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## The Prez Sez

Club President Jack Grimmett, N7IHS



At the Executive Board meeting held on January 29, 2002, Harry Lewis (W7JWJ) resigned from his position of Radio Officer of the Mike & Key ARC. Harry is a life member of the Club and has stayed active during his approximately 27 years of membership. Harry has recently completed the activity of purchasing a new repeater for the Club.

It is the Executive Board's responsibility (per the bylaws) to appoint a new Radio Officer. Anyone who is interested in applying for the position should contact any Executive Board member and attend the Board meeting the last Tuesday of this month. The by-laws require that the Radio Officer hold an Extra Class license.

There has been some discussion about

forming a 'Repeater Committee' or a 'Repeater Support Group' (call it what you will). I would envision this committee consisting of three to five members with a technical background who would support the Radio Officer in his activities of maintaining the repeater and also act as the repeater control officers. The Radio Officer would chair this committee. This is just a plan and will require the Executive Board to work out the details.

Although the President can appoint any committee he/she deems necessary, I feel that this should be presented to and discussed by the Executive Board. It should probably also be implemented by the Board.

I would like to have some feedback on the memberships thoughts concerning this matter. I plan to bring this up at the next Executive Board meeting. Please e-mail me if you have an opinion on this subject.

## February Program

Submitted by Michael, N7WA



"What time is it kids?" "It's Fleamarket time!" Yes, for the next month, club members will be scurrying around like mice trying to attend to the final details of the largest Ham event of the Pacific Northwest. One of those details is this month's program.

Hal Goodell (N7NW) will be on hand to review the how, who, what, when, where, and why of this great event. Hal is the Event Chair and Facilities Chair. He's

the one to ask the questions too.

It's also a good time to nail down your schedule (assuming you volunteered) with the appropriate Chairperson running your area. See elsewhere in this Relay for the list. Badges will be available to those who have already signed up. If you don't pick them up at the Club meeting, they will be available on-site.

Next month, in March, there will be no program as elections are being held. For April, there will be a slide show by Roger Huntley (W7VV) regarding a DXpedition to the North Cook Islands of which he was a member.

## Executive Board Meeting Changes

Submitted by Chairman of the Board Alan Hughes (KB7SVU)

Remember, during the months of February and March the Executive Board will change its meeting times to the last Tuesday of the month. The meetings will start at 7:15 PM and will be held at the Salvation Army HQ in Renton. The February meeting will be held on February 26, 2002

*(Mitch though this might be a little controversial. Well, heck, since when have we ever been afraid of a little controversy—ed)*

### Interview with the Last Ham

Submitted by Mitch Gill, K7TUT

Bismarck, North Dakota, 2025.

As a preface to this interview it is important to review a little of the history behind Amateur Radio. Many are aware of the innumerable contributions that Hams have brought to society, too many to even begin to list here. Let us just say that without Amateur Radio we may all still have telephones linked by millions of miles of wire; a thought that is hard to perceive today.

It is also important to note that this interview occurred six months ago and Mr. Bob Jones, a Ham for 75 years, passed away quietly in his sleep just prior to the publishing of this article. Our condolences go to his family.

**TIME:** Mr. Jones, thank you for this time today. You have seen a lot during your time as a ham. Why don't we begin by telling us how you became a Ham.

**BJ:** I remember that day as if it were yesterday. You have to remember that WWII had ended a few years back. I used to listen to a short wave receiver with my Dad as we would get the news from many countries. I loved listening to the radio. One day in 1950 a salesman came to the house trying to sell brushes or something to my mom. He noticed that I had the radio on. He stopped his pitch to my mom and asked me if I enjoyed listening to the radio. When I told him how much I loved it, he invited me over to his house to see his station. My mouth dropped as I watched him turning on the switches and seeing the tubes glow and after he made his first contact to a person across the U.S., I knew I wanted to be a Ham. He became my Elmer.

**TIME:** I'm sorry Mr. Jones to interrupt but what do you mean by "Elmer"?

**BJ:** An Elmer was someone who was already an amateur radio operator who not only brings someone else into the hobby but also mentors them. Amateur Radio was growing rapidly at the time but it was still an infant in technology. Remember, at that time, there were no computers, no satellites, and no TV over the radio. An Elmer

helped teach about the different aspects of the hobby, how to speak over the radio, how to do Morse code and how to build or select antennas and equipment. Basically an Elmer is a friend, more than a friend, and when my Elmer died in 1970, I lost someone dear to me even though we had not chatted in a long time.

**TIME:** How can you say that you lost a friend when you had not talked to him in years?

**BJ:** You have to understand the Elmer's are not necessarily lifetime buddies though many are. My Elmer moved away but not before he had taught me enough that I became an Elmer.

**TIME:** So you became a Ham.

**BJ:** Yep and I never regretted it. I was an Elmer to several kids over the years. It was my way of saying thanks to the hobby I loved and to my Elmer.

