, it is grunt work (mailings, labeling) and goes year round. I had some excellent help from Vic (WB7TBR) this year. If anybody else is interested - let me know.

New Comers Meeting

Pat Wintheiser, WOOPW/7

The Mike & Key club has a certain number of members who could be classified as newcomers to the hobby. Also, we have new people show up at the regular meeting just wanting to see what amateur radio is all about. Unfortunately, a lot of these new members get a license to operate but then experience trouble getting on the air for a variety of reasons.

The board of directors has given me permission to conduct a newcomers meeting at 9:30 AM prior to the regular general Saturday session. This meeting is for anyone who is new to amateur radio and/or just needs help with the ordinary difficulties of getting on the air. Subjects such as: What kind of transceiver should I get; does anyone have one for sale; who can help putting up an antenna; where are classes available...etc.

The first meeting will be held prior to the general March meeting. Anyone new, or not new, to amateur radio who needs help getting on the air is welcome.

Hopefully this will be a forum for those who are too shy to ask for help and are missing out on the fun that ham radio provides. If you have any questions please call me at 425-957-5137 or e-mail me at Patrick.Wintheiser@Boeing.com.

From the Editor

Jack Grimmitt, N7IHS

There are three articles in this issue which discuss the success of this year's Fleamarket. They contain pretty compelling descriptions on the success of the Fleamarket. These three previous articles are *not* exaggerations, but enough has been said about the success of the Fleamarket in this Relay issue. What I think needs to be commented on is the organization and planning of the Fleamarket. I haven't the vaguest idea how many hours by how many people go in to it, but it works. Over the years the Fleamarket Committee has evolved into a well oiled *lean, mean, machine*, finely tuned and designed to be ready to hit the ground running first thing Friday morning *and*

that it does..

Credit must go to a lot of people, but I keep hearing three names year after year, **Chuck Stroehler (WA7EBH)**, **Mike Dinkelman, (N7WA)**, and **Diane Dinkelman (KB7DNE)**. I know that I am at risk for mentioning these names and I am sure that there are others who also work hard at the planning of the Fleamarket, but, from what little I know about it, these three people have provided the continuity year after year to make the Fleamarket the success it is. Since the funds raised by the Fleamarket help provide for the generous budget of the Mike & Key ARC while still maintaining rather low yearly dues to members, I think that is time to recognize these people and others who are responsible for the success of the Fleamarket. Chuck, Mike, Diane, and others I salute all of you for the fine job that you have done this year and years in the past.

Now to other things. Yes I met **Charlene Davis** too. Her call is KC7RQF (Really Quiet Female) as her card reads. Charlene and "Really Quiet Female" is a major contradiction. She convinced me to go over to the Blue Mountain Regional Hamfest & Computer Fair in beautiful downtown Pentleton, OR on April 11th. If she sold used cars I probably would have bought one of those from her too.

Our prayers and best wishes go out to **Darla Harris (KC7SIT)** who is ill right now. She seems to be having trouble with salt causing congestive heart failure. Frank Henshaw sent me an e-mail wanting to thank every one for their prayers, concerns, and calls to Darla.

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.

For Sale

- 2 Each Compaq Notebook Computers & Docking Stations. Model LTE Lite 433C Runs Win95.
- 486DX-33MHZ w/Color LCD Screen VGA
- 209 MB Hard Drive. (Upgradable to 500 MB)
- 1.44 Floppy Drive
- 12 MB RAM Memory (upgradable to 20 MB)
- 14.4 FAX/Internet Modem (Internal plug-in Included) Built-in Track Ball/(mouse)
- Jacks on back include:
 - Printer, Serial, PS-2 Mouse
 - VGA Video
 - Docking station.
- Carry Case and small 110 vac power pack.
- Docking Station includes room for:
 - 2 full length ISA Boards

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2 floppy drives
2 secondary IDE Hard Drives
CD ROM Drive
Sound Blaster Card
Hi-speed Modem

Each is priced at \$475.00. Contact Bill Balzarini (KL7BB), 2525 - South 355th Pl., Federal Way, WA 98003 Telephone 253 927-1054 e-mail kl7bb@juno.com

For Sale

- 2 Each Dell Notebook Computers Model 320N+ Black & White VGA
- 386SX-20 MHz Runs Win 3.11
- 60-84 MB Hard Drives (upgradable to 500 MB)
- 1.44 Floppy drive
- 4 MB RAM (upgradable to 8 MB)
- 2400 Baud modem (internal Plug-in Included with each Notebook)
- 19200 Baud modem (External Serial port plug in, Included with 1 each Notebook)
- External Serial Mouse
- External 110 vac Power Pack.
- Spare battery
- Jacks on back include:
Printer
Serial
VGA Monitor
PS-2 Mouse
Carry Case.

Each is priced at \$200.00. Contact Bill Balzarini (KL7BB), 2525 - South 355th Pl., Federal Way, WA 98003 Telephone 253 927-1054 e-mail kl7bb@juno.com

For Sale

- Kenwood 520 Transceiver
 - 2 Swan Transceivers
 - 2 CB's, several very old (in wooden boxes)
 - Volt Meters
- Call Karin Sammons Daytime number 425 430-2439 or e-mail at ksammons@renton.wednet.edu

1998 Hamfest Calendar

(Taken from the NW Division Newsletter)

April 4	Clark County Hamfest, Vancouver, WA
April 11	Pendleton ARC, Pendleton, OR
April 25	Keno ARC, Klamath Falls, OR
April 26	Umpqua Valley ARC, Roseburg, OR
May 9	Stanwood/Camano Hamfest
May 9	Portland Hamfest, Hillsboro, OR
May 16	Yakima Hamfest, Selah, WA
May 29-31	SeaPac, Seaside, OR
July 17-19	Glacier-Waterton Hamfest, MT
July 24-26	Northwestern DX Convention, Seattle, WA
July 31-Aug. 2	3905 Century Club, Bandon, OR
Aug. 1	Coos Bay ARC Hamfest, Bandon, OR