**TIME:** So tell our readers why this hobby that was growing so fast could possibly die.

**BJ:** Well, I can only give you my opinion. I believe part of it was a change in society after the development of the personal computer. No one even dreamed of how fast technology would grow or how our lives would change. The kids who grew up in this era had email, chat rooms, internet phone and on and on. Who needed a radio when you could talk to the world and surf the web at the same time? The license structure changed too. In my day getting an Extra class license (EDITORS NOTE, the highest license obtainable until 2006 when it became the only license) was almost equivalent to being an electrical engineer. At the end of the last century or beginning of this one that all changed. Morse code was no longer relevant and as the hobby was declining worldwide. People were scrambling to save it. I believe the intentions were good but sadly the result was not. They first eliminated the requirements for code, then they made the test easier so that anyone could memorize a few formulas and get an Extra.

**TIME:** Didn't that increase the population of Hams?

**BJ:** For a time. In the early part of the century there were three classes of licenses, Technician, General and Extra. The first license allowed you to talk mostly within a

*(Continued on page 3)*

few hundred miles but most who got licensed talked only within about 50 miles. The increase in the population was in this license category and most of them were in their 40's and 50's. Fewer kids were being brought into the hobby and those that were usually ended up with just the Technician license which became boring after awhile. Unless they could afford to buy amplifiers and equipment for 6 meters (EDITORS NOTE: Otherwise known as the "Magic Band" because at times you could work the world and other times you could only talk a few miles), they usually were stuck with hand held radios.

**TIME:** So what was wrong with that?

**BJ:** You have to understand that these kids had email and could send instant messages or join chat rooms with people all over the world. The novelty of talking to people locally was not much more than the old FRS or GMRS radios of those days.

**TIME:** What about satellites?

**BJ:** Oh yes there were many things they could do with hand held radios but fewer and fewer people were being Elmer's to these kids. Many were bringing them into the hobby but few were taking the time to be a mentor and expose them to all the facets of their license and encourage them to get their next license so they could talk to the world every day.

**TIME:** Why do you think that was?

**BJ:** Society had changed. Hams were busy people, they had families, both husbands and wives worked in many families, and to be honest, we became apathetic. How wrong we were, its just that we stopped trying to find ways for the kids to see the excitement. By the year 2000, the biggest excitement for these kids was talking to an astronaut or through a satellite or to another country. The technician license gave them the capability but without people to help them meet that goal they became bored because the majority were stuck on one band talking locally to other Hams.

**TIME:** So no one cared for these kids?

**BJ:** Don't get me wrong, there were many who were true Elmer's, many who worked hard to save the hobby, many who sacrificed their time or gave equipment or taught. The problem is that there was not enough. If in the early part of the century the majority of Hams had made the decision to pass the hobby to some young person and be an Elmer, I would be on the radio today talking to thousands and thousands of people but alas, those days are gone forever. It was hard to be an Elmer. It took patience and time.

**TIME:** So do you blame anyone for the demise"

**BJ:** No, not at all. The ARRL tried with programs for kids, the government encouraged the kids by setting up schedules with astronauts while in space but what was needed was more Elmer's and more people fighting commercial intervention into the amateur frequencies.

**TIME:** I assume you are referring to the wireless companies that needed frequencies for their systems. Don't you believe that it was actually a benefit to society?

**BJ:** A benefit? That's absurd!

**TIME:** Don't you think you are being a little harsh? I mean, look at what we can do today. I have on my wrist my communicator. I can call anywhere in the world for pennies because we utilize the enormous satellite system in space. It is connected to the GPS system so that if something happens I can be located within inches of where I am right now. I can see the people I am talking to. I merely have to speak the words and surf the internet. With my glasses, I can see page after page of information in 3D. I can be contacted anytime any place anywhere in the world 365 days a year 24 hours a day. How can you say it is absurd?

**BJ:** Oh, all of these gadgets still would have been invented but not at the sacrifice of a hobby. What did we give our kids? Our grandchildren? Our friends and neighbors? You may not remember but a hobby is where you can lose yourself from the troubles of this world. Its you own sanctuary and when we used to have regular mail, it was great to exchange cards with hams all over. Now, that is gone and we have replaced a hobby with what? A better hobby? No! We traded a hobby for a leash! All because we did not do enough to preserve and protect the infringement by big business.

**TIME:** So you are blaming someone for this. You are blaming all the hams who did nothing.

**BJ:** I guess you have me there. The problem is that I was part of the problem too. I was no Saint out there saving the hobby. I fell into the same trap as everyone else and became apathetic. Oh I brought a few young people into the hobby but I could not Elmer them all and as time went on I became the same as everyone else. I watched as the hobby died and I am sad to say that here I am 87 years old, my family is gone and all of my ham friends are gone. I look back at what could have been but hindsight really stinks. You see, I could have done more but instead I am now a lonely old man with no one to talk to. I should have done more. I should have tried just a little harder. I should have helped more young people but you can only do so much, right? I mean it wasn't my fault alone, was it? But I couldn't do it alone, could I?

EDITORS NOTE: As we began to leave Mr. Jones house we noticed that he leaned over and turned on one

of the many radios scattered throughout the house. He slowly turned the dial listening and then, touching the microphone, he began to smile. He looked as if he was having a conversation with some long lost friend and then realizing that there was no one there he turned off the radio with a sigh. As he looked at us for the last time I noticed a tear falling down his cheek as he mumbled over and over, "We should tried harder".

Did we do something wrong? I think not. The benefits we enjoy today are mostly the results of ham radio. For that, there is no doubt but society must move on and technology must move on. It is my opinion that ham radio became obsolescent because change is necessary for our growth as a human race. Society did not kill ham radio, the hams did it to themselves.

Authors Note - Though the story is fictitious today, it is probable that someday in our near future, an interview like this will occur, if we do nothing. Each one of us have the opportunity to help and the following are my suggestions. Pick one or find another way to help keep our hobby alive!

1. Teach one person about Ham Radio and help them get their license.
2. Become an Elmer. Talk to me or anyone else on the Technical committee and we will hook you up with a new Ham.
3. Become an ARRL member. Some of you may think that the ARRL creates problems or has little worth. The fact of the matter is that they are the only group who are our representatives to the government and they are trying

to promote the hobby daily. They may not be perfect but they are all we have right now and until something better comes along, support them! Talk to Harry or Mary Lewis and join today!

4. Whether you decide to become a member or not, contribute to the ARRL legal defense fund. Most of us will never use all of the Ham frequencies but the loss of one kilohertz to a commercial company is the beginning of losing all the frequencies.

Technology is changing quickly. With it, Ham Radio has changed and many of us "old timers" do not believe it is for the better. But, many of the newer Hams love the changes and go with the flow. There have been many benefits to change. We now have new modes to play with like PSK31, MFSK, etc. They are now talking about "digital" voice. Many will never let go of our love for SSB or CW, like me. But if we ignore the reality that change is inevitable and sit and idly watch the hobby die.....well, here is a quote I learned many years ago, "Doing nothing is doing something". And by doing nothing your "something" may be contributing to the demise of the hobby we all love.

Let this club be known as a club who decided to do grow and protect this hobby even if it is simply by joining the ARRL. My hope and dream is that we will all do that and more.

I do not see this club as a "do nothing" club. Many of you contribute in your own ways and I respect that but as a whole, is there more that we can do? I believe there is, what do you think?

## 2002 Communications Academy

Marina Zuetell, N7LSL



This year's Communications Academy 2002 will be held March 23-24, 2002 at NOAA Western Regional Center in Seattle - same place as the last two years. This year security will be very tight because this is a Federal facility, so attendees must register in advance.

We have to provide a list to Gate Security of those who have registered. (the previously announced dates of March 30-31 turned out to be Easter weekend!)

The Web page is still just the basics, but more will be coming as soon as we have speakers and topics confirmed, and other ideas have shaped up. Please spread the word to your teams and other interested people - your local emergency managers, fire, police, etc. We would really like to get more people interested in coming this year. Online registration should be available by mid February at [www.academy2002.org](http://www.academy2002.org). I have attached a tenta-

tive list of topics and times, but it is still a "wish list" at this point. As we get speakers and program titles confirmed it will be placed on the Web page.

We have invited the Section Emergency Coordinator from NYC to come be the keynote speaker. I have not heard back from him yet. If he is available and willing to come, we are going to have to find some corporate/agency sponsors to pay travel expenses, since we have no budget. I will be approaching a number of the Emergency Managers about this (all of whom are crying poor because of budget cuts.) Any other funding suggestions would be appreciated. (I'll beg from anyone) The planning committee had discussed charging a small registration fee this year, but we could not figure out how to do online registration and accept credit card payments. We just aren't set up to do that. We probably will be asking for a small voluntary donation at the door, to help defray expenses.

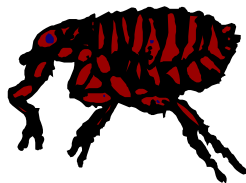
QST will have an article about the academy in the Public

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## Fleamarket Committee News

By Michael Dinkelman, N7WA



Next and final meeting: February 12, 2002—7:30 Salvation Army HQ

Last chance for those last details. Please, all Committees should send a representative.

This year, the Fleamarket will have scheduled programs in the Slide Show Room upstairs. The tentative schedule is a slide show on the North Cook Islands DXpedition at 10AM, the WRTC 2000 slide show at 11:30AM, and a presentation by the NW QRP Club at 1PM. Don't miss 'em

We have also given permission for 3 groups that asked to display their Emergency Comm vehicles out at the Gold Lot (there is no room on the grounds). If acceptable, they would be just across from the ticket booth and anyone attending the event would have to pass them.

Security has become an issue again at the Fairgrounds. All vehicles must have a pass and only vehicles that have a specific purpose will be allowed on the grounds. The Gate Guard will have a list of allowed vehicles. The Fairgrounds is even requiring that we watch the vendors unloading their wares.

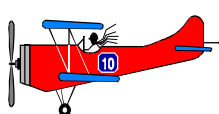
Table sales are proceeding normally. It is expected that a row will be eliminated to accommodate the Slide Show room.

Looking forward to a great event!