Aug. 8	Bend Hamfair, Deshutes Cty. Fairgrounds, OR
Aug. 8	Tacoma Fleamarket, Tacoma, WA
Aug. 8	Spokane Hamfest ?
Aug. 15	LCARA, Longview, WA
Sept. 19-20	Anchorage Hamfest, Anchorage, AK
Sept. 26-27	Fairbanks Hamfest, Fairbanks, AK
Oct. 3	Nampa Hamfest, Nampa, ID

Events Calender

March

- March 18th, Wednesday** - Mike & Key Net, 7:30 PM on 146.82 repeater
- March 19th, Thursday** - Public Service Net, 7:00 PM on 146.82 repeater
- March 21st, Saturday** - Mike and Key General Meeting, 10:00 AM at Renton Salvation Army
- March 21st, Saturday** - Technical Committee, 9:15 AM at Renton Salvation Army
- March 21st, Saturday** - Facilities Committee, 9:15 AM at Renton Salvation Army
- March 25th, Wednesday** - Mike & Key Net, 7:30 PM on 146.82 repeater
- March 25th, Wednesday** - Mike & Key Board Meeting, 7:30 PM Renton Salvation Army
- March 26th, Thursday** - Public Service Net, 7:00 PM on 146.82 repeater

April

- April 1st, Wednesday** - Mike & Key Net, 7:30 PM on 146.82 repeater
- April 2nd, Thursday** - Public Service Net, 7:00 PM on 146.82 repeater
- April 8th, Wednesday** - Mike & Key Net, 7:30 PM on 146.82 repeater
- April 9th, Thursday** - Public Service Net, 7:00 PM on 146.82 repeater
- April 15th, Wednesday** - Mike & Key Net, 7:30 PM on 146.82 repeater
- April 16th, Thursday** - Public Service Net, 7:00 PM on 146.82 repeater
- April 18th, Saturday** - Mike and Key General Meeting, 10:00 AM at Renton Salvation Army
- April 18th, Saturday** - Technical Committee, 9:15 AM at Renton Salvation Army
- April 18th, Saturday** - Facilities Committee, 9:15 AM at Renton Salvation Army

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First Annual Blue Mountain Regional Hamfest and Computer Fair

At the Pendleton Convention Center in Pendleton, Oregon
Saturday, April 11, 1998

Hosted by the *Pendleton Amateur Radio Club, W7PL*
Talk-in Frequency: 146.880 MHz (standard offset)

Doors Open From 8:99 AM to 4:00 PM
General Admission \$5.00 Per Person

100 RV parking spaces/electrical hook-ups at the Convention Center, \$15.00 per night
VE Testing! Rag Chew Room! Food! Coffee!
Ham Radio Raffle! Door Prizes (\$1500+)! Seminars!

For further information:

E-Mail: denton@orgontrail.net treeshop@juno.com
Pendleton Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 13
Pendleton, OR 97801

Reservation Form The Mike and Key Annual Awards Banquet

April 4, 1998, 6:00 PM

HD Hotspurs,
315 South Washington Street,
Kent, WA

____ Buffet Dinners @ \$14.00 = \$ _____ total including tax and gratuity.
(also includes salad, desert, coffee/tea)

Name _____

Call Sign _____

Address _____

City _____, WA _____ Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

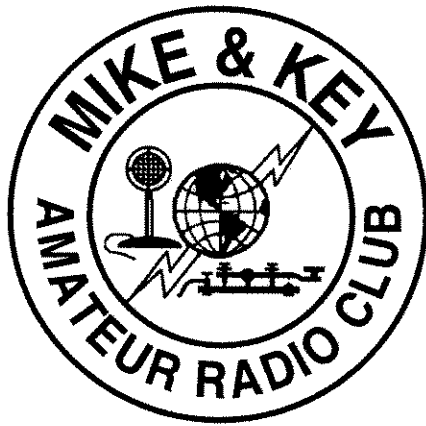
How Many Hams ___ Non Hams ___ in your Party?

Please bring this form and cash or check to the Club meeting on March 21st or mail before April 1st (make checks payable to the Mike & Key ARC) to:

Mike & Key ARC
c/o Chuck Benefiel N7STR
P.O. Box 166
Sumner, WA 98390

Mike & Key ARC
c/o Buzz Thomson W7PZO
26631-127th AVE. S E
Kent, Washington 98031

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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 Amateur Radio. We meet the third Saturday of every month at the Salvation Army Renton HQ, 720 Tobin St., Renton, WA. The Club operates repeaters on 146.82 MHz (103.5 CTCSS) and 224.12 MHz under the call sign K7LED. Two 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. 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 26, Number 3

March, 1998

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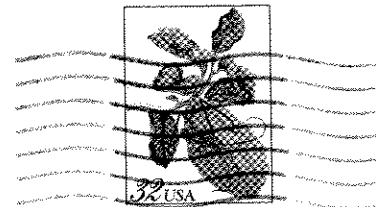
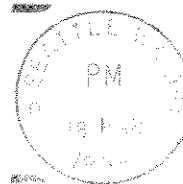
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First Class Mail

Next Club Meeting

Saturday, March 21st 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

Next Board Meeting

March 25th at 7:30 PM
Salvation 5th Army in Renton
720 Tobin, Renton

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

March Program

Elections



Check Mailing Label for Dues Status

Mike & Key ARC Web Page: <http://www.eskimo.com/~mwdink/mkarc.html>

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