(Continued from page 4) **Comm Academy**

Service Section in the March issue, and I also sent the information to World Radio Magazine. Please disseminate this information as widely as possible and encourage your team members to attend. For those of you coming a long distance, I will have motel/hotel information on the Web page soon. We really think we have a product worthy of traveling a distance, and the opportunity for networking with your peers is valuable too. Lunches will be available for a small fee each day, if ordered in advance. All that information will be available on the Web page and in the mailed brochure. We are offering several review sessions for the Emergency Communications Course,

Level I, and will have the ECC Level I exam on Sunday afternoon, for those who are interested in taking the test. (I think there will be a charge for the exam - still working on those details) We will have some lobby displays and handouts from vendors and speakers too. Stay tuned for more information to come, and spread the word. If you have questions, comments, speaker/topic suggestions, funding ideas, etc. please contact me by phone or E-mail. Thanks, hope to see all of you there on March 23  
Marina Zuetell, N7LSL  
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### DXing from East of the Airport

Jo Hallstrom, KB7UFM

DXing can be expensive - if you let it. That is why the ARRL has "incoming" and "outgoing" QSL bureaus for ARRL members. As long as you have the proper size SASE envelopes in the "incoming" bureau in Oregon, you can DX to your heart's content and some time within the next year or two you will receive that QSL card you've been waiting for. Or, you can QSL direct for 80 cents (airmail) and enclose an "IRC" -- International Reply Coupon from the USPS, with an SASE.

If you want a new country bad enough and if it is a rare station, it will cost you \$1.80 or \$2.80 in postage with IRC's or green stamps (dollars). Via the bureau it costs about \$1 for about 10 cards. You ask why should send IRC's or dollars be sent. Well, a lot of these stations are in highly sought countries and the cost to reply to 1000's of contacts is a bit pricey along with higher postal costs than found in the United States. Most stations in

various countries use the bureau and will QSL 100%. It all depends on how badly you want that needed or rare country.

In May of 2000, I made contact with 5A1A, Abubaker, in Tripoli, Libya. My card to him had to be sent by registered mail and cost \$7.55. But it was well worth it even though I held off sending it for another six months thinking what a price to pay for a bit of paper! As I said, it was worth it and I got my 5A1A card six months later and that one card gave me DXCC. It also gave me a new friend and we e-mail regularly. Abubaker is trying to teach new hams and would-be hams about the fun and knowledge gained, not to mention the friends made by DXing. Beware that some countries do not accept IRC's (such as Taiwan and many of African countries). So rather to be safe than sorry, send a buck or two and an SASE. It won't break you and it hasn't me - yet! Just ask Nils.

Last week, I had a most enjoyable QSO with two South African stations and one Californian. As I've men-

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tioned before, I get on a DX net at 14.245 in between 1400 and 1600 hours UTC. This one morning, after the net closed, there were four of us just yakking – Henry ZS6GH, Vince ZS6RU, Bruce W6HTC, and myself. We were discussing Henry's upcoming trip to six other African countries including Malawi and Ethiopia. We all wanted to know his itinerary. On January 29th, I made contact with Henry in Malawi so he's on his way north on the Afri-

can continent. Only 5 more countries to go in his trek. Everyone wished him a safe journey as last year he and his friend were attacked by "bandits" and all their gear was stolen along the way to Mozambique and his friend was injured. They did make it to Mozambique. I hope Somalia is not on their route. Hamming can be dangerous at times.



## General thoughts for the consideration of all: by Jan K7YH

It seems like the more I do; the more I get involved in. I used to shy away from any involvement in CW. It always seemed to run together and didn't make a heck of a lot of sense. I guess that is why I had to take the 20 general 4 times. For those who don't know me very well, while playing in the green machine I spent four tours in the S.E. Asian war games. Not being a nurse at that time I was addicted to adrenaline. I flew in Huey's, as a door gunner, crew chief and technical inspector. This was prior to the development of ballistic helmets. (They protect you from noise and vibrations in the transmission). Oh, you ask, what has that to do with CW. I am getting to that. Helicopter transmissions create ultra sonic emissions that flat tear your ears up, and that was compounded by the noise of the guns. So when I retired they said "boy you gotta hearing problem but we can't help ya".



Well a few months ago they came to a realization that technology has progressed to the point where I could benefit greatly. I have my new hearing aids now. Five settings, computer controlled, custom programmed, remote controlled. Yes, that is the little thing I carry around my neck now. With two microphones, one for Omni directional and one for straight ahead, I can change the setting to fit the environment. They even built in anti feedback so I can wear headphones; I am hearing things I haven't heard in years. I turned the transceiver on, dialed up the 20M CW band and without any copy in a long long time, I heard the most beautiful tones, and copied 15 WPM off the bat. Without them, I struggled to make 7 WPM. SO, IF YOU HAVE TROUBLE, WOULDN'T HURT TO GET THE EARBALLS CHECKED. You may benefit greatly. They are pricey, ones like mine cost 4-5 grand, but I think its well worth your money.



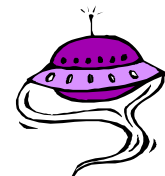
**SOLAR CYCLE:** refer to my first line, I check several web sites daily. NOAA, hfradio.com, and space environment center. Te best in my estimation is hfradio.com. Have you noticed most of the solar weather prognosticators come from the Northwest? Canada and Australia

both have several sites that are also outstanding. Anyway there has been considerable discussion about "double peaked solar cycles". Several groups state the current one is such. One of the most interesting aspects of a solar cycle is that when the cycle peaks, an indicator of the event is the reversal of the Sun's magnetic field 180 degrees. I have asked several the following question: If we are indeed in a double peak cycle, will the sun's magnetic fields reverse again? Simple question, but no one will answer. I guess if I were to add Dr. to my name I might get some answers, but, so far nuttin, honey.



More Magnetic fields discussion: Were you aware that the Earth's magnet field has REVERSED before. Yes it has. Not once, but several times — the latest 38,000 years ago. The evidence is on the seabed of the Atlantic Rise. But what a catastrophic thought. Thirty eight thousand years ago, little was affected. Certainly a number of birds were, and a like number of fish and sea mammals were. Those who have magnetic sensors to navigate by, such as whales, swallows, and carrier pigeons (also known as homing pigeons). But what if it was to happen now? Motors might reverse, navigational instruments may well quit functioning. Clocks might run backward. And to top it all of, contemplate this: what if gravity itself was to reverse. You may well find yourself flying outward to outer space. And if so does that mean those who are wearing those silly magnetic insoles in their shoes for the rheumatic be the only ones to keep their feet on solid ground? Does that also mean all of those non-existent UFOs would suddenly bombard earth because their antigravity reversed? WOW incoming at the speed of light.

And finally, should I write you another article of "Contemplatables" for the April foolish issue??. I am game — are you? (I'm game though I probably should have titled this article "Miracles do Happen!".. eh? By the way, those beautiful tones on 20meters are actually the voices of angels - as is all CW. - ed.)



## Public Service Committee

Barry Wolborsky KC7YB

Well, by the time you read this article the 2002 public service booklet will be at the printer. I would like to thank all the P.S. committee members for their hard work and many hours in putting this booklet together. This was our first attempt to sell ads to offset the cost of the booklet and we had a good start. Hopefully, we will eventually cover most of the cost of the booklet by selling these ads.

The P.S. committee needs to move on to other business that we have had on hold during the booklet preparation effort. These projects which attract members to the Mike and Key Club, promote amateur radio and gain respect for the club and amateur radio are an on-going part of our function.

Please join us for food, fellowship (and a little business) at the Yankee Grill in the Holiday Inn Renton, Rainier and Grady Way at 1230 Hrs after the Mike and Key General meeting on Saturday February 16.

## Education Committee

Steve Cook KD7IQL

Notes from the Education Committee meeting on 2/6/02

The Education Committee has set up two classes. The first class will be a Technician level class to be held at the Kent Boeing center on April 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>.

The second class will be a General level class to be held

at the Kent Boeing center on June 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>. This class will only teach theory only.

The Cost for the classes is \$40.00 per student. This includes a \$10 test fee and \$19 for the course book. The balance is used for class supplies, coffee, and donuts.

March Education Committee meeting is March 20<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm Denny's at SouthCenter. This meeting will be mainly for the teachers of the Tech class.

## What in the World is going on?

By Mitch Gill K7TUT

One minute I was a "happy go lucky" General class operator who was having fun with Ham Radio and all of a sudden, BAM!, I am teaching Ham Radio, getting more involved in the club and ARES, setting up kids club station and helping senior Hams put up antennas. Now I am even taking W7BUN's Amateur Extra Class!

Does this sound like a brag tape? It's not! It's a complaint! I was perfectly happy just working DX, playing with CW, and rag chewing but noooooooo, you couldn't allow that could you? You had to be nice when I came to the first meeting! You had to laugh at Tyler's sense of humor! You had to invite us to Field Day! You had to insist that we be a part of the activities of the club! You had to say, "what a great job you are doing with the kids"! You even had the audacity to volunteer to do demonstrations, gave books and equipment to these kids!

Bragging? No way! Because of all of you I am now stuck. I have 30 kids who will all be Hams within the next few months and half will be Hams in the next few weeks. I have a son who beats on me when we have to miss a meeting. I have two other kids that want rides to the meeting and I am sure that will grow (hey, anybody got a used bus they are selling?) I am learning trigonometry and electronic theory and I have been out of school for over 20 years!

My question to you is why? Why couldn't you be like

most Ham Clubs where new people attending are ignored? Or a club who does not recognize those that really try to make it better? Or a club that sits and does nothing? If you all would have been like most Ham Clubs I would still be home most of the time just tuning the bands. But nooooooo, you couldn't do that could you? Now I have a generator, emergency antennas, mobile units for HF and VHF! And now I am thinking of running for an office in the club. Please do not allow me to accept any nominations.

Seriously fellow Hams, I would not have done any of this if it had not been for the Mike and Key club. You all have encouraged me and inspired me to give a little back to the hobby we all love and cherish. Just do me one favor and remember only one thing; if I am stupid enough to accept any nominations, please DON'T VOTE FOR ME or I will hunt you down, egg your house and pour sugar in your gas tank! I can't take any more! Now my wife is getting serious about getting her license, my shack is gone (I moved it to the truck!), I have 30 kids calling me on the phone asking questions about the test, I am having nightmares about DX pileups but its not DX.....its hundreds of kids! I have dreams of a club meeting where there are only kids and they all want me to teach them code! Arggghhhhh!!!!

I want my mommy.



## Annual Awards Banquet

By Michael, N7WA

Let's see. It's February. The Awards Banquet is (or should be) in April. NO one has stepped forward to organize it despite a call for volunteers in last month's Relay. Time is getting rather short. There is only one Relay following this one and before the Banquet. Not much time for wrapping up a site and publicizing the event.

While we are at it, it's not too early to think about a Summer Picnic Chairperson. This is the season when all the sites are being booked.

See me if you are interested in either of these positions. I would really like to see someone beyond the usual suspects step up to do these. Help and advice are readily available.

## Base-a-bol?

By Michael, N7WA



Gee whiz—it's only February and I have been bombarded with advertisements from the Mariners and asked by the Western Washington DX Club if we would like to do another Mariner's game for Club's Night Out?

I'm game and I guess it would be better to pick a date now and lock in those tickets. Then maybe, we could all sit in the same section too. Looks like Group night tickets have gone up to \$10 a head and 40 remains the minimum size for a group. There are Group nights

available April through September though August is pretty lean with only one date. Here is what's available:

April 2-3 (Chi-Sox) , 22-24 (Angels)  
 May 7-9 (Toronto), 21-24 (Tampa and Baltimore)  
 June 1-12 (Saint Louis), 24 (Oakland)  
 July 1-3 (Kansas City), July 29,31 (Detroit)  
 August 30 (Kansas City)  
 September 4 (Minn), 16-19 (Texas), 26 (Oakland)

Myself, I prefer June or July dates—maybe that Oakland game right after Field Day. Let me know if you have some druther's and I'll ask the same of the WWDXC. Then I'll pick a date. You can send me your vote(s) - feel free to select several choices. Let me know at [mwdink@eskimo.com](mailto:mwdink@eskimo.com)

## A Fleamarket Primer

By Michael, N7WA

*(Yeah, this is a repeat but we do have new members who have never done a Fleamarket. Then a few of you may need a reminder as well.)*

**Realizing that new members to the Club may be hesitant to jump into supporting this event - here is your blow by blow description of how the whole she-bag works. All you old timers can skip this.**

Friday, March 8th, at the crack of dawn, roosters crowing, Hal, N7NW is going to drag himself down to the fairgrounds and start measuring the floor for tables and power drops. Everybody else – please sleep in and have a nice leisurely breakfast. After all, you need to conserve your strength.

Finally somewhere between 9AM and 10AM – you big and little brutes can show up to start setting up. Don't come too much before 10AM because if we start setting up too early, the tables and chairs just get in the way of the forklift while they put in the power drops. After 10, come on down - the more people who show, the eas-

ier the work. Be sure to bring gloves and real shoes – we don't want any smashed toes or fingers. We have about 300 tables to setup and probably 500 chairs. With 20 people, we can have the entire two floors done easily in a couple hours. Remember, there is no need to come on to the fairgrounds itself unless you are bringing setup materials—security is tight this year and registered vehicles will be allowed on site. Park out at the Gold parking lot and come through the Administration entrance just west of the Gold Gate. Badges will be available at the loading dock until 2PM at which time they will move to and stay at the Gold Gate.

Friday 12AM - At this point, the table skirts can be put on the commercial booths and the tables numbered. For those who just put up 300 tables, it's a good time to take lunch. Registration will be getting set up and the telephones will be going in if not already done so. Talk-in needs to start thinking about getting set up as well.

Friday 1PM – One hour to go before we let the sellers in. Hopefully, the pallet jacks have arrived. The tables should be ready. Last minute details abound. Put

*(Continued on page 9)*



*(Continued from page 8)*

up signs. Set up announcing. Country Store setup. Hang the signs out at the front gate. Test the phones. The clock ticks down.

Friday 2PM-8PM - Open the gates to the selling hoards. They come in every type of vehicle. Small cars, big vans, and clunkers that don't even belong on the road. Each piled with the same junk... ah... I mean merchandise we saw last year. They race through registration, afraid of losing their place in line. They load pallet upon pallet and we pull each one to it's place on the floor. The first two hours will be a mad house – everyone running every which way. It'll eventually slow to a continuous stream, hour after hour. As the sellers get setup, they start haggling between themselves. It becomes a social event as each gets caught up on the news from last year or the previous event. About 7:30, we start pushing everyone out the door. The gate closes and the stragglers get unloaded. By 8PM, we can lock the doors and think about a nice dinner and maybe a few hours of sleep... zzzzz...

Saturday 5AM – BEFORE the crack of dawn and before any rooster in his right mind would crow, we are at the Gold gate waiting to get in. We have 1/2 hour before we start letting sellers in again. Just enough time for a coffee, to unlock the loading doors, and remind ourselves about how much fun we are having. At 5:30, the loading process starts up again. Talk-in and announcing are busy, as is security. Someone need to check electrical cords and make sure fire extinguishers are not blocked. Everyone has a job to do. As 7:30 rolls around, the ticket booths are prepped and a line has already formed out at the corner. Come 8AM, we are selling tickets and the line makes its way to our front door. Meanwhile, inside, you would think we had already let the crowds in as the floor gets packed with sellers making last minute deals among themselves. By 8:30, we have closed the Yellow gate - one half hour to show time. The last of the sellers are unloading and the Fire Department is making it's inspec-

tion. Get those pallets out of the aisles and stack 'em outside.

Saturday 9AM-3PM – It's show time! What can I say – I just pick out a spot that overlooks the front door and watch them come in. I see a lot of friends, waving as they go by. As the buyers enter, they try to decide if their luck would be better upstairs or down. The floor is getting packed. The pallet, traffic, and registration crews get to rest

while others on the team are just getting started. The ticket sellers will be busy for hours while announcing and talk-in are helping the lost and confused. Security is trying to keep the people from using the wrong doors and the Country Store is doing whatever it is they do. (Oh! sell – that's right!) Next door, the VE team will be setting up to administer tests. Small fires come up here and there - a load needs moving, a seller needs tending. But overall, it'll be another fine event.

Saturday 3PM – Most of the crowd has cleared. The last of the buyers are trying to eek out deals with the last of the sellers. The door prizes were finally all given out about 2 hours ago. Empty tables have appeared as sellers have sold out or otherwise packed off and left for the day. It's been a long day and we are all tired of people and radio's. Yet, the great egress is just starting. At 3PM, the sellers can grab pallets and start loading out. As they race to their vehicles, we take away the tables and chairs and start stacking them back up. Over the next 3 hours we will move out all those people it took 2 days to move in. Tempers will flare (but keep smiling), pallets run short, and the elevator will struggle with the load as we all sweat to move people and tables. But it'll all get done, the floors will be swept and we'll all marvel at the job we've accomplished. As we head for Chinese food, we'll rehash the past two days events, stuff ourselves silly, and pat ourselves on the back and on the belly. Finally, after dinner, as we waddle our way to our cars - we'll realize we did it! Another successful flea market... and next year it'll be even better.

## From the ARRL Letter

- Winter Olympics special event: The West Desert Amateur Radio Club will sponsor special event station W7U to commemorate the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah. W7U will be on the air from February 8 until February 24. Look for W7U on or around 3.768, 14.250, 21.300 and 28.400 MHz. QSL to W7EO, PO Box 98, Grantsville, UT 84029.
- The FCC says it's making arrangements to test for possible anthrax contamination at the off-site mailroom serving its Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, office. This week's announcement follows the suspension of US Postal Service deliveries to the FCC's off-site mail facility in Capitol Heights, Maryland, after "a scant amount of anthrax contamination" was detected January 29 during US Public Health Service testing. The Gettysburg testing would be "a further precaution," the FCC said.

## From the Writer's Block

By Michael, N7WA

At the last Board meeting, we had planned to have some fun. We were going to try and keep business short, and then, have an open "bull" session about a subject that comes up fairly often but that we never seem to have time to discuss—*membership and volunteerism*. In the end, business ran rather long and we never got to our open discussion. Maybe another day. Still, I have some open space in the Relay so I've decided to open my big mouth.

We have 200 paying members. That's pretty good size for a Club around here. Sure, some other clubs claim more but they are usually counting booked "life members" - people who joined up once but never continued on as dues paying members. We have nearly 200 DUES PAYING members and it's a fairly steady number. We have nearly 90 people each month show up to the general Club meeting. That's an amazing number when I compare it to our neighbors. Obviously, a lot of people are COMMITTED to this Club and even drive a long way to attend meetings.

The question that begs to be answered is why is it so difficult to get volunteers to run for Office, chair social events, and actively partake in **organizational** activities? Oh sure, we have lots of people attend activities but there is only a core of about 20-30 people who constantly volunteer to run these events or the Club itself. Over the years, some burn out and disappear but we always seem to manage to recruit a few more

to replace them so the number remains steady. (Some even return after a short hiatus — not having learned their lesson the first time.) I can name you dozens of people over the past 15 years who have come through the Club, burned their star brightly, and then flashed away. Some were even very good friends.

What causes one person to blow away in a fit of activity while another can go for years without ever speaking up or performing any activity? Mind you, I have no answers and I am not accusing anybody of being in any particular group. The questions I am asking here are entirely rhetorical. In fact, I am sure there are no answers; or, if there are, they are extremely complex. I am sure that jobs, family, school, and the current social fabric of the country all play a part. Then there is just the immense complexity that exists between individuals and their relationships with other human beings. I've even searched the Internet on this subject and it is not an issue just for the Mike & Key. It's inherent in all groups from Churches, to Bowling Leagues, and to other Radio Clubs

This is just food for thought (and a space filler). I wasn't expecting an answer at the Board meeting and I don't have one to offer up myself. If I were to ask all 200 members, I am sure I would get 100 different opinions; at least (some rather vehement too) It's just something to think about and have fun mulling over (like UFO's and magnetic fields). Please don't take it too seriously though it may be worth thinking about WHY you do belong to the Club (or any organization) and it whether it rates active or only passive participation. If you have a calm and rational opinion. I would be happy to read it. mwdink@eskimo.com

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 Tolbin St., near the SE corner of the Renton Airport. The Club operates repeaters on 146.22-146.82 (PL103.5), and 222.52-224.12 under the call K7LED. The Club mailing address is: POB 4234, Renton, WA 98057. All persons interested in Amateur Radio are invited to participate in the Mike and Key Amateur Radio Club and it's activities. Yearly dues are \$12 for individuals and \$6 for each additional family member.

## Club Contacts

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Jack Grimmitt	N7IHS	n7ihs@aol.com	425-271-7955
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<b>Badges/Logo</b>	Dan Humphrey	N7QHC	n7qhc@juno.com	206-243-0163
<b>Chair Fleamarket</b>	Hal Goodell	N7NW	goodellh@gte.net	253-549-4178

## General Meeting Minutes, January 19, 2002

### **Officers present:**

President – Jack Grimmer (N7IHS); Secretary – Curtis Hanner (N7MWC); Treasurer – Jim Etwiler (KD7BAT); Activity Manager & Relay Editor – Mike Dinkelman (N7WA)

### **Trustees Present:**

Trustee #1 – Brendan Burget (KD7IKV); Trustee #2 – Steve Kaney (K7MUT); Trustee #3 – Steve Cook (KD7IQL);

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM with all members and guests repeating the Pledge of Allegiance at the Salvation Army Building in Renton. Introductions of members and guests were made. The President made announcements regarding taking breaks on the west side of the building at the request of Salvation Army. The coffee and donut fund is self-supporting. We are an affiliated club and encourage to join and support the ARRL. Please sign the rosters at the table. Visitors are asked to refrain from voting on club matters requiring a vote.

**Minutes:** It was moved by Sam (N7RHE) and seconded by Pete to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as printed in the Relay. The motion was approved.

### **Officer Reports**

**President:** Jack (N7IHS): For the next three months the board meeting will be held on the last Tuesday of the month.

**Vice President:** Mark (KD7KUN): not present

**Secretary:** Curtis (N7MWC): nothing to report

**Treasurer:** Jim (KD7BAT): Renewed the CD. Recent expenses for the Relay and the 220mhz repeater.

**Activity Manage & Relay:** Mike (N7WA): Flea Market is coming and we need folks to volunteer to work. Next flea market committee meeting is February 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM. This is the main fundraiser for the club so please come out and help. Setup is Friday March 8<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM to 2 PM.

**Radio Officer:** Harry (W7JWJ): not present

### **Standing Committee Reports**

Those committees not reporting in the RELAY are asked to report before the General Membership.

**Public Service Committee:** Barry Wolborsky (KC7YB): Public Service Flyer is in final draft form. We have several ads this year and will be printing 3000 copies to be given away throughout the year. The Public Service committee will be meeting after the general meeting at the Renton Yankee Dinner, everyone is invited.

**Public Service Events:** Gary (KG7KU): January 26<sup>th</sup> is the NW APRS winter gathering for details see [www.nwaprs.org](http://www.nwaprs.org) Public Service net: Thursday evenings at 7:30 PM on 146.82. For information please see [www.mikeandkey.com/pubserve.htm](http://www.mikeandkey.com/pubserve.htm) or call Gary at 253-661-7882.

**Alligator Award:** Mike (K7JML) is proud to present on Dean's (N7NKO) behalf the alligator award to Dick Radford (WA7NIW)

### **New Business**

Frank (KA7QHJ) presents an award to Carolyn (WV7Q) and the Mike and Key Club from the Salvation Army in recognition of our great job ringing bells for a day.

Discussion about the scholarship fund and what had happened to it. It was discussed that the scholarship fund was in place for a couple years but then dropped due to lack of interest.

### **Good of the Order**

Federal Way ARC is now meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month for breakfast in order to avoid conflicts with Mike and Key ARC.

It was related that on 444.000 MHz there is a HF gateway setup.

Update on Ham Radio Tower bill in Olympia. It is still in the hopper and we hope to get it passed this session. Several states have already passed such bills and we really need to have a law like this in Washington. For information see [www.hamtowerlaw.com](http://www.hamtowerlaw.com)

King County Search and Research this coming Thursday at the Snoqualmie Fire Station there will be a two-hour lesson on getting started with King County Search and Research. Everyone is invited and a sign up sheet is being circulated.

There being no further business Sam (N7RHE) moved to adjourn and Steve (KD7IQL), seconded the motion, Jack (N7IHS) closed the meeting at 10:45 AM.

Attested:  
Curtis Hanner, N7MWC  
Secretary

## **Fleamarket 2001**



# February– March 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
10 RN	11	12 DA Flea Market Meeting 7:30	13	14 PSN 	15	16 Club Meeting 10AM Salem Hamfest MKN
17 RN	18	19 DA	20	21 PSN	22 	23 CQ 160- Meter Contest, SSB
24 RN	25	26 Board Meeting 7PM DA	27	28 PSN	1	2 ARRL DX Contest, SSB
3 RN	4	5 DA	6	7 PSN	8 Relay Deadline  Fleamarket Setup	9 Fleamarket
10 <i>Rest and Recovery</i> RN	11	12	13	14 PSN	15	16 Club Meeting 10AM  Elections MKN

**RN – ARES Regional Net, 8PM, 146.82**

**DA – ARES Damage Assmnt Net, 8PM, 146.82**

**PSN – Public Service Net, 7PM, 146.82**

**MKN – Mike & Key Net, 9:15AM, 146.82**

**Contests**

